



Save the Children

# WAR IN GAZA

## ONE-YEAR IMPACT REPORT

*7-year-old Rami\* and his father Jamal\* both suffered blast injuries in Gaza.*





# FOREWORD

**Israa Al-Qahwaji**

**Mental Health and Psycho-social Support Coordinator, Save the Children**

“From a young age, I have been fascinated by the power of the human mind and the profound impact that empathy and understanding can have on people. This passion has driven me to embark on a path of hope and healing for those in need, supporting Palestinian children and families with their mental health and providing psychosocial support for over a decade. Each day, I am reminded of the immense strength and resilience of children.

Throughout my work, I have seen countless moments where Palestinian children’s spirits have triumphed over adversity. But the last year has truly tested the limits of our efforts. The obstacles we have encountered in providing essential support to these children have been relentless, with each new one demanding innovation, determination, and unwavering commitment.

The trauma these children have endured—witnessing death, destruction, and displacement—has left deep scars. Many suffer from post-traumatic stress symptoms, anxiety, and depression, struggling for a moment of peace. Nightmares invade their sleep, and fear has become a constant companion.

The war has forced children to take on burdens far beyond their age. The weight of these responsibilities robs them of their childhoods and imposes adult challenges long before they are ready to face them.

In the face of such overwhelming adversity, the resilience of Gaza’s children is remarkable, yet the challenges they face are immense. Without sustained international support and a definitive, lasting ceasefire, these children are at risk of becoming part of a lost generation, their potential extinguished by the ravages of war.

**Like all children, Palestinian children deserve to survive, thrive, and build a future full of potential. Your support gives children this chance and makes sure we can keep working to help them and their families recover from what they’ve been through.”**

*Photo from one of our child friendly spaces in Gaza, where we offer children a chance to play, process their emotions and express themselves.*

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Children in Gaza are paying the highest price for a war they play no part in. In the past year, more than 14,100 children have been killed in Gaza, as well as more than 140 children in the West Bank and 37 children in Israel. This war comes on top of 57 years of occupation, including 17 years of blockade of Gaza.

**In Gaza**, children's lives have been shattered. They've lost their homes, loved ones, schools, access to healthcare and normal routines. More than **20,000 children are missing**, either trapped under rubble, detained or separated from families.

The health system has been completely decimated with no fully functional hospitals since April. With many people living in cramped and unsanitary conditions, diseases are spreading. In August, the **first case of polio virus** was confirmed in Gaza in more than 25 years. Nearly the entire population (96%) is facing acute food insecurity, with almost **500,000 people facing starvation**.

Meanwhile, **in the West Bank** we've seen a dramatic rise in violence and use of force – including airstrikes by Israeli forces in refugee camps, the detention of more than 700 children, harassment, demolitions and settler violence forcing more than 3,200 people from their homes.

Despite the soaring levels of humanitarian need in Gaza, our teams have faced many challenges, including the **systematic obstruction of aid** by Israeli authorities, forced displacement orders, logistical challenges and attacks on aid workers.

One year on, we're continuing to call for an **immediate and definitive ceasefire**, as well as unimpeded humanitarian access, so children and families can be safe and get the support they need and have the opportunity to recover.

Against all odds, our teams and local partners have worked tirelessly over the past year to adapt and keep providing lifesaving support to families...

## Together with our partners, we've:



Provided essential items to families such as **cash, food, clean water and hygiene items**



Set up **child friendly spaces and temporary learning sites** for children to play and learn



Offered counselling, **mental health and psychosocial support** for children and their caregivers



Provided lifesaving **health and nutrition services** to children, mothers and babies – including treatment for blast injuries.

## With your support, we've helped:

**688,299**

PEOPLE IN **GAZA**

**27,488**

PEOPLE IN  
**THE WEST BANK**

**60,000**

PEOPLE IN **LEBANON**

**3,818**

PEOPLE IN **EGYPT**

**Thank you for standing with children through this unimaginable war**

*Aya\*, 13, at a Save the Children learning space in Gaza.*



# RESPONSE IN GAZA AND THE WEST BANK

We've been supporting Palestinian children and families since **1953**. We have more than 100 staff and many local partners working across the occupied Palestinian territory, including Gaza and the West Bank. Despite the challenging conditions and the impact of the conflict on their own lives, our teams and local partners have worked tirelessly over the past year to provide life-saving support to children.

**Together, we've helped more than 715,787 people in the occupied Palestinian territory over the past year, including 688,299 people in Gaza across 50 locations.**



**68,113 PEOPLE**

## CHILD PROTECTION AND MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

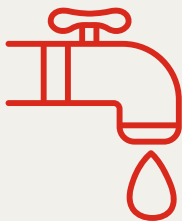
- Set up **child-friendly spaces** in partnership with [Aisha Association for Women and Child Protection](#), offering children a safe place to play, learn and receive psychosocial support.
- Provided **holistic support** for separated and unaccompanied children, including counselling, as well as supporting formerly detained children.
- Supported **children with disabilities** by providing assistive devices and essential supplies, such as hearing devices and mobility aids.



**4,400 CHILDREN**

## EDUCATION

- Set up **temporary learning spaces** and provided stationery and other items so children can return to learning as soon as possible.
- Recruited and trained **community engagement workers** to provide holistic support to children, so they're ready to return to education.
- Carried out **teacher mapping** to create a database of more than **14,800 teachers** in Gaza, enabling other organisations to begin providing education programming as soon as possible.



**517,401 PEOPLE**

## WATER, SANITATION AND SHELTER

- Provided **shelter kits, hygiene kits and drinking water** to families living in shelters.
- Conducted **hygiene promotion sessions** through our partners, [Beit Lahia Development Association](#) and [Save Youth Future Society](#).
- Carried out **water, sanitation and hygiene facility maintenance** in 20 UN shelters.
- Installed **40 mobile latrines** in informal shelters, along with domestic water distribution and cleaning initiatives.



**183,450 PEOPLE**

## CASH AND FOOD SECURITY

- Distributed **10,700 food parcels**, including in North Gaza via a partner where the risk of famine is highest.
- As one of Gaza's leading cash providers, we provided **cash to more than 52,700 people** so they could purchase food, medicines or whatever they needed most for their families.





## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

**45,720 PEOPLE**

We deployed our **Emergency Health Unit** in April to provide life-saving healthcare. To date, we have:

- Set up a **maternity unit** in Al-Mawasi hospital to provide antenatal and postnatal care for women and help safely deliver babies.
- Provided **paediatric services** in Al-Mawasi hospital to treat children with severe blast injuries and burns, perform surgeries, resuscitate critically ill patients, and provide post-operative care for children.
- Set up a **primary healthcare clinic** in Deir Al-Balah to provide health and nutrition services to mothers, babies and children. Since opening, we've carried out consultations for **15,395 patients** and malnutrition screening for **8,404 children**, as well as training more than **200 healthcare workers**.
- Offered **nutrition counselling** for mothers, including breastfeeding support, in mother-baby areas at our clinic and in formal shelters.
- Supported the **polio vaccination campaign** in early September, helping to vaccinate more than **1,800 children** and train doctors and nurses how to deliver vaccines.



*A child receiving a polio vaccination at a Save the Children's clinic in Deir Al-Balah.*

## WEST BANK

We've helped **27,488 people in the West Bank** by:

- Supporting families affected by escalating violence with **warm winter clothes, hygiene items, baby kits and cash transfers** – so far, we've provided cash to more than **27,716 people** and supported more than **3,762 people** with water, sanitation and hygiene.
- Helping more than **4,400 children** to access safe and inclusive **education** and provided **mental health support** for **1,858 children**, including through summer camps in partnership with the **YMCA** and **Palestinian Counselling Centre**. We've also supported children's early learning by training pre-school teachers.

## HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP

Save the Children is a key humanitarian aid organisation in the occupied Palestinian territory. We provide leadership and coordinate humanitarian action to reduce duplication, help more families and ensure aid can reach the most vulnerable.

For example, we are an active member of the Humanitarian Country Team, the Inter-Cluster

Coordination Group, and act as co-lead of the West Bank Education Cluster.

We are also active in technical working groups and task forces across our main areas of programming, including child protection, case management, food security and livelihoods, cash, health and nutrition, water/sanitation, shelter, gender and safeguarding.



# LOCAL PARTNERS

Our response in Gaza has been mainly led by **local partners** who have strong relationships with and extensive knowledge of the communities we're serving.

We have more than **15 partners** in the occupied Palestinian territory, most of whom we've been working with for many years. Currently, we're working with 11 partners in Gaza with expertise in health and nutrition, child protection, education, water and sanitation, shelter, and food security and livelihoods.

For example, in partnership with **Bait Lahia Development Association (BLDA)** and the United Nations (UN OCHA), we managed to deliver food parcels to families in northern Gaza, who have largely been cut off from humanitarian aid and where the risk of famine is highest. This was a challenging operation, but after six weeks of negotiation and four attempts, we successfully delivered **430 food parcels**. BLDA teams and volunteers in the north were critical in managing and distributing the food among communities.

**Thank you to the partners**  
who have served children and  
families during this crisis:



**جمعية عايشة لحماية المرأة و الطفل**  
Aisha Association for Woman and child protection



*\*For safety and security purposes, not all of our response partners have been listed.*

## BABY LANA\*

Tima\* was four months pregnant when the war in Gaza began. She says:

*"It was tough being pregnant during the war [...] with the first baby, I took vitamins and ate healthy food. [This time] I'd just get settled in one place and then I'd have to move again."*

In April 2024, we opened a new maternity unit not far from where Tima and her family were sheltering. Immediately she went for her first prenatal check-up, and just a few weeks later she became the first mother to give birth at the centre.

*"I felt happy when I had the baby [...] I was happy and grateful to find a place here."*

**Thanks to our Emergency Health Unit, we've helped deliver more than 100 babies in our maternity unit in Al-Mawasi hospital.**

*Baby Lana\* at our maternity unit in Gaza in April.*



# RESPONSE IN EGYPT AND LEBANON

## EGYPT

In Egypt, our team of 310 staff members and large network of partners have been critical in sending essential supplies to families in Gaza.

Despite blockades and delays at the border, we've managed to deliver:

- 684,504 **litres of water**
- 4,460 **dignity kits** and 4,154 **baby kits**
- 5,894 **family hygiene kits**
- 19,132 **food parcels**
- 1,400 **shelter kits**, as well as bedding, blankets and mattresses
- 8,400 **clothing items**

We're also supporting Palestinian medical evacuees arriving in Egypt, including premature and newborn babies. We've provided **incubators and medical supplies**, as well as training **147 medical workers** thanks to our partnership with [Community Jameel](#).

Finally, we've provided **cash, emergency healthcare and mental health support**, helping more than **3,818 Palestinians** in Egypt.

## LEBANON

Children in Lebanon are also experiencing an increase in violence, particularly along the border with Israel where tensions have escalated.

Over the past year, we've supported more than **60,000 people**, including **24,000 children**, who've fled their homes.

So far, we've provided:

- 46,578 **hygiene kits**
- 361 million **litres of water** via trucks
- 343,012 **bottles of water**
- 19,358 sets of **mattresses, pillows and blankets**
- 6,500 **food parcels**
- 1,029 sets of **solar streetlamps** and **rechargeable batteries**
- 7 upgrades to **water, sanitation and hygiene facilities**
- 20,787 people with **cash transfers**

We're also supporting **children's education** in displacement centres and offering **mental health and psychosocial support** – [watch the video here](#).

As the situation escalates, we will continue supporting children and families in Lebanon.

Hani\* lives in Gaza but was visiting a friend in Egypt when the war began. He's been unable to return to his family, watching them from afar.

Hani started volunteering with Save the Children, taking calls on our hotline and connecting Palestinian families in Egypt with the services and support they need. He says the volunteering has provided him with a sense of relief and purpose.

Hani\* in Egypt.





# YOUR SUPPORT **IN ACTION**

## TOTAL FUNDING

Thanks to our incredible supporters, partners and donors, we've raised **\$62.9 million** to support our response across the region so far.

This includes **\$57 million** for the occupied Palestinian territory, **\$2.7 million** for Egypt and **\$3.2 million** for Lebanon.



*Shadi\*, 8, plays football near his tent in Gaza. His family has been displaced more than four times since the beginning of the conflict. Now, Shadi is attending one of our child-friendly spaces where he can play, learn and relax.*

## THE CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND

The Children's Emergency Fund played a crucial role in kick-starting our response, quickly providing **\$4 million** to our teams in the occupied Palestinian territory, as well as in Egypt, Lebanon and across the region.

As of 6 September, the Fund has provided over **\$17.7 million** to our teams in the occupied Palestinian territory, over **\$850,000** to our teams in Egypt, and **\$1.8 million** to our teams in Lebanon. This includes **\$2.3 million to local partners** in Gaza.

**15%** of funds  
committed to  
local partners



# PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Save the Children has been working in the occupied Palestinian territory for more than 70 years. We remain committed to doing everything we can to help children caught up in this war.

However, unless there is a **definitive ceasefire**, we anticipate further forced displacements of children and their families. Without a definitive ceasefire, we also know it will become more difficult to deliver life-saving services and ensure the safety of our staff.

That's why, through our **global advocacy**, we are continuing to call for:

- An immediate and definitive #CeasefireNOW
- Children to be protected and atrocity crimes prevented
- The Government of Israel to let aid reach families across Gaza
- Accountability for grave violations committed against Palestinian and Israeli children
- All governments to stop fuelling the crisis with a foreign supply of weapons, parts and ammunition.

In the meantime, we will continue to deliver as much immediate and lifesaving support as possible, while planning for longer-term recovery.

In the coming months, this will include:

- Setting up **new child friendly spaces** and continuing to provide mental health support.
- Establishing additional **temporary learning sites** and running educational activities.
- Restoring **water and sewage systems**, particularly in schools and in shelters.
- Opening two new **primary healthcare centres** and additional mother-baby areas.
- Continuing to provide **cash** to families.

**Our most significant funding gaps are for health, nutrition and education programming.** Flexible humanitarian funding is critical to fill these gaps, enable our teams to adapt to the changing situation and support longer-term recovery.

*To find out more about how your continued support can make a difference, please [visit our website](#) or get in touch.*



*Ziad\*, Hala\* and their daughter Mona\* (10 months), fled Gaza and are now staying in Cairo, Egypt where they receive support from our team.*





# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Seven-year-old Rami\* with his dad, Jamal\*, who fled to Egypt from Gaza in search of safety. They both received treatment for blast injuries and support from our teams to help them on the road to recovery.

With your support, we've helped thousands of children affected by this war over the past year.

Thank you for your generosity and solidarity – and for believing a better future for children is possible.

*“All children deserve to survive, thrive, and build a future full of potential”*

- Israa, Save the Children in Gaza



**Save the Children**

**Published by Save the Children International  
October 2024**

[www.savethechildren.net](http://www.savethechildren.net)

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\*name changed to protect privacy

All \$ in USD