

EMPHNET Emergency Bulletin

February 1, 2024

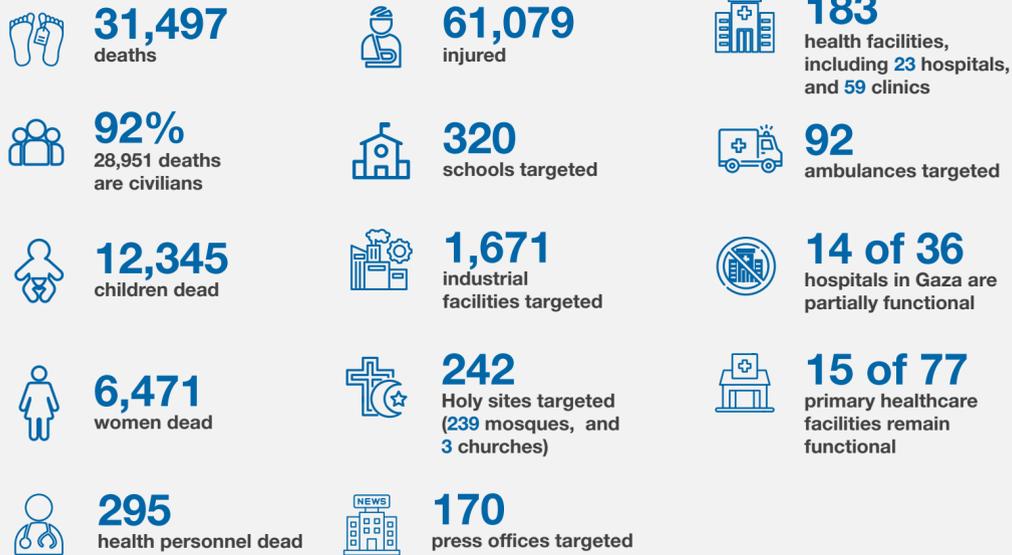
The Health Status in Gaza and Sudan

Situation Overview

More than one hundred days have passed since the beginning of the current Israeli assault on Gaza. The assault resulted in about 100,00 Palestinians being killed, injured, or reported missing. It has also caused massive destruction to infrastructure, mass population displacement, and risks of disease outbreaks. A significant threat to communities within this area is famine and malnutrition, mainly because of inaccessibility to humanitarian aid supplies due to land, air, and water siege and continuous bombardments on Gaza. As a result, over 90% of the population is facing food insecurity and hunger.

The war in Sudan that entered its tenth month is another tragedy affecting the region, resulting in a severe public health crisis. As of today, one in six Sudanese is displaced, thus contributing to 13% of global displacement, and significant outbreaks of diseases including 10,000 Cholera cases. Furthermore, approximately 17.7 million people across Sudan, more than one-third of Sudan's population, will suffer acute food insecurity (IPC L 3&4) by February 2024. Many citizens heavily depend on agriculture and livestock for food and income. The fragile security situation has resulted in the abandonment of the crucial summer agriculture season, a key source of locally consumed food, due to farmers' displacement, disruption of pest control measures, and limited financial resources.

Figures from Gaza January 13, 2024

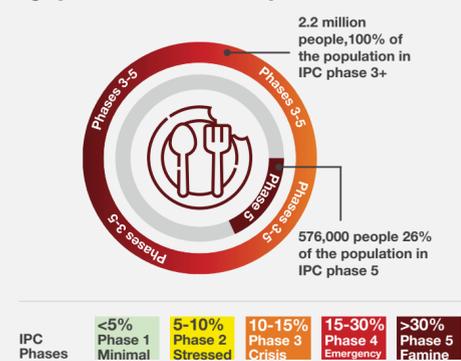


Food Security Update

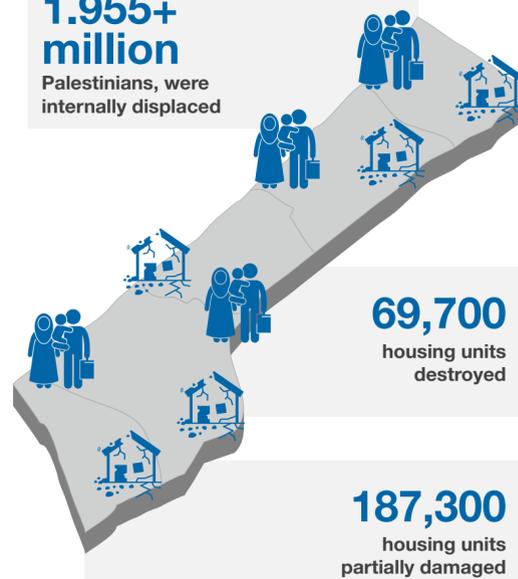
at least **1** in **4** households is enduring food scarcity and starvation, a *"catastrophic condition."*

26% of Gazans (**576,600** people) have depleted their food supplies and coping capacities, leading them to a state of catastrophic hunger (**IPC Phase 5**) and imminent starvation

This is a representation of the most recent and highly critical food insecurity situations



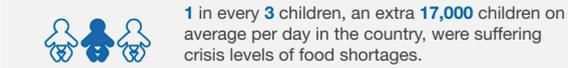
1.955+ million
Palestinians, were internally displaced



"The Euro-Med Monitor team"

In Sudan

Hunger is inequitably affecting areas like Darfur zones



Implications for Public Health

"The risks and stakes are very high," said Abeer Etefa, World Food Program senior communications officer and spokesperson for the Middle East and North Africa, emphasizing the challenges faced in Gaza. She added, "This is probably one of the conflicts that has the fastest deterioration rates in terms of food security."

Hunger and the increasing need for drinking water across the population are leading the crisis to an alarming new phase of starvation in Gaza. A UN report indicated that deaths from starvation may soon surpass casualties from airstrikes. With deliberately denied access to food, water, and access to health, the population is facing an inhuman method of war. According to IPC, the food insecurity that emerged in the most recent crisis in Gaza has alarmingly exceeded all major recent conflicts, as presented below.

This prolonged and ongoing situation could compel residents to adopt extreme coping strategies due to escalating food insecurity, such as skipping meals, consuming spoiled food, or using ground animal food as a food substitute. The crisis may also significantly inflate market prices, making food and other necessities unaffordable.

Mainly at risk are children under five, pregnant women, and those with chronic illnesses facing potential dangers of dehydration, diarrhea, acute malnutrition, and complications in pregnancy. The conflict might also disrupt essential services, intensifying social unrest and hindering educational and developmental progress.

The same applies to Sudan, which currently grapples with the highest global rates of child malnutrition, affecting over three million children under the age of five. With one-third of the Sudanese population on track to plunge into extreme poverty by 2025, the prospect of a catastrophic famine resulting in millions of deaths due to hunger becomes increasingly inevitable.

As the situation persists, it's vital to consider these potential long-term public health impacts in Gaza and Sudan, which could affect the broader community's well-being and prospects.



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This report is compiled by EMPHNET's Public Health Emergency Management Center (PHEMC)