

Let's pay tributes to all Palestinian health sector workers risking their lives to save others

After four months of destructive war on Gaza, the Israeli aggression continues to increase day by day. No one is safe in Gaza even those protected by the International Humanitarian Law. The rule 25 of the law stipulates that: *"Medical personnel exclusively assigned to medical duties must be respected and protected in all circumstances"*. Yet, Israel has violated international laws and agreements, **killing at least 339 health workers and 46 civil defense.**

Israel continues to target medical and health staff while carrying out their missions of saving lives. In many cases ambulances are unable to reach the injured due to the intensity of fire and direct targeting by the Israeli soldiers. **122 ambulances were reported damaged.** As Israel continues to crush the medical system, **hospitals are under heavy strikes and 13 out of Gaza's 36 hospitals are partially functioning.** Hospitals are facing critical shortages of drugs, blood products and supplies, and fuel at hospitals is being severely rationed.

Source of data: UNOCHA

Gaza is collapsing & time is passing... Civilians need a permanent ceasefire right now!!

Despite the demands made by the International Court of Justice, and the adoption of "provisional measures," or binding orders that include requiring Israel to prevent genocide against Palestinians in Gaza enable the provision of basic services and humanitarian assistance, and prevent and punish incitement to commit genocide. Israel continues to escalate the pace of aggression against civilian in Gaza.

So far, over **27,131 Palestinians in Gaza** have been killed as a result of Israel's continuous bombing & shelling of Gaza, and **66,287 others have been injured.** The suffering of the 1.7 Million displaced is increasing due to the extremely cold weather, as Torrential rain adds to their misery.

While it is still forbidden for civilians to access to areas in the North of Wadi Gaza, the IDF has pressed its campaign further into central and southern Gaza, forcing hundreds and thousands of people into tiny patches of territory without basic sanitation or drinkable water.

Gazans continue to have limited access to food and water, as 2.2 million Palestinians are at imminent risk of famine, and 378,000 Palestinians reach catastrophic stages of facing extreme lack of food, starvation, and exhaustion of coping capacities.

Source of data: UNOCHA

Since October the 7th, a minimum of 66% of employment has been lost in the Gaza Strip

During the past years, The Palestinian economy has a recession, especially in Gaza Strip, due to repeated Israeli occupation aggressions and the ongoing blockade. Yet, the current war on the Gaza Strip declared by Israel on the 7th of October, froze the economic activities, as most of the establishments stopped production. There is certainly a complete destruction of the economic life of all sectors in the Gaza Strip.

The destruction of all aspects of life in Gaza has resulted in the loss of 84% of Gaza's usual monthly production in October and November 2023, with an estimated monthly loss of USD 200 million. The remaining productive capacity of 16% is made up of vital sectors that did not stop production completely, including the health sector, bakeries and part of the internal trade sector to meet people's food and medicinal needs.

The World Bank noted, as of the second half of November, roughly 60% of information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure, 60% or more of health and education facilities, 70% of commerce-related infrastructure are damaged or destroyed in Gaza. According to the UN, the war on Gaza could set back development by as much as 16 years.

The majority of employment in the Gaza Strip has become unemployed, except for those working in the health and humanitarian relief sectors. Almost 192,000 jobs are estimated to have been lost in Gaza. Employment in the West Bank was also affected, an equivalent to 276,000 jobs were lost, mostly due to the closure that Israel imposed on Palestinian workers who were working in the Israeli labor market under work permits, preventing them from returning to their jobs. The employment losses in the Gaza Strip & the West Bank led to the loss of 20.5 Million USD as daily incomes. *Resources: ILO, PCBS, World Bank, UN*

Thousands of Palestinian workers are struggling to provide a livelihood for themselves and families

After Israel announced a war on Gaza on the 7th of October, and as part of its collective punishment process, around 200,000 Palestinian workers from the West Bank who have been working in Israel under work permits were arbitrarily dismissed. Most of these workers probably do not have any alternative source of income, nor access to any social or unemployment benefits/funds. These workers did not receive any compensations since war declaration. In the shadow of the economic collapse affecting the Palestinian economy, with 29% of establishments closed, sales sharply declining, and significant workforce reductions, it is extremely hard to find alternative job opportunities in the Palestinian labor market. 32% of employment has already been lost since the beginning of the war. Unemployment rate in Palestine during the fourth quarter of 2023, almost doubled the unemployment rate of the fourth quarter of 2022 reaching 46.1%. The labor market reached its highest levels of unemployment in decades. In the same context, the finance, interior and labor ministries in the Israeli government are still seeking alternatives, and their reported plan includes bringing in 25,500 workers from Sri Lanka, 20,000 from China, 17,000 from India, 13,000 from Thailand and 6,000 from Moldova. In addition, the Israeli government intends to incentivize Israelis to work in construction and agriculture, as well as promoting technologies that could decrease the number of workers needed in these fields.

Resources: PCBS, MAS

The story of Samaher... A working mom HERO... She is not giving up... She cannot give up for the sake of her children



Continuous bombings, killings, forced disappearances, displacement, deprivation, fear, and hunger for the 2.3 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip that the international community has failed to protect. Half of them are women and girls, about a quarter are adult women trying to care for their families as best they can. There is no time for them to grieve for their losses. All their energies need to be directed towards securing some of the basic needs of their family members. Samaher, a 37-year-old mother of four children, gave us permission to share her story.

She is separated from her husband and thus had to deal on her own with everything that has happened. Before the war, she used to work as a beautician for a monthly wage of 700 shekels. Her house in Jabalia Al-Fakhoura area, in the northern Gaza Strip, was destroyed, when the neighboring house was bombed. She was injured, and two of her children were killed. She was displaced to Rafah with members of her family. She told us: *"We sought refuge in Rafah, we went to the shelters in UNRWA schools, but no one cared about us. We did not get enough food for me and my remaining children. I only obtained one mattress and two blankets, and every week we got some canned food. We prepare bread and food on firewood at the school, and fill water from outside the school, where we have to wait in long lines. The prices are very high and I cannot meet the needs of my 9-year and 3-year old children. Despite my pain over the loss of my daughters, who were 14 years old and 6 years old, I had no choice but to try to work under these conditions in the displacement camps. I bought simple tools and offer my services to the women in the tents, cutting children and women's hair. I earn the equivalent of 40 shekels per day for a full day's work and moving between tents. I can only afford the price of firewood for bread, and a little for my children's needs due to the insane rise in prices. I do not see any future perspectives for me and my children, and I do not know until when this will go on."*