



Country card

Palestine





HI Team and intervention areas

The HI Palestine program has 135 national staffs, 24 international staffs and 100 community-based agents.





General data of the country

a. HI internal classifications of the country context

Level of violence (Gaza)	Level of violence (West Bank/Jerusalem)	Operations Director Focus	Health Focus	Positioning Focus	Emergency Focus
		Gaza : very High West bank Medium		X	X

b. General data

Country	Palestine	Neighbouring country (Jordan)	France
Population	4 803 269	10 203 140	67 391 582
IHDI	0.71	0.73	0.9
Gender-related Development Index	0.870	0.875	0.987
Maternal mortality	27	46	8
GINI Index	33.7	33.7	31.6
Population within UNHCR mandate	2 109 738	769 260	458 919
INFORM index	5.2	4.4	2.2
Fragile State Index	78.5	75.43	30.48
Public social protection	2.1	8.9	32.6
Net official development assistance received (M USD)	2 236.1	3 941.7	N/A

c. Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

Humanitarian law instruments	Status
Mine Ban Treaty	Adhered* on 29 December 2017



Convention on Cluster Munitions	2 January 2015 and became a State Party on 1 July 2015.
UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	1 April 2014 ratified with no reservation.

1. Humanitarian situation

Since the escalation of violence in October 2023, HI and its partners have been relentlessly delivering emergency life-saving support to vulnerable populations in the occupied Palestinian territory. From October 2023 to September 2024, the Ministry of Health in Gaza reported at least 100,000 Palestinians injured, 41,500 killed, and around 10,000 are considered to be under the rubble¹.

According to a WHO report covering January to May 2024, approximately 15,000 people with major extremity injuries, with 3,000 to 4,000 potential amputations, over 2,000 suffering major head and spine injuries, and more than 2,000 severe burn cases².

A recent analysis by the World Health Organization³ found that around 25% of all those injured in Gaza are likely to have acute and ongoing rehabilitation needs with a strong possibility of developing a long-term disability. This includes patients with major extremity injuries, amputations, head and spine injuries and burns.

This percentage is in addition to the 21% of people already living with disabilities prior to the events in October 2023.

During winter, inadequate shelter, shortages of clothing, and limited humanitarian access further exacerbate the crisis. Over 2 million Palestinians in Gaza lack protection, access to food, clean water, sanitation, shelter, healthcare, education, electricity, and fuel. The psychological toll is immense, with many exhibiting trauma and mental health issues. Immediate humanitarian aid, infrastructure repair, and economic support are urgently needed with over 1 million children in need of mental health and psychosocial support.

90% of Gaza's current population of 2.1 million people has been displaced multiple times since October 7 and is in dire condition, amid the continued spread of skin diseases and an acute lack of medications⁴.

As of 1 October, 2024, according to the Ministry of Education, 10,500 students and 400 educational staff have been killed in Gaza, while over 16,250 students and 2,500 teachers have been injured since the escalation of hostilities on 7 October⁵.

Schools have been closed all the former academic year and used as shelters: as the hostilities and displacements continue, students are likely to lose another year of classes. Health facilities continue to face severe supply shortages due to obstacles hindering the entry of humanitarian aid and a growing backlog of health supplies

¹ Gaza Humanitarian Response Update | 16-29 September 2024 | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - occupied Palestinian territory (ochaopt.org)

² rehab-injury-estimate-gaza---final.pdf (who.int)

³ <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/estimating-trauma-rehabilitation-needs-in-gaza-using-injury-data-from-emergency-medical-teams>

⁴ Occupied Palestinian Territory | OCHA (unocha.org)

⁵ Gaza Humanitarian Response Update | 16-29 September 2024 | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - occupied Palestinian territory (ochaopt.org)



and equipment awaiting entry into Gaza. 19 out of 36 hospitals in Gaza are out of service.

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, violence has escalated significantly since 2023: heightened tensions, increased Palestinian casualties, rising settler violence, and the demolition of Palestinian-owned structures have fuelled the crisis. Increased restrictions on movement and access compound widespread displacement and loss of livelihoods. According to OCHA, between 7 October 2023 and 30 September 2024, 695 Palestinians were killed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem⁶, an average of 2 each day. During the same period, OCHA documented about 1,423 attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinians: 140 led to Palestinian casualties, 1,135 to damage to Palestinian property, and 148 to both casualties and property damage⁷. Since 7 October 2023, 277 Palestinian households comprising 1,628 people, including 794 children, have been displaced in Bedouin and herding communities across the West Bank, primarily citing attacks by Israeli settlers and impeded access to grazing lands by settlers⁸.

On 28 August 2024, The Israeli military has launched its largest invasion of the occupied West Bank in decades, targeting multiple cities, including Jenin, Nablus, Tubas, and Tulkarem. Israeli forces have closed all entrances to the northern West Bank, obstructed ambulances from reaching the injured, and threatened hospital raids.

Since 7 October 2023, the Israeli authorities have imposed additional restrictions on the movement of 3.3 million Palestinians across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in the form of physical obstacles or restricted access regulations⁹. These restrictions disconnect cities, villages, and communities, hampering access to essential services and disrupting humanitarian aid delivery.

Closures and enforced shutdowns of health facilities have disrupted healthcare services, limiting patient access to critical care. Militarized searches of health facilities have compromised staff safety and further disrupted the delivery of healthcare. Additionally, demolitions and structural damage have destroyed health infrastructure, rendering many facilities inoperable or significantly impaired, disrupting the continuity of medical services. The use of force and instances of detentions have targeted healthcare workers, subjecting them to physical aggression and detainment, which impedes their ability to provide essential care to those in need.

Since October 2023, visa and permits for humanitarian workers have been suspended: international staff cannot establish a regular presence in the country, needed to support the emergency response, and national staff of the West Bank have been restricted movements to both East Jerusalem and Gaza.

⁶ [Humanitarian Situation Update #225 | West Bank | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - occupied Palestinian territory \(ochaopt.org\)](#)

⁷ [Humanitarian Situation Update #225 | West Bank | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - occupied Palestinian territory \(ochaopt.org\)](#)

⁸ [Humanitarian Situation Update #225 | West Bank | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - occupied Palestinian territory \(ochaopt.org\)](#)

⁹ [Movement and Access in the West Bank | September 2024 | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - occupied Palestinian territory \(ochaopt.org\)](#)



Summary of HI presence in the country

HI has been working in Palestine since 1996 with its main mandate being to support disability organisations. In 1999, the organisation set up first anti-personnel landmines and other explosive remnants of war education initiative. A large number of development initiatives have been run since then in a number of fields in partnership with local associations: functional rehabilitation (technical assistance, equipment, training, and publications), psycho-social support, empowerment of people with disabilities organisations, and local inclusive development, access to education and access to employment. Following the summer 2014 humanitarian crisis in Gaza, HI complemented its development intervention with emergency and post emergency response in the fields of rehabilitation, reconstruction and anti-personnel landmines and other explosive remnants of war risk reduction.



Overview on ongoing projects

Sectors of services where HI conducts projects and focus on beneficiaries and operational partnerships

Project title and Main sector(s) of intervention	Objective of project in the sector	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Final Beneficiaries	Partner(s)	Location	Dates of beginning and end of the project and Donors
Young parents in Gaza: a multisector approach towards resilience	To increase the resilience of young parents of children with specific needs to the socio-economic consequences of the prolonged crisis in the Gaza Strip and the risks associated to escalations of hostilities	Training on positive parenting Referral to specialized services Support child friendly spaces Support parents to develop action plans to adapt their livelihoods Foundation skills trainings Nutrition counselling Business management coaching DRR inclusive to children with disabilities	7,525	67,500	MA'AN Development Centre, Ard El Insan, Culture & Free Thought Association	Gaza Strip	Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ): 10-Jan-22, 30-Sep-26
Integrated humanitarian and protection response to	To contribute to the protection of the conflict-affected	Provision of multi-disciplinary rehabilitation services, including MHPSS and prosthesis and orthosis	1.700.000			Gaza Strip	GAC: 22-Feb-23, 30-Sep-24



Project title and Main sector(s) of intervention	Objective of project in the sector	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Final Beneficiaries	Partner(s)	Location	Dates of beginning and end of the project and Donors
improve the well-being of the most vulnerable population in Gaza and reduce risks from conflict, violence and disasters.	population in Gaza by reducing dependence on negative coping mechanisms, reducing vulnerabilities and by supporting the collapsing health system.	Provision of tailored assistive devices, dignity, wound dressing and hygiene kits Capacity building of rehabilitation professionals Explosive ordnance risk education and conflict preparedness and prevention Psychological first aid and recreational activities					ECHO: 1-May-23, 30-Apr-25 CDCS: 1-Aug-23, 31-Jul-25
Urgent response through early multidisciplinary rehabilitation and psychological services to the most affected women, girls, men and boys with injuries in the Gaza Strip since October	Provide essential supplies and services related to trauma care, primary and Secondary healthcare services, and early access to multidisciplinary rehabilitation services.	Victim assistance Multi-disciplinary rehabilitation services	1.700		National Society for Rehabilitation	Gaza Strip	OCHA: 21-Jan-24, 20-Jan-25



Project title and Main sector(s) of intervention	Objective of project in the sector	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Final Beneficiaries	Partner(s)	Location	Dates of beginning and end of the project and Donors
2023							
Lifesaving protection response through specialized Humanitarian Mine action protection activities along with psycho-social support to affected population and humanitarian workers in Gaza.	Provide lifesaving protection response to address acute protection risk, prioritizing individuals with heightened vulnerabilities through MHPSS and EORE/CPP activities along support to Humanitarian actor's access and protection in Gaza Strip.	Victim assistance (EORE, EOD) Rehabilitation services including MHPSS Recreational activities, psychological first aid...	35,656		Culture and Free Thought Association (CFTA)	Gaza Strip	OCHA: 24-Jan-24, 23-Jan-25
Access to recreational, psychosocial, and learning activities of	School-aged, affected children with and without disabilities have access to	Psychosocial support to children with and without disability, teachers and parents Recreational activities Provision of emergency education learning supplies/teaching equipment in	400	3,120	Teacher Creativity Center	Gaza Strip	OCHA: 15-Jun-24 - 15-Jun-25



Project title and Main sector(s) of intervention	Objective of project in the sector	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Final Beneficiaries	Partner(s)	Location	Dates of beginning and end of the project and Donors
children with and without disabilities in Gaza Strip (SHAREK 5)	recreational activities and psychosocial support to improve their wellbeing during ongoing conflict.	Temporary Learning Spaces (TLSs) in and around the IDPs shelters					
Provision of inclusive essential site management capacity building and site level small scale infrastructure for conflict-affected displaced households in the Gaza strip	Enhance the inclusivity, safety, and functionality of collective centres for internally displaced Persons by strengthening stakeholders' capacities and improving infrastructure to ensure dignified and protective living conditions for all residents	Establish/reinforce site management committee Capacity building to strengthen key stakeholders on disability inclusion Upgrade/install site-level infrastructure	57.516 (all the people of the targeted sites)		n/a	Gaza Strip	OCHA: 1-Nov-24, 30-May-25



Project title and Main sector(s) of intervention	Objective of project in the sector	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Final Beneficiaries	Partner(s)	Location	Dates of beginning and end of the project and Donors
Restoring Dignity through Maternal Support	To improve the well-being and dignity of mothers and their children in the Gaza Strip	ToT of volunteers on postnatal care, child nutrition, and hygiene practices Conduct sensitization sessions for mothers to educate them on postnatal care, child nutrition, and hygiene practices. Print and distribute IEC (information/communication/education) material on child nutrition and positive hygiene practices Procure and distribute mothers' dignity kits containing essential hygiene items, sanitary supplies, and clothing tailored for mothers.	1,057		n/a	Gaza Strip	Aktion Deutschland Hilft: 1-Jul-24, 31-Dec-24
Integrated emergency response for the crisis affected population in Gaza	The protection of Palestinians affected by the conflict in Gaza through a robust humanitarian response and preparedness, the dissemination of life-saving messages, and	Explosive Ordnance risk assessments Explosive Ordnance Disposal support to humanitarian convoy Marking and removal of UxO/AxO Provision of CPP and EORE awareness sessions, psychological first aid and awareness raising sessions Provision of specialized rehabilitation and MHPSS needs of EO victims by HI team members including physiotherapy, assistive devices, psychosocial support and early prosthetic fitting	35,264	1,700,000	n/a	Gaza Strip	German Federal Foreign Office: 8-Mar-24, 31-Dec-24



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	the provision of assistance to victims of explosive ordnance is ensured.						
Within the EHRC Framework, optimize the immediate delivery of humanitarian aid assistance through logistics emergency response interventions to meet the urgent needs during an acute crisis	To enhance rapid deployment capacities to support and facilitate immediate delivery of humanitarian assistance to affected populations through the provision of H2H logistics services using available local resources	Exploratory missions to assess logistical challenges and needs in crisis-affected areas Emergency road clearance and light repairs of road and access facilities Deployment of common humanitarian in-country transport services, including transport of medical items and air pre-routine services Setting-up of humanitarian common storage services Evaluation of specific elements of supply chain	35 organisations internationales, 15 locales			Gaza Strip	European Humanitarian Response Capacity (EHRC): 1-Jan-24, 30-Jan-25



Project title and Main sector(s) of intervention	Objective of project in the sector	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Final Beneficiaries	Partner(s)	Location	Dates of beginning and end of the project and Donors
Prevention of multiple risks and violations suffered by vulnerable populations and multisectoral response to protection and assistance needs in the face of shock	Improving the protection of vulnerable populations affected by current, imminent or future humanitarian crises	DRR – Multi-hazards risks analysis, capacity building on emergency preparedness Multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance and services – MHPSS, NFI... IHA – IHA barrier studies, advocacy to promote humanitarian access, inclusive humanitarian responses...	6,470		n/a	West Bank (Jenine, Camp of Jenine, Kuft Qallil, Rujib, Beit Dajan) et Gaza strip.	Direction Générale de la Coopération au Développement et de l'Aide humanitaire Belge: 06/11/2023 – 05/11/2025
Provision of emergency health-services for conflict-affected women, girls, men, and boys with injuries in the Gaza Strip and West Bank along with	Improve access to conflict related specialized health services for people with injuries and people with disabilities in Gaza and West bank and	Capacity building on rehabilitation services Provision of rehabilitation equipment and supplies in partners' health facilities Provision of rehabilitation services including MHPSS and P&O Capacity building on stock management	1,742 (West Bank: 542, Gaza: 1,200)	11,455 (West Bank: 6,055, Gaza: 5,400)	WB: Al-Amal, Al-Jaleel GS: n/a	West Bank and Gaza Strip	Centre de crise et de soutien: 1-Apr-24, 31-Mar-25



Project title and Main sector(s) of intervention	Objective of project in the sector	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Final Beneficiaries	Partner(s)	Location	Dates of beginning and end of the project and Donors
preparedness measures	enhance preparedness						
The ACCESS Action - EducAtion in emergenCies (EiE) for Children with and without disabilities in West Bank (WB) and Gaza Strip	Children with and without disabilities aged 6-14 have access to safe and quality inclusive education and continues learning, especially during on-set emergencies	MHPSS, PFA, EORE Education in emergency Case management and referrals Advocacy on access to learning for children with and without disabilities	12,593		Save the Children, Tameer	West Bank and Gaza Strip	ECHO: 1-Jul-24, 30-Jun-26
Towards an inclusive ECD: comprehensive support to children with developmental delays and disabilities in	The quality of life of people with disabilities and vulnerable people is improved with a holistic approach	Provision of inclusive rehabilitation and education services Capacity building on early detection, early childhood development Provide accessibility work to nurseries, child friendly spaces, rehabilitation and health centres	3,031 new services users 198 professionals	1,017,029 (total population of Hebron and Bethlehem governorates)	Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation (BASR)	West Bank	MoFA Luxembourg – Accord Cadre 6: 1-Nov-23, 31-Oct-25



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the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)		Provide support to national authorities in the implementation of the ECD national strategy					
Psychosocial Support and Education Recovery for Conflict-Affected Children from Gaza, Jenin, and Tulkarm Camps	To enhance the psychological status of vulnerable children in conflict-affected areas and improve access to health and education services.	MHPPS NFI distribution	128 vulnerable children 400 students	Caregivers and family members of the targeted children/students	Al Jaleel Centre for Care and Community Rehabilitation Society	West Bank	Firdaous: 5-Jan-24, 31-Dec-24
Education and DRR complements in Jenin, recreational activities in Bethlehem	The availability, quality, inclusiveness and coordination of Rehabilitation and MHPSS services for conflict-affected	Support to the multi-disciplinary rehabilitation task force Provision of multi-disciplinary rehabilitation services Provision of assistive devices and kits	200 individuals			West Bank	Luxembourg MoFA: 1-Sep-24, 31-Aug-25



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	persons with injuries and/or disabilities in the West Bank is enhanced.ca						



Donors

<p>German Cooperation (BMZ)</p> <p>BMZ  Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development</p>	<p>Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign Affairs (AC5)</p> <p>LUXEMBOURG  AID & DEVELOPMENT</p>
<p>Centre de Crise-Soutien (France)</p> <p> MINISTÈRE DE L'EUROPE ET DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES <i>Liberté Égalité Fraternité</i></p>	<p>OCHA</p> <p>oPt HF <small>occupied Palestinian territory Humanitarian Fund</small></p>
<p>ECHO</p> <p> Funded by European Union Humanitarian Aid</p>	<p>Coopération belge</p> <p> Belgique partenaire du développement</p>
<p>BMZ</p> <p> Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development</p>	<p>GAC</p> <p> Global Affairs Canada Affaires mondiales Canada</p>



OCHA	Firdaous Charity
	