GAZA EMERGENCY

TWO MONTH IMPACT UPDATE

Children in northern Gaza taking part in psychosocial support activities run by a partner organisation through UNRWA (United Nations

Save the Children

Two months on since the escalation of conflict in Gaza and Israel, and the situation for children and families is dire. Access into and within Gaza remains severely limited. Families in Gaza need food, water, safe shelter, warm clothes, medicines and fuel, as well as psychological and medical support. For children who manage to survive the bombs, they are left facing hunger, thirst and life-threatening illnesses.

While the pause in military operations in November was a welcome respite and some more supplies entered Gaza – the conditions now make a meaningful humanitarian response almost impossible. Now, once again children in Gaza are waking up to the sounds of airstrikes with no safe place to go. We're continuing to call for a <u>definitive ceasefire</u>, full humanitarian access and an end to the exploitation of all children for geopolitical end.

Our teams and partners across the region have been working around the clock to get much-needed supplies into Gaza and support the most vulnerable children and families, **despite the huge challenges**.

We've been providing essential services and support to Palestinian children affected by conflict since 1953. We have 71 staff, including 25 staff in Gaza, and a network of 33 partner organisations with strong connections to local communities.

Read on to learn more about the impact we've managed to achieve together over the past two months, even under the most difficult circumstances.

SUPPORTING CHILDREN IN GAZA

Together with our partners, we've helped more than **51,000 people in Gaza**, including more than 26,000 children. This includes:

- Distributing **food parcels, water, hygiene products and recreational kits** to families at home, in UN shelters and in other collective sites where families are sheltering.
- Supporting UNRWA with spare parts to **repair sanitation facilities** in shelters.
- Providing **psychosocial and emotional support** for children sheltering throughout Gaza.
- Distributing information about **how to keep unaccompanied and separated children safe**, which is a growing concern as the conflict continues.
- Running **hygiene awareness sessions** to help families stay as healthy as possible and stave off disease.
- Delivering **cash** to families through mobile money transfers so they can buy the essentials they need when available.
- Set up a task team with other NGOs to focus on **mental health support and education** for children.



SUPPORTING CHILDREN ACROSS THE REGION

IN EGYPT

In partnership with the Egyptian Red Crescent, our teams in Egypt have been:

- Packing trucks of essential supplies including water, personal protective equipment, hygiene and baby kits, menstrual and medical supplies – to enter Gaza via the Rafah crossing.
- Preparing trucks with more supplies to help families cope with winter weather, including warm clothes, thermal blankets, mattresses, food and water.
- Working with the Egyptian Ambulance and Community Jameel to support children and families being medically evacuated from Gaza, providing medical supplies and equipping ambulances to support the emergency needs of newborn children and **premature babies**.
- Coordinating with the Egyptian Ministry of Health to deliver mental health and psychosocial support training for ambulance workers and doctors who manage blast paediatric injuries (learn more about our expertise in this area here).

IN THE WEST BANK

Across the West Bank, our teams have:

- Provided emergency cash to 64 families and recreational kits to 60 families who've been displaced by increased settler violence and military activity since 7th October.
- Delivered 172 assistive devices to our partner, YMCA, to support children with disabilities.

IN LEBANON

In response to escalating violence in southern Lebanon and more families (including Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian) being forced from their homes, our teams and partners have:

- Provided **119,260 litres of bottled water** and **133,000 litres of water via trucks**.
- Distributed 5,399 hygiene kits, 50 packs of tissues and upgraded 3 water and sanitation facilities
- Provided 721 sets of mattresses, pillows and blankets

Overall, we've supported more than 18,200 people, including more than 7,200 children.



Hanaa* is a mother of five children; Hisham*, 12, Basar* 10, Said*, 7 and Mariam*, 2 (pictured here) as well as Salma*, 16.

The family had to leave their home in Gaza due to ongoing bombardments. They went to Hanaa's sister's house initially, but it wasn't safe there either. The family finally went to a shelter where thousands of people now live.

The conditions in the shelter are far from ideal. Children have to queue to go to the toilet, and they all got sick due to the unclean water and crowded conditions. They wish that the fighting would end and that they can go back to their home and schools.

Hanaa's^{*} family have previously been supported by Save the Children with a green housing project. They are now staying in the same shelter as some Save the Children staff members.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES CAUGHT UP IN THIS CRISIS

