**THE DANISH EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND**

**ALERT NOTE**

**Section A: Basic information**

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| Organisation: | *The Danish House in Palestine (DHIP)* |
| Title of alert: | Gaza Humanitarian crisis: Help needed now |
| Type of crisis: | * *rapid onset humanitarian crisis (please fill out section B)* * *slow onset humanitarian crisis (please fill out section C)*   *X spike in protracted humanitarian crisis (please fill out section D)* |

**Section D: Spike in a protracted humanitarian crisis**

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| d.1 Where is the crisis? Occupied Palestinian Territories - Gaza Strip  d.2 What is the nature of the crisis?  War (as per [UCDP-definitions](https://www.pcr.uu.se/research/ucdp/definitions/#tocjump_910231598147504_53)). This has already caused a grave humanitarian crisis and by (October 16), 2808 Palestinians have been killed and 10850 injured in Gaza ([OCHA 16/10](https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-10)). Due to the [total siege](https://www.oxfam.org/en/press-releases/siege-gaza-will-be-humanitarian-catastrophe-oxfam) on Gaza, which includes restrictions on food, electricity, and water, civilians in Gaza are experiencing severe humanitarian crises. This deprives them of essential aspects of security, such as personal, community, food, and health security. This is a spike in the already existing grave human insecurities that the population in Gaza faced before the 7th of October. Already in January 2023, OCHA assessed that 1,3 million people were in need ([OCHA 2023](https://www.unocha.org/occupied-palestinian-territory)).  On 13/10, Israel ordered over a million civilians to leave the northern Gaza in less than 24 hours, resulting in mass displacement from the North to the South, where nearly 600,000 IDPs were hosted in the central and southern Gaza. 333,000 IDP are currently in UNRWA schools in south and central Gaza, in dire conditions ([OCHA 16/10](https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-10)).  d.3 What information do you have about the situation? What is the source of that information?  Vulnerable groups like children are at risk under the bombardment of schools, hospitals and residential areas, mass displacement of nearly 600,000 people, as well as the blockade of supplies to Gaza. Over 2808 Palestinians have lost their lives due to Israeli airstrikes, and a devastating one-third of them are innocent children. The war is escalating by every hour. Hospitals are overwhelmed, electricity is in short supply, medicine is running out, food supplies are depleting, and water systems are damaged ([OCHA 16/10](https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-10)). Gaza’s last functioning seawater desalination plant has shut down ([UNRWA](https://www.unrwa.org/resources/reports/unrwa-situation-report-7-gaza-strip-and-west-bank)).  There is a need for actors on all levels in order on both short term and long term in order to address insecurities and resilience. Because of this, there is a need for trained psychosocial support staff to be able to act on ground when a potential ceasefire is reached in order for children’s and youth’s immediate and long-term resilience. Until the time of the ceasefire, there is an urgent need for emergency kits for children, as well as, insofar that it is possible under the bombings, trained psychosocial support staff.  [UNRWA](https://www.unrwa.org/) is responding to the situation. Furthermore, several INGOs like the [ICRC](https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/israel-and-occupied-palestinian-territory-appeal), [Save the Children](https://donate.savethechildren.org/en/donate/children-crisis-donate-child-emergency-fund?_ga=2.133699918.1312614035.1697437818-1620530966.1692262271&_gl=1*1bbve09*_ga*MTYyMDUzMDk2Ni4xNjkyMjYyMjcx*_ga_646SWQJ0VB*MTY5NzQ1NzM0Ni4zLjEuMTY5NzQ1NzM2Ni40MC4wLjA.*_ga_GRKVSTV36C*MTY5NzQ1NzM0Ni4zLjEuMTY5NzQ1NzM2Ni40MC4wLjA.&country=JO), [ActionAid](https://www.ms.dk/palaestina) are already in place for emergency aid.  d.3.1 Do you consider there to be a spike/change in a slow onset/chronic crisis or in a protracted humanitarian crisis? If yes, provide as strong as possible evidence for this current spike.  In January, OCHA [assessed](https://www.unocha.org/occupied-palestinian-territory) that 1,3 million people, or 58% of the population, were in need. This is already over half of the population, underscoring that there is a [chronic crisis](https://www.unocha.org/occupied-palestinian-territory) in Gaza. It comes after the blockade of Gaza, which has been [ongoing since 2007](https://www.unrwa.org/gaza15-years-blockade). After the onset of the spike, the situation has gone from bad to worse, and can be categorised as a war under [UCDP’s definitions](https://www.pcr.uu.se/research/ucdp/definitions/#tocjump_2071317966644104_53).  d.3.2. Describe as specific as possible when the spike has started.  From [OCHA](https://www.un.org/unispal/document/escalation-in-the-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-1-7-october-2023-ocha-situation-report/): “On 7 October 2023, since the early morning hours, Palestinian armed groups in Gaza launched thousands of rockets toward Israel and breached through the perimeter fence of Gaza at multiple locations. Members of armed groups entered into Israeli towns, communities, and military facilities near the Gaza Strip, killing and capturing Israeli forces and civilians. The Israeli military declared “a state of war alert,” and begun striking targets in the Gaza Strip.”  d.3.3. How could DERF grants make a difference for the crisis affected population?  When a ceasefire is reached, there is a need to allocate resources for dedicated staff members with expertise in child psychology and trauma-informed care. These professionals should have the skills to assess and address the specific psychosocial needs of children affected. These staff already exist on the ground through our local partner [Tamer](https://www.tamerinst.org/en/), but there will be a need for resource allocation in order to support them. Efforts should be partnered with mental health organisations or professionals who specialise in child trauma to provide additional expertise, guidance, and resources.There is a need for parent and caregiver support to equip them with strategies to understand and respond to their children's psychosocial needs, offer parenting workshops that focus on fostering resilience and creating a nurturing environment for children affected by trauma.  Through Tamer’s 34 years of experience with working with Palestinian youth and children’s psychosocial resilience, for instance through their on-ground youth work in Palestine, their presence is crucial. Children and youth in Gaza are in desperate need of psychosocial support in order for both their short-term and long-term resilience. The whole population of Gaza is hard-to-reach due to the complete blockade. There is a need for children support on all levels at the current stage, and a need to support local mechanisms for children resilience.  d.4 Are you already responding to this emergency? In which locations/sectors? For which target group? Through which forms of local presence? What is the outcome of your latest assessment and what have you done since then?  Our strategic partner, Tamer, has a local presence in Gaza in several refugee camps. Tamer works with youth resilience in Gaza, for instance through the psychosocial workshops with “What Becomes of Eid”, focusing on children and youth’s experiences during the 2021 war on Gaza. This has had the outcome of increased resilience amongst the target group. |