

NRC's operations in Palestine

Humanitarian overview

A protracted protection crisis continues in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Israeli policies and practices that aim to accelerate the forcible transfer of Palestinians and annexation of territory are on the rise. Decades of Israeli occupation and a siege imposed by Israel with Egyptian support since 2007 have resulted in Gaza's dire economic situation. Numerous rounds of armed conflict between the Israeli military and Palestinian armed groups in Gaza have destroyed thousands of homes and businesses, resulting in devastated critical infrastructure. The humanitarian situation in the West Bank continued to deteriorate in 2022. It was the deadliest year since the UN began recording casualties in 2005, and at least 952 Palestinian structures were demolished or seized, the highest since 2016. The psychological and material damage takes many years to address. A lack of political agreement between Palestinian political factions has compounded matters. Overall, the number of people in need across the oPt will likely increase in 2023.

NRC's operation

We ensure that Palestinians affected by, or threatened with, displacement in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, have access to assistance and protection. Our operations – rooted in respect for human rights and the responsibility for all actors to uphold IHL – serve Palestinians who have been impacted by the occupation and blockade by providing high quality humanitarian assistance for those underserved and most vulnerable, challenging policies that bring about violations of IHL, and being a strong advocate and clear voice for the people we seek to serve.

NRC Palestine

Established	2009
International staff	9
National staff	112



NRC Palestine

Country and field offices

Jerusalem, Hebron, and Gaza

Areas of operation

West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza



NRC Palestine

Country director: Caroline Ort

Email: palestine@nrc.no

Phone: +972 2 6261168

Fax: +972 2 6275543

www.nrc.no/palestine

Information, counselling and legal assistance (ICLA)

ICLA aims to strengthen the ability of Palestinians affected by the occupation to engage with relevant Israeli legal authorities to claim their rights and entitlements and obtain remedies. We work to protect people and communities who have been, or are at risk of being, forced to leave their homes. We provide legal information, training, counselling and assistance for those affected by discriminatory policies and practices. We also work to strengthen the capacity of the Palestinian Authority and civil society to support the individuals and communities to claim their rights. Our teams:

- work closely with national and international stakeholders to influence positive policy change
- provide legal services that protect people from demolition, eviction and confiscation orders, revocation of residency rights, access restrictions, and settler violence in the West Bank
- work with Israeli and Palestinian NGOs and private lawyers to provide effective counselling and legal assistance

- provide legal services linked to socio-economic rights
- provide technical assistance alongside partners on issues related to special planning and environmental justice

Education

Many children in the occupied Palestinian territory have seen or experienced traumatic events and subsequently suffer from nightmares, which affects their ability to learn and thrive. We work to ensure that Palestinian children have access to quality education and psycho-educational programmes. Our teams:

- train teachers on effective classroom management strategies
- train counsellors to support students suffering from nightmares
- assist teachers and school staff in developing child-centred teaching and learning approaches
- support parents and school communities in establishing parent associations
- provide information to students, parents and

teachers about their rights and referral mechanisms for further support, in collaboration with our ICLA team

- provide emergency resources for vulnerable schools to enhance teaching and learning, as well as protect against attacks on education
- provide remedial teaching to children who are facing learning difficulties

Protection from violence

NRC Palestine is committed to ensuring that our programmes actively contribute to keeping vulnerable people in Gaza safer. Our teams:

- provide protection case management and facilitate referrals to specialised service providers, including child protection and gender-based violence
- provide psychosocial counselling through implementing partners
- mobilise and train communities around protection issues and raise awareness of human rights and protection issues
- provide cash and material assistance to address protection concerns

Shelter

We provide access to adequate shelter for the most vulnerable people in Gaza. Our teams:

- provide shelter for households living in war-damaged and substandard homes
- provide support and technical assistance to people whose homes have been damaged through conflict to ensure that families have adequate shelter
- distribute essential household materials, including mattresses and blankets
- support families affected by escalation in hostilities and the economic crisis with cash-for-rent to prevent eviction

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH)

We help vulnerable communities access safe, sufficient, and affordable hygiene and water facilities in Gaza. Our teams:

- provide safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, including bathrooms, toilets, sinks and water network supplies to vulnerable households
- improve peoples' access to public services and mitigate against winter flooding through community infrastructure projects
- respond to flood emergencies
- distribute hygiene items to vulnerable households, and provide training to improve social and environmental health
- increase resilience by improving socioeconomic conditions at Gaza City's Al-Mina Port

Livelihoods and food security

Our Urban Displaced Outside of Camps (UDOC) programming focuses on empowerment, gender, equity, social inclusion and youth. Our initiatives are focused on achieving livelihoods outcomes through our newly adopted market-based programming approach. Our team works to:

- provide multi-purpose cash to vulnerable households affected by the economic crisis and emergencies
- include internally displaced people and vulnerable communities in decision-making processes
- seek opportunities for self-reliance and income generation so that people can better support themselves
- increase the emergency preparedness and response capacities of local authorities, humanitarian responders and communities
- improve coordination between communities and humanitarian organisations

Policy, protection and research

We provide protection and policy analysis to a range of actors in the occupied Palestinian territory, promoting principled humanitarian assistance in accordance with international law. We engage closely with international decision-makers and advocate for the protection of displaced and vulnerable peoples' human rights.

Cluster and other coordination support

We play an important role in humanitarian coordination in Palestine by leading the Shelter Cluster, leading the Legal Task Force and managing the West Bank Protection Consortium as well as the Gaza Protection Consortium.

NRC Palestine is grateful for the generous support from our donors:

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Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)
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