

NRC's operations in Palestine

Humanitarian overview

The humanitarian crisis in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) – Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem – has reached unprecedented levels. Decades of systemic restrictions, forced displacement, and expanding settlements have left millions of people in dire need.

Since October 2023, hostilities in Gaza have heightened political instability throughout the oPt and further eroded the foundations for a viable and independent Palestinian state. Gaza's population continues to face acute food insecurity, alongside critical shortages of clean water, medical supplies, and other essential aid. Widespread destruction of homes and infrastructure has forcibly displaced at least 1.9 million people – around 90 per cent of the population – leaving them without shelter or access to basic services. Despite the October 2025 ceasefire, humanitarian access constraints and a near-total siege continue to exist. The full implementation of the multi-phase agreement remains uncertain, bringing a risk of renewed hostilities.

The situation in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, continues to deteriorate under increasing and intensifying Israeli settler attacks, forced displacement, and land appropriation linked to Israeli government policies, including settlement expansion and settler violence. In early 2025, the Israeli military escalated its operations in the northern West Bank, displacing from refugee camps at least 31,000 Palestinians who remain in a vulnerable situation.

Access constraints remain severe. Bureaucratic and regulatory hurdles, logistical barriers, and the closure of key crossings and checkpoints continue to delay or block life-saving assistance. Despite international calls for sustained ceasefires and safe aid corridors, political and operational obstacles persist, prolonging the suffering of the population across the oPt.



Photo: Amjad Al Fayoumi/NRC

Our core activities



Education



Information, counselling
and legal assistance (ICLA)



Livelihoods
and food security



Protection
from violence



Shelter
and settlements



Water, sanitation
and hygiene (WASH)

NRC in Palestine

Established	2009
International staff	34
National staff	173

Our areas of operation

- West Bank, including East Jerusalem
- Gaza



Our activities in detail

Our objective is to contribute to the survival, protection and dignity of people affected by conflict and displacement in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. We respond to emergencies following violence and forcible transfer, and address long-term displacement by promoting self-reliance through impactful programming and sustained advocacy.

Our operations – rooted in respect for human rights and the responsibility of all actors to uphold IHL – serve Palestinians affected by the occupation and the ongoing siege in Gaza. Since 7 October 2023, NRC has reached over 1.2 million people across the oPt with high-quality, safe and inclusive humanitarian assistance, often prioritising hard-to-reach areas.



32,114 people reached in 2025 ▼

Education

NRC works to ensure that Palestinian children and young people have access to quality education and psychosocial support. Many of them have experienced displacement-related hardships or traumatic events that have reduced their access to education and harmed their wellbeing.

In 2025, NRC established or supported 130 learning spaces (comprised of temporary learning spaces, community-based spaces and organisations, and formal schools) across Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. We reached 32,114 participants (55 per cent female), including 705 teachers and facilitators, 4,361 parents, and 27,948 children and youth.

Specifically, our teams:

- train teachers and counsellors on classroom-based psychosocial support techniques accessible to children
- assist teachers and school staff in developing child-centred teaching pedagogies
- inform students, parents and teachers of their rights and referral pathways for further support, in collaboration with NRC's legal protection team
- provide remedial classes for children experiencing learning difficulties
- deliver relevant training and life skills sessions to youth aged 15–29 years



80,968 people reached in 2025 ▼

Information, counselling and legal assistance (ICLA)

NRC strengthens the ability of Palestinians to engage with relevant authorities in claiming their rights, entitlements, and access to remedies. We provide legal information, training, counselling and assistance to help communities access essential services. We also work to strengthen the capacity of the Palestinian Authority and Palestinian civil society to support individuals and communities in claiming their rights.

In the West Bank, we launched mobile legal aid clinics to support vulnerable populations to navigate complex legal frameworks. In Gaza, NRC supported conflict-displaced people in restoring or obtaining their civil and identity documents to help them access humanitarian assistance. Specifically, our teams:

- provide legal aid to protect people from home demolition, eviction and confiscation orders, revocation of residency rights, access restrictions, and settler violence and discrimination in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem
- provide legal aid to help people access their civil, travel, family/guardianship and other documents as well as claim their housing, land and property rights in Gaza
- provide capacity building and technical advice, and work closely with national and international stakeholders to influence positive policy change through research and advocacy
- partner with Israeli and Palestinian NGOs and private lawyers to provide effective legal aid
- lead coordination through the Legal Task Force and the housing, land and property technical working group



63,000 people reached in 2025 ▼

Livelihoods and food security

NRC provides support to displacement-affected people to meet their basic food needs through its cash and markets-based approach. We aim to increase access to food commodities and income-earning opportunities through support to local markets and small-scale traders. Specifically, our teams:

- support vulnerable, food-insecure displaced populations in accessing sufficient food through first-line cash-based interventions
- support community kitchens and install clay/steel ovens in displacement sites in Gaza to enable safe meal preparation for vulnerable families
- strengthen small businesses to enable increased food accessibility for communities through market strengthening
- increase access to work opportunities for Palestinian youth, in collaboration with NRC's Education and ICLA teams
- facilitate market linkages between displacement-affected youth and NRC's education team to ensure employment readiness and outcomes



5,919 people reached in 2025 ▼

Protection from violence

NRC works alongside displacement-affected communities to deliver specialised protection services for those most at risk of violence, coercion and deliberate deprivation, while also supporting communities to proactively prevent and mitigate protection risks. We reinforce this support through site management interventions that coordinate essential services, promote inclusive community governance, and integrate protection for those living in displacement sites – ensuring a community-driven response to protection needs.

In 2025, NRC engaged 18 high-risk communities in the West Bank with community-based protection programming, while covering 43 sites in Gaza. Through site management, more than 114,800 people in Gaza benefited from coordinated services, site improvements, and community-led projects.

Specifically, our teams:

- use data and site monitoring to inform wider humanitarian coordination and improve targeting of limited aid resources
- train site committees and community groups on protection principles and strengthening referral pathways
- facilitate inclusive site management governance and coordination to ensure services meet the most pressing needs and priorities
- provide referrals, psychosocial support, and cash or material support to people experiencing violence and deliberate deprivation to recover and improve their safety



198,660 people reached in 2025 ▼

Shelter and settlements

NRC provides shelter and essential household items to vulnerable populations displaced by conflict in Gaza and the West Bank. We support safe site identification and preparation, distribute and install tents, and carry out light repairs on damaged shelters. NRC also provides technical support for flood mitigation, distributes essential relief and household items, and provides cash-for-rent assistance. Specifically, our teams:

- respond to inadequate shelter conditions through distribution of emergency family tents, sealing off kits, framing kits, and essential household items
- provide shelter kits and weatherproofing materials to help keep displaced families safe from extreme weather conditions
- implement site-level upgrades to improve conditions in overcrowded shelters and informal collective sites
- provide technical guidance and assistance for safe self-rehabilitation of shelters
- work closely with NRC's ICLA team on housing, land and property considerations
- lead coordination through our role as the national Shelter Cluster lead and active contribution to the inter-agency transitional shelter assistance technical working group



521,032 people reached in 2025 ▼

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

To improve living conditions for people in displacement, NRC works to expand access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene, in close collaboration with affected communities. It enhanced access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, collection and removal of solid waste, and hygiene kits distribution. Our teams:

- provide safe access to water for drinking, cooking and domestic use through trucking services, repairs of water networks and water storage facilities
- provide access to gender-segregated toilets with handwashing stations and shower facilities, while managing wastewater to prevent environmental contamination
- provide community-based cash-for-work solid waste management services to reduce public health risks
- distribute hygiene kits, dignity kits and cleaning supplies to households, community centres and schools to promote hygiene practices

Cluster and coordination support

NRC plays a direct and active role in humanitarian coordination in the oPt through our leadership of the Shelter Cluster, the Legal Task Force, and co-leadership of the Housing, Land and Property Technical Working Group. We are also a member of the Strategic Advisory Group for the Education, Protection and Site Management Clusters. We also lead the West Bank Protection Consortium, collaborating with international and local partners, with a focus on leveraging capacities, enhancing synergies, knowledge sharing, and local partner visibility.

Policy, protection and research

NRC provides protection and policy analyses to a range of actors in the oPt, promoting principled humanitarian assistance in accordance with international law. We engage closely with international decision-makers and advocate for the protection and rights of displaced and vulnerable peoples.

Our donors

We are grateful for the generous support from our donors:

- Belgian Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGD)
- Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)
- European Union Foreign Policy Instruments (EU FPI)
- Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Department of Foreign Affairs of Ireland
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- French Crisis and Support Centre (CDCS)
- German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO)
- Global Affairs Canada (GAC)
- Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)
- LEGO Foundation
- Luxembourg Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands
- Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)
- Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA)
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- United Kingdom Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)
- United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations oPt Humanitarian Fund

Contact NRC in Palestine



Country director: Alix Journoud



palestine@nrc.no



Tel: +972 2 6275543 / Fax: +972 2 6275556



www.nrc.no/palestine



24 Othman Ibn Afan Street, Sheikh Jarrah, East Jerusalem