

GAZA STRIP THE HUMANITARIAN IMPACT OF MAJOR ESCALATION OF HOSTILITIES¹

KEY FACTS

- The Gaza Strip has witnessed three major escalations of hostilities in the last ten years: in December 2008-January 2009; in November 2012; and in June-August 2014.
- Over 3,800 Palestinians and 90 Israelis were killed in these escalations. The 2014 hostilities were the most intense to date and saw the highest loss of civilian life in Gaza since the beginning of the Israeli occupation in 1967 (1,460 civilian fatalities).²
- Over 920 Palestinian children were killed in these hostilities. Some 225,000 children in Gaza required some form of psychosocial support and child protection interventions in 2017.
- During the 2014 hostilities, 142 Palestinian families had three or more members killed in a single incident. Some 900 people, a third of them children, were permanently disabled and about 100 underwent amputation of limbs.
- Over 18,000 homes were destroyed or severely damaged during the 2014 conflict, displacing 100,000, of whom about 20,300 remain displaced as of November 2017.
- UNRWA schools serving as emergency shelters for displaced families were struck by Israeli missiles in the 2008/09 and 2014 escalations. In 2014, Palestinian groups were found responsible for hiding weapons in three UN facilities that were not being used as shelters at the time.
- Infrastructure and basic services have been severely affected; in the 2014 conflict, seven schools and four hospitals and clinics were destroyed and 252 schools and 78 health facilities damaged.
- At least 36 Palestinians, including 14 children, have been killed as a result of the detonation of explosive remnants of war (ERW) left after the three escalations, and 244 have been injured. The UN has cleared and destroyed 29 metric tonnes of ERW from 149 unexploded aerial bombs from the 2014 hostilities.
- Israeli criminal investigations into alleged violations of the laws of war led to the prosecution of soldiers in five cases; the highest sentence was seven and a half months imprisonment for a soldier convicted of stealing a credit card. No meaningful investigations have been carried out by Palestinian authorities.

- 1. In the context of 50 years of occupation, 10 years of Hamas rule and blockade and internal Palestinian division, recurrent rounds of conflict have compounded an already precarious humanitarian situation in Gaza, generating significant displacement and undermining the quality of health, education, water and sanitation services.** The destruction of productive assets has also contributed to high unemployment, food insecurity and aid dependency. Children have been particularly impacted by the conflict, leaving them with a deep sense of insecurity, fear and hopelessness.
- 2. Major escalations have resulted in large-scale loss of life and injury, compounded by an almost total absence of basic protective measures, such as bomb shelters or effective warning systems.** The precarious situation of the public health system impedes the provision of appropriate care and rehabilitation to those who sustained long-term injuries and disability.
- 3. Restrictions on the import of construction materials, and funding gaps, have delayed the reconstruction and repair of destroyed and damaged homes, prolonging displacement.** The living conditions of thousands of families still displaced raise a range of humanitarian concerns, including disrupted livelihoods, lack of privacy, gender-based violence and ERW-related risks.
- 4. The conduct of the hostilities by both sides has involved serious violations of international humanitarian law, including of the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution in attack.**³ However, accountability for these violations has remained elusive. Impunity denies victims and survivors the justice and redress they deserve, and prevents the deterrence of future violations.

1. While the recurrent rounds of hostilities also impacted on Israel's civilian population, due to the mandate of agencies operating in the oPt, this factsheet focuses on the humanitarian impact inside the Gaza Strip.

2. According to the Israeli authorities, the number of Palestinian non-combatants killed during the 2014 hostilities was 761.

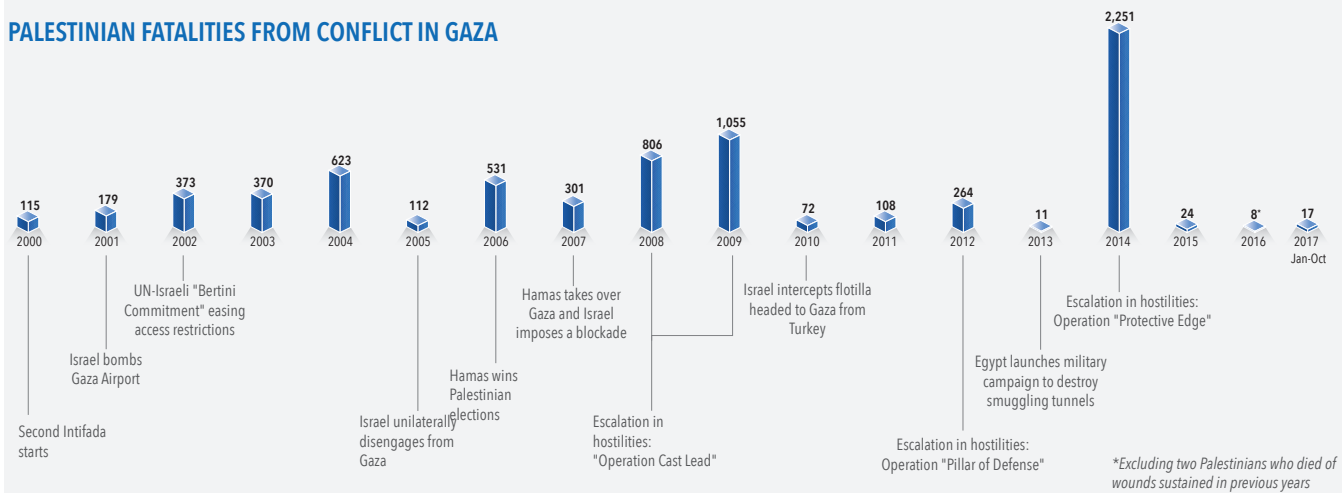
3. See for example the findings of the United Nations Independent Commission of Inquiry on the 2014 Gaza Conflict; and the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict

1.88 Million – Total population
1.33 Million (70%) registered refugees
 Source: PCBS 2016

365 km² Total Area

5,154 Inhabitants per Km²
 Source: PCBS 2016 Q4

PALESTINIAN FATALITIES FROM CONFLICT IN GAZA



PALESTINIAN FATALITIES AND DAMAGE TO HOMES FROM ISRAELI MILITARY OPERATIONS

	2014 ¹	2012 ²	2008/09 ³
Military Operation	'Protective Edge'	'Pillar of Defence'	'Cast Lead'
Palestinian Fatalities	2,251	174	1,383
Totally Destroyed (Housing Units)	11,000	184	3,425
Severe/Major Damage (Housing Units)	12,500	198	2,843
Partial/Minor Damage (Housing Units)	147,500	10,000	54,800

1. Shelter Cluster Factsheet, May 2017.
 2. Shelter Sector Gaza, Shelter Advocacy Fact Sheet, 5, March 2013.
 3. UNDP, One Year After, Gaza Early Recovery and Reconstruction Needs Assessment, p.49.

FAMILIES STILL DISPLACED as of November 2017

