

Committee: Security council

Topic: The Question of Rebuilding Gaza

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Summary

The prolonged hostilities in the Gaza Strip have caused a startling amount of infrastructural destruction, large-scale displacement, and fatalities. It has been classified as an exceptionally serious humanitarian situation by the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU), and other humanitarian organisations.

Every aspect of the economy is impacted by the devastation in Gaza, but the property market and urban areas are most severely hit. Direct damages are projected to be over \$18.5 billion as of January 2024, or roughly 97% of the GDP (gross domestic product) of the West Bank and Gaza for 2022.

Most of the damage (over 80%) is concentrated in residential buildings (72%) and the commerce, industry, and services sector (9%), while the remaining 19% affects critical services like education, water, sanitation, health, energy, and transportation. Nearly 80% of the destruction has occurred in Gaza, North Gaza, and Khan Younis.

As of March 14, the situation has escalated, with over 31,000 reported deaths, approximately 70% of whom are women and children, and 1.7 million people displaced. According to food security projections, more than half of Gaza's population is on the brink of famine, and the entire population is facing acute food insecurity and malnutrition. Palestinians in Gaza make up 80% of all those experiencing severe hunger worldwide.

Water access is critical, with people receiving less than half the daily rations needed for survival, and further reductions are expected as fuel supplies decrease. More than 1 million people have lost their homes. Health services are severely disrupted, with nearly 84% of health facilities damaged or destroyed, and the remaining facilities lack essential medicines, ambulances, and basic care.

The education system has collapsed entirely, leaving all children out of school, with many schools being used as shelters for internally displaced persons. Approximately 17,000 children are separated from their families, making them particularly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

Ongoing violence has led to widespread trauma, severely impacting mental health, especially among vulnerable groups such as women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

Definition of Key Terms

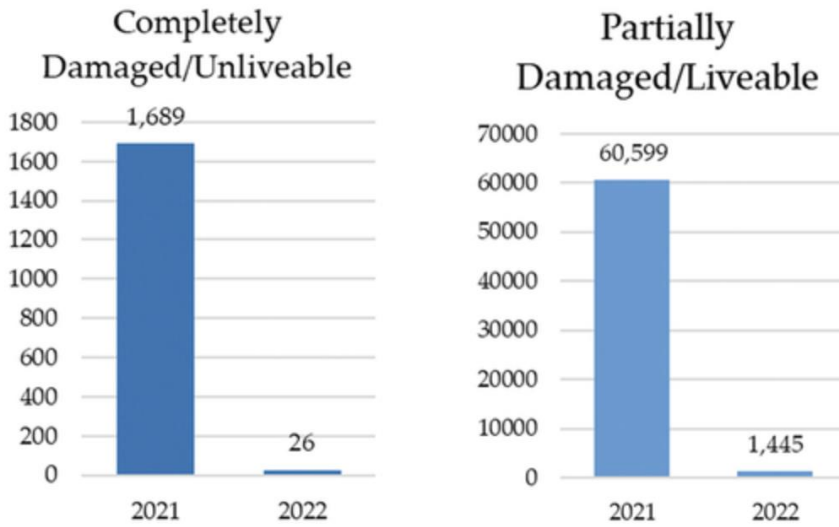
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): Individuals who have been forced to flee their homes but remain within their country's borders, often due to conflict or disaster.

Water Rations: The allocated amount of water available for use by individuals or communities, particularly in emergency situations where supply is limited.

Humanitarian Crisis: A significant situation that results in widespread human suffering, typically due to conflict, natural disasters, or other emergencies, requiring urgent assistance from humanitarian organizations.

Background Information

The 11-day war in 2021 resulted in the deaths of 261 in Gaza and 14 in Israel. The 2022 war was less costly in human life with 49 Palestinians killed and 383 injured. The 2021 war was also more destructive than the three-day 2022 war in the housing, economy, and agricultural sectors, primarily because it was longer in duration. For example, and as indicated in the figure below, Israel completely destroyed 1,689 housing units in 2021 compared to 26 in 2022. The same figure shows a huge difference in the partial damage between 2021 and 2022 reaching the figures of 60,599 and 1,445 housing units respectively. The large number of house destructions in 2021 led to the displacement of 117,000 individuals to various places, of which 77,000 sought refuge in UN Relief and Work Agency (UNRWA) schools whilst 7,250 remained internally displaced before the August 2022 war.



Major Countries and Organizations Involved

Palestine

Israel

USA

Turkey

Egypt

Timeline of Events

Date	Description
2 November 1917	The British government issued a letter expressing support for the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine.
15 November 1988	Palestinian Declaration of Independence.
13 September 1993	Signing of the Oslo Accords.

23 September 2011	Palestine's UN Membership Application.
12 October 2014	2014 Gaza Reconstruction Conference: Convened by Egypt and Norway, this conference aimed to raise funds for rebuilding Gaza after the 2014 conflict, resulting in over \$5 billion in pledges.
26 August 2014	Cairo Agreement: A ceasefire agreement following the 2014 conflict, which included provisions for rebuilding efforts and lifting the blockade on Gaza, though implementation faced challenges.
10 May 2021	Escalation of Conflict: Conflict escalates, leading to calls for a ceasefire and international support for rebuilding efforts.
February 2023	World Bank Report: Highlights the ongoing challenges in Gaza's reconstruction and calls for international support to revitalize the economy.

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

Humanitarian Response Plans: Annually published plans detailing the humanitarian needs and responses for Gaza, supported by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

UNRWA Emergency Appeals: Regular appeals for funding to address the urgent needs of Palestinian refugees in Gaza, particularly post-conflict.

2014 Gaza Reconstruction Conference: Convened by Egypt and Norway, aimed at raising funds for the reconstruction of Gaza following the 2014 conflict, with commitments from various countries.

UNICEF Initiatives: Ongoing programs to restore education and health services in Gaza, emphasizing child protection and support.

World Bank Reports: Regular assessments of the economic and social conditions in Gaza, providing recommendations for recovery and rebuilding efforts.

2021-2022 Gaza Conflict: International calls for ceasefire and reconstruction support, with renewed discussions on humanitarian aid and infrastructure rebuilding.

UN Secretary-General's Statements: Ongoing calls for immediate humanitarian assistance and long-term solutions to rebuild Gaza and address the underlying issues of the conflict.

International Conferences: Events aimed at mobilizing support for Gaza's reconstruction, focusing on sustainable development and humanitarian relief efforts.

Human Rights Reports: Various UN reports documenting the humanitarian situation in Gaza, calling for accountability and support for rebuilding efforts.

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

2014 Gaza Reconstruction Conference

UNRWA Emergency Appeals

Cairo Agreement (2014)

Qatar's Financial Support

The UN's Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism (GRM)

Possible Solutions

Collaboration with NGOs

Community Resilience Programs

Emergency Relief Supplies

Repair Critical Infrastructure

Bibliography

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