

09 August 2024

s 47E(d)

HAMAS-ISRAEL CONFLICT

ISSUES

Conflict in Gaza, including the humanitarian situation and assistance;

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

KEY MESSAGES

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- Australia is gravely concerned about the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza and the number of civilian deaths.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Prepared By:

Name Israel-Gaza Taskforce
Branch Middle East Branch / MAD
Phone s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Cleared By:

Name Gemma Huggins
Position Assistant Secretary
Branch/Division ISG | MAD | Middle East Branch
Phone +s 22(1)(a)

09 August 2024

Humanitarian

- Australia is gravely concerned about the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza
 - around 1.9 million people have been displaced, many several times over
 - evacuation orders and intensified hostilities continue to push thousands more people into recurrent displacement
 - famine is imminent, with 2.15 million people (96 per cent of the population) experiencing crisis levels of food insecurity
 - ongoing lack of humanitarian access continues to drive terrible hunger and deny the population human dignity
 - and the number of UN aid workers killed in the conflict is the highest in history [283 as of 7 August].
- We continue to call for an immediate ceasefire
 - to enable safe, unimpeded and sustained humanitarian access to Gaza so lifesaving assistance can reach those in need.
- Australia has committed \$72.5 million in humanitarian assistance to the region since 7 October 2023.
- Of this, Australia has committed \$51 million to directly support people affected by the Hamas-Israel conflict
 - \$11.5 million to refugee programs in Lebanon and Jordan to address the ongoing regional refugee crisis
 - and \$10 million to address the impacts of the humanitarian situation in Syria.
- Our funding is being directed to conflict-affected people with a focus on women and children
 - including to support food and nutrition, water and sanitation, health and shelter.
- Australia is deeply concerned about the reports of polio being detected in wastewater samples in Gaza, as well as the growing risk of outbreaks of other communicable diseases.

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 - it is unacceptable that the number of aid workers killed more than doubled between 2022 and 2023, the majority in Gaza.
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- Australia has consistently called for Israel to enable the rapid, safe and unimpeded flow of humanitarian relief to civilians in Gaza, and the protection of aid workers
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- famine is imminent, with 2.15 million people (96 per cent of the population) experiencing crisis levels of food insecurity
- deeply concerned by re-emergence of polio, not seen in Gaza for over 25 years
 - : support call by UNICEF and WHO for urgent humanitarian pauses to allow two rounds of vaccinations to take place, and urge all parties to facilitate the swift delivery of the vaccination program
 - : Australia funds the Global Polio Eradication Initiative [\$43.5m 2022-2023 to 2026-27], and has provided \$15m to UNICEF for humanitarian assistance in the OPTs since 7 October 2023.
- the ongoing lack of humanitarian access continues to drive terrible hunger and deny the population human dignity
- and the number of UN aid workers killed in the conflict is the highest in history [283 as of 7 August].
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 - : but last week, UNICEF and WHO issued a statement that the campaign will not be possible unless there is a break in fighting
 - : this further demonstrates the need for an immediate ceasefire
 - : urge all parties to facilitate the swift delivery of the proposed WHO/UNICEF vaccination program
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Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

BACKGROUND BRIEF: MIDDLE EAST UPDATE

s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(d)

PROPOSAL SUMMARY AND OBJECTIVES

Update colleagues on developments in the Middle East.

KEY POINTS

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Prepared by: IGTF

Cleared by: FAS MAD

Date cleared: 12/08/2024

Consultation: CCD, LGD, MPD, HPD



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

- The catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza has not improved, s 33(a)(iii)
 - reports of surging malnutrition in northern Gaza and strikes against schools that are housing displaced people are deeply concerning
 - I (FM Wong) continue to emphasise the unacceptable impact of the conflict on civilians; HOM and DFAT continue to do likewise
 - s 33(a)(iii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

BACKGROUND

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Gaza s 22(1)(a)(ii) humanitarian

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Over 39,500 Palestinians have been killed. There is a very high risk of famine due to inadequate humanitarian access. UN partners have reported a surge in malnutrition levels in northern Gaza in July, increasing 47 per cent compared to June. Between 22 July and early August, at least 20 food distribution points, 18 cooked meal provision points and two warehouses were affected by evacuation orders. Mass casualty events continue to occur, including as a result of strikes affecting schools housing displaced people – including a 10 August strike on the Al Tabeen school reportedly killing over 100 (Israel claims including at least 19 fighters). On 7 August, Israel issued new evacuation orders for areas of northern Gaza. These areas were among the most affected by Israel's initial ground invasion in October 2023. Many residents of Gaza have been displaced multiple times.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 30 August 2024 4:54 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Oldmeadow, Anna C; Mooney, Tom; Olenich, John M; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Maclachlan, Craig; Innes-Brown, Marc; Huggins, Gemma; s 22(1)(a)(ii) Mckenna, Marie-Charlotte; Mccarthy, Adam; Delaney, Beth; Brassington, Juliette; s 22(1)(a)(ii); Copeland, Alan; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Hamas-Israel Conflict - Strategic Policy Update - 30 August 2024 [REDACTED]

hprimdataset: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
hprimfileref:
hprimrecordref:

[REDACTED]
Dear FMO Colleagues

Please see below Strategic Policy Update for 30 August 2024.

I trust this information is of assistance.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Humanitarian. The IDF's firing on a WFP convoy on 27 August highlights continuing deconfliction failures. WHO has announced the polio vaccination campaign will start on 1 September, in coordination with the IDF, through COGAT. "Humanitarian pauses" will allow the population to reach the medical centres where the vaccinations will be administered. UNICEF has confirmed that 1.6 million vaccines and cold chain materials are now in Gaza, stored at the central cold chain in Deir al Balah. Eleven health facilities will serve as vaccination centres and mobile vaccination units will go door to door. Over 700 teams at hospitals and primary health care centres – many of which are barely functioning -- and over 300 community outreach teams are involved with c.2700 health workers supporting the delivery of both rounds of the campaign (early and mid-September). Ongoing conflict, insecurity, and mass movement of the population present significant challenges, as does the lack of reliable power supplies to maintain the cold chain.

Key stats (from OCHA reported impact snapshot August 28)

Palestinian casualties (trend on previous week)	40,534 (+311) reported, 32,280 identified:
<i>Injuries</i>	93,778
<i>Women</i>	5,956
<i>Children</i>	10,627
<i>Aid workers (UN staff)</i>	294 (216) (+5)
Israeli casualties	Over 1,200 reported, 1,162 identified
<i>Children</i>	At least 33
Food Security	Ongoing airstrikes, frequent evacuation orders and distribution chaos caused by IDF restrictions continue to impact access to and production of food. 96% of women and children (6-23 months) are not meeting nutrient requirements. More than 50,000 children require treatment for acute malnutrition. The World Food Programme (WFP), a critical source of food aid in Gaza has announced it will pause the movements of its employees within Gaza.
<i>IPC Phase 5 (catastrophic)</i>	495,000
<i>IPC Phase 4 (emergency)</i>	745,000
<i>IPC Phase 3 (crisis)</i>	824,000
Displacement	Around 1,900,000 (90% of Gazans), many several times over
% area of Gaza under evacuation orders	89% (+3%)
<i>From Rafah after 6 May</i>	Over 1m
<i>From Gaza city after 7 July</i>	Up to 250,000
	In August to date, Israeli forces have issued 16 evacuation orders so far, five issues between 19 and 24 August, displacing 258,000 (+8,000) people, 12% of Gaza's population.
Hospitals	17 of 36 <u>partially</u> functioning (+1) 12 of which are only partially accessible due to insecurity and physical barriers. Remaining hospitals are forced to respond to mass casualty events and impacted by the deaths of 885 health workers killed and 310 detained by Israel.

Truck numbers	In August so far, 1,713 trucks carrying humanitarian aid have entered Gaza, with an average of 79 trucks a day. In July, this number was 2,453 in total in July with an average of 79 per day. Pre-crisis the average was 500 truckloads.
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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Israel-Gaza Taskforce | Middle East and Africa Division

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

P +s 22(1)(a)(ii) M s 22(1)(a)(ii)



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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all First Nations peoples, their cultures and to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 23 August 2024 5:19 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Oldmeadow, Anna C; Mooney, Tom; Olenich, John M, s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii); Maclachlan, Craig; Innes-Brown, Marc; Huggins, Gemma; s 22(1)(a)(ii); Mckenna, Marie-Charlotte; Delaney, Beth; Brassington, Juliette; s 22(1)(a)(ii); Copeland, Alan; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Israel-Hamas Conflict - Strategic Policy Update - 23 August 2024 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Dear FMO Colleagues

Please see below, this week's Strategic Policy Update on the ongoing conflict.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Kind Regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Policy Officer
Middle East Branch | Middle East and Africa Division
Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
E s 22(1)(a)(ii)
P +s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Humanitarian. Ongoing displacement, damage to infrastructure and decimation of health systems is greatly increasing the risks of major outbreaks of other vaccine-preventable diseases. In a spot of good news, UNICEF has reported it's been able to access 28,000 children to administer oral polio vaccines since the poliovirus was first detected in environmental samples in Gaza mid-July. The UN is pressing Israel to facilitate a polio vaccination program (for 640,000 children) through humanitarian pauses. As a result of successive evacuation orders, Gaza's population is increasingly concentrated inside a zone in Al Mawasi. The density of this area (c.11 per cent of Gaza) has surged to between 30,000 and 34,000 people per square kilometre, compared to c.1,200 people per square kilometre prior to October. The Jordan humanitarian corridor is building capacity and delivering increasing amounts of aid into northern Gaza, s 33(a)(iii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) The IDF military road and checkpoints across Gaza continue to heavily limit flows of aid entering from northern border crossings reaching southern governates.

Key stats (from OCHA reported impact snapshot August 21)

Palestinian casualties (trend on previous week)	40,223 (+258) reported, 32,280 identified
<i>Women</i>	5,956
<i>Children</i>	10,627
<i>Aid workers (UN staff)</i>	289 (211) (+3)
Israeli casualties	Over 1,200 reported, 1,162 identified
<i>Children</i>	At least 33
Food Security	Frequent evacuation orders continue to impact access to and production of food; more than 30 kitchens were forced to suspend their work or relocate due to recent evacuation orders in Khan Younis and Deir Al Balah.
<i>IPC Phase 5 (catastrophic)</i>	495,000
<i>IPC Phase 4 (emergency)</i>	745,000
<i>IPC Phase 3 (crisis)</i>	824,000
Displacement	Around 1,900,000 (90% of Gazans), many several times over
% area of Gaza under evacuation orders	86%
<i>From Rafah after 6 May</i>	Over 1m
<i>From Gaza city after 7 July</i>	Up to 250,000
	In August to date Israeli forces have issued 12 evacuation orders, forcing as many as 250,000 people to move yet again (+250,000)
Hospitals	16 of 36 partially functioning (-)
Truck numbers	In July there were 543 coordinated humanitarian movements (up from 414 in June) in Gaza initiated under the Humanitarian Notification System. 15 per cent of movements were denied in July, significantly impacting humanitarian access and operations. In the north, 27 per cent of movements were impeded (more than double the percentage in June)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 16 August 2024 5:37 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii); Oldmeadow, Anna C; Mooney, Tom; Olenich, John M, s 22(1)(a)(ii); Linton, Sarah
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii); Maclachlan, Craig; Innes-Brown, Marc; Huggins, Gemma, s 22(1)(a)(ii); Mckenna, Marie-Charlotte; Delaney, Beth; Brassington, Juliette, s 22(1)(a)(ii); Copeland, Alan; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE Strategic policy update 9 August [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

FMO colleagues,

Please find below the weekly strategic policy update on Middle East conflict. We continue to refine this product; welcome any comments.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Humanitarian: Palestinian fatalities since 7 October 2023 now exceed 40,000. Calling it a "grim milestone", UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Turk stated his office has documented serious violations of international humanitarian law by both the Israeli military and Palestinian armed groups. The UNFPA reported that in the 300 days since the conflict started 76 per cent of the 155,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women in Gaza are malnourished, there are critical shortages of water, hygiene products and privacy for the 690,000 women and girls of menstruation age, and a significant increase in gender-based violence. OCHA has said around a third of aid missions within Gaza this month have been denied access by Israeli authorities.

Key stats (from OCHA reported impact snapshot August 14)

Palestinian casualties (trend on previous week)	39,965 (+288) reported, 32,380 identified (+4,215) Gaza Health Ministry reports on 16 Aug: >40,000
Women	5,320 (+636)
Children	9,351 (+1,276)
Aid workers (UN staff)	286 (209) (+8)

Israeli casualties <i>Children</i>	Over 1,200 reported, 1,162 identified <i>At least 33</i>
Food Security IPC Phase 5 (catastrophic) IPC Phase 4 (emergency) IPC Phase 3 (crisis)	Multiple evacuation orders cutting off food distribution points and warehouses, and impediments to humanitarian supplies and fuel <i>between</i> southern/central Gaza and north as well as <i>into</i> Gaza have led to critical food shortages. 495,000 745,000 824,000
Displacement Area of Gaza under evacuation orders <i>From Rafah after 6 May</i> <i>From northern Gaza around 14/15 May</i> <i>From eastern Khan Younis and Rafah start July</i> <i>From Gaza city after 7 July</i> <i>From southern Khan Younis and northern Rafah after 4 August</i> <i>From Beit Hanoon and Beit Lihaya (North Gaza) after 7 August</i> <i>From central Khan Younis after 10,11 August</i>	Around 1,900,000 (90% of Gazans) 86% <i>Over 1m</i> <i>100,000</i> <i>At least 66,700</i> <i>Up to 250,000</i> <i>11,000</i> <i>15,500</i> <i>23,000 (+23,000)</i>
Hospitals	16 of 36 partially functioning <i> </i>
Truck numbers	1-12 August: 910 humanitarian trucks entered Gaza (average 76 per day, pre-crisis average was 500). Wide reporting on distribution bottlenecks, looting and disarray within Gaza.

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Acting Director, Political | Israel-Gaza Taskforce
Middle East Branch | Middle East and Africa Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Phone s 22(1)(a)(ii) | Mobile s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 9 August 2024 5:47 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Oldmeadow, Anna C; Mooney, Tom; Olenich, John M; s 47F(1)
Cc: Maclachlan, Craig; Innes-Brown, Marc; Huggins, Gemma; s 22(1)(a)(ii) Mckenna, Marie-Charlotte; Delaney, Beth; Brassington, Juliette; s 22(1)(a)(ii); Copeland, Alan; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: Strategic policy update 9 August [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

FMO colleagues,

Please find below the weekly situation update on the Israel/Hamas conflict. We continue to refine this product; welcome any comments.

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Humanitarian

Humanitarian access continues to be significantly constrained into and within Gaza. Border closures, arbitrary rejections by Israeli authorities, inconsistent processing and insufficient storage is preventing sufficient and sustained entry of humanitarian assistance into Gaza. For the supplies that do enter, distribution bottlenecks, lack of fuel, destruction of roads, looting and risks of attack, often by organised criminal gangs, and inefficient and non-transparent processing (leaving food and medicine to spoil) means the critical supplies are not reaching those most in need.

UN partners report malnutrition cases among children in northern Gaza and Gaza governorates have increased by more than 47 per cent in July compared to June. Lack of clean water and sanitation, paired with overcrowding, continues to drive the spread of communicable diseases, including Polio, Hepatitis A and respiratory infections.

Key stats (from OCHA Reported impact snapshot- Gaza, as of August 7)

Palestinian casualties (trend on previous week) <i>Women</i> <i>Children</i> <i>Aid workers (UN staff)</i>	39,677 (+532) reported, 28,165 identified 5,320 9,351 278 (201) (-)
Israeli casualties <i>Children</i>	Over 1,200 reported, 1,162 identified At least 33
Food Security	Partners attributed worsening nutrition due to access constraints, shortages of essential nutrition supplies, poor water and sanitation, and poor infant feeding practices.
Displacement <i>Area of Gaza under evacuation orders</i> <i>From Rafah after 6 May</i> <i>From northern Gaza around 14/15 May</i> <i>From eastern Khan Younis and Rafah start July</i> <i>From Gaza city after 7 July</i> <i>From southern Khan Younis and northern Rafah after 4 August</i> <i>From Beit Hanoun and Beit Lihaya (North Gaza) after 7 August</i>	Around 1,900,000 (90% of Gazans) 86% Over 1m (-) 100,000 At least 66,700 Up to 250,000 11,000 (+11,000) 15,500 (+15,500)
Hospitals	16 of 36 partially functioning (+1)
Truck numbers	1-5 August: 472 humanitarian trucks entered Gaza (average 94 per day, pre-crisis average was 500). Wide reporting on distribution bottlenecks and disarray within Gaza. Amman Post described an improved ability for Jordan to store and move supplies into northern Gaza, noting overriding access constraints still prevalent across the entirety of Gaza s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 33(a)(iii) s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Huggins, Gemma
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2024 4:36 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Oldmeadow, Anna C; Mooney, Tom; Olenich, John M, s 47F(1)
Cc: Maclachlan, Craig; Innes-Brown, Marc; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Mckenna, Marie-Charlotte; Delaney, Beth; Brassington, Juliette
Subject: FMO strategic policy update 2 August [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
FMO colleagues

Please find below the weekly situation update on the Israel/Hamas conflict. We continue to refine this product; welcome any comments.

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Humanitarian. The number of Palestinian fatalities is now close to 40,000. Following the emergence of polio, an outbreak of Hepatitis-A has occurred with 40 thousand cases now reported and increasing by 1,000 per week (85 cases reported prior to the conflict.) Health services, including UNRWA, are struggling to respond. WHO is sending more than one million polio vaccines. Gaza's vaccination coverage of 99 per cent prior to the war, has dropped to 86 per cent, leaving thousands of children, especially infants, unprotected. In planning for a ceasefire, UN agencies have advised they expect a mass movement of people from Al Mawasi to elsewhere in Gaza. s 33(a)(iii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Most border crossing remains closed, and movement within Gaza from north to south and vice versa is restricted.

Key stats (from OCHA Reported impact snapshot 31 July 2024 - Gaza)

Palestinian casualties (trend on previous week) <i>Women</i> <i>Children</i> <i>Aid workers (UN staff)</i>	39,445 39,145 (+300) reported, 24,686 identified 4,959 7,797 283 (206) (+5)
Israeli casualties <i>Children</i>	Over 1,200 reported, 1,162 identified. At least 33 children
Food Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breakdown of law and order and infrastructure damage have stalled aid dispatches, with extended storage times risking food spoilage and infestation UNICEF rapid assessment found there are no vegetables and fruits available in Gaza city markets Only reliable food entering the al Mawasi humanitarian zone is reportedly flour and canned goods from the north^{1-22(1)(a)(i)}
Displacement <i>From Rafah after 6 May</i> <i>From northern Gaza around 14/15 May</i> <i>From eastern Khan Younis and Rafah start July</i> <i>From Gaza city after 7 July</i> <i>From Khan Younis and al-Mawasi from 22 July</i>	Around 1,900,000 (90%) Over 1m 100,000 At least 66,700 Up to 250,000 More than 200,000 (+50,000)
Hospitals	16 of 36 partially functioning (-) WHO, UNICEF and UNRWA reported communicable diseases and skin infections continued to spread across Gaza amid very limited access to water and sanitation. Partners continued their response to the detection of poliovirus strains in environmental samples from Deir al Balah and Khan Younis.
Education	UNRWA (in partnership with UNICEF and others) launched the 'back to learning programme' on 1 August. In its first phase, the programme will expand ongoing psychosocial support activities for children, focusing on arts, music and sports, as well as raising awareness on the risks of explosive ordnance (UNRWA)
Truck numbers	No accurate figures available.

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Cheers
GemmaGemma Huggins
Assistant Secretary
Middle East Branch

