

Children in Gaza: Surviving Amid Crisis



Gaza, October 2025 ©Omar Ashtawy

This Flash Update was prepared by WeWorld

“Our community volunteers show up for their people in every small and big moment. In every message they deliver and every camp they support, they carry the resilience of Gaza on their shoulders”.

Najat, WeWorld Hygiene Promotion officer

SITUATION UPDATE

Children in Gaza continue to face catastrophic conditions despite the October 2025 ceasefire. Tens of thousands have been killed or injured among the **69,185 fatalities and 170,698 injuries** recorded since October 2023, and almost all children have been displaced as **96% of households have moved at least once**, often repeatedly. Most now live in overcrowded, unsafe shelters with extremely limited access to water, hygiene and electricity. Hunger and disease have reached life-threatening levels.

Famine was declared in August 2025, with more than half a million people affected; 119 children have already died from malnutrition and all 320,000 children under five are at risk of acute malnutrition.

Diarrheal disease has surged from 2,000 cases per month before the war to 5,000 per week, disproportionately affecting malnourished children. Surviving children face high rates of life-changing injuries and long-term disability. WHO estimates 42,000 people now live with life-altering injuries, including over 5,000 amputations, and one in four injured is a child. These physical wounds are accompanied by severe psychological distress, including depression, sleep disorders and behavioral changes, while access to rehabilitation and assistive devices remains extremely limited. Child protection assessments indicate extreme levels of distress: 93% of caregivers report aggressive behaviors among children, 86%

report withdrawal and sadness, and 79% report severe sleep difficulties. Nearly one million children require sustained psychological and psychosocial support. Boys and girls face increased risks of violence, exploitation and unsafe environments, especially in overcrowded and unlit shelters.

The collapse of the education system has produced one of the most severe education crises in recent history. The latest assessment by the Education Cluster reveals that **97.5% of school buildings in Gaza have sustained some level of damage.**

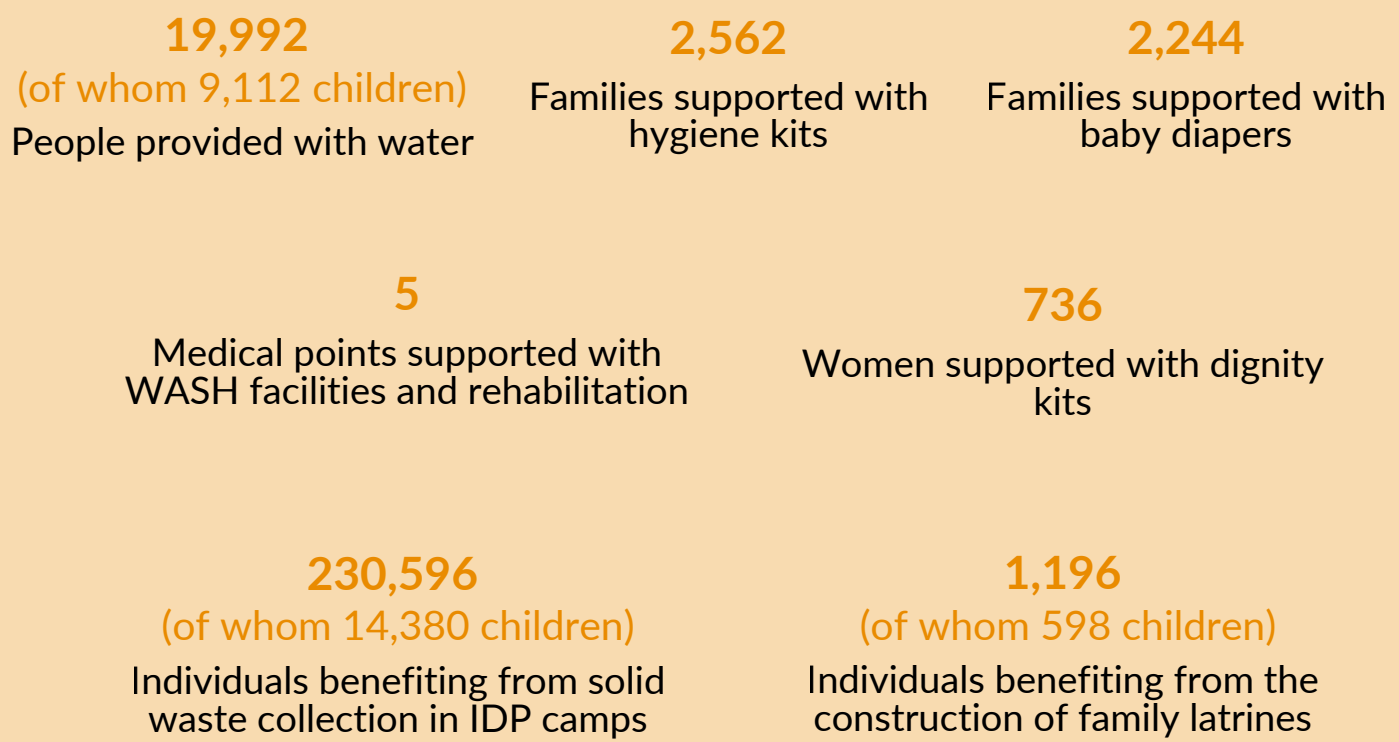
As a result, about 80% of Gaza’s entire student population has lost access to their original

learning environment, 658,000 school-aged children and 87,000 tertiary students remain without formal learning, now for more than two academic years.

The **consequences of war for children are multidimensional and long-term:** hunger, disease, injury, disability, loss of education, psychological distress and unsafe environments converge into what may produce **intergenerational and irreversible harm. This underscores the urgency of child-focused, multi-sector interventions, particularly in health, nutrition, WASH, protection, psychosocial support and emergency education.**

KEY DATA FROM WEWORLD INTERVENTION

16.10.2025 – 15.11.2025



WEWORLD INTERVENTION

Between 16 October and 15 November, as children continued to face extreme deprivation, repeated displacement and collapsing services, WeWorld delivered essential, life-saving support across Gaza. Over the past month alone, WeWorld ensured **safe water for 19,992 people**, including **9,112 children**, rehabilitated **five medical points** with critical WASH facilities, and distributed thousands of essential items—**2,562 hygiene kits, 736 dignity kits, 2,244 packs of baby diapers, 515 sanitary pads, and 233 menstrual-management kits**. Hygiene-promotion activities reached **1,425 people**, mostly children, while **solid-waste collection in displacement sites benefitted 30,596 individuals**, including **14,380 children**, helping contain disease in unsafe, overcrowded shelters. WeWorld also installed **family latrines for 1,196 people** (half of them children), supported **293 families** caring for persons with disabilities, and reached **1,700 children** with remedial classes, SEL (social and emotional learning) and psychosocial support amid the collapse of formal schooling.

All interventions are carried out using **participatory and community-driven approaches**, including the activation and support of **community volunteers**, which play a central role in identifying priorities, monitoring needs, guiding hygiene-promotion activities and ensuring that services are adapted to the realities of each displacement site. In parallel, WeWorld uses **child-friendly and age-appropriate methodologies** to ensure that children, adolescents and caregivers actively participate in shaping activities and improving their own living conditions, fostering resilience and safer, healthier environments for all. These results reflect WeWorld's integrated, child-centred approach, meeting urgent survival needs while protecting dignity, education and wellbeing.

Despite the highly volatile and dynamic environment, WeWorld continues to operate at scale, consolidate operations and prepare for expanded response. A team of **over 200 staff and daily workers**, operating through two main offices and two warehouses, maintains a wide and strategic presence across all governorates despite repeated displacement, enabling flexible programming in **WASH, education and protection**. This operational capacity, grounded in more than **thirty years of WeWorld's presence in Palestine**, allows the organization to adapt rapidly to shifting frontlines and reach highly vulnerable groups in newly emerging displacement sites.



PROPOSED WAY FORWARD

Given the scale and severity of children's needs, WeWorld's way forward focuses on **scaling up integrated, child-centred, multi-sector interventions** while maintaining the flexibility required in a highly volatile environment. Priority will be placed on expanding **emergency WASH services** (including increased water supply, desludging, solid-waste collection and rapid construction of latrines) to control the rise in water-borne diseases and reduce the health risks faced by children living in overcrowded displacement sites.

To address the profound educational and psychosocial impact of the crisis, WeWorld aims to broaden **temporary learning and protection spaces**, scaling up **remedial learning, SEL and PSS** for children who have lost access to school for over two years. We will also enhance **risk communication and hygiene promotion**, leveraging **Local Hygiene Committees (LHCs)**, which will continue to be trained and supported to identify local needs, monitor service gaps, mobilize communities, and improve safe hygiene practices in displacement settings.

With a view to stable ceasefire conditions, WeWorld is preparing to scale up **light rehabilitation works** as an essential bridge between emergency response and early recovery.

This includes the repair of community WASH infrastructure, rehabilitation of schools and child-focused spaces, and the restoration of essential facilities that can be made functional with limited materials and labour.

These early actions are designed to improve safety, dignity and access to basic services for children and their families while laying the groundwork for a broader transition into recovery and reconstruction, building on its long-standing presence, technical expertise and operational footprint.

Sustained donor support, together with expanded aid channels and a significant increase in aid flow, is essential to enable WeWorld to maintain and scale these life-saving interventions, prevent further deterioration of the humanitarian situation, and lay the foundations for early recovery once conditions allow.

The next phases of WeWorld's response will continue to prioritize children's survival, protection, learning and wellbeing, ensuring that no child is left behind amid one of the gravest crises Gaza has ever experienced.

USEFUL LINKS

- [Humanitarian Situation Update #340 | Gaza Strip \(OCHA\)](#)
- [Situation Report #196 on the Humanitarian Crisis in the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem \(UNRWA\)](#)
- [Humanitarian Situation Report No. 43 - 30 September 2025 \(UNICEF\)](#)