

Gaza

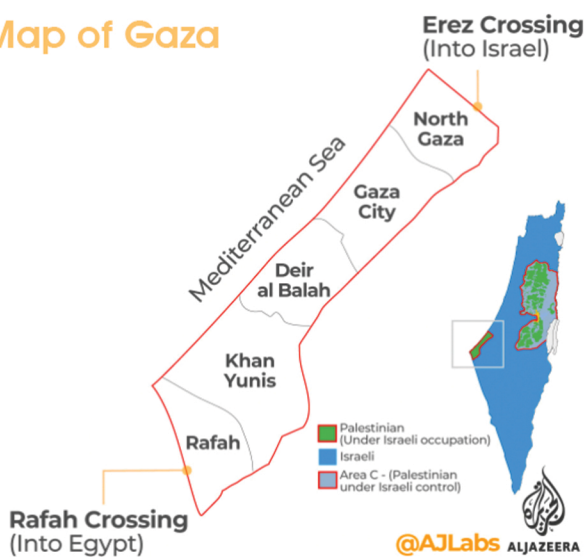
Gaza is a small area of land 41km long and 10km wide, similar to Sheffield in the UK. It is home to over 2 million Palestinians.

Israel has imposed an **inhumane air, land and sea siege** on Gaza since 2007. This means **Israel controls everything** entering and exiting Gaza, including aid. Israel has sealed Gaza off from the rest of the world.

Israel disregards Palestinian human rights in Gaza. **Food, water, medicine and fuel are all scarce.** Gaza has been described as the world's largest open-air prison.

The suffering of Palestinians in Gaza is made worse by **frequent brutal bombardments** by Israel.

Map of Gaza

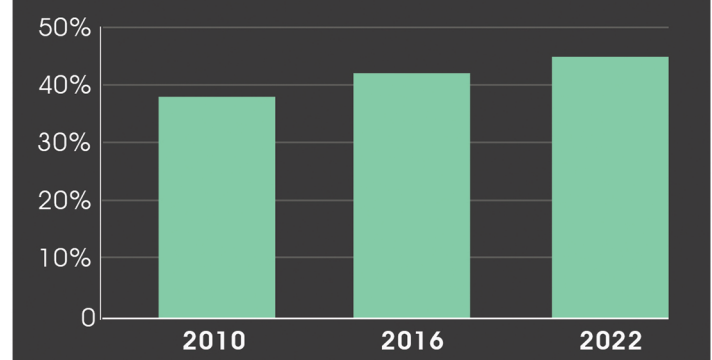


Children in Gaza

- 25% of schools in Gaza damaged by Israeli bombardment in May 2021
- 90%+ of children in Gaza suffer from PTSD
- 40% of children in Gaza suffer from mood disorders
- Around 50% of Gaza's children suffer from water-related infections

- 80% of the population needs humanitarian aid.
- 96% of water is undrinkable.
- The unemployment rate is staggeringly high at 45%.
- Unemployment in youth graduates is 74%.
- Extremely tight Israeli restrictions mean there is a **shortage of life-saving medication and equipment.**
- Seriously ill children and adults are frequently **denied leaving** Gaza for medical treatment.
- Healthcare staff are prevented from travelling out of Gaza for training.
- Electricity is only available for a **few hours each day**, negatively impacting hospitals and all the residents.

Unemployment rate in Gaza



Children are **severely affected** by Israel's ongoing siege.

Children are occasionally forced to study in **dark classrooms** due to lack of electricity and they have to do their homework by candlelight. Sometimes with Israeli bombings, classrooms have to become temporary family homes.



Attacks on Gaza



2008: Israeli White Phosphorous attacks on Gaza [Getty]

Palestinians in Gaza experience frequent brutal bombardments by Israel:

- **2008-2009:** Israel killed more than 1000 Palestinians in Gaza over a 3-week period. Israel used white phosphorous (a banned chemical agent that causes severe burns and immense suffering) on civilians, which was condemned by the international community as a war crime. 13 Israelis killed.
- **2012:** Over 8 days, Israel killed 167 Palestinians in Gaza, including 4 children from the Dalou family, in a single air strike. 2 Israelis killed.
- **2014:** Over 7 weeks, Israel killed more than 2000 Palestinians in Gaza and over 10,000 were wounded, including 1000 children who were left permanently disabled. 72 Israelis killed.
- **2018-2019:** Israeli forces unlawfully fired live ammunition at Palestinians on Great March of Return protests who posed no imminent threat to Israel. On the first day, over 1400 Palestinians were wounded.
- **2021:** Israel killed 256 Palestinians in Gaza, including 60 children. On 16 May Israel targeted two residential buildings of the Abu al-Ouf and al-Kolaq families in Gaza, killing 30 family members.

Prohibitory recovery



Aftermath of Israeli bombardment on Gaza

Israel prohibits many items from reaching Gaza including food in tin cans and building materials such as wood and concrete.

- Israel says food in tin cans could be melted down to produce missile casings.
- Israel says building materials such as wood and concrete could be put to military use.

Israeli restrictions **reduce any chances of recovery** from damage inflicted in the first place by Israeli bombardment.

Israel's siege of Gaza is a policy of economic warfare punishing the 2+ million population.

In early 2006, Dov Weisglass, then a senior advisor to Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, explained that Israeli policy in Gaza was designed **“to put the Palestinians on a diet, but not to make them die of hunger.”**

In early 2008 Israeli authorities drew up a document calculating the minimum caloric intake necessary to avoid malnutrition so that Israel could limit the food allowed into Gaza without causing outright starvation.

Israel's inhumane air, land and sea siege means Palestinians in Gaza are forced to become aid dependent, stripping them of their dignity.

References:

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 - 2) UNICEF State of Palestine Humanitarian Situation Report, UNICEF, September 2022, <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/unicef-state-palestine-humanitarian-situation-report-no-2-01-july-30-september-2022>
 - 3) 'Israeli attacks on homes in Gaza must be investigated as war crimes' Amnesty International, May 2021, <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/press-releases/israeli-attacks-homes-gaza-must-be-investigated-war-crimes>
- Information accurate (April 2023)*

