

# CONFLICT IN ISRAEL + GAZA

OCTOBER 2023

world relief 

On Saturday, October 7, the world learned of a deadly attack on Israel by Palestinian militant group, Hamas, who killed more than 1,400 people and took 220 people hostage, including children and the elderly.

Israel responded with airstrikes across the Gaza Strip, and since then, the two sides have been engaged in heavy fighting. The airstrikes have caused widespread damage to infrastructure, including homes, schools and hospitals in Gaza. 1.4 million Gazans have been displaced and the Palestinian Ministry of Health reports that 6,500 people have been killed, including 2,704 children.

As violence continues to escalate, an increasingly desperate situation is unfolding for the two million people living in Gaza, half of whom are children. With few places to turn, the most vulnerable are in critical need of food, clean water, shelter, sanitation and hygiene facilities, medical care and psychological support.

The most pressing needs include:

- Providing essential healthcare for over 50,000 pregnant women who currently lack access to medical services.
- Addressing the critical lack of medical supplies in hospitals as they treat a growing number of casualties. 34% of hospitals and 64% of primary care facilities in Gaza are currently non-operational due to damages or lack of fuel.
- Ensuring the safety and care of 350,000 individuals with non-communicable diseases, such as cancer, diabetes and heart conditions.
- Addressing the rising cases of acute respiratory infections and diarrhea among children under the age of five.
- Mitigating the risk of water-borne illnesses, like cholera, caused by the scarcity of clean water.



Despite the critical nature of this situation, the humanitarian corridor into Gaza through neighboring Egypt remains largely closed with extremely limited aid being allowed in.

## **WORLD RELIEF RESPONDS**

World Relief has been closely monitoring the crisis and is poised to respond through our partners in the region to provide relief for those impacted as soon as we are allowed. With loss of life and severe injuries in both Israel and Gaza, the need for humanitarian access is vital, particularly for civilians.

### **World Relief exists for moments like this.**

As followers of Christ, we are called to respond during times of crisis. Your support is more crucial than ever in helping us bring relief and hope to innocent civilians who are currently enduring unimaginable hardships.

In the coming weeks and months, our commitment and priority is to respond to the most pressing needs and to provide aid to both Israelis and Palestinians traumatically impacted by the conflict. We also remain committed to advocating for the rights of those affected by the conflict as we support efforts to promote peace and stability in the region.

As we respond to this humanitarian crisis, we are grateful for partners like you who believe that we can and should answer God's call to care for the vulnerable, and we ask that you prayerfully consider a generous gift to support those affected.

### **Will you join us in providing aid to people traumatically impacted by donating today?**

Together, we can make a significant impact and provide much-needed assistance to those in need.

*\*Photo credits: Ibrahim Zaanoun*