



## Palestinian Children in Gaza Fact Sheet: April 2024

Half of Gaza's population are children. Under international law, a child is any person under the age of 18.

Israeli forces have killed more than **13,000 Palestinian children** in Gaza since October 7, according to the Ministry of Health. Around **8,000 Palestinians**, including many children, are still missing under the rubble of destroyed buildings, indicating that the actual death toll is even higher.

**31 Palestinian children** in Gaza have died of malnutrition and dehydration, according to the Ministry of Health. The true death toll from malnutrition and dehydration is feared to be much higher as the official death count only includes Palestinians who were hospitalized.

Most of the Palestinian children who have died from malnutrition and dehydration were **newborn babies**, whose mothers were malnourished for months during pregnancy, and **children with disabilities**, some of whom required special diets.

**One in three Palestinian children** under two years old in north Gaza suffer from acute malnutrition, according to UNICEF.

Israel's military offensive has collapsed Gaza's health care system, forcing hospitals to operate at extremely limited capacity or shut down entirely. More than **75,000 Palestinians**, including many children, are wounded and require more advanced and continued medical care than Gaza's health care system can currently provide.

At least **1,000 Palestinian children** in Gaza have lost one or both of their legs from injuries sustained by Israeli attacks, according to UNICEF. Children, who are still growing, require new and updated prosthetics on a regular basis as well as continued specialized care from doctors and physical therapists.

Around **17,000 Palestinian children** in Gaza are orphaned or separated from their families, according to estimates by UNICEF.

Israeli forces have detained an **unknown number** of children from Gaza to prisons in Israel. Their exact location, charges, and treatment are **unknown**.

At least **111 schools** have been severely damaged in Gaza, in addition to more than **40 schools** that were completely destroyed, while around **620,000 students** have been out of school since October, according to the Ministry of Education.

Nearly all—around **one million**—children in Gaza require mental health support, according to UNICEF. Children are experiencing anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation, insomnia, loss of appetite, panic attacks, and PTSD. Before October, around 500,000 Palestinian children in Gaza required mental health support for anxiety, depression, and PTSD, according to UNICEF.

Israeli forces and settlers have killed **114 Palestinian children** in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, including two United States citizens, since October 7, according to documentation collected by Defense for Children International - Palestine.

Israeli forces have detained around **460 Palestinian children** in the occupied West Bank since October 7, according to estimates by Palestinian prisoner organizations.