

## RESEARCHED AND COMPILED BY THE REFUGEE DOCUMENTATION CENTRE OF IRELAND ON 8 JULY 2024

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### DISCLAIMER

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. All COI Query Responses are compiled in line with the Common EU Guidelines (2008) and the EUAA Methodology (2023). This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to international protection. Please refer to all documents cited.

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### COI QUERY RESPONSE

#### PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY/GAZA – EDUCATION

In July 2024 *BBC News* points out that: “Many schools and other UN facilities have been used as shelters by the 1.7 million people who have fled their homes during the war...”<sup>1</sup>

A report issued in July 2024 by the *United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs* points out that: “School-age children lack access to any form of education and are exposed to serious risks, including child labour, with tens of unaccompanied and separated children being particularly vulnerable.”<sup>2</sup>

A report published by *UNICEF* in July 2024 notes that: “In the Gaza Strip, over 645,525 school aged children have lost an entire education school year without access to education since October 2023.”<sup>3</sup>

*Human Rights Watch* in July 2024 states that: “In the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces have displaced the majority of the population, including through unlawful evacuation orders, and destroyed the majority of homes, schools, hospitals, agricultural land, and other civilian infrastructure, with many forced to live in unsafe, unsanitary conditions.”<sup>4</sup>

A report issued in June 2024 by *Al Jazeera* states that: “More than 76 percent of schools in Gaza require “full reconstruction or major rehabilitation” to be functional following Israel’s months-long onslaught...”<sup>5</sup>

This document also states that: “In April, the UN children’s agency UNICEF said eight out of 10 schools in Gaza are damaged or destroyed with an estimated 620,000 students out of school.”<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> BBC News (6 July 2024) Israeli air strike on Gaza school kills at least 16, p.2

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (5 July 2024) Humanitarian Situation Update #187 | Gaza Strip, p.3

<sup>3</sup> UNICEF (2 July 2024) State of Palestine Humanitarian Situation Report No. 27, 30 May - 12 June 2024, p.4

<sup>4</sup> Human Rights Watch (1 July 2024) Israel/Palestine: All Victims Have Right to Reparation for Abuses, p.1

<sup>5</sup> Al Jazeera (15 June 2024) Israel’s targeting of Gaza schools ‘eroding foundation for societal growth’

<sup>6</sup> ibid

It is also stated in this document that: “In addition to the destruction of the buildings, students and teachers have also been killed in the attacks that have ravaged educational infrastructure and caused mental trauma to thousands of beleaguered students.”<sup>7</sup>

In June 2024 the *United Nations Security Council* points out that: “The United Nations verified 371 attacks on schools (45) and hospitals (326), including on protected persons in relation to schools and/or hospitals (104), attributed to Israeli armed and security forces (340), Israeli settlers (14) and unidentified perpetrators (17), in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem (188), and in the Gaza Strip (183). Incidents involved attacks and threats of attack on health facilities (118), medical personnel (102) and ambulances (106), and attacks on schools (43) and education personnel (2)...Schools in the Gaza Strip have remained closed since 7 October 2023, affecting 625,000 children.”<sup>8</sup>

A publication issued in May 2024 by the *United Nations Human Rights Council* points out that: “The Commission found that the siege and forcible transfer, compounded with widespread destruction caused by attacks and military operations, resulted in the IHRL violations of the rights to family life, adequate food, housing, education, health, social security, and water and sanitation, particularly impacting children and persons in vulnerable situations.”<sup>9</sup>

In May 2024 *Global Protection Cluster* points out that: “Education partners report that 408 schools – 73 per cent of the total number of schools in Gaza - have been either destroyed or damaged, in addition to 17 universities. Schools remain closed, with buildings in use as IDP shelters, and the health facilities that are open are overstrained and under resourced as they lack the essential medicine, equipment, and electricity supply – exacerbated by a lack of fuel – to run effectively. Over 624,000 children have been affected by the suspension of education services...heightening protection risks including child labour, child marriage, and exploitation.”<sup>10</sup>

A report published in May 2024 by the *UNDP* states that the education: “...system has effectively collapsed.”<sup>11</sup>

In May 2024 the *New York Times* states that: “Seven months of war have devastated every level of education there...More than 80 percent of Gaza's schools have been severely damaged or destroyed by fighting....”<sup>12</sup>

In April 2024 the *United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights* points out that: “After six months of military assault, more than 5,479 students, 261 teachers and 95 university professors have been killed in Gaza, and over 7,819 students and 756 teachers have been injured – with numbers growing each day. At least 60 per cent of educational facilities, including 13 public libraries, have been damaged or destroyed and at least 625,000 students have no access to education.”<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> *ibid*

<sup>8</sup> United Nations Security Council (3 June 2024) Children and armed conflict, Report of the Secretary-General, p.15

<sup>9</sup> United Nations Human Rights Council (27 May 2024) Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, p.17

<sup>10</sup> Global Protection Cluster (24 May 2024) Occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt): Gaza, Protection Analysis Update, The Systematic Destruction of the Fabric of Life. A protection update from Gaza, p.6

<sup>11</sup> UNDP (8 May 2024) Gaza War: Expected Socio-Economic Impacts on the State of Palestine, p.13

<sup>12</sup> New York Times (8 May 2024) With Schools in Ruins, Education in Gaza Will Be Hobbled for Years, p.1

<sup>13</sup> United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (18 April 2024) UN experts deeply concerned over ‘scholasticide’ in Gaza

Save the Children in April 2024 notes that: “All schools in Gaza have been closed for 625,000 students for 6 months.”<sup>14</sup>

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