



GAZA STRIP

RAPID DAMAGE AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

APRIL 2026

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Cover photo: A general view of the market in Nuseirat, central Gaza Strip, on October 29, 2025, by Hassan Al-Jedi.

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

CapEx	capital expenditure
CGE	computable general equilibrium
CPI	Consumer Price Index
EO	explosive ordnance
EU	European Union
GBV	gender-based violence
GDP	gross domestic product
GEDCO	Gaza Strip Electricity Distribution Company
GPP	Gaza Power Plant
GRM	Gaza Strip Reconstruction Mechanism
HDI	Human Development Index
HLP	housing, land, and property
ICT	information and communications technology
IDP	internally displaced people
IEC	Israel Electric Corporation
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
IRDNA	Interim Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MW	megawatts
NCTP	National Cash Transfer Program
NGO	non-governmental organization
NIS	New Israeli Shekel
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OpEx	operating expenses
PA	Palestinian Authority
PALTEL	Palestine Telecommunications Company
PENRA	Palestinian Energy and Natural Resources Authority
PLA	Palestinian Land Authority
PV	photovoltaics
RDNA	Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
TVET	technical and vocational education and training
UN	United Nations
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
US\$	United States dollar
WASH	water, sanitation, and hygiene



Gaza City, crowded with residents amid the rubble. ©UNICEF/UN1738235/Nateel.

Executive Summary

Context

Since the large-scale attack on October 7, 2023, by militant groups from the Gaza Strip into Israel, the escalation of conflict in the Gaza Strip has led to an unprecedented loss of life and a catastrophic humanitarian crisis. Over two years of conflict has resulted in more than 71,000 Palestinian fatalities and over 171,000 injured¹, and many are missing under the rubble. The conflict has led to widespread displacement, extensive damage to social, physical, and productive infrastructure, and plunged the strip into a deep humanitarian crisis. The conflict has also killed approximately 1,671 Israeli and foreign nationals, the majority in the October 7, 2023, attacks, alongside significant displacement and damage in Israel.²

Over 1.9 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have been internally displaced to locations inside of the Gaza Strip, many of them multiple times over; and over 1.2 million people —almost 60 percent of Gaza Strip’s population—have lost their homes.³ Extensive damage to water, sanitation, and waste management infrastructure, a lack of critical resources to operate and maintain the remaining infrastructure, and poor hygiene conditions and food insecurity have left the entire population of the Gaza Strip at risk of disease outbreaks.

A ceasefire agreement was reached on October 9, 2025 and a UN Security Council Resolution 2803 (2025), adopted on 17 November, endorsed the Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Strip Conflict, and welcomed the establishment of a “Board of Peace (BoP) as a transitional administration with international legal personality that will set the framework, and coordinate funding for the redevelopment of Gaza pursuant to the Comprehensive Plan, and in a manner consistent with relevant international legal principles, until such time as the Palestinian Authority (PA) has satisfactorily completed its reform program, as outlined in various proposals.”⁴ At the time of the drafting of this RDNA, the Board of Peace and its subsidiary entities have been constituted, including the Office of the High Representative, a National Committee for the Administration of Gaza, led by Palestinian Commissioners from Gaza, and a Liaison Office has been established between the Palestinian Authority and the Office of the High Representative. Defining clear roles and mandates for various constituent parts of these arrangements, and how the international community will interact with them will be critical for a successful implementation of recovery efforts. Since the ceasefire, 1,246 Palestinians have been injured and a further 449 have been killed as of mid-January 2026.⁵

This Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA), conducted jointly by the World Bank, United Nations (UN), and European Union (EU), aims to inform the stakeholders about the physical, social, economic, and human impacts of the conflict in the Gaza Strip incurred between October 2023 and October 2025. The RDNA provides a technical evidence base for recovery and reconstruction planning focused on immediate needs, as well as guide priorities for medium and long term. It does not assess or propose specific implementation arrangements for recovery. This assessment builds on the interim assessments of April 2024 and February 2025. It is based on globally proven methodologies that combine remote sensing and ground-verified data for calculating damages, losses, and recovery needs, and estimates validated by the EU, UN, and the World Bank.⁶ The RDNA should be followed by on-ground sectoral deep-dive assessments to inform sector-level recovery planning.

1 Humanitarian Situation Update #353| Gaza Strip (14 January 2026). Available at: <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-353-gaza-strip> OCHA. November 12, 2025. “Reported Impact Snapshot | Gaza Strip (12 November 2025).” <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/reported-impact-snapshot-gaza-strip-12-november-2025>

2 Humanitarian Situation Update #353| Gaza Strip (14 January 2026). Available at: <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-353-gaza-strip>

3 OCHA. November 12, 2025. “. “Humanitarian Situation Update #340 | Gaza Strip.” United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs – Occupied Palestinian Territory. <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-340-gaza-strip>

4 United Nations (2025). Security Council Resolution 2803. [S/RES/2803\(2025\)](https://www.un.org/press/en/2025/res2803.html)

5 Humanitarian Situation Update #353| Gaza Strip (14 January 2026). Available at: <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-353-gaza-strip>

6 Definitions: **Damage** assessment quantifies physical asset destruction using baseline values and pre-conflict costs; **Loss** assessment evaluates disruptions in terms of lost income, increased operational costs, employment losses, and displacement-induced costs; **Needs** assessment determines financial resources needed for reconstruction and recovery over the short, medium, and long term. See Annex 1 for further details.

RDNA scope

Geographical scope. The RDNA covers the entire Gaza Strip, with particular emphasis on detailed assessments of the most severely affected sectors and vulnerable groups in heavily impacted urban and rural areas.

Sectoral scope. The assessment covers macroeconomic and human impacts, and 17 key sectors, including four cross-cutting areas. The sectors are:

- **Social sectors:** housing; social protection; health; cultural heritage; education.
- **Infrastructure sectors:** municipal services; water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH); transport; energy; information and communications technology (ICT).
- **Productive sectors:** commerce and industry; finance; agriculture and food systems.
- **Cross-cutting sectors:** governance (with rule of law and access to justice); environment; land; employment.

Temporal scope.

- **Damages:** Incurred between October 8, 2023, and October 9, 2025.
- **Losses:** Incurred between the two years of the conflict and projected for up to three years in the future.
- **Needs:** Early recovery, short-term (up to 18 months), medium term (1.5- 3 yrs) to long-term needs (3-5 years).

Definitions of these terms are provided in Annex 1, and the methodology, including constraints and limitations, is described in Annex 2.

Key Findings for the Gaza Strip

The conflict in the Gaza Strip has inflicted widespread damage across multiple critical sectors, with each sector facing unique challenges and extensive financial needs for recovery. Table 1 presents the overview of physical damages, economic losses, and recovery requirements across the sectors. Physical damage caused by the conflict is estimated at **US\$35.2 billion** and economic losses at **US\$22.7 billion**, bringing the total estimated effects of the conflict on physical assets to **US\$57.9 billion**. Recovery and reconstruction needs are estimated at around **US\$71.4 billion**.

Table 1: Damages, Losses, and Needs per Sector (US\$ billions)

Sector	Sub-sectors	Damages	Losses	Needs
PRODUCTIVE	Total	7.81	4.87	20.08
	Agriculture and food system	1.44	1.46	10.49
	Commerce and Industry	6.35	2.48	8.99
	Finance	0.02	0.93	0.61
SOCIAL	Total	20.65	11.85	36.98
	Cultural Heritage	0.15	0.09	0.23
	Education	1.08	2.36	4.71
	Social protection	0.02	1.56	5.78
	Health	1.39	6.78	10.03
	Housing	18.01	1.06	16.21

Sector	Sub-sectors	Damages	Losses	Needs
INFRASTRUCTURE	Total	6.30	2.74	9.87
	ICT	0.20	0.35	0.50
	Energy	0.57	0.16	2.73
	Municipal services	0.62	0.38	0.86
	WASH	1.70	0.68	4.24
	Transport	3.21	1.18	1.54
CROSS CUTTING	Total	0.42	3.25	4.50
	Environment	0.15	0.22	2.65
	Land	0.01	0.16	0.03
	Employment	0.02	2.77	1.24
	Governance	0.24	0.11	0.53
TOTAL		35.2	22.7	71.4

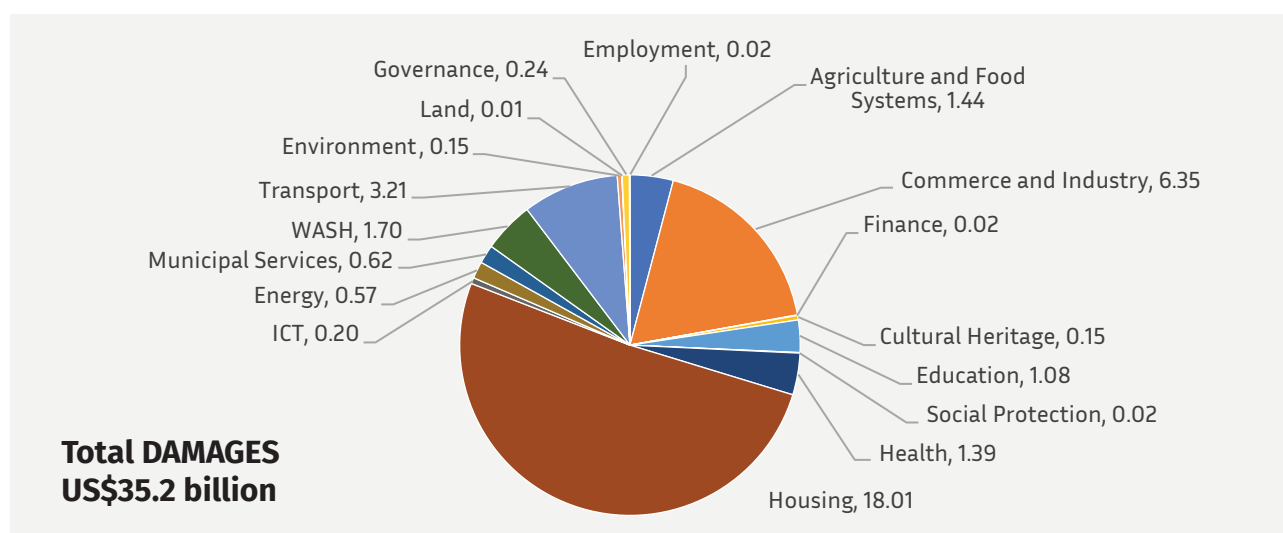
Source: RDNA team

DAMAGES AND LOSSES

The RDNA estimates that around US\$35.2 billion in direct damages have been caused to the physical infrastructure in the Gaza Strip after more than two years of conflict (see Table 1). The housing sector has incurred the highest damages at US\$18.0 billion (51 percent of total damages), followed by commerce and industry at US\$6.35 billion (18 percent), transport at US\$3.2 billion (9 percent), and water and sanitation at US\$1.7 billion (5 percent). Geographically, Gaza and North Gaza Governorates have suffered the most damages. Compared to the 2014 and 2021 conflicts, the level of destruction in the Gaza Strip is on a completely different scale.

Around US\$22.7 billion of economic losses have been incurred due to the conflict. Given that the economic impact of the conflict on the sectors will continue to be felt until substantial recovery is made, these losses

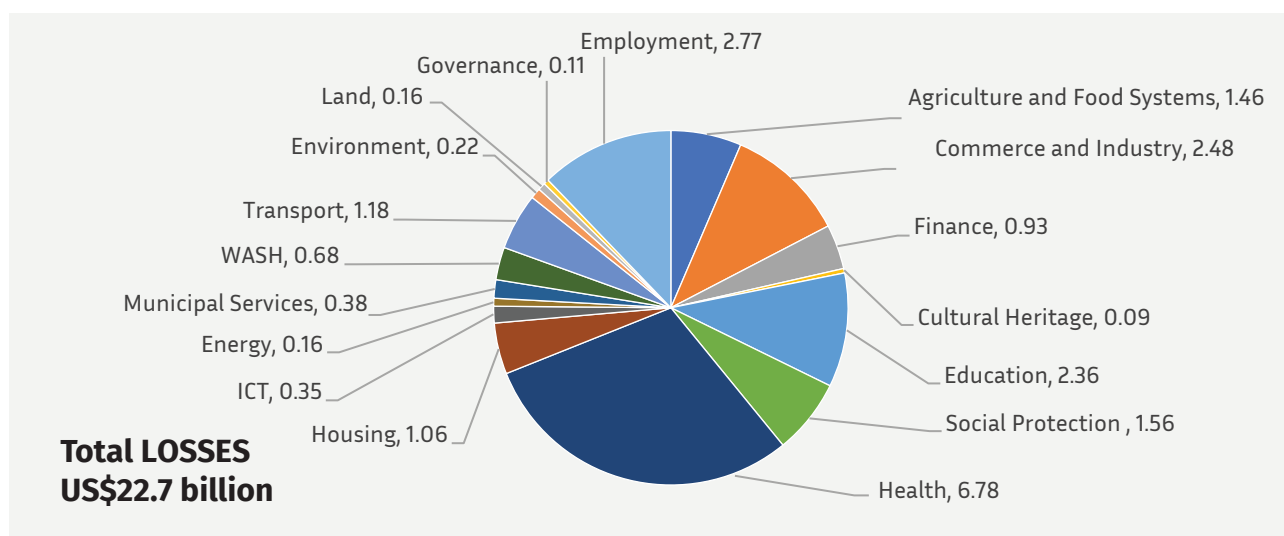
Figure 1: Estimated damages by sector (US\$ billion)



Source: RDNA team

include loss estimates projected up to three years in the future, aligned with sector-specific recovery calendars. The sectors with the highest estimated losses are health with US\$6.8 billion (30 percent of total losses), employment with US\$2.8 billion (12 percent), commerce and industry with US\$2.5 billion (11 percent), education with US\$2.4 billion (11 percent), and social protection with US\$1.6 billion (seven percent). The effects of the conflict (damages and losses combined) are thus greatest in housing with US\$19.1 billion, followed by commerce and industry with US\$8.8 billion, health at US\$8.2 billion, transport at US\$4.4 billion, and education with US\$3.4 billion.

Figure 2: Estimated losses by sector (US\$ billion)



Source: RDNA team

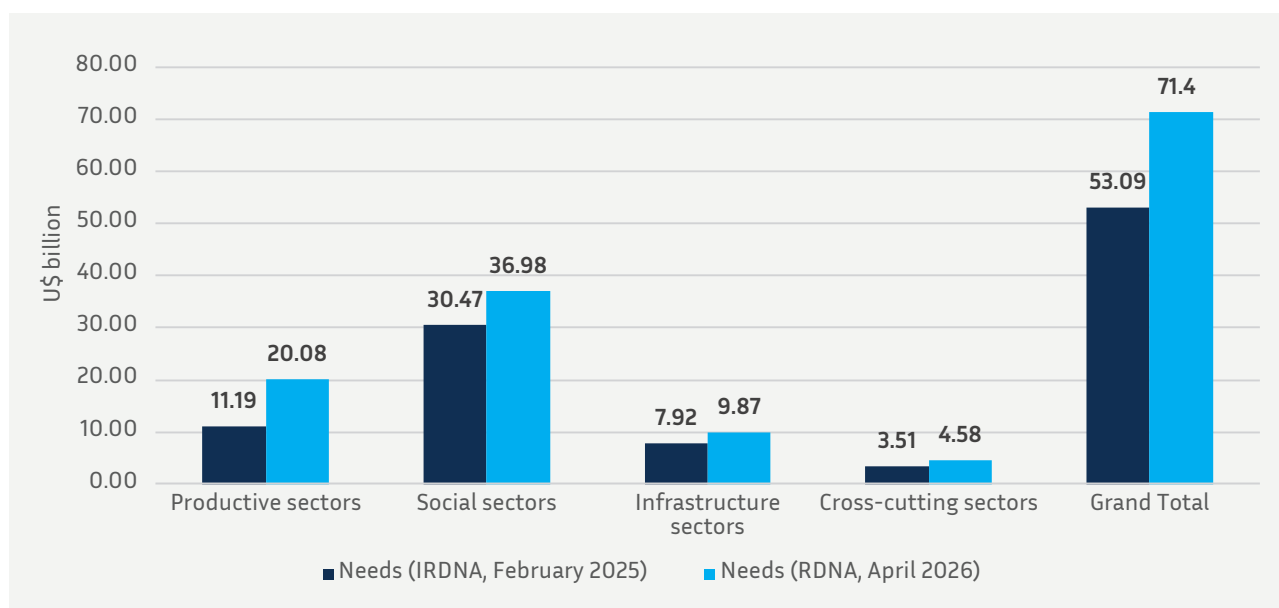
RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION NEEDS

The recovery and reconstruction needs across these sectors, estimated at US\$71.4 billion, highlight the scale and urgency of restoring essential services, economic stability, and social resilience, while undertaking massive reconstruction of damaged infrastructure. Immediate recovery needs, to be addressed in the first eight months, are estimated to be US\$10.8 billion while short-term recovery needs with a focus on restoring critical services (18 months) are estimated at US\$15.5 billion. The remaining US\$45.1 billion is estimated to address the medium to long-term recovery and reconstruction needs (three – five years).

The highest recovery and reconstruction needs are in the housing sector (US\$16.2 billion), followed by agriculture and food system (US\$10.5 billion), health (US\$10 billion), and commerce and industry (US\$9 billion), together accounting for 64% of total reconstruction needs and represent the most urgent priorities. Housing requires immediate action in the first 18 months (US\$4.1 billion), focused on deploying temporary and transitional shelter, emergency cash assistance, debris clearance, and initiating reconstruction of destroyed units alongside the rollout of resilient building codes. Agriculture and Food Systems carry the single largest short-term financing requirement of any sector (US\$7.5 billion in the first 18 months), reflecting the urgency of averting food insecurity – encompassing emergency food and nutrition assistance, rapid rehabilitation of productive capacity, and reconstruction of markets and storage facilities. Health requires US\$2.6 billion in the first 18 months to restore essential services through temporary and field hospitals, address trauma, mental health and nutrition needs, and rehabilitate primary health centers. Health needs escalate over time, reaching US\$4.3 billion in the 3–5-year phase as the focus shifts to completing large-scale infrastructure, modernizing and rationalizing the health network, and institutionalizing shock-responsive systems – making it the sector with the steepest long-term financing curve.

Resuming basic services such as health, WASH, connectivity (telecom and road networks), along with rubble clearance—with particular attention to human remains and unexploded ordnance contamination—are an immediate priority. Addressing food insecurity, social protection needs, housing access issues, resumption of education, and mental health and psychosocial support for populations are also components of early to short-term needs. Removal and management costs for over 68 million metric tonnes of debris are over US\$1.7 billion alone.

Figure 3: Needs change compared to IRDNA (FEB 2025) (US\$ billion)



Source: RDNA team

Table 2: Summary of Time-Phased Recovery and Reconstruction Needs and Priority Actions

Sectors	Short-Term (0–18 months) US\$26.35 billion	Medium-Term (1.5–3 years) US\$23.6 billion	Long-Term (3–5 years) US\$21.5 billion	Total US\$ 71.43 billion
SOCIAL (Housing, Health, Social Protection, Education, Cultural Heritage)	Emergency cash, food & temp housing; field hospitals for trauma, mental health & nutrition; temp learning spaces; stabilize cultural sites; restore social registries & payment systems; begin facility repairs & school rehabilitation	Large-scale housing & health reconstruction; rebuild schools & tertiary institutions; transition to targeted social benefits; livelihood & empowerment programs; phased cultural site restoration; consolidate health workforce	Complete climate-resilient housing; modernize & rationalize health network; consolidate inclusive education systems; institutionalize shock-responsive social protection; full cultural infrastructure restoration	US\$37 billion
PRODUCTIVE (Agriculture & Food Systems, Commerce & Industry, Finance)	Emergency food & nutrition assistance; rapid rehab of crops, livestock & fisheries; reconstruct markets & storage; urgent business repairs; machinery replacement; wage & working capital support; preserve bank/MFI solvency; restore branches & digital payments	Consolidate agricultural production; complete major irrigation; rehabilitate orchards; large-scale business reconstruction; develop commercial zones; financial inclusion & credit guarantee programs	Climate-adapted agricultural transformation; complete business modernization; consolidate financial instruments; digital financial sector transformation; regulatory reform	US\$20.1 billion
INFRASTRUCTURE (WASH, Energy, Transport, Municipal Services, ICT)	Emergency WASH services; fuel & distributed solar for critical services; repair primary roads, bridges & humanitarian corridors; restore mobile & broadband connectivity; debris removal & solid waste management; salary support for municipal workers	Large-scale desalination & wastewater reconstruction; scale energy generation & grid management; rebuild secondary & tertiary roads; ICT backbone modernization; municipal infrastructure upgrades & digital services	Expanded desalination & wastewater reuse with renewable energy; full energy system modernization; reconstruct ports & transport offices; nationwide fiber (FTTH); urban regeneration & institutional reform	US\$9.9 billion
CROSS-CUTTING (Environment, Employment, Governance, Land)	Ordnance clearance & hazardous waste management; debris removal & ecosystem monitoring; public works & wage support schemes; restore civil administration & documentation services; rebuild land cadastral systems & document ownership	Large-scale ecosystem & land restoration; coastal & wetland recovery; strengthen labor market institutions & enterprise support; rule of law, accountability & security sector oversight; tenure regularization & spatial planning	Resilient environmental governance & aquifer protection; employment & governance integrated into standard systems; fully digital, transparent land administration	US\$4.5 billion

Source: RDNA team

SOCIAL AND HUMAN IMPACT

The scale and extent of deprivation across living conditions, livelihoods/income, food security, gender equality, and social inclusion, have pushed back human development in the Gaza Strip by 77 years⁷, and the Human Development Index (HDI) is projected to collapse to 0.339 – the lowest level since measurements began.

The escalation of conflict over the last two years has had a catastrophic humanitarian impact. The entire population of the Gaza Strip is experiencing significant, direct, and long-term impacts on their physical health, economic stability, and psychosocial well-being. Nearly 1.9 million people have been displaced, many repeatedly, and over 1.2 million Palestinians in Gaza, about 60 percent of the population, have lost their housing.⁸

Basic services have been severely degraded, disproportionately impacting the most vulnerable. Fewer than half of hospitals and less than 38 per cent of primary healthcare centers remain partially functional. The majority of the existing schools have been repurposed as shelters for internally displaced people (IDP). Extensive damage to water, sanitation and waste management infrastructure, and the lack of critical resources to maintain the remaining infrastructure, have left the entire population at risk of disease outbreaks.

Women and children have borne an immense share of direct and indirect impact of the conflict. Over 40 per cent of pregnant and breastfeeding women are severely malnourished, and two-thirds suffer from anemia.⁹ Furthermore, it has been estimated that virtually 100 percent of children require mental health and psychosocial support.¹⁰ 728,000 school-aged children and youth have been out of formal schooling for more than two years, and at least 792 teachers and school personnel have been killed. Formal education for children with disabilities has been almost entirely suspended.

There has been a substantial increase in the number of people with disabilities in the Gaza Strip as a result of the conflict, with a strong impact on the provision of all basic services. As of September 2025, at least 41,844 people are estimated to be living with conflict-related, life-changing injuries requiring long-term rehabilitation, around 25 percent of whom are children, implying that over 10,000 are living with severe disabilities as a direct result of the conflict. Available conservative estimates of amputations are at 5,000–6,500 cases.¹¹

7 UNDP HDI simulation (October 2025) based on data from the human development report (<https://hdr.undp.org/data-center>). The HDI is a composite index measuring average achievement in three basic dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life (life expectancy at birth), knowledge (expected and mean years of schooling), and a decent standard of living (gross national income per capita), following the standard UNDP Human Development Report methodology.

8 OCHA. November 12, 2025. "Humanitarian Situation Update #340 | Gaza Strip." United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs – Occupied Palestinian Territory. <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-340-gaza-strip>

9 World Health Organization. July 27, 2025. "Malnutrition Rates Reach Alarming Levels in Gaza, WHO Warns." News Release. <https://www.who.int/news/item/27-07-2025-malnutrition-rates-reach-alarming-levels-in-gaza--who-warns>

10 Save the Children. 2024. Trapped & Scarred: The Compounding Mental Harm Inflicted on Palestinian Children in Gaza. <https://www.savethechildren.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Trapped-and-Scarred.pdf> ; Ferguson, Sarah, and Tong Su. April 17, 2024. "Helping Gaza's Children Cope With Trauma." UNICEF, Emergency Response. <https://www.unicefusa.org/stories/helping-gazas-children-cope-trauma>

11 Estimating Trauma Rehabilitation Needs in Gaza Strip – September 2025 update". WHO. Available at: <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/estimating-trauma-rehabilitation-needs-in-gaza--september-2025-update>. These remain **minimum estimates**, as ongoing reporting constraints, difficulties of access and limited number of available health facilities and direct ground observations suggest that a large number of cases are not fully captured by the available data

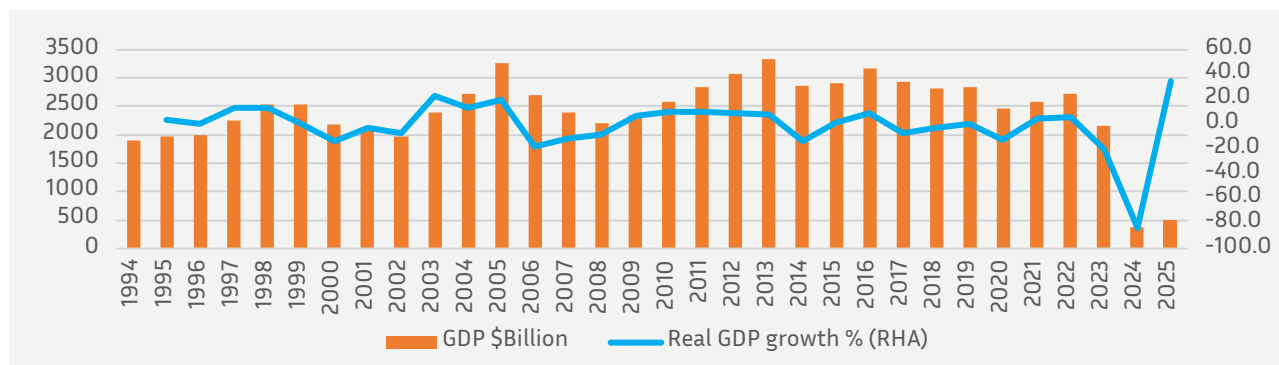
MACROECONOMIC IMPACT

The Gaza economy has incurred unprecedented losses as a consequence of the recent conflict. The loss of life, widespread destruction, and the speed of damage to infrastructure have reached levels among the most severe in the recent history of the MENA region and global episodes of conflict.¹² Bottom-up sector-specific assessments estimate total damages to Gaza’s capital stock at US\$35.2 billion as of October 9, 2025, the date of the ceasefire agreement.

Economic activity in Gaza was extremely constrained in the last two years, with limited ceasefire-related improvements in 2025 insufficient to reverse widespread economic paralysis. In 2024, economic activity in the Strip nearly came to a complete halt as the economy contracted by a devastating 83 percent, year-on-year (y-o-y), in real terms. In 2025, economic activity picked up very modestly during the first and fourth quarters, primarily due to the presence of a ceasefire for much of these periods, although episodes of destruction persisted. This resulted in an estimated increase in Gaza’s real GDP exceeding 30 percent (y-o-y) in 2025, largely reflecting a low base effect after the historic contraction of the previous year, rather than any meaningful recovery in economic activity. Most sectors remained largely inactive through 2025, with only minimal activity observed in wholesale and retail trade as well as a narrow set of public services.

Nearly three-quarters of Gaza’s pre-conflict employed population lost their jobs, resulting in an employment-to-population ratio of 9.3 percent in the Strip.¹³ This, and job losses in the West Bank, resulted in a thirteen percentage point decline in the combined ratio for the West Bank and Gaza, positioning it among the lowest in the World Bank database.¹⁴ Over 80 percent of employees in Gaza were unable to work due to extensive workplace destruction, roadblocks, and transportation disruptions, as well as on-site challenges such as power outages or supply shortages. Employment in Gaza is concentrated in public administration, including social security (29.7 percent), and retail trade (33 percent). More than 60 percent of workers have been displaced to shelters, camps, or informal settlements due to conflict-related destruction.

Figure 4: Real GDP and real GDP growth in Gaza Strip (1994-2025)



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and World Bank

¹² World Bank, Note on the Impacts of the Conflict in the Middle East on the Palestinian Economy, 2024; available at <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/db985000fa4b7237616dbca501d674dc-0280012024/original/PalestinianEconomicNote-Feb2024-Final.pdf>

¹³ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2025. “Labour Force Survey at time of War in Gaza Strip: Status and Realities Round I: November-December 2024”, Ramallah - Palestine; available at: https://www.pCBS.gov.ps/portals/_pCBS/PressRelease/Press_En_LFRepGazaQ42024E.pdf

¹⁴ The chart includes countries with the lowest employment-to-population ratios in the WB database, regional comparators and relevant country groups. Employment-to-population ratios are for the year 2024, except for Gaza (November-December 2024), West Bank (Q4 2024) and Lebanon (2023). The combined ratio for West Bank and Gaza is a World Bank estimate. The ratios for the West Bank and for Gaza are presented separately to highlight the large regional divergence.



Palestinian women carry water as crowds queue for drinking water in Gaza City on December 4, 2025. Photo by Hassan Al-Jedi.

Introduction

Conflict Context

Since the large-scale attack on October 7, 2023, by militant groups from the Gaza Strip into Israel, the escalation of conflict in the Gaza Strip has led to an unprecedented loss of life and a catastrophic humanitarian crisis. On October 7, 2023, 1200 Israelis and some foreign nationals, including women and children were killed and 250 people were abducted. Since then, there have been more than 71,000 Palestinian fatalities in the Gaza Strip including 64,000 children and a large number of women who have been killed or maimed,¹⁵ and more than 171,000 have been injured. Humanitarian aid has either been disrupted or completely blocked during the conflict. Approximately 1.9 million Palestinian people have been displaced, often multiple times, and 90 percent of the Gaza Strip's territory has been placed under evacuation orders at one point or another since the escalation began. At several points, installations, convoys and staff of humanitarian actors have been attacked by all parties to the conflict. The current administrative, security, and physical features under direct Israeli control continue to impact access to certain parts of Gaza Strip and affect the movement of people and recovery.¹⁶ At the time of the ceasefire [9 October 2025], the Israeli military control in Gaza effectively ruled out Palestinian access to and use of more than half of the land in the Gaza Strip.

In October 2025, the first phase of a three-phase ceasefire agreement commenced, with a partial withdrawal of Israeli troops, release of hostages and detainees, and increased access to humanitarian aid for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. UN Security Council Resolution 2803 (2025), adopted on 17 November, endorsed the Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Strip Conflict, and welcomed the establishment of a "Board of Peace (BoP) as a transitional administration with international legal personality that will set the framework, and coordinate funding for the redevelopment of Gaza pursuant to the Comprehensive Plan, and in a manner consistent with relevant international legal principles, until such time as the Palestinian Authority (PA) has satisfactorily completed its reform program, as outlined in various proposals."¹⁷ Since the ceasefire, 1,246 Palestinians have been injured and a further 449 have died.¹⁸

The conflict has had profound and far-reaching impacts on the Palestinian economy and the provision of services. For the past two years, economic activity has ground to a standstill, with only minimal activity observed in wholesale and retail trade. Provision of basic public services across the Gaza Strip has been severely curtailed across all service providers, following the heavy destruction and numerous restrictions placed on the providers with significant consequences for the affected population. The progressive tightening of restrictions on movement and trade has also reduced income and increased unemployment, resulting in a heavy reliance on humanitarian aid.

15 United Nations (2025) Report of the Secretary-General Implementation of Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n25/349/25/pdf/n2534925.pdf>

16 The footprint is defined as representing permanent or temporary military installation physically present within Gaza Strip plus a 100m buffer zone around the facility perimeter

17 United Nations (2025). Security Council Resolution 2803. [S/RES/2803\(2025\)](S/RES/2803(2025))

18 Humanitarian Situation Update #353| Gaza Strip (14 January 2026). Available at: <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-353-gaza-strip>

Human Impact

The escalation of conflict over the last two years has engendered the collapse of the systems that sustain people's daily survival and dignity. Deprivations in shelter, food security, health, education, and livelihoods occur simultaneously and reinforce one another. Multiple sectoral shocks generate a compounding cycle driving hunger, disease, learning loss, loss of income, gender-based violence (GBV), and social fragmentation.

The scale and extent of deprivation across living conditions, livelihoods/income, food security, gender equality, and social inclusion have pushed back human development in the Gaza Strip by 77 years,¹⁹ and the HDI is projected to collapse to 0.339²⁰—the lowest level since measurements began.

The escalation of the conflict has had a catastrophic humanitarian impact. The entire population of the Gaza Strip is experiencing significant, direct, and long-term impacts on their physical health, economic stability, and psychosocial well-being. Internal displacement has affected more than 1.9 million people, often repeatedly, while housing destruction has left over 1.2 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip without homes, nearly 60 percent of the population. As of November 10, 2025, the UN estimates that about 1 million people, out of a total population of 2.1 million, are residing in 862 displacement sites across the Gaza Strip.²¹ Fewer than half of hospitals and less than 38 percent of primary healthcare centers are partially functional.²² The majority of the existing schools have been repurposed as shelters for IDPs. Extensive damage to water, sanitation, and waste management infrastructure and the lack of critical resources to maintain the remaining infrastructure has left the entire population at risk of disease outbreaks. Agriculture and fishing in the Gaza Strip were devastated, with more than 95 percent of agriculture infrastructure and 96 percent of cropland damaged and rendered inaccessible. In August 2025, the IPC confirmed famine in the Gaza Governorate, and overall, 1.1 million people across the strip were in crisis or emergency phase²³. The IPC report on 19th December 2025 covering the period since the ceasefire confirmed that famine conditions, prevalent during the war, had been offset. However, 1.6 million Palestinians are projected to remain in Phase 3 acute food insecurity crisis until April 2026.²⁴

Women have borne an immense share of direct and indirect impacts of the conflict. Over 40 per cent of pregnant and breastfeeding women are severely malnourished, and two-thirds suffer from anemia.²⁵ In August 2025, 61 percent of those screened at Save the Children clinics were malnourished.²⁶ One in five babies is born prematurely or underweight, yet access to emergency newborn care has dropped by 70 percent.²⁷ Overcrowded shelters, poverty, and social breakdown have increased domestic violence and sexual exploitation. The lack of privacy, deteriorating living conditions, and limited access to services further exacerbate family stress and violence.

Almost all children require mental health and psychosocial support.²⁸ The escalation of conflict has resulted in a high number of “wounded children with no surviving family.” 728,000 school-aged children and youth have been out of formal schooling for more than two years, and at least 792 teachers and school personnel have been killed. Formal education for children with disabilities has been almost entirely suspended. The situation is exacerbated by a lack of clean water, with over 90 percent of children affected by one or more

19 UNDP HDI simulation (October 2025) based on data from the human development report (<https://hdr.undp.org/data-center>). The HDI is a composite index measuring average achievement in three basic dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life (life expectancy at birth), knowledge (expected and mean years of schooling), and a decent standard of living (gross national income per capita), following the standard UNDP Human Development Report methodology.

20 UNDP HDI simulation (October 2025)

21 OCHA. November 12, 2025. “Humanitarian Situation Update #340 | Gaza Strip.” United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs – Occupied Palestinian Territory. <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-340-gaza-strip>

22 United Nations. August 12, 2025. “Gaza Health System ‘Catastrophic’ with Hospitals Overwhelmed and Medicines Running Out, WHO Warns.” UN News, Peace and Security. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/08/1165631>

23 <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1159696/?iso3=PSE>

24 <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1159820/?iso3=PSE>

25 World Health Organization. July 27, 2025. “Malnutrition Rates Reach Alarming Levels in Gaza, WHO Warns.” News Release. <https://www.who.int/news/item/27-07-2025-malnutrition-rates-reach-alarming-levels-in-gaza-who-warns>

26 UNICEF. October 26, 2025. “Gaza’s Ceasefire Offers a Vital Chance for Children – It Must Be Seized.” UNICEF Statement. <https://www.unicef.org/mena/press-releases/gazas-ceasefire-offers-vital-chance-children-it-must-be-seized>

27 UNFPA. September 22, 2025. *Palestine Situation Report #19: Crisis in Palestine. July–August 2025*. https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/Palestine_-_July_August_Situation_Report.pdf

28 https://arabstates.unwomen.org/en/stories/feature-story/2025/10/facts-figures-two-years-of-war-on-Gaza-Strip-the-toll-on-women-and-girls#_ftn2

infectious diseases. An estimated 7,000 young people have lost limbs. The collapse of rehabilitation services threatens to turn these injuries into lifelong dependency. Sixty-two percent of rehabilitation facilities in the Gaza Strip have been destroyed or rendered non-functional.

The exhaustion of savings and the collapse of informal credit networks have pushed households to sell assets, reduce meals and incur unsustainable levels of debt. The economic collapse has been devastating for vulnerable households, particularly those headed by women, older persons or people with disabilities, having lost both income earners and caregivers and being unable to meet even their most basic needs without external support. Many have been forced to adopt harmful coping strategies such as selling assets, early marriage or resorting to child labor to survive.

Deprivation is being driven not only by the collapse of services, but by unequal ability to access what remains. Repeated displacement, overcrowded shelter conditions, insecurity, loss of civil documentation, and inaccessible transport and distribution systems have created systemic barriers to assistance and care. The rise in female-headed households, estimated at 57,200 (around one in seven households), has intensified dependency burdens and access risks in the most damaged and overcrowded settings. Persons with disabilities face acute multi-sector exclusion with an estimated 83 percent who have lost or broken assistive devices, severely limiting mobility and access to health, shelter, WASH, and aid distribution. Older people and those with chronic illness face life-threatening discontinuity of care in the context of energy collapse and medication shortages. Continued acute food insecurity is causing new long-term impairments and worsening pre-existing impairments.

Box 1: Women and girls

The conflict has had severe and disproportionate impacts on women and girls in Gaza, deepening pre-existing gender inequalities and creating new vulnerabilities. Widespread displacement, livelihood loss, and the collapse of basic services have sharply increased women's unpaid care and survival responsibilities, often in unsafe and degrading conditions. More than 16,000 women have lost their husbands, and one in seven households is now female-headed, while 318,000 school-age girls have been out of school for two consecutive years, increasing risks of child marriage, psychosocial harm, and long-term economic exclusion. The rise in women-headed households, combined with prolonged school closures and service breakdowns, is accelerating the transfer of caregiving and domestic responsibilities to adolescent girls, as reflected in high levels of reported excess household labour, with lasting consequences for girls' education and future opportunities.

Women and girls account for 87 per cent of reported gender-based violence cases, yet access to protection, justice, and survivor services remains severely constrained. Women's economic agency has been further eroded at a time when more families depend on them, as insecurity, risk of harassment in public spaces, heavy care burdens, and restrictive mobility norms limit access to markets, employment, and income. Despite these constraints, women continue to play a critical role in sustaining families and communities through informal coping mechanisms and women-led networks, often under precarious and high-risk conditions.

Sustainable recovery depends on reducing gender-based disparities and restoring women's economic and social agency, which underpin household resilience and social cohesion. Achieving this entails ensuring women's safe access to essential services, strengthening survivor-centred GBV prevention and response, reducing unpaid care burdens, supporting women's livelihoods, and securing women's meaningful participation in recovery planning and governance.

Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment

The primary objective of the RDNA is to inform stakeholders of the impact of the conflict on the Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip, their livelihoods, physical assets, infrastructure, environment, and service delivery, with a focus on the human and social impact. In addition, the RDNA estimates the costs of physical infrastructure reconstruction, addressing economic and household losses, income and employment losses, restoring service delivery, and addressing specific conflict-related increased needs and risks. It considers the impacts on the most vulnerable groups, including women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons, unaccompanied minors, etc. The RDNA also integrates elements of sustainability, gender, inclusivity and resilience, to determine the needs and costs of recovery across all affected sectors

The RDNA methodology is derived from the Global Post-Disaster Needs methodology to estimate conflict-induced damages, losses, and needs across all sectors included in the scope of the RDNA. The methodology used is very similar to the one used in the original IRDNA, details of which can be found in the IRDNA Report Annex 2 and Annex 2 of this report. Given the Gaza Strip's volatile and data-constrained environment, high resolution imagery and other technological and innovative analytical approaches were deployed, combined with several tiers and tools for data acquisition, validation, and triangulation.

The RDNA serves as a reference for decision-makers and donors, informs immediate and short-term recovery actions, guides medium-long term recovery priorities, high-level planning and resource mobilization. However, deep-dive assessments are required to inform sectoral recovery planning.

Data collection and analysis have been guided by the following key principles to ensure an effective and realistic assessment of the effects and needs of the conflict:

- **Flexibility and adaptability:** The RDNA methodology is designed to adapt to changing conditions on the ground, incorporating real-time data where possible.
- **Comprehensive data collection:** Utilizing multiple data sources, including remote sensing tools using high-resolution satellite imagery (30 centimeters) and synthetic aperture radar (SAR), social media analytics, and ground-level validation in selected sectors (subject to ground data availability) through data from the PA, UN, and humanitarian agencies.
- **Triangulation:** The estimates have been derived, validated, and triangulated by the EU, UN, and the World Bank.
- **Avoidance of double-counting:** while some sectors might have overlapping needs and responsibilities on the ground, the RDNA analysis estimates distinct damages and losses to each sector to avoid double-counting and ensured cross-sectoral strategic harmonization of recovery strategies and needs to minimize double counting of needs.

The RDNA methodology, including the specific limitations and constraints in applying the methodology to the Gaza context, is further explained in Annex 2.



Palestinian students sit on the ground while attending school in Nuseirat camp in the central Gaza Strip on October 26, 2025. Photo by Hassan Al-Jedi.

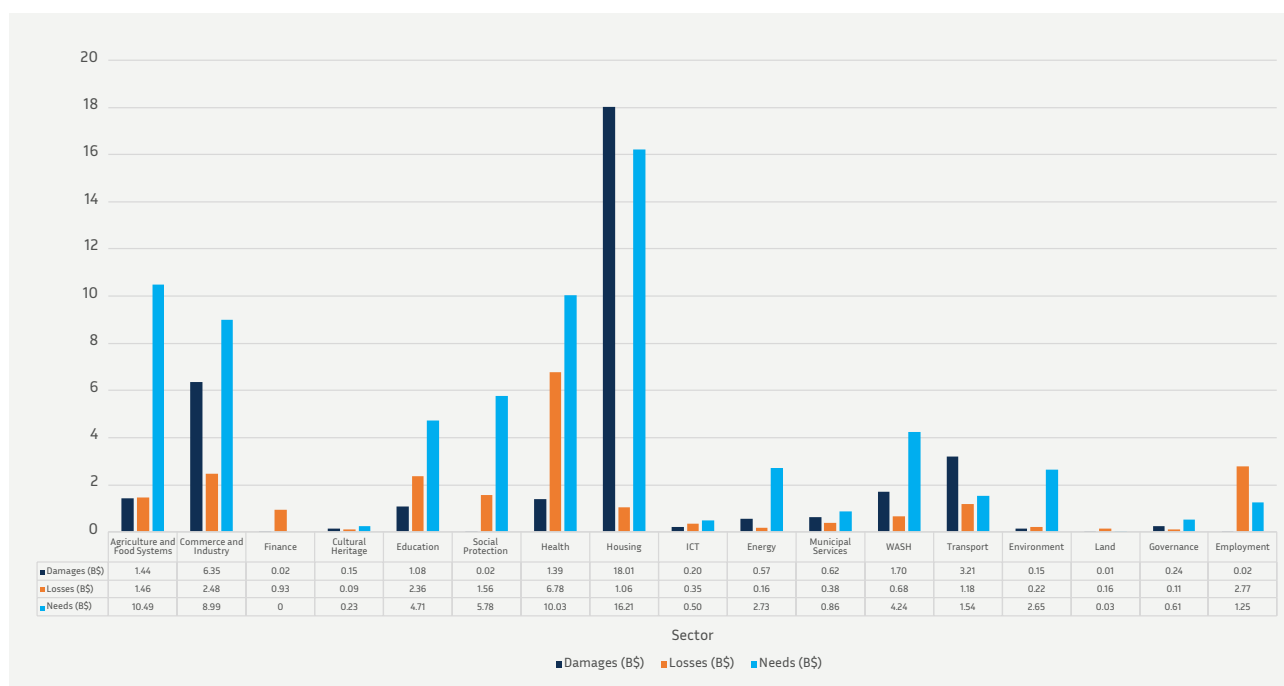
Summary of RDNA Sector Findings

Summary of Damages, Losses, and Needs

SECTORAL SUMMARY

The conflict in the Gaza Strip has inflicted widespread damage across multiple critical sectors, with each sector facing unique challenges and extensive financial needs for recovery. The overview in Figure 2 highlights the major damages, economic losses, and recovery requirements across the sectors.

Figure 5: Damages, Losses, and Recovery Needs by Sector (US\$ billions)



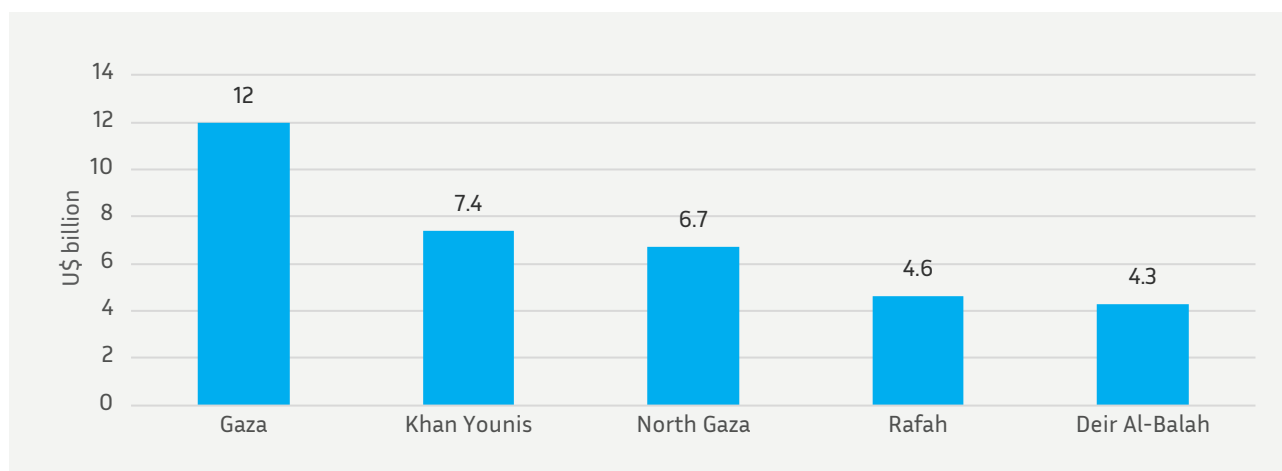
Source: RDNA team

DAMAGES

The assessment estimates that over US\$35.2 billion in direct damage has been caused to the built infrastructure of the Gaza Strip after more than two years of conflict. In terms of physical damages, housing was the hardest hit sector at US\$18.0 billion (51 percent of total damages), followed by commerce and industry at US\$6.4 billion (18 percent), transport at US\$3.2 billion (9 percent), and water and sanitation at US\$1.7 billion (5 percent). A sector-by-sector comparison is presented in Table 2. Geographically, Gaza, Khan Younis, and North Gaza governorates have suffered the most damages (see Figure 6).

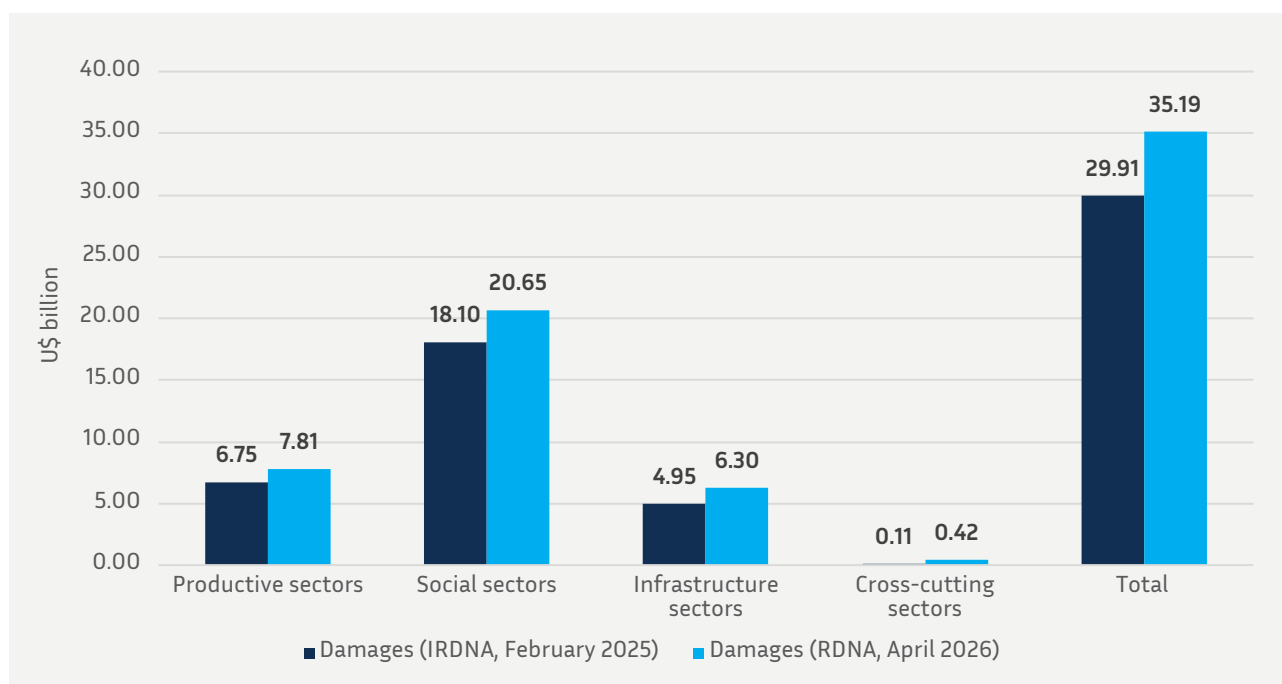
Comparison with the February 2025 IRDNA and previous conflicts. The IRDNA estimated that nearly US\$30 billion of direct damage had been caused to the physical infrastructure by October 2024. With the continuation and intensification of the conflict following that period and the expansion of the scope of the assessment, the level of destruction has significantly increased, and damages now total over US\$35.2 billion, representing an increase of 18 percent by October 2025. Sub-sectors exhibiting the highest percentage increase in damages are municipal services, agriculture and food system, and environment. Compared to the 2014 and 2021 conflicts, the level of destruction in the Gaza Strip is unprecedented and higher by orders of magnitude.

Figure 6: Total Damage per Governorate (US\$ billions)



Source: RDNA team

Figure 7: IRDNA 2025 and RDNA 2026 damages comparison by sector (US\$ billion)



Source: RDNA team

LOSSES

The assessment estimates around US\$22.7 billion of economic losses incurred due to the conflict (see Table 1). Given that the economic impact of the conflict on the sectors will continue to be felt until substantial recovery is made, these losses include loss estimates projected up to three years, aligned with sector-specific recovery calendars. The sectors with the highest estimated losses are health with US\$6.8 billion (30 percent of losses), employment with US\$2.8 billion (12 percent), commerce and industry with US\$2.5 billion (11 percent), education with US\$2.4 billion (11 percent), and social protection with US\$1.6 billion (seven percent). The impacts of the conflict (damages and losses combined) are thus greatest in housing with US\$19.1 billion, commerce and industry with US\$8.8 billion, health at US\$8.2 billion, transport at US\$4.4 billion, and education with US\$3.4 billion.

NEEDS

The recovery needs across these sectors, estimated at US\$71.4 billion, highlight the scale of financing needed to restore essential services, rehabilitate or reconstruct damaged assets, and promote economic stability and social resilience (See Table 2). These needs reflect early recovery, short-term needs (18 months to three years), and medium to long-term needs over the next five years. Housing (US\$16.2 billion), agriculture and food system (US\$10.5 billion), health (US\$10 billion), and commerce and industry (US\$9 billion) require the largest investments due to their extensive damage, needs, and socioeconomic importance. ICT, water and sanitation, and energy are essential for re-establishing basic services. Removal and management of over 68 million metric tons of debris is estimated to cost over US\$1.7 billion. Needs around recapitalizing banks, expanding assistance toward near-universal coverage to address widespread food insecurity and protection risks, and addressing land issues are significant but require robust institutional frameworks to support long-term recovery. The estimated needs are based on sector analyses established and refined over time, and ensure proportionality with the damage and loss assessments for respective sectors, and consider the current replacement cost of materials, labor, equipment, and land-related costs, adjusted for a multi-annual average inflation (three percent) and market fluctuations, and factor-in building-back-better and resilience building premiums for each sector.

Table 3: Distribution of Recovery Needs Over Time (US\$ billions)²⁹

	0 - 8 months	9 to 18 months	1,5 to 3 years	3 to 5 years	TOTAL
Agriculture and Food Systems	\$2.64	\$4.87	\$2.70	\$0.28	\$10.49
Commerce and Industry	\$1.92	\$2.02	\$2.64	\$2.42	\$8.99
Finance	\$0.56	\$0.03	\$0.02	\$0.00	\$0.61
Cultural Heritage	\$0.02	\$0.05	\$0.07	\$0.09	\$0.23
Education	\$0.63	\$0.79	\$1.88	\$1.42	\$4.71
Social Protection	\$0.91	\$1.38	\$2.81	\$0.70	\$5.78
Health	\$0.83	\$1.74	\$3.17	\$4.30	\$10.03
Housing	\$1.90	\$2.16	\$7.38	\$4.77	\$16.21
ICT	\$0.08	\$0.12	\$0.18	\$0.12	\$0.50
Energy	\$0.39	\$0.36	\$0.93	\$1.04	\$2.73
Municipal Services	\$0.05	\$0.12	\$0.29	\$0.40	\$0.86
WASH	\$0.41	\$0.45	\$1.12	\$2.24	\$4.24
Transport	\$0.03	\$0.33	\$0.11	\$1.07	\$1.54
Environment	\$0.15	\$0.44	\$0.59	\$1.47	\$2.65
Land	\$0.00	\$0.01	\$0.01	\$0.01	\$0.03
Governance	\$0.08	\$0.06	\$0.39	\$0.00	\$0.53
Employment	\$0.78	\$0.47	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1.24
Total	\$11.36	\$15.39	\$24.29	\$20.35	\$71.39

Recovery needs are distributed over five different time frames to facilitate recovery financing: immediate needs (0-8 months), short-term needs (9 to 18 months); short/medium-term needs (1,5 to 3 years); medium term needs (3 to 5 years) and long-term needs (over 5 years). Thus, the distribution of total recovery needs over time is: immediate needs (US\$ 11.36 billion); short-term needs (US\$15.39 billion); short/medium-term needs (US\$24.29 billion); medium-term needs (US\$18.52 billion); and longer-term needs (US\$1.83 billion). These are further divided by sector over time in Table 2. Gaza governorate represents the highest needs at US\$21.7 billion, followed by Khan Younis at US\$13.6 billion, North Gaza at US\$12.6 billion, Rafah at US\$8.1 billion, and Deir Al-Balah at US\$7.5 billion.

²⁹ The distribution of recovery needs follows proven RDNA methodology and is based on the recovery needs (and associated costs) estimated by sector specialists for each timeframe.

Impact of Conflict on Sectors and Characterization of Recovery Needs

SOCIAL SECTORS³⁰

The **social sectors** include housing, education, social protection, health, and cultural heritage. Information is provided for each sector on the pre-conflict situation, damages, losses, and recovery needs.

HOUSING

Damages: US\$18.01 billion

Losses: US\$1.06 billion

The housing sector in the Gaza Strip—home to an estimated 2.2 million inhabitants—has long been under severe stress due to chronic shortages, structural vulnerabilities, and two decades of recurrent conflict that have constrained economic growth and institutional development. Before the most recent crisis, Gaza was estimated to have roughly 485,361 housing units³¹ yet supply remained far below demand because of restricted land availability, high congestion, and weak land administration systems. The sector has been subject to deliberate “de-development,” eroding both social cohesion and economic stability. Between 2021 and 2023, new housing construction was minimal, deepening long-standing deficits amid repeated displacement and ongoing supply chain disruptions. Only 69.8 percent of households in Gaza own their homes, reflecting a combination of insecure tenure, communal landholding arrangements, and affordability constraints. These structural pressures have been compounded by the progressive exhaustion of available residential land and preexisting restrictions on construction materials linked to access and mobility constraints, which have intensified.

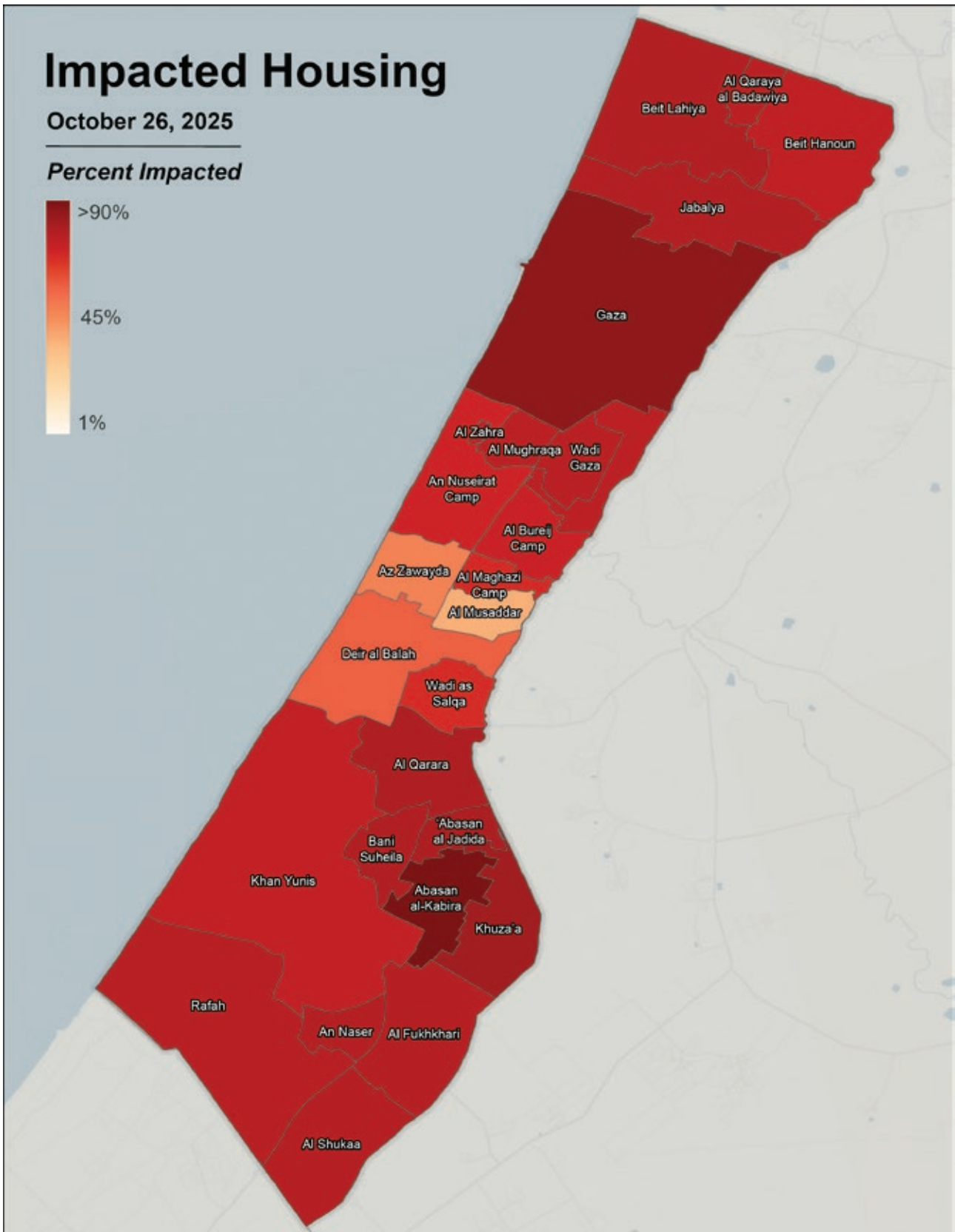
The recent conflict has generated catastrophic destruction of the housing stock. Approximately 371,888 homes—equivalent to 76.6 percent of all units—have been directly affected, with apartments accounting for 77 percent of damaged dwellings, including housing units and apartments in the Palestine refugee camps. Nearly 84.6 percent of the total impacted units have been destroyed. Gaza Governorate alone accounts for around 34.5 percent of the total estimated US\$18.01 billion in housing damages, with Gaza City, Khan Younis, and Jabaliya among the worst-affected locations. The damage cost of housing units in Palestine refugee camps constitutes nearly 10 percent of the total damage cost. This destruction compounds the ongoing mass displacement crisis, with more than 1.2 million people—60 percent of Gaza’s population—rendered without homes forced to live in informal, overcrowded, and unsafe displacement sites, significantly heightening the risks faced by vulnerable groups.

Direct and indirect economic losses are estimated at US\$1.06 billion, comprising indirect income loss of those who rent houses, foregone wage earnings, lost service sector and property tax revenue, with the private sector bearing approximately 75.8 percent of these losses. The combined damage and projected loss are estimated at US\$19.07 billion. The sharp contraction in rental supply and economic affordability have pushed displaced families into precarious and hazardous living conditions. The devastation has further intensified the vulnerabilities of women, particularly female-headed households, widows, people with disabilities, and children, and has contributed to rising GBV and social exclusion.

³⁰ Georeferenced data was not available for all sectors hence maps across the report are provided only for select sectors.

³¹ During the August 2025 SAR analysis, an error in the initial baseline estimates for Deir El Balah was discovered. Analysts reviewed the building baseline and determined that the growth rate for Deir El Balah had not been uniformly applied across all municipalities. Analysts consulted with imagery analysts and data scientists before making the adjustment, which resulted in an increase of 6,658 buildings (12,701 housing units) across municipalities within the Deir El Balah governorate. These baseline changes were retrospectively applied to previous damage assessments for consistency. The estimated number of people per building was likewise adjusted to reflect the increased building footprint.

Figure 8: Percentage of impacted housing



Source: RDNA team

Recovery and Reconstruction Needs: US\$16.21 billion³²

Overall recovery needs are projected to be US\$16.21 billion. Housing recovery will require a recovery approach that is sustainable, resilient, and socially inclusive. Critical preconditions for recovery include secure and predictable access to construction materials, equitable allocation of recovery benefits, access for households to rebuild in their original communities, functional and fair HLP dispute resolution mechanisms, clearance of unexploded ordnance, and systematic debris removal. Housing recovery needs are estimated based on the “equity principle” which is centered on uniform minimum housing assistance for all affected households. Immediate priorities comprise the repair of partially damaged units, incentivizing the expansion of intact dwellings, reconstruction of destroyed villas and houses, reconstruction of apartments based on participatory urban regeneration principles, and provision of shelter solutions combined with financial support. Temporary housing interventions alone are estimated to require US\$1.42 billion (excluding land costs) and should prioritize compact, in-situ units with adequate access to core services. Nearly 25 percent of the recovery investment is estimated for the immediate and short term. In the longer term, recovery depends on comprehensive and sustainable urban planning and BFB principles, with higher-density development in severely land-constrained areas. Reconstruction should support the emergence of climate-resilient, sustainable communities that incorporate green technologies and advance disability inclusion and gender equality, particularly for female-headed households. Comprehensive damage and risk assessments are a prerequisite for housing reconstruction, providing the evidence base to determine repair versus reconstruction, guide sequencing and standards, and ensure that recovery investments are safe, well-targeted, and resilient.

EDUCATION

Damages: : US\$1.08 billion

Losses: US\$2.36 billion

Before the conflict, the Gaza Strip’s education sector achieved high participation despite systemic and resource challenges. In 2023, enrollment in basic education reached 97 percent for about 625,000 children, with strong gender parity.³³ However, participation declined at the secondary level, especially among boys, and access for children with disabilities remained limited. Learning outcomes were weak, with only 20 percent meeting basic proficiency in the 2022 PISA assessment. Public schools and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) each served around half of all students, yet infrastructure shortages forced many schools to operate double shifts and fiscal instability created staffing gaps. Despite these constraints, the Gaza Strip maintained strong education indicators, including a vibrant tertiary sector serving 91,000 students.

The conflict has caused catastrophic damage to the Gaza Strip’s education system, leaving an estimated 728,000 children and youth without formal schooling for two years and resulting in the deaths of thousands of students and many educators³⁴. Damages to education facilities are estimated at **US\$1.08 billion**, with more than 1,300 buildings destroyed and more than 880 partially damaged. Service delivery has collapsed as over half of all facilities were destroyed, most of the remainder are partially damaged, and undamaged buildings are largely unusable because they shelter displaced families. Universities were hit particularly hard, with nearly all buildings destroyed. Infrastructure, equipment, learning materials, and education records have been lost, and the deaths and injuries of trained educators have created a severe capacity gap. Recovery will require extensive reconstruction, replacement of specialized facilities, and long-term investments to rebuild teaching capacity and restore safe learning environments.

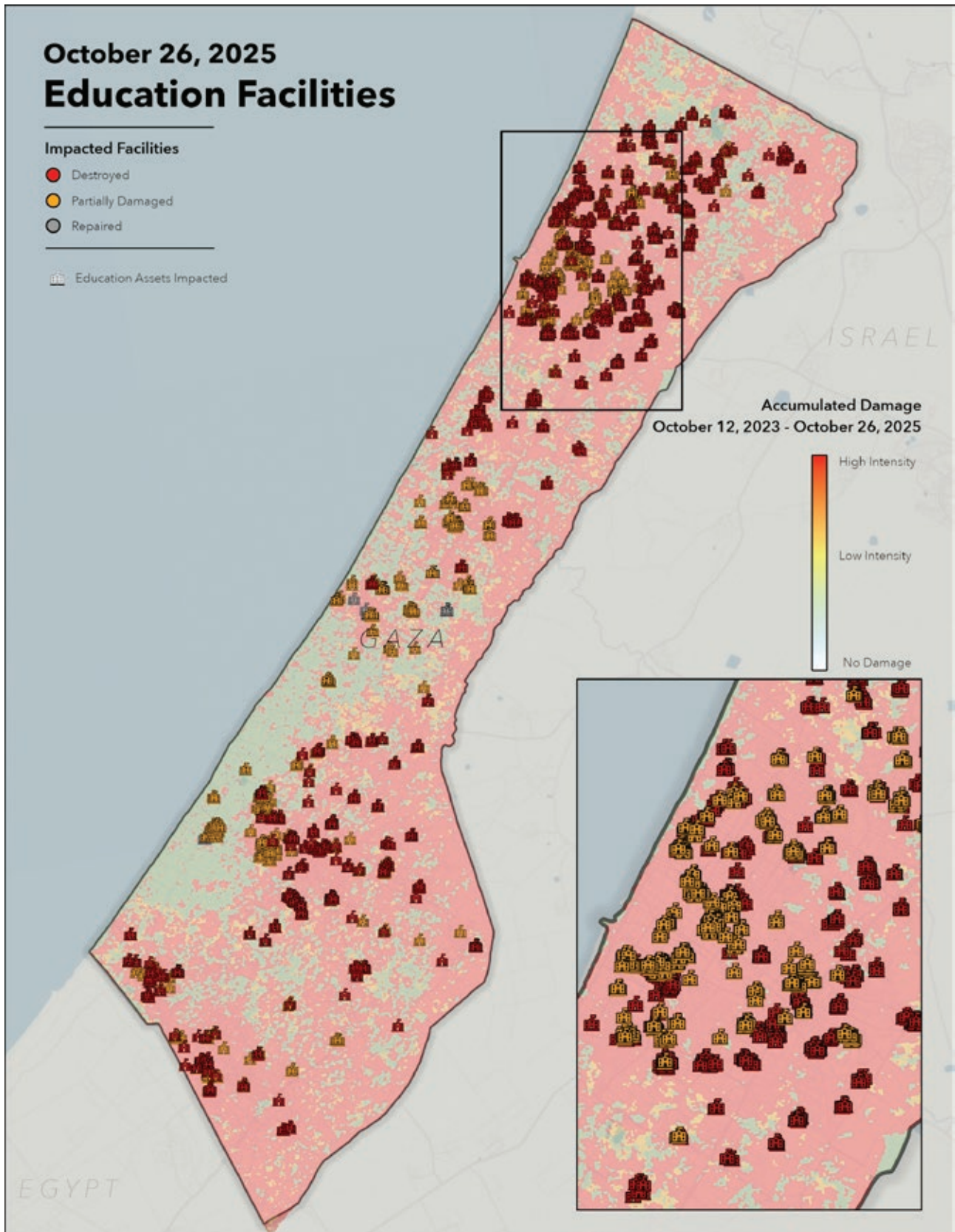
Losses are estimated at US\$2.36 billion over two years, reflecting the collapse of economic activity during the crisis and early recovery period. Reduced tuition revenue across all education levels accounts for US\$578 million, while increased operational costs for humanitarian response total US\$300 million. Human capital losses from foregone learning are projected at US\$953 million over two years. Lifetime earnings losses

³² The recovery needs are estimated based on the minimum housing area threshold of 60m² equitably across all housing typologies irrespective of relative vulnerabilities of households. Although, a co-financing strategy would be integral for accessing supplementary financing to meet the relative vulnerabilities and actual housing needs and building solutions, it is recognized that the financing strategy shall be contextually revised and a set of typologies linked to household size and vulnerability will be developed during the housing reconstruction implementation phase.

³³ Ministry of Education and Higher Education, 2024-2023 Gaza Education Statistics.

³⁴ [oPt: Education Snapshot - The academic year 2025-2026, 8 September 2025 - occupied Palestinian territory | ReliefWeb](#)

Figure 9: Impacted education facilities



Source: RDNA team

are expected to be vastly higher as prolonged school closures diminish future earnings and productivity. Employment losses due to lost wages and death, injury, or displacement of education staff amount to US\$379 million, reflecting lost salaries and reduced labor capacity across the sector.

The collapse of Gaza’s education system has deprived an entire generation of learning, safety, and stability. Children have lost two years of schooling, facing trauma and severe setbacks in cognitive, emotional, and social development. More than 58,000 children have lost one or both parents, and many will return to school with significant mental health needs, malnutrition, and new disabilities requiring specific support. Vulnerability to exploitation, child labor, and early marriage have increased.

Recovery and Reconstruction Needs: US\$4.71 billion

Of the US\$4.71 billion recovery and reconstruction needs, almost US\$3 billion will be required to cover urgent interventions such as temporary learning spaces, workforce restoration, and school reconstruction within the first three years. In the first six to eight months restoring learning through temporary spaces at basic and tertiary levels will have to be prioritized, supported by digital devices, adapted curricula, psychosocial services, and emergency scholarships. Access to early childhood education and nutritional support will be critical to promote cognitive development among malnourished children. Over the next 8–18 months, efforts will expand to rubble removal, rehabilitation of partially damaged schools, and construction of accessible facilities to address pre-conflict classroom shortages and rising disability-related needs, alongside training teachers in crisis-sensitive pedagogy and differentiated instruction. Over the medium to long term, large-scale reconstruction of schools and tertiary institutions will advance, supported by continued workforce development, strengthened management systems, and expanded services for children with disabilities. Safe learning environments and institutional capacity building will be required to restore a resilient, inclusive education system capable of meeting the needs of all learners. To provide a reasonable degree of assurance, education facilities should be systematically assessed for structural condition, functionality, and residual risks to ensure that learning can resume in a safe, reliable, and predictable manner.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

Damages: US\$18.4 million

Losses: US\$1.56 billion

Prior to the escalation in October 2023, social protection was already a critical lifeline, especially in the Gaza Strip where poverty stood at 63.7 percent (compared to 11.7 percent in the West Bank) amid prolonged closure, recurrent shocks, weak economic activity, and periodic service disruptions. The national system had strong foundations but struggled with predictable financing and delivery. The National Cash Transfer Program (NCTP), launched in 2010, delivered quarterly payments to roughly 115,000 households (about 70 percent in the Gaza Strip), and in 2023 the PA introduced a rights-based approach through a policy of social allowances for persons with severe disabilities and older persons. Complementary long-term transfer programs by the UNRWA and the World Food Programme had become structural components of the social safety net, with sector coordination supported through the Social Protection Cash and Voucher Assistance Thematic Working Group.

Since October 2023, multidimensional poverty has increased dramatically, affecting nearly the entire population of the Gaza Strip. Massive displacement, disrupted markets, and widespread livelihood collapse have increased dependence on assistance, while the population faces compounded vulnerabilities from trauma, malnutrition, disability, family separation, and heightened protection risks, particularly for children, women, persons with disabilities, and female-headed households. Damages (US\$18.4 million) reflect the destruction or partial destruction of core service delivery infrastructure (Ministry of Social Development offices, disability rehabilitation centers, elderly care centers, women and child protection facilities), with all 31 assessed structures in the Gaza Strip damaged or destroyed.

Losses (US\$1.56 billion) stem primarily from the collapse and interruption of routine assistance and the high additional costs of emergency and shock-response programming to meet rapidly escalating needs. A major driver is the suspension of routine cash transfers, including the NCTP in the Gaza Strip, leaving approximately 80,000 poor and vulnerable households without predictable support, alongside expanded requirements for multi-purpose cash assistance and specialized protection and case management services.

Losses are also driven by the scaled-up needs for programs supporting unaccompanied, separated, and orphaned children; individuals with conflict-related injuries and disabilities; and women at heightened risk of GBV, amid the breakdown of pre-existing GBV and child protection services.

Recovery and Reconstruction Needs: US\$5.78 billion

Responding to population needs at scale will require a shift toward universal social protection and sustained investment in national delivery systems to rebuild a sustainable, rights-based approach.

Short-term needs (0–12 months) focus on rapidly expanding assistance toward near-universal coverage to address widespread poverty, food insecurity, and protection risks, with priority given to the most vulnerable groups through large-scale cash, service delivery, including protection services and case management via partner-led mechanisms. Medium-term recovery (12–24 months) emphasizes restoring national delivery systems, rebuilding service centers, including protection service centers expanding the Social Registry, and scaling digital payment mechanisms to improve coverage, transparency, and shock responsiveness. Long-term recovery (24+ months) requires sustained investment in a fiscally sustainable social protection system, including strengthened case management, social workforce capacity, protection services including prevention of negative coping mechanisms, diversified payment options, and financing reforms to support resilience, social cohesion and inclusive recovery.

Box 2: Disabilities, rehabilitation and social inclusion

The conflict has caused an exponential increase in disability in Gaza. As of September 2025, at least 41,844 people are living with conflict-related, life-changing injuries requiring long-term rehabilitation, including amputations, spinal and neurological injuries, sensory impairments, and severe psychosocial conditions; around 25 per cent are children, a sharp rise compared to pre-conflict levels. This surge has overwhelmed families, communities, and already fragile services. An estimated 83 per cent of persons with disabilities have lost assistive devices, while around 62 per cent of rehabilitation facilities are damaged or non-functional.

Persons with disabilities now constitute a significant and rapidly growing share of the population. In parallel with delivering immediate support, disability inclusion must therefore be embedded across all recovery and reconstruction sectors, in line with Build Back Better principles, to ensure services, infrastructure, and livelihoods respond to the scale and permanence of increased disability and prevent long-term exclusion.

HEALTH

Damages: US\$1.39 billion

Losses: US\$6.78 billion

Prior to October 2023, the Gaza Strip's health system faced chronic strain from political fragmentation, limited funding, restricted access to essential supplies, and heavy reliance on donors for service delivery.

Despite this, health outcomes were relatively strong, with immunization above 95 percent, prenatal care above 98 percent, and maternal/child mortality at 17.4 and 14.2 per 100,000 live births respectively, in 2022.³⁵ Health services were delivered by multiple providers across a multi-tiered system, with the public system and UNRWA providing nearly half of primary health care. Longstanding restrictions left over 40 percent of essential medicines out of stock and delayed specialist referrals, with only about 65 percent of permits processed on time.³⁶ Mental health needs were high, and although a five-year reform plan was launched in 2022, progress remained limited.

³⁵ Ministry of Health (MoH). (2024). *Annual Health Report 2022: Southern Governorates*. Gaza Strip.

³⁶ Right to Health: Barriers to health and attacks on health care in the occupied Palestinian territory. <https://www.emro.who.int/opt/information-resources/right-to-health.html>

Damages to the health sector are estimated at US\$1.39 billion, with 1,825 facilities partially or completely destroyed. Hospitals account for the largest share at over US\$829.6 million, followed by extensive losses across primary healthcare centers, clinics, pharmacies, and laboratories. Gaza municipality recorded the highest damages³⁷, leaving the remaining hospitals overwhelmed and primary care severely constrained. Despite the deployment of field hospitals, mobile clinics, and temporary structures, shortages of supplies, fuel, and staff continue to impede essential care, including trauma management, sexual and reproductive health, chronic disease treatment, and malnutrition services. Limited diagnostic capacity and restricted medical evacuations further exacerbate unmet health needs across the Strip.³⁸

Losses are estimated at US\$6.78 billion, driven primarily by the increased burden of disease valued at US\$5.43 billion. These estimates reflect disability-adjusted life years lost due to injuries, deaths, communicable diseases, malnutrition, maternal and neonatal mortality, and mental health conditions. Productivity losses from the deaths, displacement, and absence of health workers total about US\$500 million, with an additional US\$64.7 million in lost salaries. US\$188 million is lost due to the outstanding arrears of health workers resulting from irregular salary payments.³⁹ Reduced facility revenues account for US\$18.5 million, while increased humanitarian spending by the health and nutrition clusters adds a further US\$581 million.

Box 3: Trauma and mental health support

Two years of sustained violence, mass casualties, starvation and repeated displacement have left the Gaza population in a state of acute and widespread psychological distress. Over 60 per cent of youth show signs of moderate to severe anxiety, fear, and loss of hope for the future. An estimated 58,000 children have lost one or both parents, and adolescents are increasingly assuming adult survival roles, with 42 per cent reporting excessive household responsibilities. Beyond its immediate health impacts, this widespread psychosocial distress undermines learning, wellbeing, and future labour-market participation.

At the same time, mental health services, safe spaces, and community support systems have largely collapsed, while providers are themselves affected by trauma. Integrating MHPSS across health, education, and social protection systems is therefore essential to safeguarding human capital, enabling recovery, and preventing the intergenerational transmission of trauma.

The collapse of the Gaza Strip's health system—overburdened by mass casualties, displacement, and widespread infrastructure destruction—has sharply reduced access to essential services and worsened living conditions. Overcrowded shelters and severe shortages of clean water, sanitation, food, fuel, and medical supplies have triggered disease outbreaks, rising malnutrition, untreated trauma, and widespread psychological distress. Fourteen percent of the health workforce has been lost. Maternal health risks remain high for 55,000 pregnant women⁴⁰, and acute malnutrition among children under five reached 86,000 cases in December 2025⁴¹. Vulnerable groups, including women, older people, and persons with disabilities, face heightened barriers to care. More than 42,000 people require long-term rehabilitation, increasing household financial burdens, and reducing productivity. The latest estimates indicate that under-five mortality in Palestine have risen to 26.3 deaths per 1,000 live births, erasing 20 years of progress.⁴²

37 https://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/palestine/Attacks_on_Health_Oct_2023-2_Oct_2025_1.pdf

38 Ministry of Health (MoH), Palestinian Health Information Center (PHIC). (2024). Health Annual Report, Palestine 2023. Ramallah.

39 Ministry of Health (MoH), Palestinian Health Information Center (PHIC). (2024). Health Annual Report, Palestine 2023. Ramallah.

40 UNFPA. Situation report – crisis in Palestine. July – August 2025

41 Levels and trends in child mortality, Report 2024. Estimates developed by the United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation. https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/UNIGME-2024-Child-Mortality-Report_28-March.pdf

42 Levels and trends in child mortality, Report 2024. Estimates developed by the United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation. https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/UNIGME-2024-Child-Mortality-Report_28-March.pdf

Recovery and Reconstruction Needs: US\$10.03 billion

Total recovery needs are estimated at US\$10.03 billion over five years, requiring a phased approach that combines reconstruction with restoring service delivery, managing increased health risks, and strengthening the Health Information Management Systems to inform decision-making and governance.

Immediate and short-term recovery costs are estimated at approximately US\$5.73 billion within the first three years, driven by urgent priorities such as rebuilding health facilities, restoring service delivery, and expanding mental health services and emergency preparedness. Rebuilding needs total US\$3 billion for rehabilitation and replacement of destroyed facilities, ambulances, and critical infrastructure, along with new investments such as a central warehouse and a cancer center. Service delivery needs are estimated at US\$6.06 billion and include temporary hospitals and primary healthcare facilities to maintain care during reconstruction, expanded services for trauma, rehabilitation, infectious diseases, malnutrition, mental health, and noncommunicable diseases. Additional priorities include strengthening the health emergency and epidemic preparedness and response systems, restoring health information systems, supporting medical evacuations, and addressing severe workforce shortages through the supply of medical equipment and supplies, replacement, protection, and intensive training.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Damages: US\$148.1 million

Losses: US\$92 million

The Gaza Strip holds historical and cultural significance as a crossroads of ancient trade routes and a major port, shaped by diverse civilizations and reflected in its archaeological sites, historic buildings, and cultural traditions. Since 2023, the armed conflict has caused extensive damage and destruction to cultural heritage, leaving many heritage sites exposed, inaccessible, and unprotected. These impacts are further compounded by weak legal frameworks and the limited implementation of laws such as the 2018 Decree Law on the Protection of Tangible Cultural Heritage. As a result, many post-1700 structures remain without formal protection, with continued reliance on the 1929 Antiquities Ordinance. Fragmented institutional responsibilities between the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and the Ministry of Culture, combined with incomplete inventories and limited technical capacity, have further weakened safeguarding mechanisms, increasing the vulnerability of cultural sites and movable heritage to looting, illicit trafficking, and irreversible loss.

Damage to the Gaza Strip's cultural and heritage assets is valued at US\$148.1 million, reflecting widespread destruction of significant historic and artistic resources. Approximately 76 percent of assessed sites were affected, with 45 percent sustaining partial damage that compromised structural stability and cultural value, and 55 percent fully destroyed. Damages span multiple typologies, including major landmarks such as the Great Al Omari Mosque, Pasha Palace, Hamam As Samra, Subat Al-Alami, and As Saqqa palace, historic quarters, museums, archaeological sites, and places of worship. Cultural and creative industry facilities also suffered extensive damage and had a widespread impact, limiting access to spaces that support artistic production and community engagement. Many damaged sites now face heightened environmental risks, including debris accumulation, exposure, and contamination, all of which accelerate deterioration. Beyond visible structural loss, the damage undermines social identity, erodes tourism potential, interrupts cultural transmission, and removes vital communal spaces. Stabilizing surviving structures, preventing further degradation, debris management, and ensuring safe access will be prerequisites for any future rehabilitation or reconstruction efforts.

Total losses are estimated at US\$92 million, capturing the collapse of cultural activity, employment, and service delivery. Revenue losses reached roughly US\$12 million as institutions suspended programs, exhibitions, and community events. Employment losses—about US\$5.38 million annually—reflect disrupted livelihoods of artists, artisans, heritage specialists, and cultural practitioners and heritage bearers. Displacement accounts for the largest share, approximately US\$68.5 million, as more than 255 cultural professionals and over 2,500 heritage bearers were uprooted, halting preservation work, documentation, and creative production. Additional losses stem from emergency relocation of artifacts and environmental hazards threatening remaining structures. These compounded losses threaten the sector's viability and capacity to maintain its activities and undertake preservation and safeguarding efforts for cultural heritage.

Recovery and Reconstruction Needs: US\$234.3 million

Total recovery needs are estimated at US\$234.3 million, underscoring the scale of reconstruction required to rehabilitate historic sites, rebuild cultural institutions, and restore intangible cultural practices. Immediate and short-term priorities estimated at US\$70 million include US\$59 million for site stabilization and rest for mental health and psychosocial support through cultural activities, livelihood support to cultural practitioners, and interventions to protect and document at-risk collections. Short and medium-term needs focus on stabilizing damaged structures, safeguarding movable heritage, restoring basic operations, and supporting cultural professionals through grants, cash-for-work opportunities, and psychosocial support. Medium-term efforts emphasize institutional strengthening, comprehensive assessments, and revitalization of intangible cultural heritage through community-based programs. Over the long term, approximately US\$156 million will be required to fully rehabilitate assessed cultural sites and rebuild museums, archives, and creative spaces, while also supporting cultural institutions for reconstruction and revival of cultural landscape. The strategy emphasizes sequencing with debris clearance, environmental remediation, and urban recovery to ensure that cultural heritage becomes a pillar of social cohesion and economic renewal.

INFRASTRUCTURE SECTORS

The **infrastructure sectors** include energy, ICT, municipal services, WASH, and transport. Information is provided for each sector on the pre-conflict situation, damages, losses, and recovery needs.

ENERGY

Damages: US\$565.3 million

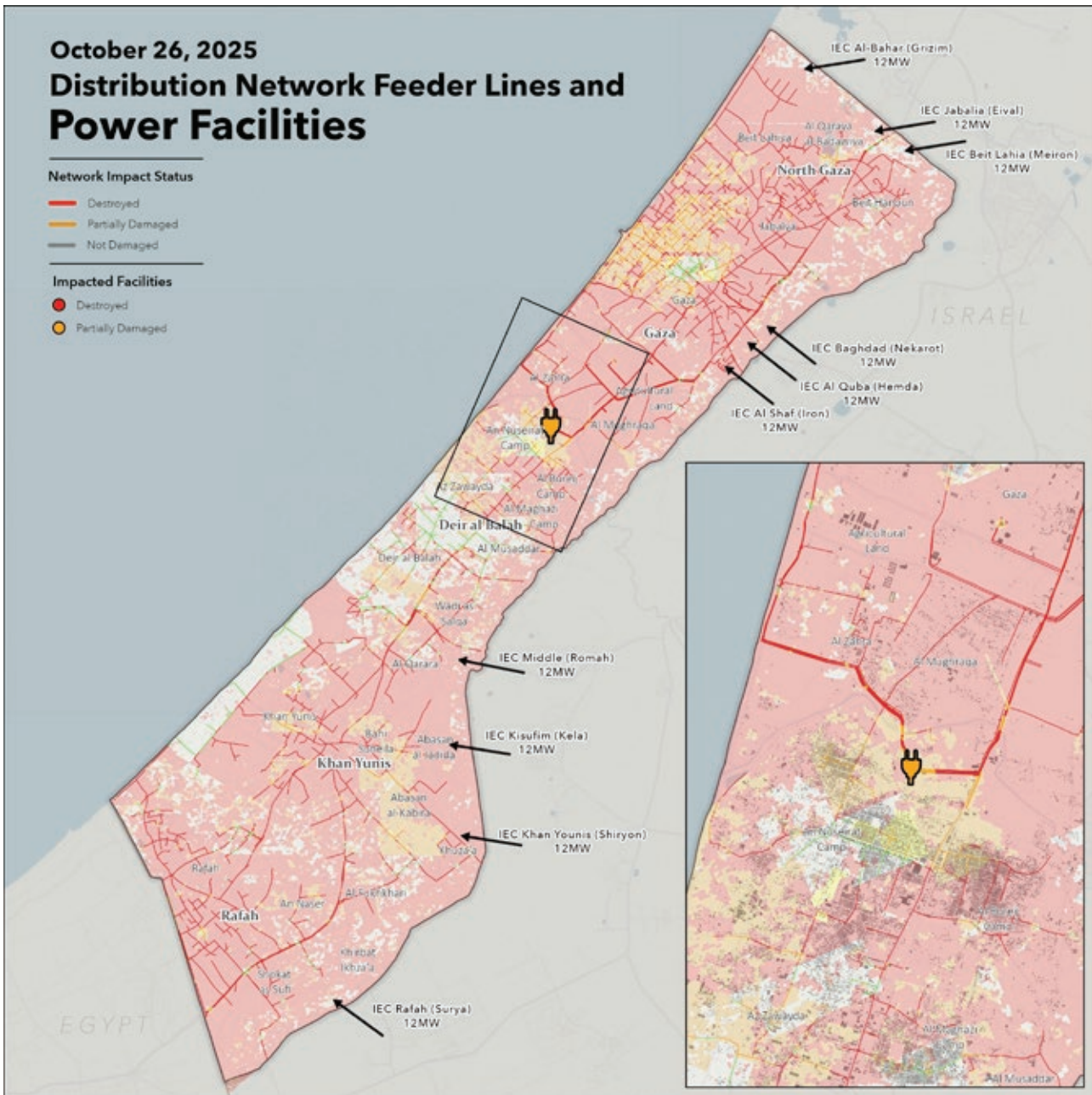
Losses: US\$163.6 million

Prior to the conflict, the Gaza Strip's electricity sector faced chronic shortages, meeting less than 35 percent of demand for 2.2 million residents. Total demand was about 700 megawatts (MW), while the Gaza Power Plant (GPP) operated at an average of 70 MW against a nominal 140 MW capacity. Imports from Israel Electric Corporation (IEC) averaged 120 MW, forcing planned load shedding and limiting households to roughly eight hours of power daily. Critical facilities received priority supply, worsening shortages elsewhere. Since 2020, solar hybrid photovoltaics (PV) systems expanded to 80 MW peak. Infrastructure remained fragile, still unrecovered from damages sustained during the 2014 and 2021 conflicts.

Since the conflict began in October 2023, the sector has incurred damages of approximately US\$565.3 million, with over 90 percent of the infrastructure destroyed. The damage encompasses the electricity distribution network and associated assets; rooftop and utility-scale solar PV installations (approximately 92 percent, i.e., 73 MW out of 80 MW installed capacity damaged); GPP equipment; high-voltage interconnection points for imports from Israel; Gaza Strip Electricity Distribution Company (GEDCO), and the Palestinian Energy and Natural Resources Authority (PENRA) facilities, including warehouses and offices, with all seven GEDCO warehouses lost, alongside vehicles, cranes, and the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. Imports of 120 MW from Israel and fuel for the GPP were halted early in the conflict, leaving consumers reliant on limited rooftop solar and diesel generators. These disruptions severely impacted essential services, including healthcare, water desalination, wastewater treatment, and telecommunications, creating near-total blackout conditions across the Gaza Strip.

Sector losses from the prolonged electricity outage in the Gaza Strip are estimated at more than US\$163.6 million, incorporating a correction to the February 2025 IRDNA, which mistakenly reported 243 million NIS as US\$ (equivalent to about US\$73 million), and reflecting severe operational and financial disruptions. The grid's operating cost increases of up to 1,500 percent are due to heavy reliance on diesel generators and other emergency power solutions. PENRA and GEDCO incurred around US\$8 million in direct expenses for emergency feeder repairs and generator connections to critical facilities. Revenues collapsed alongside a 100 percent drop in industrial and commercial energy consumption, including US\$78 million in foregone government tax revenue from fuel and energy production and US\$77 million in lost net revenue from electricity tariffs due to disrupted supply. Displacement further intensified the interruption of electricity and fuel access across households and industries.

Figure 10: Impacted networks and power facilities



Source: RDNA team

The destruction of this sector has caused a near-total blackout, crippling healthcare, water, sanitation, food production, education, and communications. Households lack lighting, heating, and cooling, all of which increase protection risks and expose vulnerable groups to hypothermia and heat stress.

Recovery and Reconstruction Needs: US\$2.73 billion

The total recovery and reconstruction needs are estimated at US\$2.73 billion, driven by the capital investments and operating costs required to rebuild a modern, resilient electricity system that supports socioeconomic recovery. Estimated needs may reach US\$4.7 billion, driven by operating expenses (OpEx), which depend on either the inclusion or exclusion of fuel for the GPP, and the cost of the electricity imports from Israel and Egypt. Total capital expenditures (CapEx) are estimated at US\$1.08 billion (around US\$143 million for short-term up to 18-month horizon, and US\$932 million for medium-term up to five years horizon). The total needs range is largely driven by OpEx. The low-end scenario (consistent with the February 2025 IRDNA) includes diesel generator fuel (322,000 liters per day at US\$2 per liter) but excludes sufficient GPP

fuel (starting at 160,000 liters per day in the short term, ramping up to ~400,000 liters per day to reach pre-conflict levels) and the cost of electricity imports from IEC and Egypt. The high-end scenario includes all of these. OpEx is estimated at US\$1.65 billion (US\$609 million short term; US\$1.04 billion medium term) to US\$3.58 billion (US\$1 billion short term; US\$2.58 billion medium term). Given access constraints and extensive damage to centralized generation and grid infrastructure, early recovery will rely on modular and transitional energy solutions deployed in parallel with longer-term grid rehabilitation. These investments will prioritize restoring essential services through emergency repairs, limited power generation, and deployment of mobile solar kits, diesel generators, and hybrid PV systems for critical facilities. Subsequent actions include expanding electricity imports, rehabilitating the GPP, and reconstructing medium and low-voltage networks. Long-term recovery will focus on rebuilding transmission and distribution systems, strengthening GEDCO and PENRA's operational capacity, and modernizing grid infrastructure with SCADA, management information systems, and smart metering to ensure reliable and sustainable service delivery. In the longer term, rehabilitation of the GPP using natural gas could reduce operating costs and emissions compared to diesel generation.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

Damages: US\$200.7 million

Losses: US\$346 million

Prior to the conflict, the Gaza Strip's ICT sector faced severe infrastructure and service limitations, operating on outdated second-generation (2G) mobile technology with no mobile broadband access. More than 2 million residents relied exclusively on 2G services, making Gaza one of the last territories worldwide without access to 3G, 4G, or 5G mobile technologies. National connectivity relied on the Palestine Telecommunications Company (PALTEL) fiber backbone, while fixed broadband connectivity was primarily provided through digital subscriber line (DSL) over copper lines infrastructure owned by PALTEL. Some internet service providers offered fixed connectivity through microwave links or wireless solutions, while fiber optics was just beginning to develop. Political restrictions and access constraints hindered international capacity and technology upgrades, contributing to the Gaza Strip remaining among the least connected areas globally.

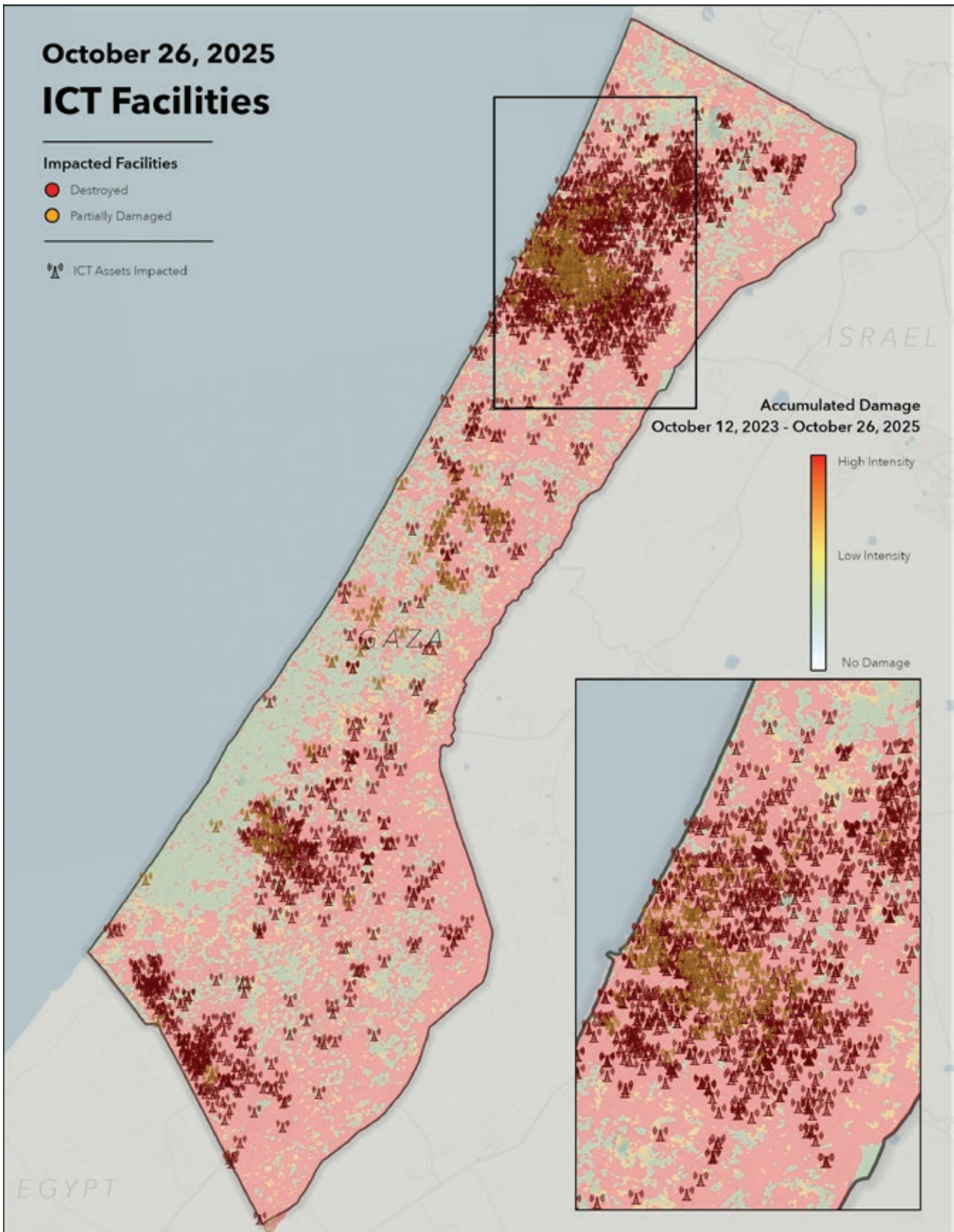
Total damage to the sector is estimated at US\$200.7 million, with 81 percent of assets destroyed, 12 percent partially damaged, and 7 percent minimally damaged. This includes mobile towers, fixed access nodes, fiber-optic backbone, data centers, warehouses, and major facilities, causing near-total collapse of communication and internet services. The Gaza Governorate recorded the highest damages at US\$97.6 million, followed by Khan Younis and North Gaza. Damage to national exchange buildings severed national connectivity, including with the West Bank, and international connectivity, while destruction of last-mile infrastructure disrupted services for households, businesses, and public institutions. Limited connectivity persists through diesel-powered towers, Cells-on-Wheels, and temporary Wi-Fi hotspots, but service gaps remain severe. Communication outages have hindered emergency response, humanitarian operations, and family reunification, compounding vulnerabilities for displaced populations, particularly women and children. Restoration requires secure site access, debris clearance, EO removal, and reliable power supply to rebuild ICT networks.

Total losses are estimated at US\$346 million, driven primarily by revenue losses of US\$318 million, which account for 92 percent of all losses. These reflect sharp declines in billable traffic, reduced collection rates, and prolonged periods in which operators provided free or heavily subsidized services to keep the population connected during displacement. Increased operating costs total US\$27.7 million and stem from fuel purchases for generators, emergency repairs, temporary connectivity solutions, and the high cost of importing spare parts under movement restrictions. Limited displacement-related losses occurred through the deployment of a number of Cells-on-Wheels to maintain connectivity for displaced communities. Overall, these losses highlight the severe financial strain on ICT providers and the wider economic and service disruptions across the Gaza Strip.

Recovery and Reconstruction Needs: US\$500.5 million

Long-term recovery needs total US\$500.5 million, covering the investments required over five years to rebuild resilient digital infrastructure, including mobile networks, fiber-to-the-home, data centers, backbone systems, and energy-secure ICT facilities. Medium and short-term needs center on restoring

Figure 11: Impacted ICT facilities



Source: RDNA team

essential connectivity by repairing priority assets and deploying Cells-on-Wheels, interim Fixed Wireless Access solutions, and hybrid solar PV systems with battery storage to maintain services in critical facilities such as hospitals, schools, banks, and displacement centers. Immediate requirements amount to US\$79 million within the first six to eight months, while 60 percent of total needs fall within a three-year horizon as mobile towers, fiber systems, and fourth-generation networks are progressively rebuilt. Recovery must be closely sequenced with debris removal, EO clearance, electricity restoration, and urban planning. The strategy also prioritizes institutional strengthening, regulatory development, digital public infrastructure, ongoing operational expenditures, and workforce skills to ensure a resilient and modern ICT ecosystem.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES⁴³

Damages: US\$622 million

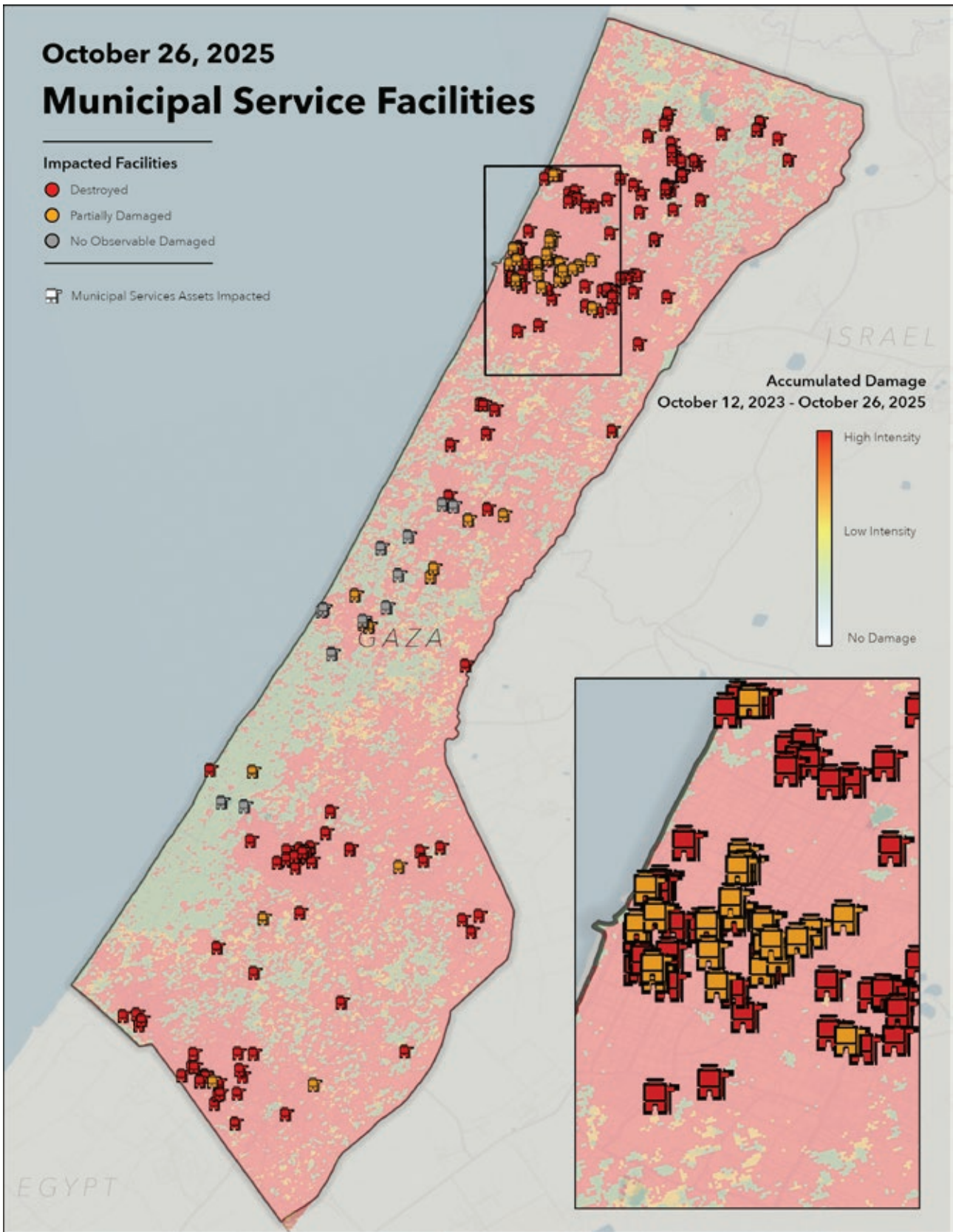
Losses: US\$382.3 million

Before October 2023, the Gaza Strip's municipalities, which formed the backbone of urban life, struggled to provide services covering the water supply, sanitation, solid waste management, local roads, markets, and public spaces. It comprised 25 municipalities serving approximately 2.23 million people, with an average population density of around 6,300 people per km² and exceeding 30,000 people per km² in some northern areas. All municipalities operated under conditions of chronic fiscal stress, outdated infrastructure, and institutional fragmentation, exacerbated by dense urban environment and occupational challenges. Municipal budgets were insufficient to cover operating and maintenance costs, including salaries for approximately 4,059 municipal staff responsible for basic service delivery. Solid waste management has been handled by two Joint Service Councils (JSCs – covering South and North Gaza) along with the municipalities. Municipal assets related to water and wastewater services are limited to those owned and operated by municipalities such as water wells, pump stations, service facilities and lagoons, and reservoirs. Despite constrained revenues, aging infrastructure, and limited investment capacity, municipalities remained operational and provided basic services to their communities. Municipal administrations relied heavily on functioning local economies, modest user fees, and external donor financing to sustain operations. While service quality varied by location, municipalities played a central role in maintaining social stability, supporting livelihoods, and coordinating with sector agencies. Despite blockade and repeated shocks, local governments remained a critical interface between residents and public services, sustaining minimal functionality across the Gaza Strip's densely populated urban areas.

The conflict caused widespread physical destruction to municipal infrastructure, with estimated damages of US\$622 million across the Gaza Strip. A total of 348 municipal facilities were affected, including administrative buildings, garages, markets, community centers, warehouses, libraries, and cultural facilities. In more than 90 percent of cases, facilities were either fully destroyed or damaged beyond repair, eliminating the physical platforms through which municipalities delivered services. An estimated 228 public spaces were demolished or rendered unusable, many now serving as informal displacement sites. Municipal vehicle fleets and heavy equipment were also severely impacted, with 487 vehicles destroyed, critically constraining solid waste collection, debris removal, and emergency response. The destruction of buildings was compounded by the loss of approximately 16,400 pieces of equipment and furniture, further undermining municipal operational capacity across all governorates. Based on UNDP's December 2025 situation report on solid waste management, Gaza's two major landfills remain inaccessible and partially damaged, with estimated damage cost of about US\$10 million. None of 18 landfill machinery units are still functional. As a result, 72 large and 69 small temporary dumping sites have been created during the first six months of the war, but the number of temporary dumpsites has decreased from 141 to 56, as a part of efforts undertaken throughout 2024 - 2025 to remove smaller dumping sites as part of the winterization plan implemented by UNDP and its partners. Of the 261 waste collection and transfer vehicles, just 48 remain operational; the rest have been destroyed. The only two medical-waste disinfection microwaves in Gaza have been destroyed, and four of the five medical-waste collection vehicles have also been lost.

⁴³ This chapter outlines only part of damages, losses and needs related to the 27 functions, authorities and powers bestowed onto Municipalities by Palestinian local governance legislation [Local Councils Law 1997]. Due to the scale of damages and in an effort to reduce double-counting, losses and needs across transport, water and sewage, energy, public health and economic sectors at the local level, have been attributed more globally to their respective sectors in this report.

Figure 12: Impacted municipal facilities



Source: RDNA team

Municipal losses are estimated at US\$382.3 million for the period 2023–25, reflecting a sharp contraction in revenues alongside escalating emergency expenditures. Local revenue collection collapsed as businesses were destroyed, households displaced, and economic activity halted. At the same time, municipalities faced rising costs linked to debris management, fuel procurement, temporary service provision, and emergency staffing needs. Staffing losses were severe, with municipal employment declining 43 percent overall due to deaths, injuries, displacement, and missing personnel, particularly in North Gaza Governorate. The erosion of revenue-generating capacity and depletion of financial reserves have left municipalities unable to cover salaries, operations, or maintenance, creating structural dependence on external budgetary support for continued functionality.

The collapse of municipal services has directly worsened living conditions by disrupting water, sanitation, and waste management, as well as public spaces. Women, children, persons with disabilities, and displaced households face heightened health risks, care burdens, and social exclusion as basic urban services deteriorate and safe communal spaces disappear.

Recovery and Reconstruction Needs: US\$863.4 million

Restoring municipal services and governance will require a sustained recovery effort estimated at US\$863.4 million. In the short and medium term, priorities include debris removal, solid waste management, fuel provision, emergency vehicle replacement, salary support, rehabilitation of partially damaged facilities, temporary municipal offices, and restoration of water, sanitation, electricity, and communications networks. Investments in data systems, geographic information systems, digital services, and citizen feedback mechanisms that are adapted for vulnerable persons are a core priority and essential to improve efficiency and transparency. Long-term needs focus on rebuilding municipal administrative buildings, service facilities, markets, public spaces, and landfills; restoring full staffing capacity; modernizing financial management systems; and strengthening governance, accountability, and urban planning functions. Together, these interventions aim to re-establish municipalities as functional governance and service providers and anchor institutions for the Gaza Strip's broader recovery and reconstruction.

TRANSPORT

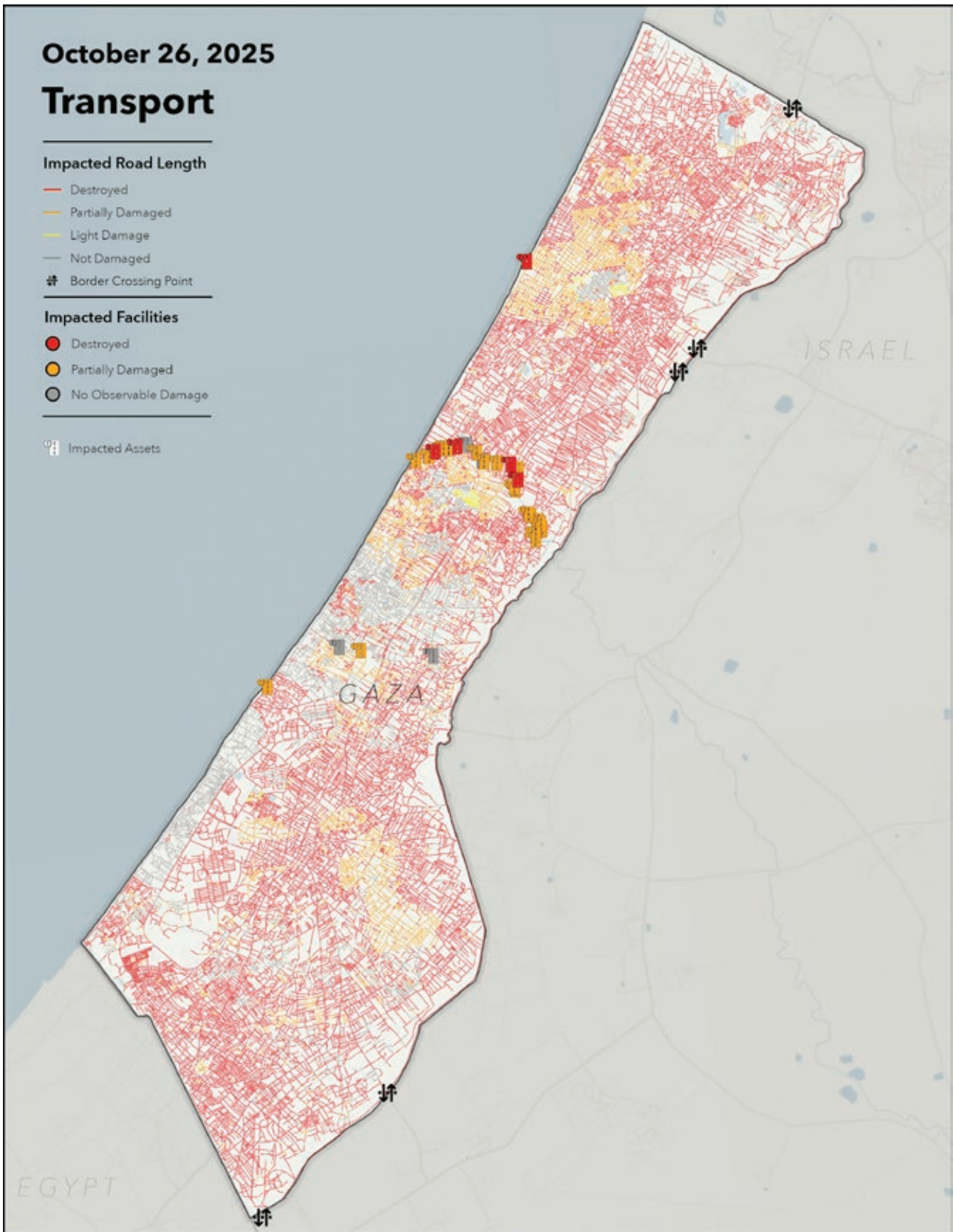
Damages: US\$3.21 billion

Losses: US\$1.18 billion

Before October 2023, the Gaza Strip's transport sector was already under severe strain, shaped by aging infrastructure, fragmented governance, and prolonged underinvestment. Road transport was the main means of mobility, yet nearly half of the classified road network was in poor condition or impassable due to deferred maintenance and past conflicts. The classified road network extended approximately 2,080 km, complemented by an additional 2,413 km of agricultural roads and 1,324 km of urban streets, many of which suffered from deteriorated surfaces and inadequate drainage. Public transport services were entirely privately operated, relying on small operators with aging fleets and limited capacity for renewal. Vehicle stock numbered around 88,000 vehicles, with motorization rates of approximately 31 cars per 1,000 people and 44 vehicles per 1,000 people overall, well below regional and global averages. With no airport, no commercial seaport, and restricted imports, transport options were limited to internal movements, as Gaza had no functioning airport since 2000 and no port serving international trade, making mobility costly, inefficient, insufficient, and increasingly fragile even before the conflict.

Total damages are estimated at US\$3.21 billion, reflecting widespread destruction of roads, bridges, vehicles, and transport facilities. Artificial intelligence-enhanced visual examination of satellite imagery resulted in the categorization of approximately 74 percent of the length of the Gaza Strip's 4,500-kilometer road network as destroyed, and an additional 13 percent categorized as partially damaged. However, due to limitations from the visual assessment method, these figures cannot be fully verified. Nevertheless, movement of heavy military vehicles, the presence of EO, and the extensive pre-war period of inadequate maintenance support the assumption that roads in the Gaza Strip are in very poor condition or deemed impassable, hence requiring substantial reconstruction or full replacement. For example, the main thoroughfare running the length of the Gaza Strip, Salah Al-Deen, appears to be completely destroyed except in isolated sections; and the coastal road is completely destroyed in the governorates of North Gaza, Gaza, and Rafah. Damage is most severe in North Gaza and Rafah, where nearly nine out of 10 roads are impassable. Fixed assets have also been heavily affected: nine bridges, eight box culverts, and Gaza

Figure 13: Impacted roads and transport facilities



Source: RDNA team

Strip's ports were destroyed, severing critical corridors. Vehicle losses are extensive with over 84,000 vehicles destroyed (valued at more than US\$2.1 billion), dominated by used private cars and commercial trucks. Road infrastructure damage alone is estimated at US\$1.1 billion. Debris from collapsed buildings has further obstructed transport corridors, compounding physical damage and fragmenting connectivity across governorates, severely limiting access and mobility.

Economic losses are estimated at US\$1.18 billion, driven primarily by substantial increases in the price of providing transport services, followed closely by wage and employment losses resulting from the collapse of mobility and services. At the onset of the conflict, an estimated 70 percent of transport jobs were lost, with remaining workers experiencing severe wage deflation or income suspension. Formal sector wage losses alone are estimated at US\$485 million. These losses reflect halted public transport services, disrupted logistics, and the inability of private operators to function amid fuel shortages, destroyed fleets, and severely damaged transport infrastructure. Reduced transport availability also increased transaction costs across the economy, compounding losses in commerce, agriculture, and access to humanitarian services. A fourth category of losses, displacement-induced costs, is likely very high, but unquantifiable in the present circumstances. Finally, women, people with disabilities, and displaced households face heightened exclusion as mobility barriers compound humanitarian vulnerability and deepen poverty.

Recovery and Reconstruction Needs: US\$1.54 billion

Long-term recovery needs are estimated at US\$1.54 billion, reflecting the scale of reconstruction required to restore network functionality and address long-standing infrastructure deficits. Critical needs include rebuilding primary, secondary, and tertiary roads, restoring bridges and ports, and re-establishing basic mobility by developing public transport services and renewing public transport fleets. If the full needs were to be met over 10 years, this would imply average monthly expenditures of US\$22.8 million. The recovery strategy therefore needs to represent a balance of meeting the most critical needs first—such as restoring connectivity and accessibility along Salah al-Deen road—while facilitating the ramp-up of this spending capacity. Immediate and short-term needs total approximately US\$360 million, including US\$28.6 million in the first 6–8 months and US\$331.4 million over 8–18 months to reopen critical corridors, clear debris, and restore minimum connectivity. An additional US\$109.7 million is planned for the 1.5–3 year period to continue to strengthen primary network and begin to restore the secondary networks. Long term needs are estimated at US\$1.07 billion. The cost estimates provided assume reconstruction of the network using conventional road construction techniques. However, the use of methods emphasizing labor-intensive works to generate employment and reuse of rubble through industrial production of concrete pavers with recycled materials has the potential to bring down these costs significantly and may constitute the most practicable way to move forward with rebuilding a resilient and accessible transport system.

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

Damages: US\$1.7 billion

Losses: US\$675.3 million

Prior to the conflict, the Gaza Strip had quasi-universal access to improved sanitation and approximately 81 percent access to safely managed water, although underlying structural vulnerabilities persisted. Average water supply was approximately 82 liters per capita per day, with only about 17 percent of the population having sustainable access to safe drinking water, and more than 82 percent relying on costly water from tanker trucks to meet basic needs. The coastal aquifer, the primary water source, was already severely degraded due to over-abstraction, saline intrusion, and pollution, rendering most groundwater unfit for human consumption. Of the estimated 96.2 million cubic meters of groundwater abstracted annually from approximately 306 wells, the majority were unsuitable for human consumption prior to the conflict. Drinking water relied heavily on three short-term low-volume desalination plants, bulk water imports from Israel, and a network of municipal and private small-scale desalination and water trucking services. The three short-term low-volume desalination plants supplied approximately 18,000 cubic meters per day, complemented by about 52,000 cubic meters per day imported through three bulk water connections and an additional 11,000 cubic meters per day supplied by municipal and private vendors. Wastewater infrastructure, while extensive, suffered from chronic under-capacity and financing constraints, with treatment systems already insufficient to meet growing demand. Institutional reforms were underway to consolidate service provision under a regional utility structure, but progress remained constrained by access restrictions, fiscal pressures, and dependence on external water and energy inputs.

Since the onset of the conflict in October 2023, the WASH sector has experienced widespread devastation, with estimated damages of US\$1.7 billion and approximately 88 percent of above-ground assets and 76 percent of underground networks partially or fully damaged. All six wastewater treatment plants are non-functional, centralized wastewater treatment has completely halted, and 70 percent of sewage pumping stations are inoperable. One of the three main seawater desalination plants and two of three bulk water supply connections are non-functional, severely constraining the Gaza Strip's largest sources of safe water. Stormwater infrastructure has also been heavily impacted, with 88 percent of pumping stations damaged and basins increasingly contaminated with untreated sewage. Remote sensing-based damage assessments indicate that, while portions of underground networks may remain physically intact, their usability will depend on extensive field verification and hydraulic modeling once access permits.

Sector losses are estimated at US\$675.3 million, driven primarily by the collapse of service delivery and the high costs of emergency response. With piped networks largely non-operational, approximately 77 percent of households rely on water trucking, making it the single largest operational cost to the sector. Additional losses stem from fuel expenditures to operate limited remaining facilities, emergency repairs, hygiene item provision, and the establishment of over 1,300 temporary water distribution points. Institutional losses, including significant employment losses, have occurred across public institutions and the construction sector, further weakening service providers' capacity to sustain operations and support recovery.

The destruction of WASH services has had severe human and cross-sectoral impacts. Only a small fraction of the population now has access to piped drinking water, while the absence of wastewater treatment and solid waste services has sharply increased risks of waterborne disease, flooding, and environmental contamination. Women and girls face disproportionate burdens related to domestic water use, with hundreds of thousands lacking adequate supplies and privacy. Health facilities, displacement sites, schools, commercial locations, and agricultural lands are operating under critical WASH constraints, undermining health outcomes, protection, and human dignity.

Recovery and Reconstruction Needs: US\$4.24 billion

Total recovery needs are estimated at US\$4.24 billion, encompassing both OpEx and CapEx required to restore and modernize the sector. Immediate priorities focus on life-saving interventions, including emergency water supply, energy provision to critical facilities, temporary sanitation solutions, hygiene item distribution, and rapid repairs where feasible. In parallel, recovery efforts will initiate rehabilitation of bulk water supply systems, desalination plants, reservoirs, pumping stations, and water and sewer networks.

Longer-term reconstruction will aim to restore pre-conflict service levels while building more resilient and sustainable WASH systems. Strategic investments will prioritize expanding desalination capacity, reducing reliance on exogenous water sources, integrating wastewater reuse and aquifer recharge, maximizing renewable energy use, and rebuilding networks while maximizing redundancy and climate resilience. Institutional strengthening of the Palestinian Water Authority, utilities, and service providers will be essential, alongside coordinated access mechanisms for materials and equipment. Given the scale of needs and fiscal constraints, sustained international financial support and strong inter-agency coordination will be critical to enable recovery and ensure equitable, reliable, and sustainable WASH service delivery across Gaza.

PRODUCTIVE SECTORS

The productive sectors are comprised of agriculture and food system, commerce and industry, and finance. Information is provided for each sector on the pre-conflict situation, damages, losses, and recovery needs.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Damages: US\$6.35 billion
Losses: US\$2.48 billion

Prior to the conflict, the Gaza Strip's private sector operated under severe structural constraints. Approximately 56,000 enterprises, predominantly micro and small, employed 173,000 people, with economic activity concentrated in trade and services. Nearly 98 percent of establishments employed between one

and 19 workers, and almost 90 percent operated as sole proprietorships. Trade accounted for 56 percent of establishments and 46 percent of employment, while services represented 30 percent of establishments and 38 percent of employment; industry accounted for around 10 percent of establishments and 11 percent of employment. Chronic electricity shortages, movement restrictions, limited access to finance, and a narrow market base significantly suppressed productivity and growth. Businesses received on average only 11–16 hours of electricity per day prior to the conflict. Unemployment stood at 45 percent overall and 63 percent among youth, with widespread reliance on informal employment. Investment and exports were minimal, with non-building private investment estimated at just 1.3 percent of GDP in 2022 and merchandise exports totaling approximately USD 32.8 million in the same year, largely oriented toward the Israeli market. Regulatory duplication with the West Bank further increased operating costs. Barriers to technology adoption and high perceived risk hindered innovation, forcing many startups to maintain partial operations abroad.

The commerce and industry sector has sustained an estimated US\$6.35 billion in total damage, comprising US\$5.72 billion in destroyed establishments and US\$632.9 million in repairable damage. These figures include damage or destruction of equipment, machinery, furniture, vehicles, and inventory. Commerce and trade, followed by industry, account for the largest share of damage due to their high inventory values, extensive reliance on machinery and equipment, and their dominance within the overall economic base.

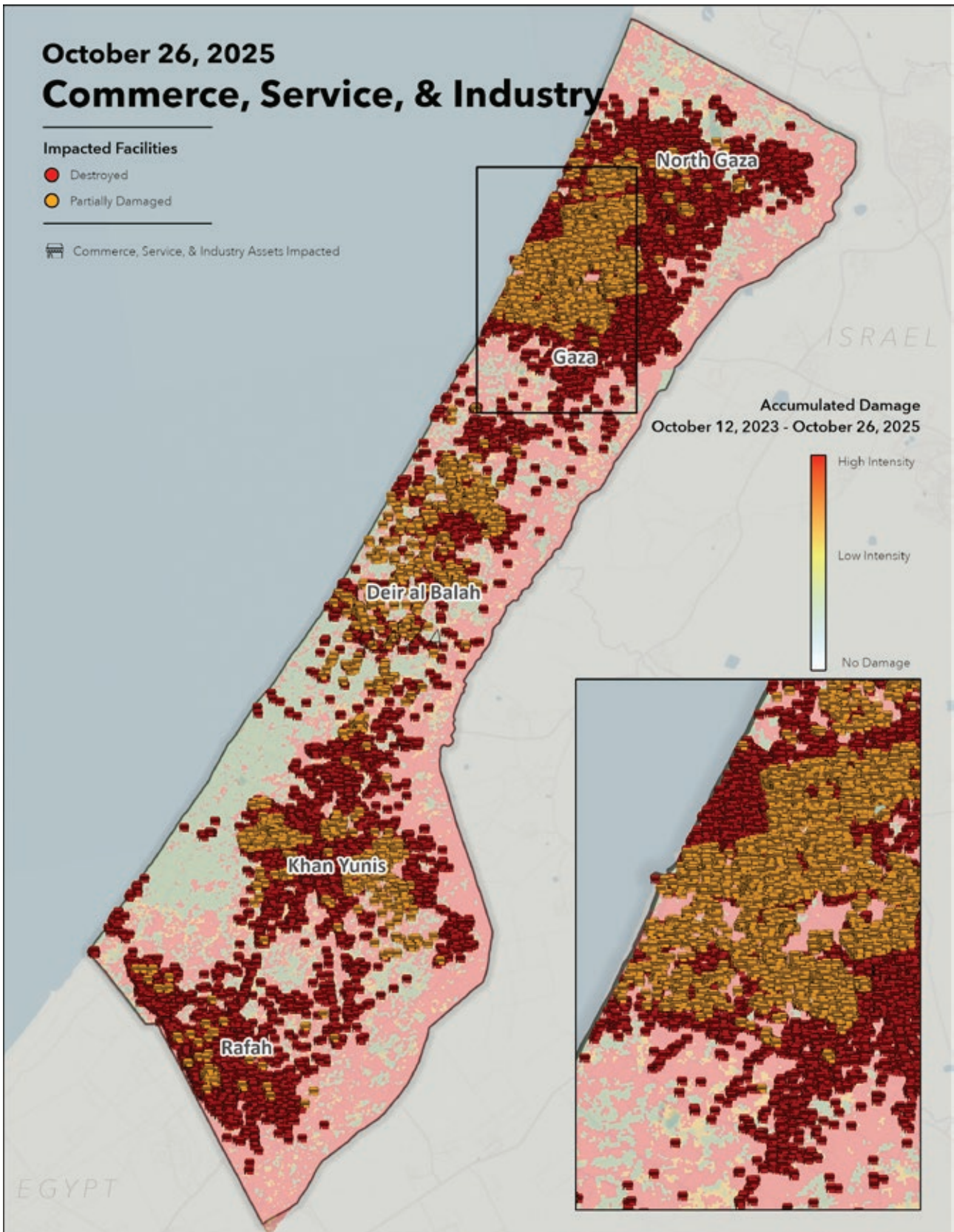
By October 2025, 92 percent of assessed establishments had sustained damage: 20 percent were partially damaged, and 72 percent were completely destroyed. Destruction levels reached 73 percent in commercial trade and industry and 68 percent in tourism and services. Signs of early recovery are emerging, with a 7 percent increase in commerce and trade establishments showing no observable damage compared to October 2024, reflecting initial repair efforts. The impact extends beyond physical damage to include displacement, restricted market access, and widespread business closures.

Estimated sector losses amount to US\$2.48 billion over five years, equivalent to more than three and a half times the sector's pre-crisis annual economic value. These losses include US\$1.97 billion in reduced returns and US\$509 million in lost wages, which are expected to diminish gradually but not fully recover within a five-year recovery horizon. Of an estimated 116,000 workers working in the commerce and industry sector, more than 100,000 are believed to have lost their jobs.

Recovery and Reconstruction Needs: US\$9 billion

Recovery needs are estimated at US\$9 billion. Needs within the first 18 months are estimated at US\$3.94 billion, while short and medium-term needs are estimated at approximately US\$5.06 billion. Around US\$5.66 billion is needed for reconstruction and repair of infrastructure, primarily for rebuilding destroyed establishments and repairing partially damaged facilities across trade, industry, tourism, and professional services. In addition, around US\$2 billion is needed for machinery and equipment, US\$907 million in working capital, US\$382 million in wage compensation, and US\$64 million in technical assistance. These resources aim to restore establishments, replace essential assets, and support businesses in meeting immediate operational requirements. Recovery planning assumes that needs must remain flexible across asset types, given extensive damage, infrastructure disruption, and large-scale displacement. Firms will require capital investment, market access, inventory replenishment, and support to rehire or retain workers. Technical assistance will play a critical role in providing organizational, technical, and psychosocial support while promoting the inclusion of marginalized groups. Reconstruction progress will depend on debris removal, restoration of utilities, and improvements in business-enabling sectors such as transport and energy, improved market access, and strengthening of the regulatory environment for industry and commerce.

Figure 14: Impacted commerce and industry facilities



Source: RDNA team

FINANCE

Damages: US\$18.7 million

Losses: US\$925.0 million

Prior to October 2023, the Gaza Strip's financial sector functioned as a stabilizing backbone during repeated economic shocks, supported by relatively strong regulation from the Palestinian Monetary Authority and the Palestinian Capital Market Authority. Banks, microfinance institutions, insurers, and payment service providers operating in the Gaza Strip were largely extensions of West Bank-based institutions, with limited balance-sheet exposure to the Gaza Strip but essential service delivery roles. As of September 2023, banking sector exposure to Gaza amounted to approximately USD 983 million (around 10 percent of total banking exposure), while microfinance institutions' exposure was estimated at USD 54.4 million (about 15 percent of total MFI portfolios). Physical access to finance was already constrained, with high population-to-branch and ATM ratios compared to the West Bank, creating last-mile frictions. There were 56 bank branches and offices, 94 ATMs, and 18 microfinance offices, translating into approximately 23,306 residents per bank branch, 14,158 residents per ATM, and 73,838 adult residents per microfinance outlet, compared to 2,912, 3,510, and 22,396 respectively in the West Bank. In spite of these constraints, the sector maintained operational continuity, facilitated remittances, and supported households and small enterprises under conditions of persistent political and economic volatility.

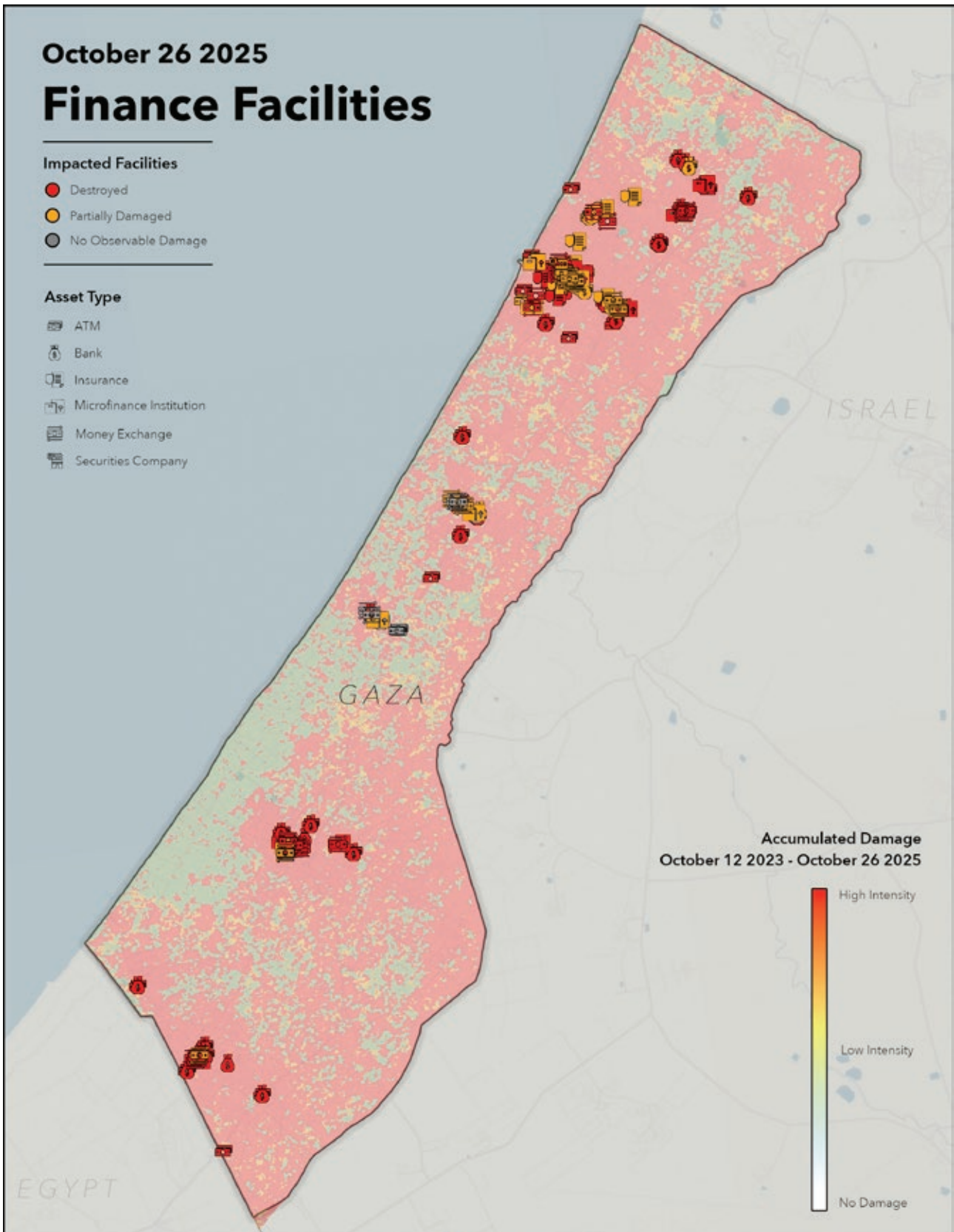
Total physical damage is estimated at approximately US\$18.7 million, reflecting the widespread destruction of branches, offices, automated teller machines, and supporting infrastructure. Around 90 percent of financial sector's physical assets were destroyed or partially damaged, rendering the system largely non-operational. Of 56 pre-conflict bank branches, 43 were destroyed and 12 partially damaged, leaving virtually no functional banking network. All automated teller machines ceased operation by late 2024. Microfinance institutions, insurance branches, money changers, and securities companies experienced similarly severe losses, with most offices destroyed or rendered unusable. The destruction of the only payment service provider office further weakened cash and digital payment channels. These damages have directly undermined cash distribution, payments, and credit operations, exacerbated liquidity shortages, and forced households and firms to rely on informal, costly, and risky financial coping mechanisms.

Total economic losses are estimated at US\$925.0 million, driven primarily by credit impairments and foregone profitability. Banking sector losses amount to about US\$865 million, including US\$224 million in recognized impairments, approximately US\$380 million in additional estimated forward-looking credit losses, around US\$201 million in lost and confiscated cash and US\$60 million in foregone profits. Microfinance institutions incurred losses of roughly US\$57 million, while money changers and insurers recorded smaller but significant income declines. These losses reflect the collapse of lending, disrupted collections, heightened credit risk, and sharply reduced returns on assets. Elevated uncertainty and weakened borrower capacity continue to threaten balance-sheet stability and constrain the sector's ability to support recovery. The collapse of financial services has left households unable to access savings, salaries, and remittances, intensifying poverty and exclusion. Cash shortages, high transaction costs, and limited digital alternatives disproportionately affect women, persons with disabilities, and displaced families.

Recovery and Reconstruction Needs: US\$611 million

Long-term recovery of the Gaza Strip's financial sector requires restoring confidence, solvency, and intermediation capacity, with total needs estimated at about US\$611 million. As of this assessment's cut-off (October 9, 2025), the needs include recapitalizing banks and microfinance institutions to absorb credit losses and support renewed lending, strengthening regulatory oversight, and modernizing market infrastructure. Short and medium-term needs focus on preserving capital adequacy, restoring basic payments and cash distribution, and rapidly scaling digital financial services to bypass damaged physical infrastructure. Priority actions include targeted capital injections, partial credit guarantee schemes to de-risk lending, expansion of e-money and agent networks, and rehabilitation of critical branches and automated teller machines. Parallel investments in regulatory capacity, cybersecurity, consumer protection, and financial inclusion are essential to ensure stability and equitable access. Together, these measures aim to re-establish the financial sector as a driver of household resilience, private sector recovery, and inclusive economic stabilization.

Figure 15: Impacted finance facilities



Source: RDNA team

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

Damages: US\$1.44 billion

Losses: US\$1.46 billion

Prior to the escalation in October 2023, the Gaza Strip's agrifood system operated under chronic structural constraints with compounded damages and losses from previous rounds of conflict, high poverty and dependency on external supplies, long-standing restrictions on inputs and movement, and widespread reliance on humanitarian support. In 2023, an estimated majority of households were food insecure, with approximately 80 percent of the population relying on humanitarian assistance as part of their regular food access. Despite these vulnerabilities, agriculture and related value chains played a significant socioeconomic role, contributing an estimated 10 percent of the Gaza Strip's economy and supporting livelihoods for hundreds of thousands of people across farming, herding, fishing, processing, and trading. More than 560,000 people were fully or partially dependent on agriculture, herding, or fishing for their livelihoods prior to the conflict. Cropland covered a substantial share of Gaza's land area, with approximately 15,000 hectares, equivalent to about 40–50 percent of the Strip's total land area, used as cropland before October 2023. Formal markets, though fragile, functioned through marketplaces and infrastructures, warehouses, cold storage, irrigation systems often solar electrified, and an electricity grid that enabled basic operations. The agrifood sector was dominated by micro- and small enterprises, with the vast majority of businesses employing four or fewer workers and operating as family-based or informal units. As a result, the Strip was largely self-sufficient in vegetables, fish, poultry meat, and eggs. Vegetables and fish constituted the largest part of total exports, but the Strip relied heavily on imports and humanitarian aid for main caloric and fatty foods for human consumption and animal feeding such as wheat and flour, vegetable oils, corn, barley, concentrate feeding, etc.

The conflict has resulted in the collapse of the food production and market infrastructure; damages are estimated at US\$1.44 billion. More than 95 percent of agriculture infrastructure including cropland, orchards, greenhouses, nurseries, irrigation networks and wells, agricultural roads, storage and processing facilities, markets and bakeries, solar installations, fisheries assets, and landing-site infrastructure have been destroyed. In addition, 96 percent of cropland was damaged, inaccessible, or both, with only a small share remaining cultivable even after ceasefire-related access changes—and on which currently most of the population is residing in displacement. This structural collapse has effectively halted agriculture at scale, disrupted value chains across crops, livestock, and fisheries, and fragmented formal markets, pushing traders into informal channels and forcing many households, particularly women and children, to revert to subsistence-level coping strategies.

Losses are estimated at US\$1.46 billion, capturing the prolonged disruption of multi-seasonal production cycles, the collapse of processing and marketing activity, and large-scale livelihood and labor income losses (including an estimated US\$463.7 million in labor income impacts covering 56,000 direct jobs in agricultural production). The ongoing electricity blackout since October 2023, combined with severely restricted fuel entry prioritized for life-saving services, has left much of the agrifood system unable to operate even where facilities may be partially intact, including irrigation pumping, cold storage, mills, bakeries, and post-harvest handling. Market recovery remains weak and highly dependent on fragile inflows and shifting access conditions, while unemployment and poverty have deepened, reinforcing severe contraction across the sector.

Recovery and Reconstruction Needs: US\$2.20 billion (US\$10.49 billion if food assistance, nutrition and school feeding included)

Recovery needs for the Agriculture and Food System sector are estimated at US\$2.20 billion, focused on rehabilitation of productive assets and soils, restoration of irrigation and water systems, reconstruction of markets, storage, and processing facilities, restocking of livestock and fisheries systems, and revitalization of services and institutional capacity. However, given that most of Gaza's population faces IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or worse, and nutrition risks remain extreme, overall needs rise to US\$10.49 billion when food assistance, targeted nutrition support, and school feeding restoration/expansion are included, reflecting the central role these measures play in stabilizing consumption and preventing further deterioration in health outcomes.

Immediate priorities focus on restoring essential import and production capacity and critical market/storage infrastructure for agriculture and staple foods, enabling flow of production inputs and consumption goods, rehabilitating key value-chain assets, and supporting farmers, herders, fishers, and traders, including women-led activities, to resume basic operations, while maintaining food assistance and nutrition support at scale until domestic systems regain minimum functionality. Medium- and longer-term recovery should rebuild structural enablers such as water and energy systems, institutions and cooperatives, critical public and private production services and climate-resilient adaptive technologies, through phased, flexible implementation aligned to evolving access and security conditions.

CROSS-CUTTING SECTORS

The main cross-cutting sectors covered by this assessment are the environment, land, employment, and governance. Information is provided for each sector on the pre-conflict situation, damages, losses and recovery needs.

ENVIRONMENT

Damages: US\$151.5 million

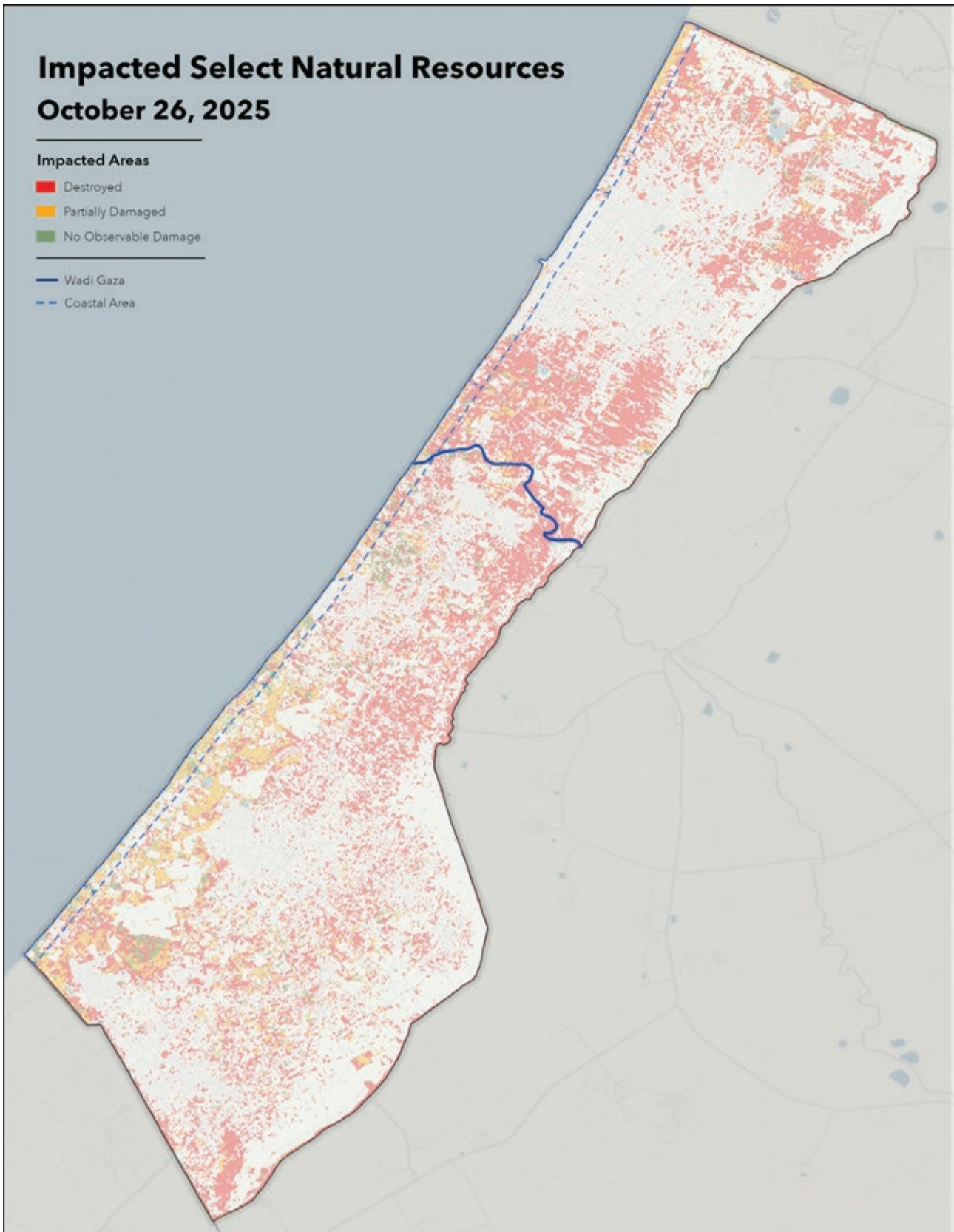
Losses: US\$218.5 million

Even before October 2023, the Gaza Strip's environment was under acute stress from high population density, unplanned urbanization, restricted access, and chronic pollution that strained the coastal zone, soils, and the coastal aquifer. The Gaza Strip hosted more than 2.2 million people within a very limited land area, resulting in average population densities exceeding 6,300 people per km² and reaching over 30,000 people per km² in some northern areas, among the highest globally. Coastal erosion, untreated wastewater discharge, and solid waste pressures degraded ecosystems and public health, while climate change increased risks of warming, drought, sea-level rise, and saline intrusion. Natural assets such as the Wadi Gaza Strip wetland, grasslands, forests and woodlands, and the marine/littoral environment provided essential services for livelihoods, food security, and recreation, although they were already compromised by weak governance, limited monitoring capacity, and fragmented institutional responsibilities. Environmental protection institutions operated with constrained mobility and resources, limiting enforcement and preparedness even before the current escalation.

Total damages are estimated at US\$151.5 million, reflecting widespread degradation of environmental assets and environmental service infrastructure. The conflict generated an unprecedented debris burden, estimated at 68.1 million metric tons as of October 31, 2025, contaminating urban areas with EO, asbestos (notably in refugee camps), and hazardous materials. Landfills became inaccessible, and uncontrolled dumping and open burning expanded across more than 200 temporary sites, now reduced to 56 sites, which are also receiving medical waste due to the destruction of treatment facilities. WASH infrastructure failure led to untreated wastewater released on land and into the sea, polluting soils and coastal waters. Coastal ecosystems suffered extensive damage, with 83 percent of the Gaza Strip's coastal zone fully or partially destroyed. Terrestrial ecosystems were also heavily impacted by extensive earthworks from military activities, leading to severe land degradation across forests and woodlands, grasslands, the Wadi Gaza Strip wetland, as well as built up areas, alongside increased risks of soil, groundwater, and air contamination.

Losses are estimated at US\$218.5 million, driven primarily by debris management requirements and the erosion of ecosystem services. Debris removal and management over a 10-year horizon accounts for roughly US\$2.38 billion, reflecting the scale of clearance and the assumed 50 percent recycling rate. Lost ecosystem services from wetlands, forests and woodlands, grasslands, and the coastal zone total about US\$34.0 million annually, reducing nature-based livelihoods and protective functions. These estimates are conservative, as major cost streams remain unquantified due to limited field data, including groundwater contamination, air pollution impacts, and broader health costs. Persistent EO contamination also imposes economy-wide constraints by delaying safe access, clean-up, reconstruction, and service restoration across sectors. Costs associated with the removal and disposal of EO are estimated at US\$541.2 million.

Figure 16: Impacted select natural resources



Source: RDNA team

Environmental collapse is intensifying health and livelihood risks. Families are exposed to untreated wastewater, hazardous waste, and smoke from burning solid waste (including plastics) to produce improvised diesel substitutes due to the severe fuel shortage; while contaminated land and coastal waters undermine food security and income. Debris and EO restrict humanitarian access and delay safe return, with thousands feared buried under rubble.

The volume of debris and the presence of explosive ordnance constitute major constraints to recovery. One of the most pressing constraints to recovery in the Gaza Strip is the extensive amounts of debris resulting from the escalation of conflict. The current estimate of over 68 million metric tons of rubble that have been generated by the conflict in the Gaza Strip is a substantial figure that poses significant challenges to the restoration of critical infrastructure and services. Debris removal is an immediate cross-sectoral priority but also a long-term challenge as it affects sectors such as transportation, housing, cultural heritage, and the delivery of public services. Given the scale of debris, coordination between local authorities, international partners, and private contractors will be necessary to expedite the clearance and disposal processes and expand recycling opportunities, including to make up for scarce building materials. A critical element in debris clearance is the dignified removal and documentation of the human remains and the survey and disposal of EO: thousands of bombs and ammunition are deeply buried or remain unexploded under the debris (munitions have a 10–15 percent failure rate).

Recovery and Reconstruction Needs: US\$2.65 billion

Total recovery and reconstruction needs are estimated at US\$2.65 billion to enable safe clean-up, rehabilitation, and a more resilient, climate-smart recovery. Short and medium-term priorities focus on implementing the debris management framework (immediate needs: critical routes for public and humanitarian access; damaged critical infrastructure to facilitate repair and rehabilitation works; areas designated for the establishment of temporary shelters and other humanitarian activities); rapid environmental and EO hazard assessments to identify pollution hotspots; restoring safe medical waste handling; stabilizing waste and wastewater practices to protect soils, groundwater, and the marine environment; and developing practical safeguards so recovery investments across all sectors avoid maladaptation and further environmental harm. Long-term priorities include sustained debris clearance and recycling, EO disposal, remediation of contaminated land and hotspots, and restoration of damaged ecosystems, alongside rebuilding environmental monitoring, laboratories, and institutional capacity. When managed through a circular recovery approach, debris clearance can reduce environmental harm, create employment, supply secondary construction materials, and accelerate recovery across housing, transport, and municipal services.

Box 4: Clearing debris and explosive ordnances

An estimated 68 million tons of debris cover the Gaza Strip, including infectious and medical waste and contaminated by untreated wastewater, fuel, hazardous materials, and explosive ordnance (EO). This debris poses immediate and severe risks to public health and to soil and groundwater, in a context where untreated wastewater and other hazardous materials are already contaminating the soil and marine environment. Debris and EO removal and safe management are not only prerequisites for recovery and reconstruction, but urgent priorities to prevent further health, environmental, and safety impacts of the conflict.

Endorsed in January 2025, the Debris Management Framework was developed through a collaborative process involving national authorities, UN agencies, international NGOs, technical clusters, and specialized partners in mine action, environment, housing, and recovery. It establishes a coordinated, risk-managed approach that prioritizes reuse and recycling of debris to support early recovery and reconstruction, with disposal used only as a last resort in line with the debris hierarchy. The Framework sets safeguards for hazardous waste, explosive ordnance, cultural heritage materials, and the dignified handling of human remains, while promoting local labour opportunities and aligning debris management with livelihoods generation and the restoration of infrastructure and services.

The Debris management framework can be found <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/gaza-debris-management-framework-version-6-29th-january-2025>

LAND

Damages: US\$11.5 million

Losses: US\$155.3 million

Before October 2023, land was among the Gaza Strip's most scarce and contested resources, divided across dense urban areas, agricultural zones, public land, former settlements, and refugee camps. Approximately 63 percent of land was privately owned, around 35 percent classified as public land, and about 2 percent designated as Waqf land, with former settlement land estimated to account for between 6.1 and 12.6 percent of total land area depending on boundary definitions. A complex legal legacy spanning Ottoman, British Mandate, Egyptian, Jordanian, Palestinian laws, and Israeli military laws created overlapping claims and unclear rights. Land was broadly classified as private (Mulk), state (Miri), Waqf, former settlement land, and refugee camp land, with roughly two-thirds privately owned. Large portions of agricultural land fell within Israeli-declared Access-Restricted Areas extending up to 1,500 meters from the boundary fence, substantially constraining land use and access. The land administration authority operated with reasonable technical capacity from multiple offices, using geodetic reference points and largely digitized records. However, high transaction costs, fragmented governance, and limited public trust in formal registration persisted.

Damage to the Gaza Strip's land administration system is estimated at US\$11.5 million, but the functional impact is far deeper than the monetary value. The destruction of land administration offices severely damaged the land information system, including cadastral records, digitized files, and essential surveying archives. Most geodetic reference points—first, second, and third order—are presumed fully destroyed, along with roughly 80 percent of the 218,000 property boundary beacons that anchor parcel maps. This erasure severely compromises the ability to reconstitute parcel boundaries or verify ownership. The combined loss of institutional data and personal documentation has sharply heightened tenure insecurity, complicating land rights, inheritance, and compensation. Without reliable records or physical markers, reconstruction planning and fair allocation of land will depend on extensive re-surveying, community validation, and time-sensitive and locally led dispute-resolution mechanisms.

Total losses over the past two years are estimated at US\$155.3 million, caused mainly by the collapse of land administration services and related livelihoods. Of these, US\$139.5 million represents lost revenue from property registration and transactions as formal transfers and surveying halted. US\$5.9 million reflects job losses among Palestinian Land Authority (PLA) staff. US\$9.9 million accounts for lost income for surveyors, valuers, conveyancers, and lawyers. Beyond these measurable flows, restrictions on land access, temporary exclusion zones, and contamination have reduced land-based livelihoods in agriculture and other sectors. Uncertainty over future land rights further erodes household assets and collateral value; this can weaken local economies and complicate recovery planning, triggering instability. At the time of the ceasefire [9 October 2025], the Israeli military control in Gaza effectively ruled out Palestinian access to and use of more than half of the land in the Gaza Strip.

The collapse of land administration and widespread loss of ownership documents leave families unsure whether they can reclaim or rebuild homes or fields, fueling anxiety, disputes, and exclusion. By mid-2025, more than 65 percent of owners had lost property documents, with women disproportionately affected. Women and other vulnerable groups face heightened barriers to inheritance, restitution, and participation in rebuilding decisions. The institutional and personal record loss, combined with the sustained loss of access to land across Gaza, has sharply increased tenure insecurity and also jeopardizes transparent allocation of land for reconstruction.

Recovery and Reconstruction Needs: US\$33.6 million

Recovery needs for the land sector total US\$33.6 million, on account of institutional rebuilding required to restore cadastral systems, geodetic networks, and land governance functions essential for reconstruction. Immediate needs amount to US\$15.5 million, while short-term requirements total US\$18.1 million, together forming the backbone of early recovery efforts. Short and medium-term actions center on rebuilding Palestinian Land Authority offices, reinstating geodetic reference points, re-surveying damaged parcels, restoring cadastral information, and launching an integrated spatial plan to guide sectoral investments. Community engagement and legal aid are essential throughout to document ownership, resolve disputes, and support the return of displaced families. Together, these interventions aim to restore trust in land governance and provide the foundation for an orderly, equitable recovery where HLP rights are respected.

Long-term priorities focus on re-establishing a modern and resilient land administration system capable of supporting reconstruction planning, transparent land allocation, and secure tenure for all households, including vulnerable groups across the entire Gaza Strip.

Box 5: Protection of Housing, Land and Property Rights as a Priority

The conflict has resulted in widespread destruction of housing, mass displacement, homelessness. Complex challenges for return and reconstruction related to housing, land and property include ongoing insecurity, movement restrictions, debris and unexploded ordnance, and limited building materials. The situation is further complicated by the loss of housing and land records, fragmented legal frameworks, and lack of documentation, which hinder property rights protection, create tenure insecurity, and fuel disputes over land use and inheritance. Vulnerable groups, especially women, face additional barriers to reclaiming property and accessing assistance.

HLP rights of the population should underpin all recovery and reconstruction efforts. A clear governance framework for addressing HLP rights will be essential, with immediate priority on locally-led alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. Clear property rights enable rebuilding efforts, help displaced individuals reclaim their homes or land, and support economic stability by encouraging property investment. Displaced persons are particularly vulnerable to forced evictions because they often do not have the legal protection associated with having formal permissions and agreement to use housing and land. Combined with alternative dispute resolution, HLP programming can prevent violence and contribute to peacebuilding. HLP rights are vital for achieving durable solutions throughout the displacement cycle. Given that land and property issues cut across multiple sectors and involve a wide range of actors, and in the absence of a clear governance framework, there is a need for a broader HLP framework that ensures coherence, alignment, and a comprehensive approach to addressing these matters.

EMPLOYMENT

Damages: US\$16.8 million

Losses: US\$2.77 billion

The labor market and employment landscape in the Gaza Strip was already extremely fragile before the current war, having been impacted by decades of restrictions on the movement of individuals and goods imposed as part of the Israeli occupation, as well as 18 years of blockade imposed on the enclave, which has intensified during the conflict. Unemployment rates in pre-conflict Gaza Strip were some of the highest in the world, at 45.1 percent (67.7 percent for women and 39.2 percent for men). The labor underutilization rate in the Gaza Strip stood at a massive 52.8 percent (77.2 percent for women and 44.7 percent for men). Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have long grappled with persistently high rates of poverty, unemployment, and vulnerability.

Damage to crucial labor market infrastructure amounted to US\$16.8 million, but this figure masks the vast costs of intangible assets lost to the labor market. The destruction includes nearly all labor market infrastructure—ministry buildings, regional employment services, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) schools, and the offices of trade unions and employers' representatives. Enabling these actors to fulfill their mandate with adequate capacity will cost much more than the physical reconstruction of facilities.

Employment losses in the Gaza Strip have accumulated to 252,300; as a consequence, cumulative income losses over the two years of conflict equal US\$2.77 billion. The widespread loss of income sources has left families with no means to meet basic needs, creating a severe humanitarian crisis. As people lost their jobs and income streams, the ability to afford food and shelter has become out of reach for many. While most of the losses were driven by the conflict's impact on men, women were also severely affected, experiencing significant employment and income losses. Their pre-conflict low levels of labor market participation have further exacerbated their disadvantaged position. While public sector employment initially remained

stable (albeit with substantial income losses due to partial pay), the increase in employment losses in comparison to the February 2025 IRDNA is largely driven by a faltering of public sector employment. The largest cumulative employment losses remain in the private sector, where the vast scale of destruction means that enterprises have lost most of their productive capital, hindering a swift recovery of employment during reconstruction. Skills atrophy will pose an additional challenge, not least among the many young people whose learning or early work experience was interrupted due to the conflict. The functioning of labor market institutions is also severely hampered.

Recovery and Reconstruction Needs: US\$1.24 billion

The expected recovery needs for the Gaza Strip accrue to US\$1.24 billion. The recovery strategy calls for a mix of employment generation measures, wage subsidies, skills training, entrepreneurship support, and support to crucial institutions such as local employment service centers, childcare centers, social partners, and TVET schools. These measures will support immediate employment and wage recovery, while laying the foundation for an inclusive and sustained labor market recovery. The first priority is to create employment and support skills training through public works programs, supporting particularly the integration of vulnerable groups. This should be accompanied by social protection measures and a set of support measures for enterprises, including wage subsidies and recovery grants. Strong coordination between broader labor market policy and sectoral strategies is needed.

GOVERNANCE

Damages: US\$240.4 million

Losses: US\$107.2 million

Based on data provided by the High Judicial Council, prior to the conflict there were 10 functional courthouses in the Gaza Strip. After two years of conflict, approximately 90 percent of governance and rule of law facilities have been destroyed, with damages between 2023 and the ceasefire in 2025 estimated at US\$240.4 million. As a result, delivery of governance, justice and security services has been decimated. Overall, the facilities of government, justice sector and civil police in the various directorates in Gaza have been destroyed. Civil defense capabilities have also been impacted, as significant amounts of emergency response vehicles and equipment have been damaged or destroyed. Civil defense facilities have become inoperable and only 4 of 12 fire and rescue vehicles remain partially operational.

Since the conflict, public administration, justice and service delivery, particularly to the most vulnerable, has been severely affected by the losses incurred by civil servants and civil society due to lost wages, death, injury or displacement. **Losses related to wages are estimated at US\$27 million.** The estimated needs also include restoration of civil society capacities and outreach, given their centrality in the provision of social services and contribution to government accountability and transparency.

Recovery and Reconstruction Needs: US\$526.7 million

The cost of recovery and reconstruction is estimated at US\$526.7 million, focused on early recovery and institutional resilience. Immediate priorities include the provision of temporary administrative facilities and equipment to support restoration of civil governance functions (e.g., civil registration, documentation), establishment of mechanisms for citizens to confidentially report alleged violations, and restoration of an operational capacity of Civil Defense and Civil Police systems and processes. Medium-term recovery needs include rebuilding prison, judicial, and policing facilities, reestablishment of case management, and legal aid, and ensuring accountable security sector capacities including training and strengthening oversight.

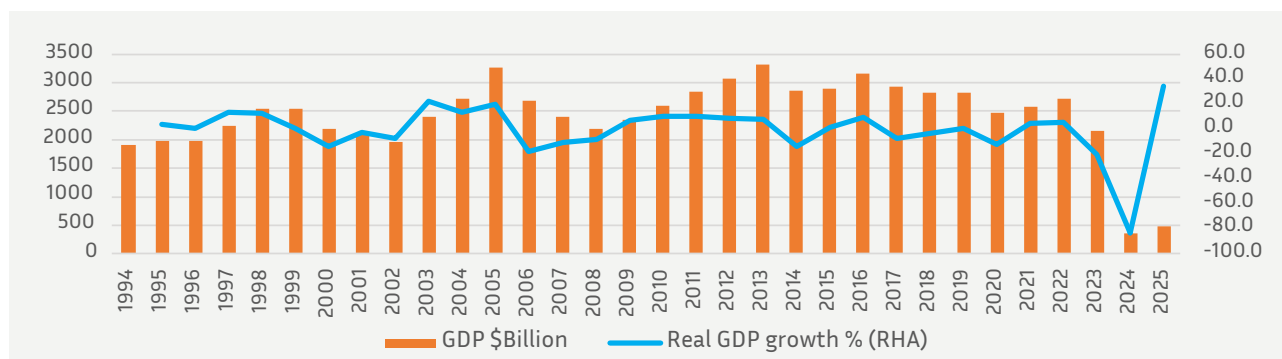
MACROECONOMIC IMPACT

The Gaza economy has incurred unprecedented losses as a consequence of the recent conflict. The loss of life, widespread destruction, and the speed of damage to infrastructure have reached levels among the most severe in the recent history of the MENA region and global episodes of conflict.⁴⁴ The conflict inflicted substantial and enduring damage across all economic sectors, severely impacting both tangible assets and household incomes. Together with the significant loss of human capital, these effects are expected to exert a prolonged and heavy burden on Gaza's economy in the years ahead.

To quantify the impact of the conflict on Gaza's economy, damage data across all sectors contributing to Gaza's GDP was collected, with a cutoff date of October 10, 2025, immediately after the current ceasefire agreement was signed. The impact of the conflict on the capital stock of sectors contributing to Gaza's GDP was computed through bottom-up sector-specific assessments. The assessments encompassed productive, social, infrastructure, and cross cutting sectors. The overall estimated damages incurred from the conflict amounted to US\$35.2 billion. The capital stock shock in each sector was then integrated into a Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) model tailored for Gaza, enabling the estimation of its impact on real GDP.

Economic activity in Gaza was extremely constrained in the last two years, with limited ceasefire-related improvements in 2025 insufficient to reverse widespread economic paralysis. In 2024, economic activity in the Strip nearly came to a complete halt as the economy contracted by a devastating 83 percent, year-on-year (y-o-y), in real terms. In 2025, economic activity picked up very modestly during the first and fourth quarters, primarily due to the presence of a ceasefire for much of these periods, although episodes of destruction persisted. This resulted in an estimated increase in Gaza's real GDP exceeding 30 percent (y-o-y) in 2025, largely reflecting a low base effect after the historic contraction of the previous year, rather than any meaningful recovery in economic activity. Most sectors remained largely inactive through 2025, with only minimal activity observed in wholesale and retail trade as well as a narrow set of public services.

Figure 17: Real GDP and real GDP growth in Gaza (1994-2025)



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and World Bank

Gaza has been reduced to a fraction of its pre-conflict size, leading to a collapse in incomes and resulting in some of the lowest living standards globally. Gaza's economy has been reduced to around 18 percent of its pre-conflict size, in real terms. Its share of the overall Palestinian economy declined from 17 percent before the conflict to less than 4 percent currently, even though Gaza hosts more than 40 percent of the Palestinian population. Gaza's real GDP per capita is expected to have declined to around USD200 by the end of 2025. This is currently the lowest in the World Bank's database, followed by Burundi, the Central African Republic and Madagascar.⁴⁵ The conflict has significantly widened divergence between the two Palestinian territories since Gaza's real income per capita currently represents only 5 percent of the West Bank's.

The conflict resulted in major shifts in the labor market in Gaza. According to the latest official data,⁴⁶ the Strip has witnessed severe job losses, soaring unemployment, and major shifts in work patterns. Unemployment

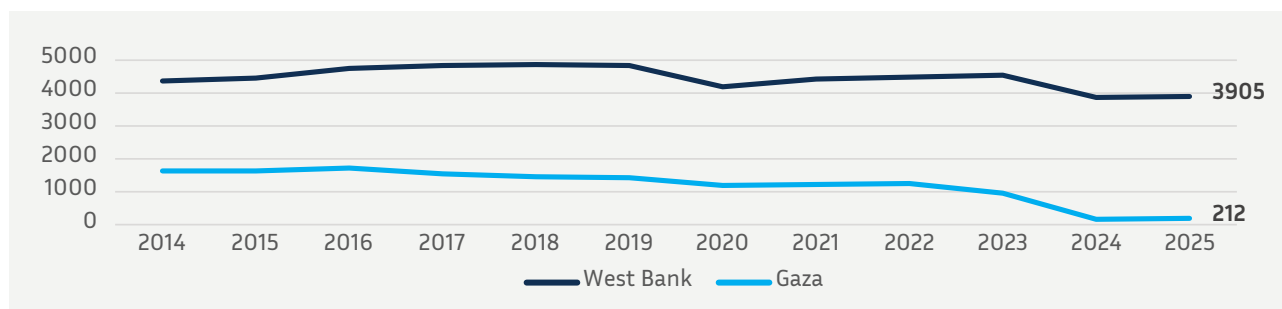
44 World Bank, Note on the Impacts of the Conflict in the Middle East on the Palestinian Economy, 2024; available at <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/db985000fa4b7237616dbca501d674dc-0280012024/original/PalestinianEconomicNote-Feb2024-Final.pdf>

45 <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.KD>

46 https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/portals/_pcbs/PressRelease/Press_En_EconomicForecast2026E.pdf

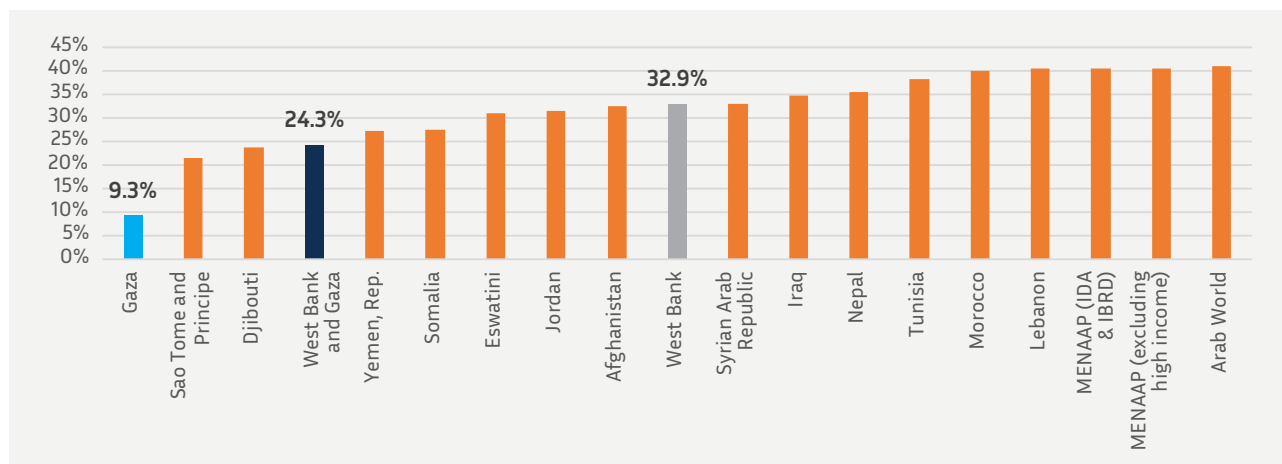
reached an unprecedented rate of 78 percent in 2025, up from 22 percent prior to October 2023. Nearly three-quarters of Gaza’s pre-conflict employed population lost their jobs, resulting in an employment-to-population ratio of 9.3 percent in the Strip.⁴⁷ This, and job losses in the West Bank, resulted in a thirteen percentage point decline in the combined ratio for the West Bank and Gaza, positioning it among the lowest in the World Bank database (see Figure 18) ⁴⁸. Over 80 percent of employees in Gaza were unable to work due to extensive workplace destruction, roadblocks, and transportation disruptions, as well as on-site challenges such as power outages or supply shortages. Employment in Gaza is concentrated in public administration, including social security (29.7 percent), and retail trade (33 percent). More than 60 percent of workers have been displaced to shelters, camps, or informal settlements due to conflict-related destruction.

Figure 18: Real GDP per capita, constant 2015 USD (2014-2025)



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and World Bank

Figure 19: Employment-to-population ratio (%)



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and World Bank

Prices in Gaza have experienced exceptional fluctuations over the last two years. Consumer price inflation (CPI) increased by 238 percent y-o-y in 2024, driven by food and transport costs. After the first ceasefire started in January 2025, and the increase in the amounts of aid supplies and food allowed into Gaza, CPI registered a decline for two consecutive months. With the end of the ceasefire in March 2025, hostilities resumed, and restrictions were reimposed on the movement of goods through commercial crossings. As a result, prices skyrocketed again until the recent ceasefire took effect in October 2025, when prices started going down. The latest available official price data from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics shows that prices in Gaza increased by 22 percent in 2025 compared to 2024.⁴⁹

47 https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/portals/_pcbs/PressRelease/Press_En_LFRepGazaQ42024E.pdf

48 The chart includes countries with the lowest employment-to-population ratios in the WB database, regional comparators and relevant country groups. Employment-to-population ratios are for the year 2024, except for Gaza (November-December 2024), West Bank (Q4 2024) and Lebanon (2023). The combined ratio for West Bank and Gaza is a World Bank estimate. The ratios for the West Bank and for Gaza are presented separately to highlight the large regional divergence.

49 https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/portals/_pcbs/PressRelease/Press_En_CPI2025E.pdf

Table 4: Recovery and Reconstruction Needs and Priority Actions⁵⁰

Sector	0 to 8 months	9 to 18 months	1.5 to 3 years	3 to 5 years	Total estimated needs
Social sectors					
Housing	US\$1.9 billion	US\$2.16 billion	US\$7.38 billion	US\$4.77 billion	US\$16.21 billion
	Repair partially damaged homes, deploy temporary housing and emergency cash assistance, initiate debris clearance and damage assessments, and establish material supply and skills training centers.	Advance repairs and begin reconstruction of destroyed units, expand temporary housing and cash support, complete beneficiary mapping and audits, and roll out resilient building codes and land development regulations.	Accelerate large-scale reconstruction of destroyed housing and rehabilitation of damaged units, expand material centers and workforce capacity, and advance land demarcation and area-based urban recovery planning.	Complete the majority of reconstruction through climate-resilient, gender-responsive, and disability-inclusive urban redevelopment	
Education	US\$0.63 billion	US\$0.79 billion	US\$1.88 billion	US\$1.42 billion	US\$ 4.71 billion
	Resume learning through temporary learning spaces, alongside initial rubble clearance, workforce mobilization, and emergency institutional support.	Scale up school rehabilitation and reconstruction, restore and train education workforce (US\$169m), expand disability support, and strengthen institutional capacity.	Advance large-scale reconstruction of schools and tertiary institutions (remaining share of US\$1,086m), with continued workforce development and inclusive education investments.	Complete reconstruction and consolidate resilient, inclusive education systems through sustained workforce, disability inclusion, and institutional strengthening investments.	
Social Protection	US\$0.91 billion	US\$1.38 billion	US\$2.81 billion	US\$0.70 billion	US\$5.78 billion
	Prioritize universal cash and food assistance, protection and case management services, and initial restoration of social protection infrastructure and payment systems.	Sustain large-scale cash assistance while strengthening social registry systems, expanding protection services, restoring service centers and financial infrastructure, and scaling coordination under the humanitarian-development nexus.	Gradually transition toward more targeted and means-tested benefits, expand livelihood and economic empowerment programs, and consolidate national delivery systems and digital payment platforms.	Institutionalize a sustainable, adaptive, and shock-responsive social protection system.	
Health	US\$0.83 billion	US\$1.74 billion	US\$3.17 billion	US\$4.30 billion	US\$10.03 billion
	Restore essential health services through temporary facilities and field hospitals, initiate reconstruction of damaged facilities, and address urgent needs in trauma care, mental health, nutrition, infectious disease control, workforce stabilization, and medical evacuations.	Scale up rehabilitation and reconstruction of hospitals and PHCs, expand service delivery across priority programs, strengthen epidemic preparedness, and restore health information and governance systems.	Accelerate large-scale reconstruction and commissioning of facilities, sustain expanded service delivery for NCDs, rehabilitation, and mental health, and consolidate workforce and system strengthening investments.	Complete reconstruction of key infrastructure, modernize and rationalize the health network, and institutionalize sustainable, integrated, and shock-responsive health systems	

⁵⁰ The distribution of recovery needs follows proven RDNA methodology and is based on the recovery needs (and associated costs) estimated by sector specialists for each timeframe.

Sector	0 to 8 months	9 to 18 months	1.5 to 3 years	3 to 5 years	Total estimated needs
Cultural Heritage	US\$0.02 billion	US\$0.05 billion	US\$0.07 billion	US\$0.09 billion	US\$0.23 billion
	Stabilize and protect damaged heritage sites through cash-for-work, provide financial support to cultural professionals, and deliver psychosocial assistance through cultural activities	Strengthen institutional capacity, implement structured capacity-building programs, and revitalize intangible cultural heritage and creative practices to restore sector functionality.	Initiate phased reconstruction and rehabilitation of priority heritage sites while advancing institutional strengthening and cultural registry updates.	Complete full reconstruction and rehabilitation of damaged cultural heritage sites, restoring cultural infrastructure and reinforcing culture.	
Infrastructure sectors					
Energy	US\$0.39 billion	US\$0.36 billion	US\$0.93 billion	US\$1.04 billion	US\$2.73 billion
	Secure fuel for critical services, deploy mobile solar PV kits and diesel generators, repair main feeder lines, and restore minimum electricity supply to health, WASH, telecom, and shelters.	Rehabilitate the Gaza Power Plant and key substations, expand medium- and low-voltage distribution networks, scale hybrid PV systems with battery storage, and restore service delivery operations.	Scale up centralized and decentralized generation capacity, expand transmission infrastructure, strengthen grid management systems (MIS, SCADA), and reinforce institutional and operational capacity.	Modernize and expand the energy system through higher-capacity interconnections, potential GPP expansion and conversion to gas, large-scale solar integration, and full system stabilization.	
Information and Communications Technology	US\$0.08 billion	US\$0.12 billion	US\$0.18 billion	US\$0.12 billion	US\$0.5 billion
	Restore essential mobile and broadband connectivity through rapid repairs to second-generation mobile sites, deployment of temporary mobile towers and interim internet solutions, and provision of generators and solar backup systems.	Expand infrastructure rehabilitation, initiate fourth-generation mobile network rollout, scale fiber-to-the-home deployment in priority areas, strengthen operational capacity, and reinforce regulatory and institutional frameworks.	Accelerate backbone and access network modernization, expand fiber and mobile broadband coverage, enhance data centers and digital public infrastructure, and consolidate workforce development and system resilience.	Complete full sector reconstruction and modernization, including nationwide fiber-to-the-home expansion, upgraded mobile networks, strengthened cyber security and data governance frameworks, and institutional consolidation.	
Municipal Services	US\$0.05 billion	US\$0.12 billion	US\$0.29 billion	US\$0.40 billion	US\$0.86 billion
	Prioritize debris removal, restoration of solid waste management, repair of critical municipal service infrastructure, provision of fuel and equipment, temporary municipal facilities, and immediate salary and operational support to restore basic services.	Scale up rehabilitation and reconstruction of municipal administrative buildings, markets, warehouses, and waste facilities; expand landfills and equipment capacity.	Advance infrastructure modernization, reinforce municipal revenue and financial sustainability systems, expand digital services, and strengthen governance, planning, and accountability mechanisms.	Consolidate long-term municipal resilience through urban regeneration investments in public spaces, institutional reforms, improved financial autonomy, and sustainable operations and maintenance systems.	
Transport	US\$0.03 billion	US\$0.33 billion	US\$0.11 billion	US\$1.07 billion	US\$1.54 billion
	Rebuilding resilient transport infrastructure to support humanitarian aid corridors, including national and primary roads and bridges and the restoration and rehabilitation of the border crossings	Reconstruction of Secondary, Tertiary and agricultural roads and support to public transportation including buses	Continuation of rebuilding of primary, secondary and tertiary roads	Reconstruction of ports, reconstruction of transport ministry and airways offices and continuation of rebuilding of primary, secondary and tertiary roads	

Sector	0 to 8 months	9 to 18 months	1.5 to 3 years	3 to 5 years	Total estimated needs
WASH	US\$0.41 billion Restore minimum water and sanitation services through emergency repairs, fuel supply, water trucking, temporary sanitation, hygiene support, and initial infrastructure rehabilitation.	US\$0.45 billion Scale up rehabilitation of water supply, sewage, and stormwater systems, restore treatment plants and networks, and strengthen service provider operations.	US\$1.12 billion Advance large-scale reconstruction of desalination, wastewater treatment, and bulk supply infrastructure while improving operational efficiency.	US\$2.24 billion Build a resilient and sustainable water and sanitation system through expanded desalination, wastewater reuse, renewable energy integration, and strengthened institutional governance.	US\$4.24 billion
Productive sectors					
Commerce & Industry	US\$1.92 billion Provide urgent repair and reconstruction of establishments, machinery replacement, wage support, and working capital to rapidly reactivate businesses and restore market functionality.	US\$2.02 billion Scale up reconstruction and equipment replacement, expand wage and working capital support, and enable firms to participate in broader recovery and rebuilding efforts.	US\$2.64 billion Advance large-scale reconstruction of destroyed establishments, develop commercial zones, and transition from emergency support toward structured financing and resilience-focused rebuilding.	US\$2.42 billion Complete reconstruction and modernization of business infrastructure, consolidate financial instruments, and strengthen long-term competitiveness and digital transformation	US\$8.99 billion
Finance	US\$0.56 billion Provide additional capital to preserve banks' and microfinance institutions' solvency, support lending recovery, restore priority branches and payment infrastructure, and expand digital payments and supervisory capacity.	US\$0.03 billion Strengthen credit guarantee mechanisms, continue infrastructure restoration, enhance regulatory frameworks, and expand digital systems and cybersecurity.	US\$0.02 billion Advance financial inclusion programs, dispute resolution mechanisms, cross-border payment restoration, and institutional capacity building.	US\$0.005 billion Consolidate digital transformation, regulatory reforms, supervisory strengthening, and sustainable financial sector governance	US\$0.61 billion
Agriculture and Food Systems	US\$2.64 billion Emergency Stabilisation including on lifesaving large-scale food and nutrition assistance, rapid rehabilitation of minimal productive capacity and urgent repairs to irrigation and water systems.	US\$4.87 billion Scaling Up Productive Recovery of crops, horticulture, livestock, and fisheries recovery; accelerated reconstruction of markets, storage, and processing facilities; and significant ramp-up of poultry meat production and small-scale fishing capacity	US\$2.70 billion Consolidation of production gains, completion of major irrigation investments, continued rehabilitation of tree crops and orchards and scaling of olive-oil and other value chains.	US\$0.28 billion Resilient and Climate-Adapted Transformation including longer-term investments in perennial systems and institutional strengthening for extension, research and cooperative systems.	US\$10.49 billion

Sector	0 to 8 months	9 to 18 months	1.5 to 3 years	3 to 5 years	Total estimated needs
Cross-cutting sectors					
Environment	US\$0.15 billion	US\$0.44 billion	US\$0.59 billion	US\$1.47 billion	US\$2.65 billion
	Implement risk-managed debris removal and recycling, explosive ordnance clearance, hotspot clean-up, emergency health waste management, and environmental damage assessments.	Scale debris processing, hazardous waste treatment, ecosystem restoration, monitoring systems, and groundwater and soil remediation planning.	Advance large-scale land restoration, coastal and wetland recovery, infrastructure for environmental monitoring, and institutional capacity strengthening.	Consolidate ecosystem restoration, aquifer protection, emissions management, and resilient environmental governance systems.	
Employment*	US\$0.78 billion	US\$0.47 billion	US\$0.05 billion	US\$0.00 billion	US\$1.24 billion
	Launch public works programs, temporary employment schemes, and wage support to restore incomes and integrate vulnerable groups.	Scale wage subsidies, enterprise recovery grants, and skills training through vocational institutions and employment service centers.	Strengthen entrepreneurship support, labor market institutions, childcare services, and social partner coordination.	Consolidate inclusive labor market recovery through sustained job creation, skills development, and institutional resilience.	
Governance*	US\$0.08 billion	US\$0.06 billion	US\$0.39 billion	US\$0.00 billion	US\$0.53 billion
	Restore core civil administration, temporary facilities, documentation services, and operational capacity of Civil Defense and Civil Police.	Rehabilitate judicial, policing, and detention facilities, and reestablish case management and legal aid.	Strengthen rule of law institutions, accountability systems, and security sector oversight.	Institutional strengthening and consolidate resilient, accountable governance systems.	
Land*	US\$0.004 billion	US\$0.01 billion	US\$0.009 billion	US\$0.007 billion	US\$0.03 billion
	Rehabilitate PLA offices, initiate capacity and training assessments, engage communities to document ownership, provide legal aid and dispute resolution support, and begin restoration of cadastral and geodetic systems.	Complete land administration restoration, update land records and boundaries, assess land supply and sectoral needs, strengthen dispute resolution, and prepare the integrated spatial plan.	Advance tenure regularization, finalize and implement the integrated spatial plan, strengthen dispute resolution mechanisms, and modernize land governance systems.	Establish a fully digital, transparent, and resilient land administration system that secures tenure, supports reconstruction planning, and ensures equitable land allocation.	

Source: RDNA team

*Data disaggregated across recovery periods are unavailable for this sector.



A child runs through the rainwater in the Gaza port area. @UNICEF/UNI901448/Nateel.

| Annexes

Annex 1: Definitions of Damages, Loss, and Recovery Needs

1. **Damages:** Refers to the total or partial destruction of physical assets, calculated based on damage caused by the conflict compared to pre-crisis conditions. The damage is assessed in physical units (e.g., square meters of housing) and is monetized based on the cost of replacement at pre-crisis prices.

2. **Damage intensity classification:** Assets are categorized based on the level of destruction:

- **Completely destroyed:** When structural damage exceeds 40 percent of the original asset, the asset is considered 100 percent damaged and its full replacement cost is used. For example, the building has sustained significant structural damage, including collapsed walls, roof destruction, and foundational damage.
- **Partially damaged:** For assets that have sustained damage of 20–40 percent, the calculation applies a 40 percent damage value to reflect partial loss.
- **Minimally damaged:** If damage is minimal (10–20 percent damage), such as broken windows or doors, 20 percent of the asset's replacement cost is considered.

3. **Losses:** Refers to economic flows disrupted by the conflict, such as loss of income in productive sectors or increased costs in service provision.

4. **Losses are categorized within key clusters:**

- **Public and private revenue losses:** This includes a reduction in government and private sector revenue losses (e.g., taxes, fees) due to the destruction of businesses and reduced economic activity. For example, a drop in commerce and manufacturing would directly affect government income from taxes, leading to broader economic losses.
- **Increased public and private operational costs:** Losses also include increased expenditures due to emergency service provision or operational disruptions. For example, a hospital may experience an increase in operating costs due to the higher demand for medical services and the need to bring in outside medical personnel at a premium cost during the conflict.
- **Employment losses:** Losses in both public and private sector employment as a result of the conflict, compared to pre-conflict levels. The most immediate losses come from declines in productivity and output across key sectors. This includes agriculture, commerce, industry, and services such as healthcare and education. For example, if a factory producing goods was destroyed, the loss in economic output would be calculated based on the factory's previous production capacity, revenue, and operating costs before the conflict.
- **Displacement-induced costs:** Losses from the conflict also include indirect impacts, such as the cost of displaced populations, unemployment, and reduced demand in surrounding unaffected regions. For example, farmers in the West Bank unable to sell crops due to trade restrictions or infrastructure disruptions would incur losses despite not being directly affected by physical damage.

5. **Damages and losses differentiate between public and private sectors:** Private damage and losses are not normally compensated, with recovery being substantially left to the marketplace or to targeted public funding as incentives, based on available fiscal resources.

6. **Needs:** Focuses on the financial resources necessary for recovery and reconstruction, in terms of physical infrastructure, service delivery, and technical assistance. The needs are calculated based on damage and loss assessments, adjusted for current market conditions, risks, and contingency allowances, and consider BBB principles. The needs are based on the broad assumptions of the respective sector analyses developed and refined over time.

Annex 2: Detailed Methodology and Approach

RDNA Methodology

1. The RDNA methodology is derived from the Global Post-Disaster Needs Assessment methodology to estimate conflict-induced damages, losses, and needs across all sectors included in the scope of the RDNA. The methodology used is very similar to the one used in the original IRDNA, details of which can be found in the IRDNA Report's Annex 2.⁵¹ Given the Gaza Strip's volatile and data-constrained environment, technology and innovative analytical approaches had to be deployed, including several tiers and tools for data acquisition, validation, and triangulation. These include:

Multi-source ground data acquisition, verification, triangulation, and ground-truthing through UN agencies, PA line ministries, humanitarian actors, civil society actors, and other developmental partners.

Remote sensing: high-resolution imagery (30 centimeters) and SAR for damage data collection and verification, enumeration, baseline verification, damage and loss characterization and quantification. Social media analytics were also used to triangulate conflict impacts and estimate the state of service delivery across sectors.

The RDNA utilized IRDNA ab-initio techniques that leveraged Gaza Strip-based engineers and quantity surveyors engaged to conduct detail rate analysis for establishing pre- and post-crisis replacement costs across more than 500 categories of reconstruction and recovery within the 18 sectors. Unit rates were triangulated with official government data, construction industry rates, and a market survey.

ESTIMATION OF DAMAGES

2. Damages represent the physical destruction of assets in the affected areas and are quantified based on the pre-crisis condition of those assets. The damage assessment provides a backward-looking analysis, aiming to capture the extent of destruction across various sectors. The calculation of damages involved the following steps:

- **Asset typology:** To begin the process, the sector teams confirmed the assets that should be considered for the RDNA. These are largely derived from the previous 2025 IRDNA; for additional sectors, new asset typologies have been proposed.
- **Baseline valuation:** The first step in damage calculation is to establish the pre-crisis value of the physical assets. This requires assessing assets based on their condition and replacement cost just before the crisis.
- **Replacement costs:** The cost to rehabilitate or replace the damaged or destroyed assets is calculated using pre-crisis prices for construction materials, labor, and equipment.

ESTIMATION OF LOSSES

3. Losses refer to the disruption of economic flows and increased costs in providing services resulting from the conflict. Losses are forward-looking and continue until full recovery is achieved. The calculation of losses focuses on changes in production, service delivery, and economic activity over a defined period.

⁵¹ World Bank, European Union, and United Nations. February 2025. Gaza and West Bank Interim Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment: February 2025. <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/133c3304e29086819c119fe8e85366b-0280012025/original/Gaza-RD-NA-final-med.pdf>

ESTIMATION OF NEEDS

4. Needs refer to the financial resources required for recovery and reconstruction activities for each sector. These include the restoration of physical assets, the rebuilding of infrastructure, and the reestablishment of services. Needs must be proportionate to the conflict impact in various sectors, and draw upon broad assumptions in the sector analyses that have been developed and refined over time, and factoring in multi-year inflation, costs for BBB, and resilience building and security premiums.

5. For this RDNA, needs have been estimated using the following principles and processes:

- Needs for reconstruction are based on the damage and loss assessments for various sectors and also take into account the current replacement cost of materials, labor, equipment, and land-related costs, adjusted for inflation or market fluctuations.
- In addition to physical reconstruction, recovery needs are estimated to include investments in “softer” components such as staffing, equipment, and materials needed to restore service delivery to pre-crisis levels.
- Estimation of unit rates for recovery and reconstruction factoring in the capital cost of reconstruction: Given the complexities of rebuilding in the Gaza Strip, needs estimation factored in costs pertaining to additional variables such as localization specifics, risk and contingency allowances, quality standards adjustments, and the reconstruction premium, such as investments in durable, resilient infrastructure aligned with BBB and BFB principles.
- Calculations are based on composite unit rates calculated through a multisource unit rate analysis and triangulation for more accurate estimation of recovery needs.
- Development of a recovery calendar for each sector, used for estimation progression and accumulation of losses until recovery is completed, and for developing a phased approach to reconstruction and recovery efforts, estimating needs over the short term (18 months), medium term (1.5 - three years), and long term (three- five years).

Limitations and Constraints

6. The following caveats indicate the limitations and constraints that affect the RDNA methodology and results for the Gaza Strip:

- **Time horizon** – Needs are estimated for a standard five year horizon, as any deviation is subject to high uncertainty around future conditions, institutional arrangements, and financing in Gaza. Longer-term needs would anyway need to be refined through follow-on sector planning and investment processes as conditions allow. The RDNA is not a replacement for in-depth sector-specific assessments.
- **Capital and operating expenditures** – CapEx and OpEx could not be calculated for all sectors due to data limitations. Where data permitted, these calculations have been made and included in the report. In-depth sectoral assessments will need to be conducted in order to generate a full set of capital and operating expenditures for recovery planning and investment purposes.
- **Baseline** - One of the more complicated parts of the RDNA relates to the characterization and quantification of loss data. Given the absence of baseline loss data, the RDNA team developed an innovative approach adopted to Gaza Strip context under which a loss module was developed that quantifies and characterizes losses on the basis of around 300 variables across the 18 sectors.

To mitigate some of the data limitations, the RDNA used different tiers of data acquisition, validation, and triangulation including: (i) ground data acquisition through UN agencies and line ministries; (ii) ground data verification through UN and World Bank sector teams; (iii) triangulation through civil society organizations, and other partners; (iv) use of remote analytical techniques (e.g. high-resolution satellite imagery and social media analytics) for damage verification, enumeration, baseline verification, damage and loss characterization and quantification and conflict-induced damage isolation.

