

21 May 2025

Statement of the Director of Health of UNRWA

on

Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan Documents A78/16, A78/B/CONF./1 and A78/B/CONF./1 Add.1

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

UNRWA remains a lifeline for Palestine refugees across Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem. Despite immense challenges, we have never stopped delivering health services.

In **Gaza**, we continue to operate health centers in both original and temporary premises. Medical points are functional inside and outside shelters. Since 7 October 2023, we have provided **8.5 million medical consultations**—UNRWA is the **largest provider of primary health care** in Gaza.

In the **West Bank**, including East Jerusalem, our health centers remain operational. We have adjusted our services in response to increasing insecurity, especially in areas like Jenin.

But this resilience comes at a cost. In Gaza, **over 300 UNRWA staff** have been killed, including **14 health workers**. Only **6 out of 22 health centers** are currently functional. In the West Bank, **three health centers** remain closed due to security risks.

The **humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza is beyond words**. The IPC has warned that the **entire population faces famine risk**. Our health data confirms a **sharp rise in malnutrition**.

Due to Israeli legislation, we are **blocked from bringing life-saving medicines** into Gaza. **Over 30% of essential medicines** are out of stock. We have these medicines ready—in **Jordan and Egypt**—and can deliver them immediately if access is granted.

Finally, UNRWA faces a **severe financial crisis**. Without urgent funding, we cannot sustain health or other services beyond mid-2025.

These are all solvable problems. The war must end. Hostages must be released. And above all, **the needless suffering of Gaza's people must stop**.

Thank you.