

Global Camp Coordination Camp Management Cluster Condemns Attacks on Displacement Sites in Gaza

Geneva/ Gaza, 27 May 2025 – The Global Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster is deeply alarmed by the escalating humanitarian crisis resulting from the renewed Israeli military offensive across the Gaza Strip, which has forcibly displaced almost 180,000 people between 15-25 May.

The latest wave of displacement comes as direct attacks on sites have become common, including deadly airstrike on tents in the al-Mawasi area and a school-turned-shelter in Gaza city. Intensifying military operations across North Gaza, eastern Khan Younis, and eastern Deir al Balah over the past ten days have also caused numerous casualties.

The Global CCCM Cluster unequivocally condemns attacks on displacement sites in the strongest terms. These sites serve to protect displaced civilians, in line with the enduring obligation under international humanitarian law to ensure the safety and dignity of civilian populations in all circumstances.

As one Palestinian aid worker in al-Mawasi describes, civilians are facing deep exhaustion and trauma of repeated displacement. "I'm so tired. We've been forced to move before and [our family] got split up—it didn't help. My sibling died in a 'safe' zone after they bombed it. They call places safe, then attack them. I'd rather stay home with my family and face whatever comes, at least we all die together, rather than be separated."

Since the collapse of the ceasefire on 18 March, nearly 616,000 people have been displaced—multiple times, some as many as ten. During the ceasefire, over half a million people went back to their homes, mostly in the North, to try to rebuild their lives. That fragile progress has now been reversed, as intensified military operations are once again displacing families away from the areas they had only recently returned to.

Humanitarian partners now estimate that 80 per cent of the Gaza Strip, originally only 365 square kilometres, is under displacement orders or marked as "no-go" zones. Nowhere in Gaza can be considered safe, however, as airstrikes and fighting affect the entire Strip. Civilians are being pushed into increasingly overcrowded and hazardous displacement sites. Since 18 March, over 260 sites hosting over 125,000 individuals have been impacted by displacement orders, forcing many to relocate once again, while others remain in place, still exposed to hostilities and lacking options for safer refuge.

With the ongoing aid blockade, there has been no guarantee of shelter, assistance, or protection for civilians. Constant movement restrictions and indiscriminate strikes on civilian infrastructure, including shelters, schools, hospitals, and tents, over the last 19 months have continuously exposed civilians to immense danger and raise grave concern. Furthermore, the Cluster also raises significant concern over newly proposed alternative supply modalities. These arrangements risk circumventing established humanitarian coordination mechanisms, undermining humanitarian principles and putting civilians at further risk by promoting displacement without essential protection or adequate access to lifesaving services.

Humanitarian operations worldwide are guided strictly by the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence-these apply equally in Gaza. Aid must be delivered solely based on needs, not military or political considerations. Humanitarian actors must maintain the ability to meet people where they are, whether in communities or displacement sites, to assess risks, vulnerabilities, and deliver assistance to those most in need. The <u>UN-coordinated plan</u> to resume principled aid delivery is the only humanitarian solution to reach displaced communities in Gaza with the support they need to survive.

Despite severe restrictions, humanitarian partners have continued to deliver lifesaving assistance and essential services across Gaza. The primary obstacle remains not a lack of will or capacity, but the access constraints imposed by Israel.

The Global CCCM Cluster calls for an immediate end to attacks on displacement sites, unimpeded and sustained humanitarian access, and the protection of civilians irrespective of their location. We stand in solidarity with displaced communities in Gaza and reaffirm our commitment to a coordinated, community-led, and protection-centered humanitarian response.

Note to Editors

Since its activation in February 2024, the Site Management Cluster for the Occupied Palestinian Territory has monitored population movements in Gaza during major waves of displacement, tracking return patterns during the ceasefire and issuing flash updates following its collapse, as displacement orders and militarized "no-go" zones rapidly expanded. This ongoing monitoring directly informs a coordinated, data-driven humanitarian response, ensuring that aid efforts remain grounded in humanitarian principles and tailored to the evolving needs of displaced communities.

For more information and reports on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, please visit the <u>Global CCCM Cluster</u> <u>website</u>.