



# Palestinian Education *Still Under Attack:* Restoration, Recovery, Rights and Responsibilities in and through Education

# **Education *still* under attack**

**Gaza & West Bank, Including East Jerusalem - Since October 2023**

**1.5+ million children**  
denied their right to schooling  
in Gaza and West Bank,  
including East Jerusalem

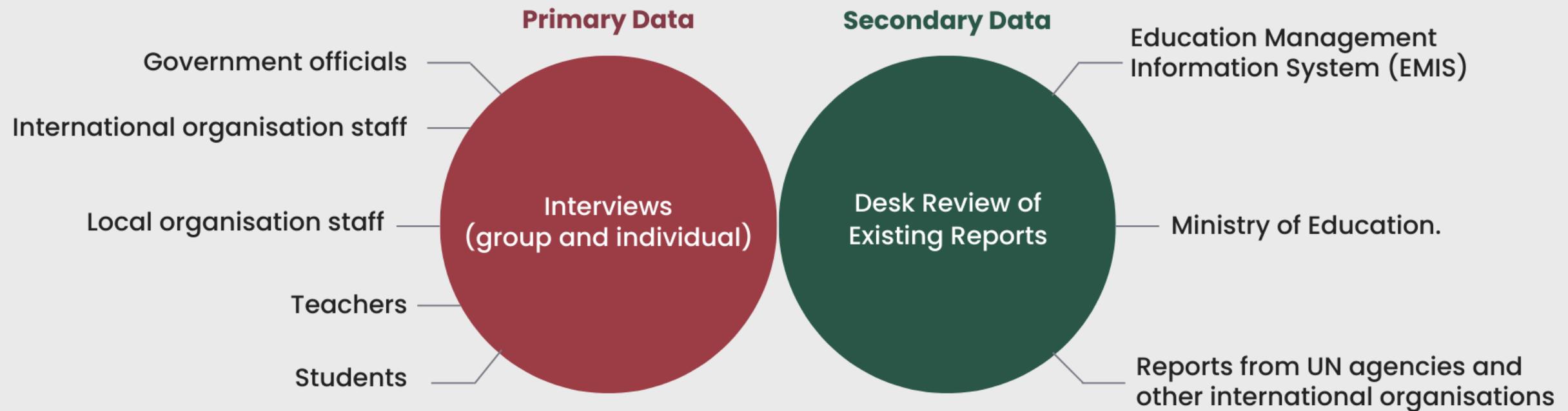


**All children in Gaza are  
currently out of formal  
education.**

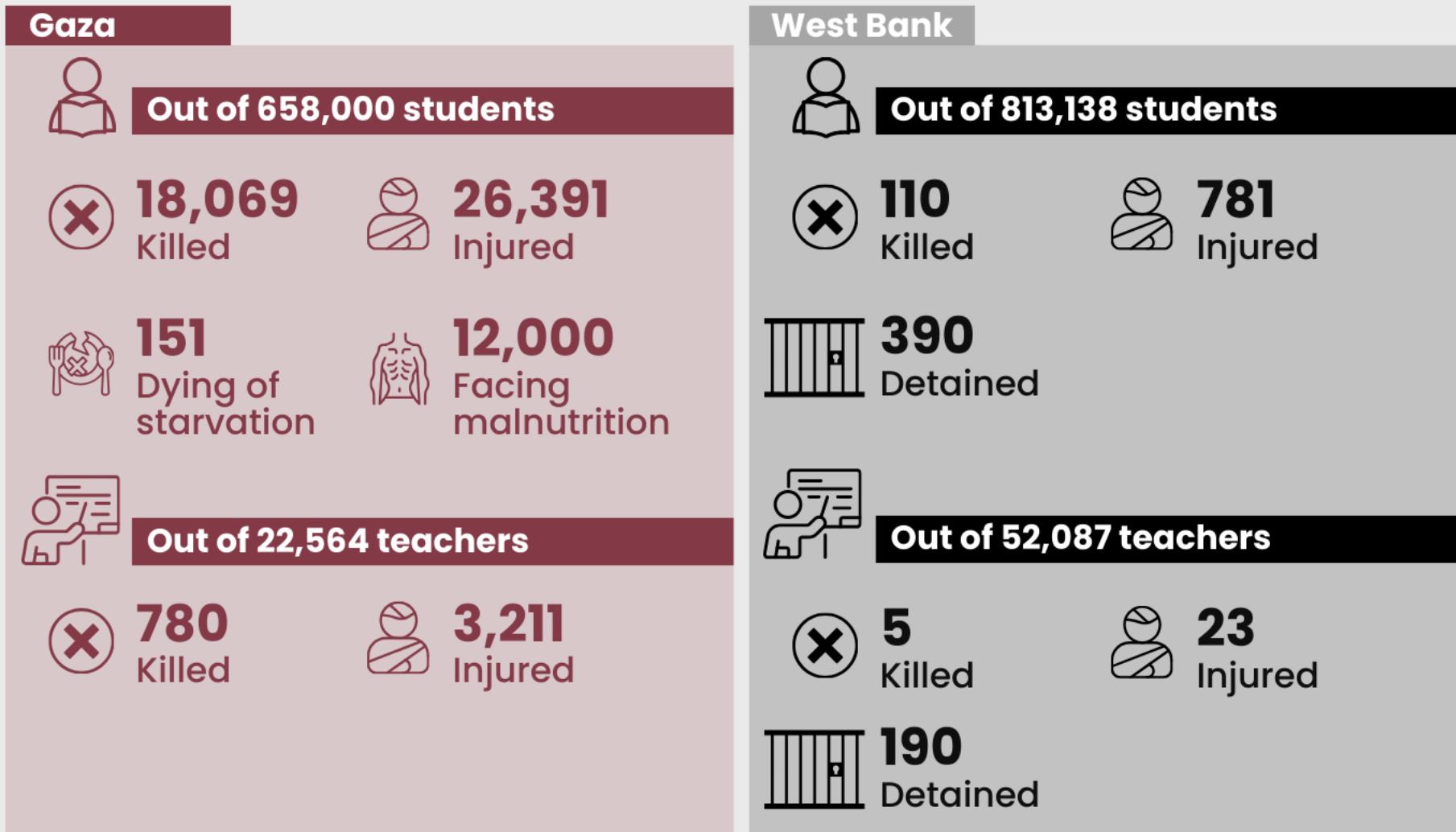
# Timeline



# Data for this Report



# Many students and teachers killed and injured



Source: OCHA Humanitarian Situation Update, October 2025 and Occupied Palestinian Territory Education Cluster Report on Schools at Risk, October 2025

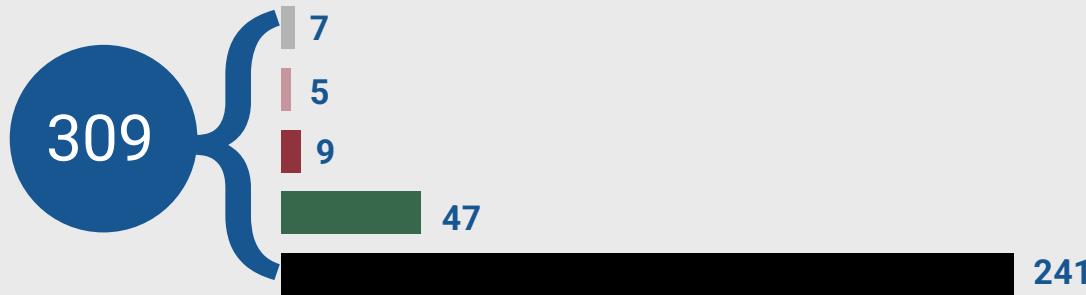


# Education under attack in Gaza

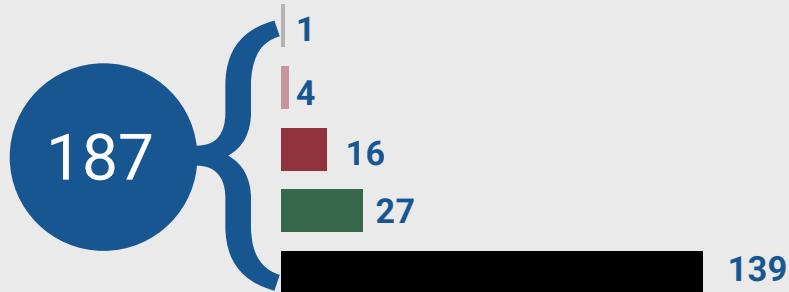
# Almost all schools destroyed since October 2023



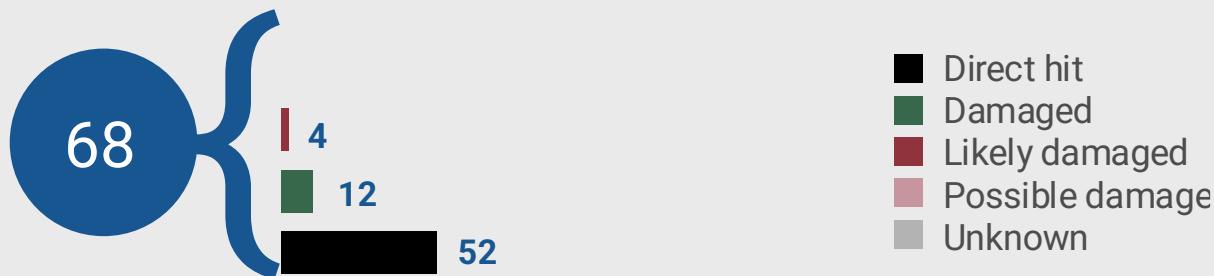
Governmental



UNRWA

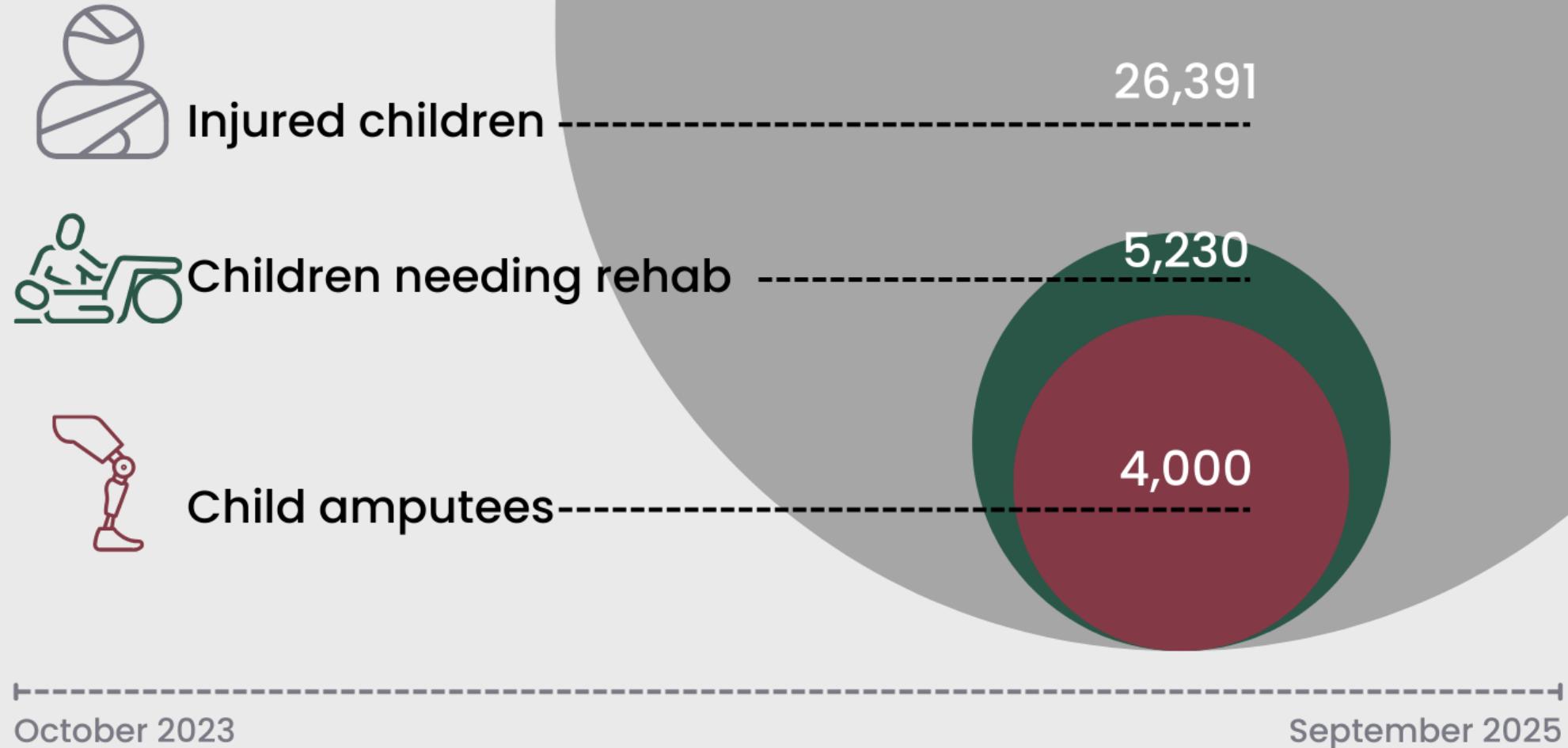


Private



- Direct hit
- Damaged
- Likely damaged
- Possible damage
- Unknown

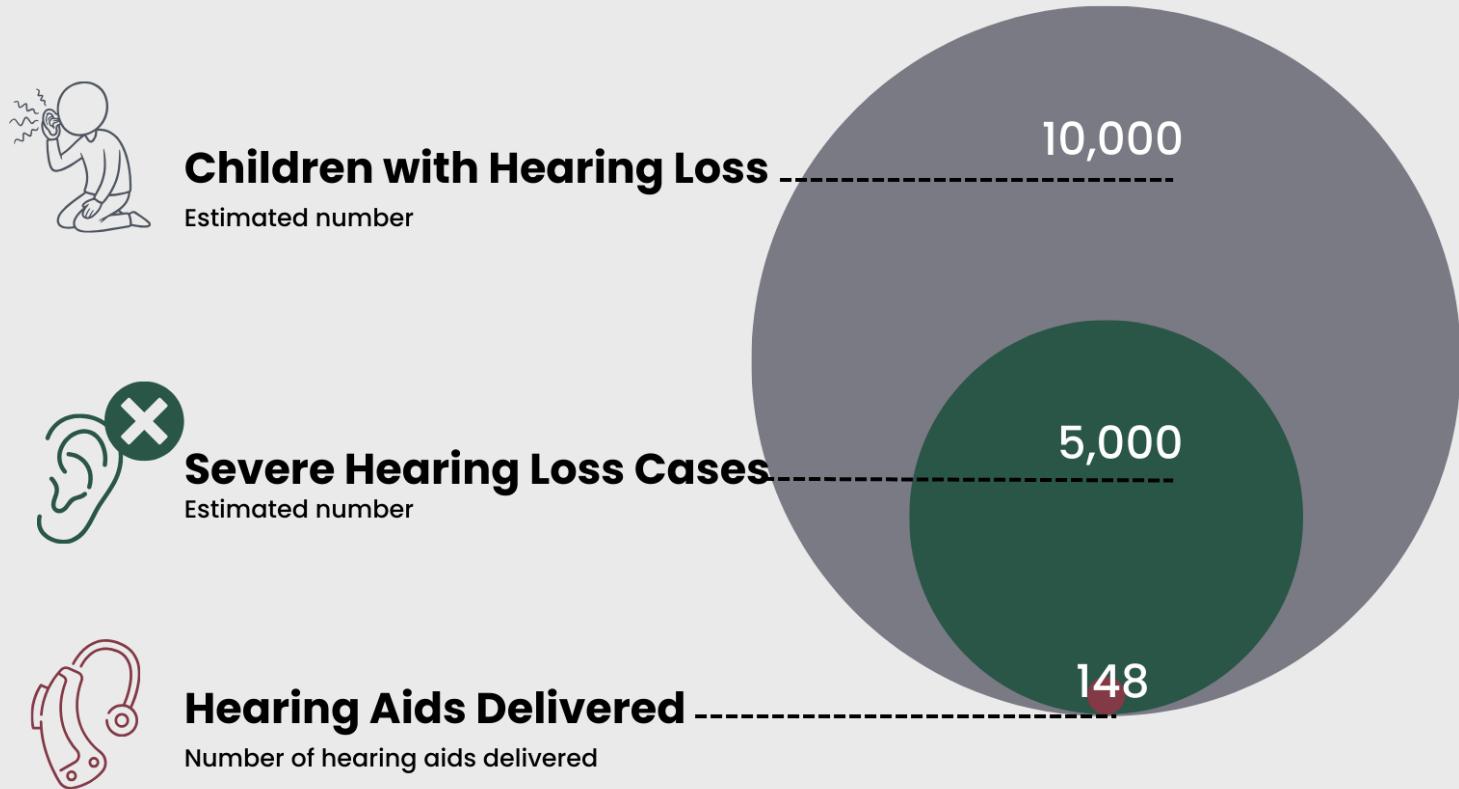
# Substantial war-induced disabilities since October 2023



Source: International Rescue Committee. 2025

# Constant bombardment has led to hearing losses

*“An estimated 55,000 children are at risk of having hearing loss if no immediate intervention is provided for them. Many hearing aids have been destroyed...even hearing devices are also not allowed to enter Gaza in 7 months.”*  
(Local organisation staff)



*“Some people and children with disabilities cannot access food and water... so not all shelters are inclusive... They [children with disabilities] are especially vulnerable and starving.”*  
(Local organisation staff)



# The war has impacted girls and boys differently



**690,000+** menstruating girls and women lack menstrual hygiene supplies and water



**75%** of monthly sanitary pad needs unmet due to fivefold price increases



**95.3%** of girls report inability to use toilets safely during displacement



Increased child labour and hazardous survival work (e.g. scrap metal collection)



Rise in aggression due to bullying, lack of humanitarian assistance and neglect.



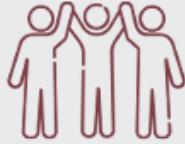
**1,889 people**, mostly boys and young men, killed while seeking food (May-Aug 2025)

# There is a danger of a generation of lost learning

Schools reopen 2025	Schools reopen 2026	Schools reopen 2027
<p><b>Years of learning lost</b></p>   <p><b>5 years</b></p>	<p><b>Years of learning lost</b></p>     <p><b>7.5 years</b></p>	<p><b>Years of learning lost</b></p>       <p><b>10 years</b></p>

Trauma accounts for 0.5 years of learning loss per year; hunger accounts for 1 year of learning loss per year.

# ***“The school continues, but without the building.”***



**From October 2023 to  
August 2024**

- Some education spaces were established focusing mainly on **recreational activities.**

**From August 2024**

- **Temporary Learning Spaces**
  - **570** during the Jan- March ceasefire, fell to **287** by August
- **Distance Learning**
  - **296,028** students enrolled in UNRWA's distance learning programme, **90%** sat final online exams.
- **Tawjhi**
  - **30,000** students took exam in 2025.

# Teachers and counsellors on the frontline

Despite living under 18 years of blockade, over two years of intense bombardment, and starvation, **teachers have demonstrated commitment to serving their communities** and affirming their students' identity and their right to education.

*“We know that they [many teachers] have lost children themselves. They have been displaced. Many of these women - you know, we have a large female workforce of teachers in Gaza - many of them have lost husbands and so are the sole breadwinners... we know from our work with teachers that they want to be teaching.”*

Teachers and counsellors have taken on additional roles alongside their teaching, supporting shelter management and food distribution..

*“Teachers in Gaza are held in high regard. They are very respected in their communities and so we know that teachers are also part of this rebuilding of Gaza as a **community pillar** and as somebody who the community unites around to be able to rebuild and reestablish some semblance of normalcy in Gaza.”*

*(International organisation staff)*



# Projected teaching assistants required for remedial education in Gaza



Schools reopen 2025



3-years'  
recovery



1-year  
accelerated

Years of learning lost



Teaching assistants required



**1,371**



Schools reopen 2026



3-years'  
recovery



1-year  
accelerated

Years of learning lost



Years of learning lost



Teaching assistants required



**2,056**

Teaching assistants required



**6,169**

# Projected costs of teachers 2025



**30%** of injured or traumatised teachers do not return



**No** injured or traumatised teachers are able to resume teaching

**1743**

Replacement teachers needed



**1371 – 4113**

Teacher assistants for remedial



**\$416.52M**

All salary plus professional development



**\$32.32M**

Salary cost TAs

Total estimated cost

**US\$448.84M**

**3,991**

Replacement teachers needed



**1371 – 4113**

Teacher assistants for remedial



**\$429.1M**

Salaries, CPD, Remedial, Preparation

**\$32.32M**

Salaries cost for TAs

Total estimated cost

**US\$461.43M**

# Projected costs of teachers 2026



**30%** of injured or traumatised teachers do not return



**No** injured or traumatised teachers are able to resume teaching

**1,743**  
Replacement  
teachers needed



**2056 – 6169**  
Teacher assistants  
for remedial



**\$416.52M**  
All salary plus  
professional  
development



**\$48.48M**  
Salary cost TAs

Total estimated cost  
**US\$465.01M**

**3,991**  
Replacement  
teachers needed



**\$429.1M**  
Salaries, CPD,  
Remedial, Preparation



**\$48.48M**  
Salaries cost for  
TAs

Total estimated cost  
**US\$477.59M**



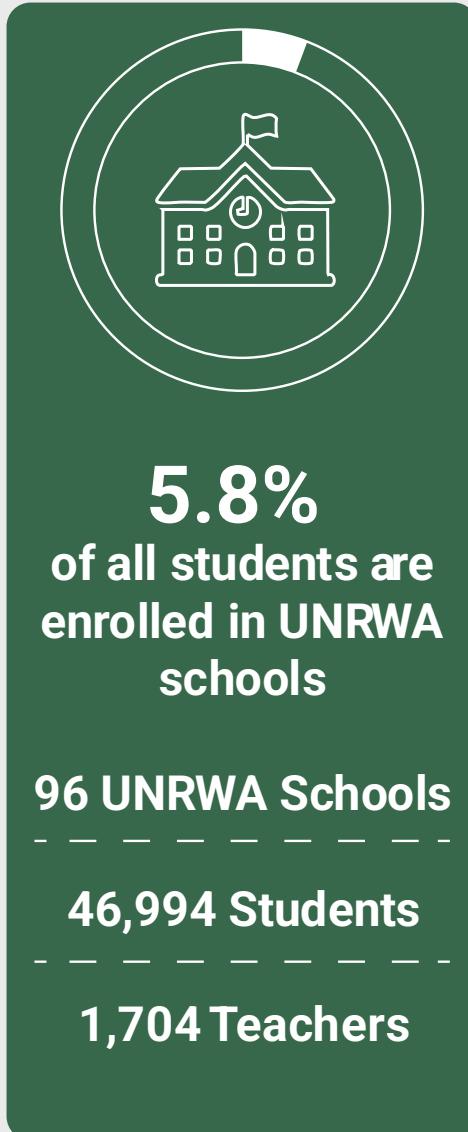
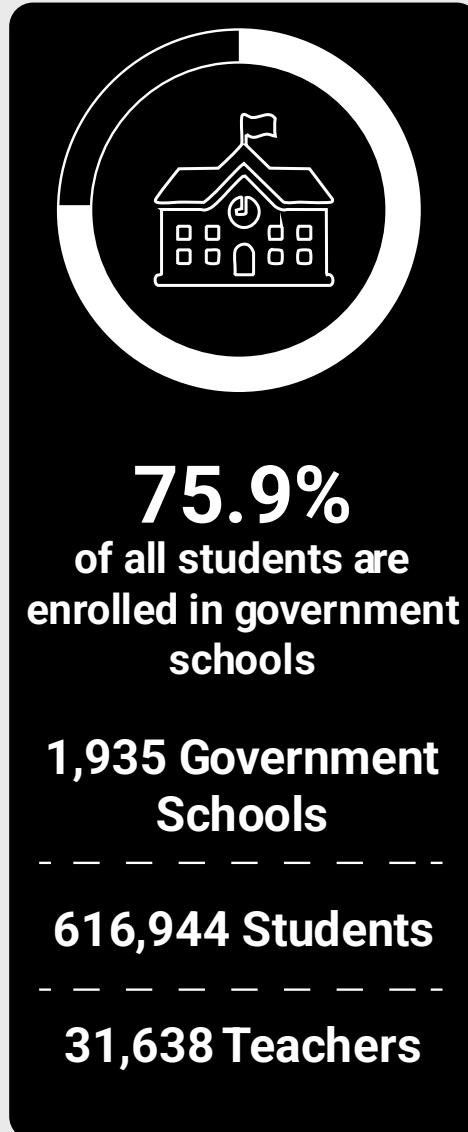
Gaza, 2025 © UNRWA photo

*“None of our education staff including myself have taken leave for 1 day since 7 October 2023. Some of our teachers are working day and night because we are operating shelters 24/7.” (International organisation staff)*



# Education under attack in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem

# Breakdown of schools, students and teachers in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem



# 2,040 education-related incidents disrupted schooling in West Bank, including East Jerusalem in 2024-2025



*“When you sit with the students, instead of talking to you about math and science, they start talking to you about how they saw their friend or neighbour shot.”*

(Government official)

# Girls and boys are impacted differently



## School Participation



Higher participation overall, but growing withdrawal due to safety risks during travel

## School Attendance



Lower attendance and higher dropout driven by economic pressure and early entry into labour

## Harassment & Surveillance



Disproportionately affected by harassment, settler violence, surveillance, and movement restrictions on routes to school



## Criminalisation & Violence

Significantly higher risk of arrest, detention, and violence, including raids in schools and homes

## Basic Needs & Dignity



Water cuts and shortages create added barriers linked to mobility, hygiene, and stigma



## Exposure to Military Operations

More likely to be targeted in military operations and public spaces, undermining learning and wellbeing

*“we have a huge amount of learning loss among our students...What they are seeing on the TV, hearing from their parents and seeing in their own eyes could affect their ability to focus inside the classroom and gain the knowledge and skills we are trying to provide.”*  
(International organisation staff)



# Attacks leading to significant learning losses in West Bank, including East Jerusalem

 Schools reopen 2025	 Schools reopen 2026	 Schools reopen 2027
<b>Years of learning lost</b>  <b>3.5 years</b>	<b>Years of learning lost</b>  <b>4 years</b>	<b>Years of learning lost</b>  <b>5.5 years</b>

# Remedial education will require preparing existing teachers as well as recruiting additional staff

 Schools reopen 2025



3-years'  
recovery



1-year  
accelerated

Years of learning lost



Teaching assistants required

 **815**

 Schools reopen 2026



3-years'  
recovery



1-year  
accelerated

Years of learning lost



Teaching assistants required

 **1,303**

Years of learning lost



Teaching assistants required

 **3,910**

# Projected costs of teachers 2025



**30%** of injured or traumatised teachers do not return



**No** injured or traumatised teachers are able to resume teaching

**12**  
Replacement teachers needed



**815 – 2444**  
Teacher assistants for remedial



**\$921.16M**  
All salary plus professional development



**\$19.2M**  
Salary cost TAs

Total estimated cost  
**US\$940.34M**

**28**  
Replacement teachers needed



**815 – 2444**  
Teacher assistants for remedial



**\$921.31M**  
All salary plus professional development



**\$19.2M**  
Salaries cost for TAs

Total estimated cost  
**US\$940.5M**

# Projected costs of teachers 2026



**30%** of injured or traumatised teachers do not return



**No** injured or traumatised teachers are able to resume teaching

**12**  
Replacement teachers needed



**1303 – 3910**  
Teacher assistants for remedial



**\$921.16M**  
All salary plus professional development



**\$30.7M**  
Salary cost TAs

Total estimated cost  
**US\$951.9M**

**28**  
Replacement teachers needed



**1303 – 3910**  
Teacher assistants for remedial



**\$921.31M**  
All salary plus professional development



**\$30.7M**  
Salaries cost for TAs

Total estimated cost  
**US\$952.1M**



Tulkarem, West Bank, 2025 © UNRWA photo

*“This is the most important message that we can send to the international community. Take your responsibility to support the Palestinian teachers and protect the right to education for our students and children, and support education in Palestine, starting by making the salaries for teachers regular and available.” (Teacher)*

*“We should not forget the teachers, the forgotten workers who are persisting, a portion of them are also in the displacement camps and have lost their homes, are renting, are financially struggling. The teacher is expected to have a good outlook in front of students even though they are in the same situation.” (Teacher)*



Gaza, 2025 © UNRWA photo

# Insufficient international financing for education

# Only a small proportion of education funding needs are met

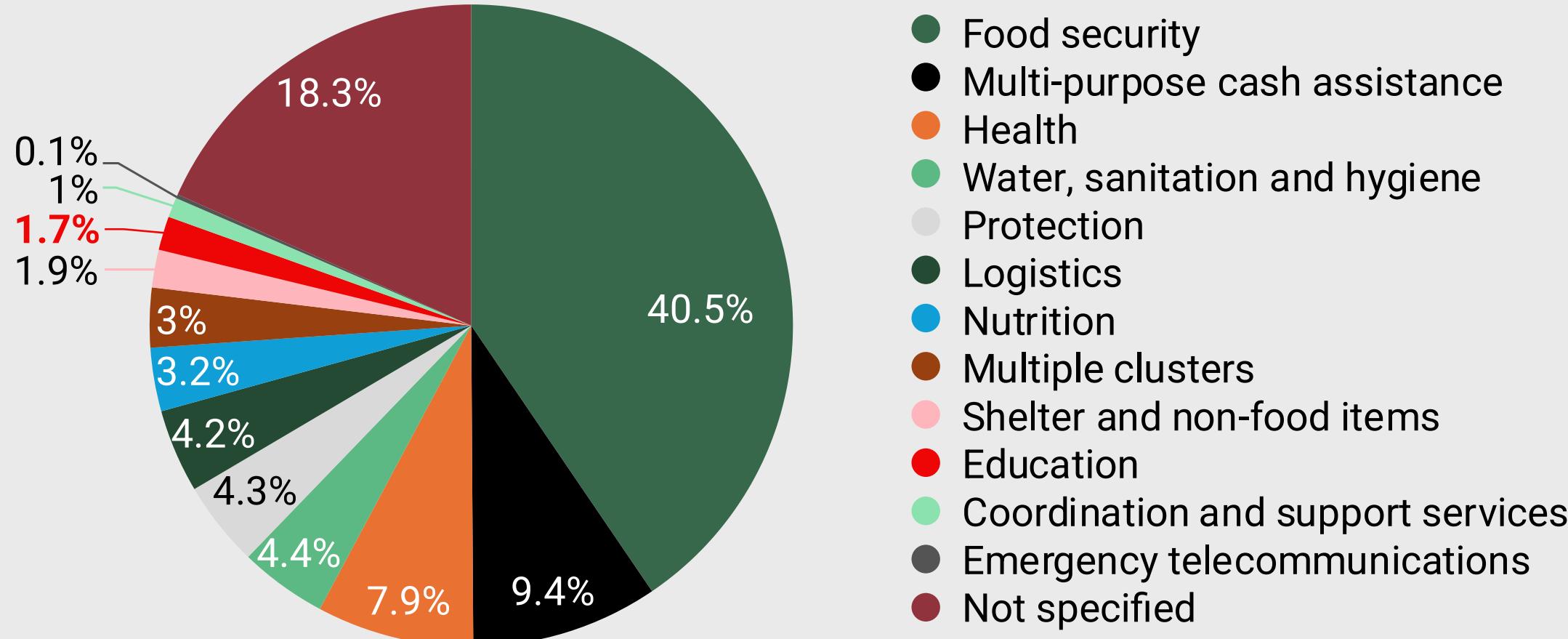
Only 5.7% funded



US\$230M requested

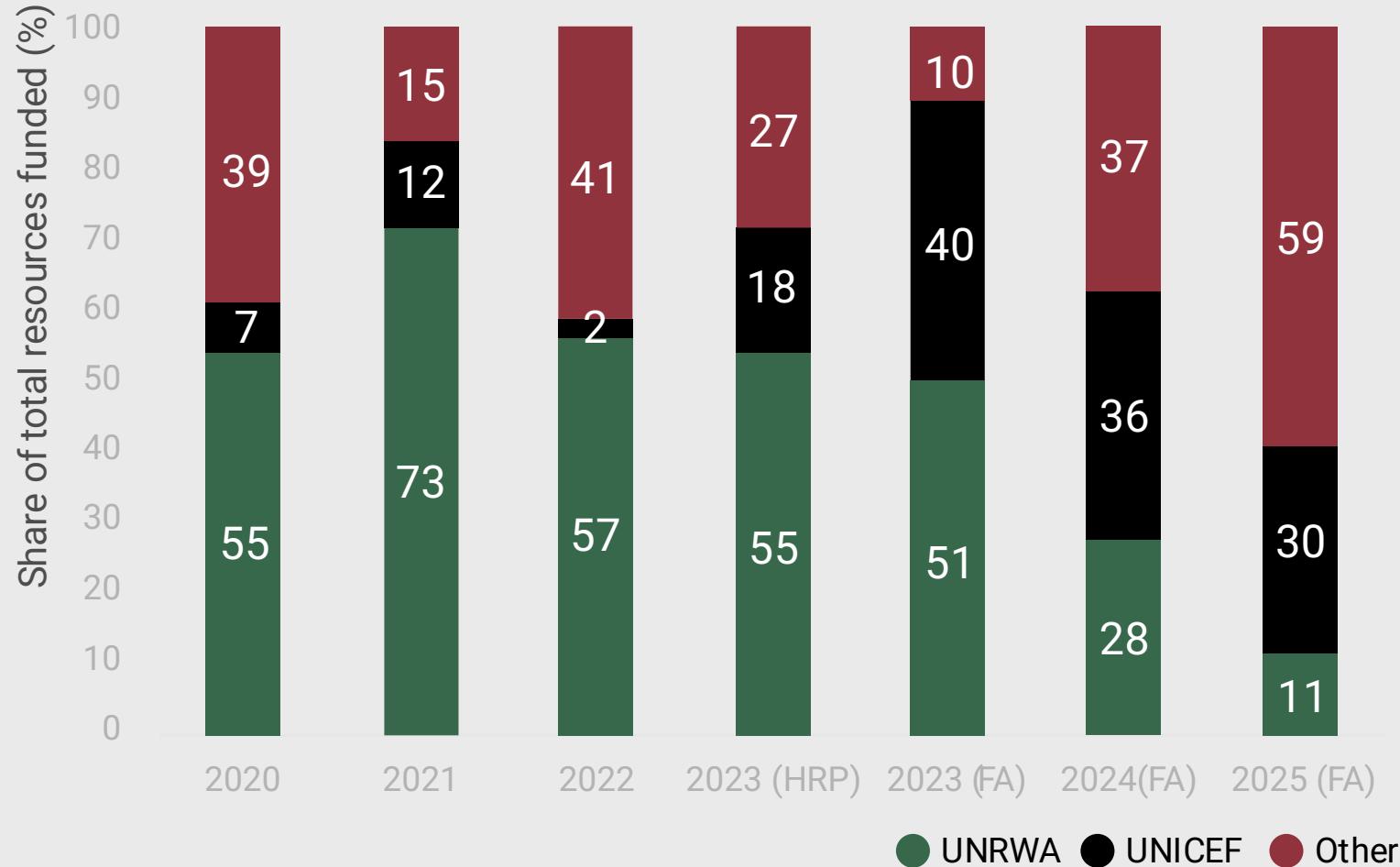
**94.3% funding gap**

# Education sector only receives 1.7% of total humanitarian aid funding



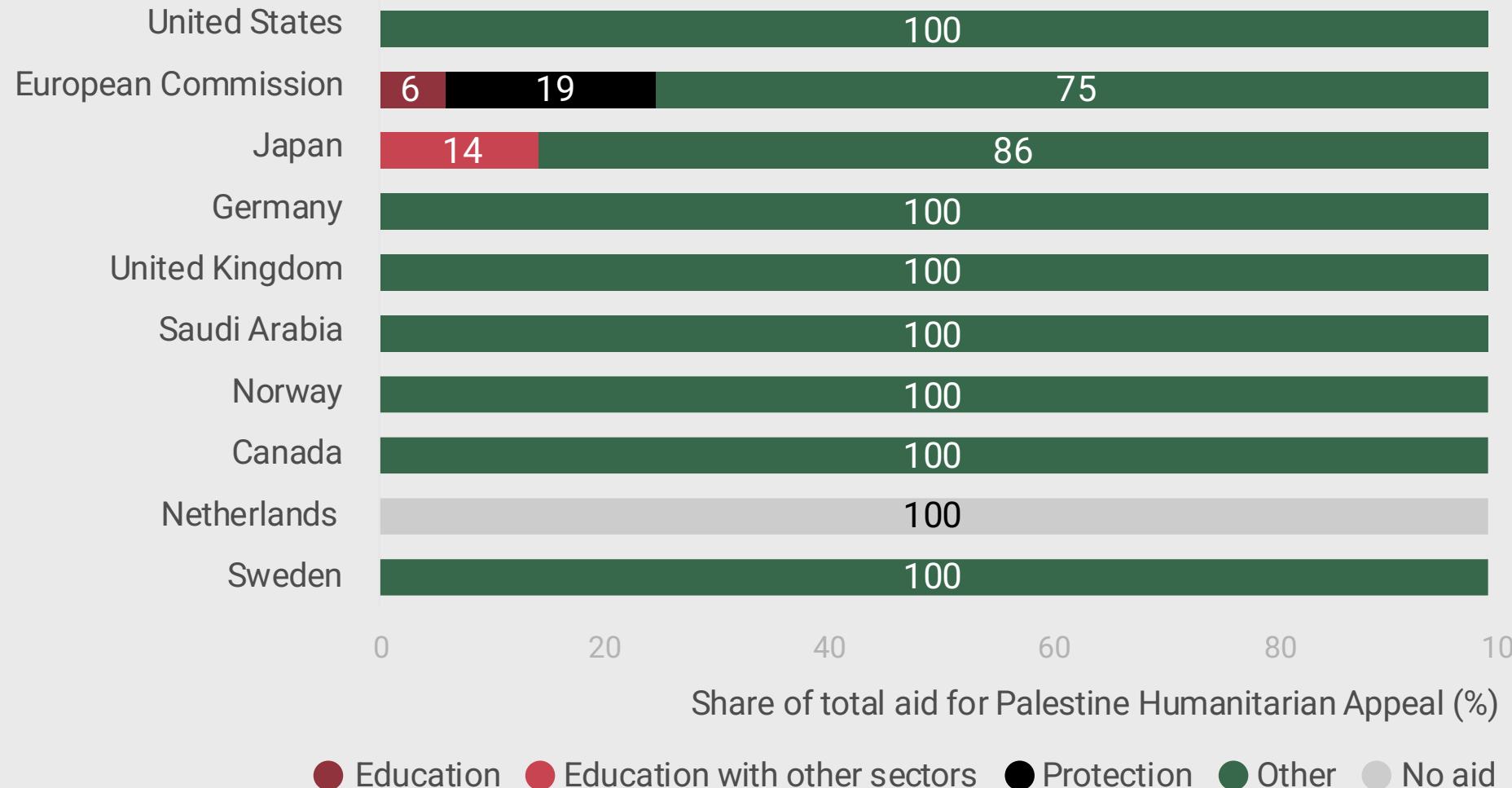
Source: Financial Tracking System, 2025

# Share of humanitarian aid to UNRWA has drastically fallen



Source: Financial Tracking System, 2025.

# In 2025, only one of the top ten humanitarian donors allocated aid to education



# Gaza's cost of education recovery and reconstruction: A massive funding gap



US\$ 8.8 billion

Office on the web Frame

for recovery and  
reconstruction over 5 years



Estimated needs for  
recovery and  
reconstruction are

**US\$ 1,155**  
per child



UNRWA's current  
cost per child is  
**US\$ 718**



Currently  
**US\$ 9**  
per child is being  
provided through  
humanitarian aid.



# Recommendations

*“The Palestinian community takes education as their full and most important priority. Palestinians ... do not sell their land. The land is associated with the dignity of the Palestinian family. The only justification in history for a household to sell the land is to educate their children ... If we lose the education system here, we lose everything. They are driving us to that point.”*  
(Government official)



# Rebuild safe, inclusive and resilient education systems



Treat education as an emergency service alongside food, health and shelter



Reopen schools with integrated psychosocial support, health, nutrition and WASH services



Provide students, teachers and counsellors with safe learning spaces in line with international humanitarian law



Strengthen education's protective role, including establishing child protection referral systems



Rebuild damaged schools using semi-permanent structures and plan permanent infrastructure



Restore essential housing, health facilities, electricity and other infrastructure essential for education

# Support learning and empower students



Restore learning through flexible, remedial and accelerated approaches



Provide psychosocial, nutritional and recreational support



Create inclusive, safe and supportive classrooms that recognise children's trauma



Strengthen child protection and cross-sector services



Secure foundational learning and timely Tawjihi exams



Ensure inclusion of children with disabilities through accessible learning environments

# Enable and empower teachers and counsellors



Increase the numbers of teachers, counsellors and teaching assistants based on assessment of needs



Ensure teachers salaries are paid in full and in a timely manner



Support teachers' and counsellors' wellbeing including shelter, food, livelihood and psychosocial support



Provide resources and continuous professional development for teachers and counsellors



Support the reconstruction of the higher education including for training teachers



Ensure teachers and counsellors with disabilities have access to support and assistive devices they require

# Ensure international commitment



Uphold international humanitarian law, including:

- stop attacks on educational facilities
- lift the humanitarian blockade
- ensure Israel complies with Oslo Accords, releasing tax revenues



Recognise education and child protection as part of the humanitarian and development response



Increase education funding now for immediate needs, and for recovery and reconstruction of the education system



Recognise and support UNRWA as a key provider of education for Palestinian Refugees, and recognise the authority of Ministry of Education and Higher Education

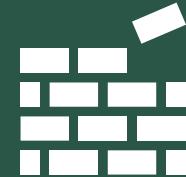
# Centre Palestinian perspectives



Formally recognise the State of Palestine as a legitimate and inalienable right of the Palestinians, and State of Palestine as leading all reconstruction efforts



Engage Palestinian children, educators and communities in Palestinian-led recovery and reconstruction planning



Restore Ministry of Education and Higher Education's systems through renewed policy, planning and financing mechanisms

*“The most important message to the international community is that this is the time to end the occupation. Everything after that will be solved. The problem is 75 years old because of the occupation. End the occupation to give Palestinians their rights. This is the only message we have to send all over the world.” (Teacher)*



Kalandia Camp, West Bank, 2025 © UNRWA photo