



مركز العالم العربي للبحوث والتنمية  
Arab World for Research & Development

## Report Two of The Day After Series

### Press Release

## Displacement and Return Indicators, Living Conditions, and Assessment of Humanitarian Relief Efforts

Publication Date: 24 February 2025

Data Collection Dates: 24 January – 26 January 2025

### Highlights

- **Displacement:** (88%) of Palestinians in Gaza experienced displacement at least once due to the war.
- **Return:** By the time of data collection on (24-26 January, (13%) stated that they do not plan to return until after a few months or years, while (5%) confirmed that they do not intend to return at all.
- **Reasons for not returning:** The most significant factor was the destruction of their original homes, affecting (32%) of respondents. Additionally, (29%) pointed to the lack of basic services, particularly food assistance and markets, in their neighborhoods. Another (26%) reported that their homes were occupied by other families, while (8%) expressed security concerns. Financial constraints also played a role, with (4%) stating that they could not afford the costs associated with returning.
- **Concerns and strategic priorities:** The most common concerns among the people of Gaza are losing a loved one (81%) or fear for personal safety, followed by the threat of diseases (79%), fear around the prospects of reconstruction (78%), and long-term displacement (74%).
- **Citizen participation in aid-related decision-making:** (84%) of respondents said that they had no opportunity to be involved in decisions regarding humanitarian aid. On the other hand, only (2%) confirmed that they had received this opportunity from the entities responsible for assistance.
- **Sources of information on aid:** (51%) relied on word-of-mouth, (13%) on social media, and (12%) on internet websites including news sites.
- **Gender gap in access to information:** Men relied on formal electronic sources more than women (50% to 37%), while women relied on informal sources such as family and friends (54%) compared to men (47%).

## Introduction: From Displacement to Return

As the ceasefire took effect in Gaza, Palestinians have found themselves facing a new reality characterized by large-scale destruction of infrastructure, homes, and essential services.

To monitor and analyze this critical phase, Arab World for Research and Development (AWRAD) conducted a public opinion poll between January 24 and 26, 2025, with 600 Palestinian adults in Gaza, residing across shelters, tent camps, and residential areas. The poll objective is to assess their humanitarian conditions, access to information on aid, and the feasibility of their return to their homes under the prevailing circumstances.

Key Poll Information	
<b>Poll Dates:</b>	24-26 January 2025
<b>Sample size:</b>	600 adult Palestinians (18 years old or older) from the Gaza Strip
<b>Margin of error:</b>	±4%
<b>Confidence level:</b>	95%
<b>Interviewing method:</b>	Computer-Assisted Personal Interviews (CAPI)

### The Results Reveal Significant Challenges in Return and Reconstruction.

The poll findings highlighted a range of complex and interlocking challenges obstructing displaced individuals from returning to their homes, including the complete destruction of houses, lack of essential services, and persistent security concerns that continue to dictate daily life in Gaza.

### Personal Accounts: The Challenge of Returning to Destruction

To document the initial efforts to return, AWRAD research teams accompanied several families during this process, recording their impressions and reactions upon arriving at the homes they were forced to leave months earlier. One field researcher described the scenes of return as follows:

*"Today, the picture looks entirely different [from the one left behind]. The areas that once served as a refuge for thousands of displaced people throughout the war have turned into barren lands. Yet, the destination they returned to was no better—no water, no shelter, no means of survival. Displaced people returned to their original homes as if they had lost their way, only to find Gaza City and its northern areas cloaked in the gray of rubble, with sewage flooding the streets and roads littered with decomposed bodies and accumulated waste. There was no space even for the tattered tent they had carried along.*

*I, just like them, had spent the past 15 months dreaming of resting my back against the wall of my home. But upon my return, neither my neighbor nor my wall remained. Despite all this darkness, residents cling to hope. You see them brushing off the dust and rubble, struggling with every ounce of strength to carve out a small space to live."*

## Main Findings

### Section 1: Displaced People, Return Indicators, and Reconstruction

#### **One: Widespread Displacement Across Gaza**

The poll found that (88%) of Palestinians in Gaza experienced displacement at least once due to the war in Gaza.

#### **Two: Current Housing Conditions of Displaced People**

At the time of the poll, displaced Palestinians were residing in various types of temporary accommodations. Overall, (50%) of respondents reported living in tents within tented camps, while

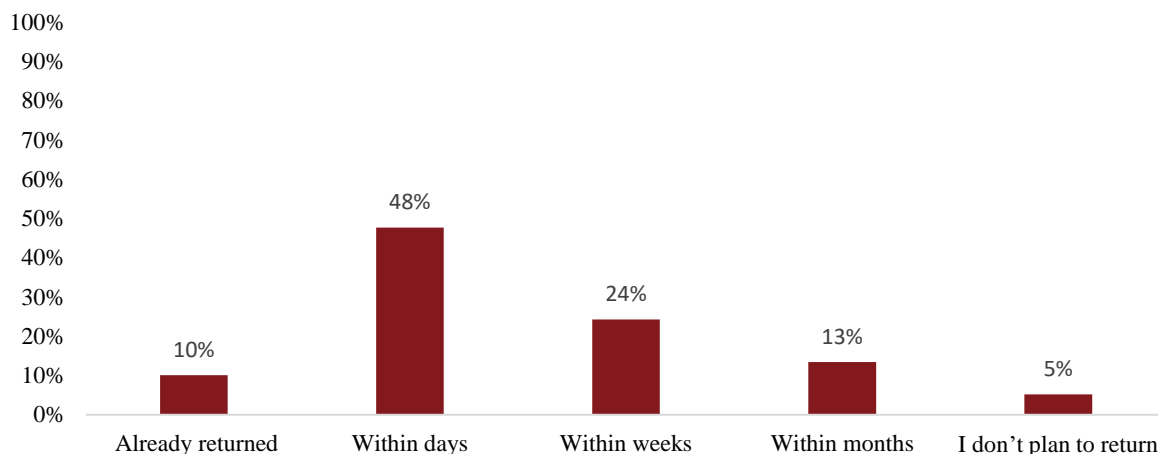
(19%) were in formal shelters, such as schools. Additionally, (30%) reported living in buildings, whether damaged or undamaged.

It is noteworthy that a higher percentage of male respondents (27%) report being in buildings including their original homes (whether damaged or undamaged) compared to females (13%). On the other hand, a higher proportion of females are staying in shelters compared to males (23% of females versus 16% of males), as well as intent gatherings, where (54%) of females report living there, compared to (47%) of males.

### Three: Return Trends and Factors Influencing Decisions

At the time of the poll, (48%) told us that they would return within the next few days and (24%) said they would wait for several weeks (from the date of the poll). The rest (13%) preferred to wait for several months or periods exceeding a year. In contrast, (5%) said that *"they have nothing to return to."*

Chart 1: When Do You Plan to Return to Your Original Place of Residence?  
(For the period 24-26 January 2025)



Regarding the factors influencing the delay in return, the groups that would not return immediately (within months or years) or did not plan to return to their previous areas of residence were asked about the reasons behind this. The most prominent factors were the destruction of their original homes (32%), followed by the lack of basic services such as water (29%), and then the presence of other families residing in their homes (26%). Additionally, (8%) pointed to the lack of security and fear, while (4%) mentioned their inability to afford the costs of returning.

## Section 2: Living Conditions, Concerns, and Priorities

### One: Economic Hardship and Poor Living Conditions

The economic situation in Gaza remains dire, with two-thirds of respondents (67%) assessing their living conditions as poor or very poor. At the same time, (21%) of respondents rated their economic situation as moderate or acceptable, while (12%) considered it good or very good. These variations in economic resilience among Palestinians in Gaza are likely influenced by differences in income sources, access to external aid, area of residence, and access to support networks. Importantly, however, such assessments must also be contextualized and understood relative to the reality of near-total destruction across Gaza and the liquidation of even basic economic activity. According to a female respondent from northern Gaza:

*“Thank God, we have survived so far. We struggled to secure our basic needs, but we received help. That is a blessing.”*

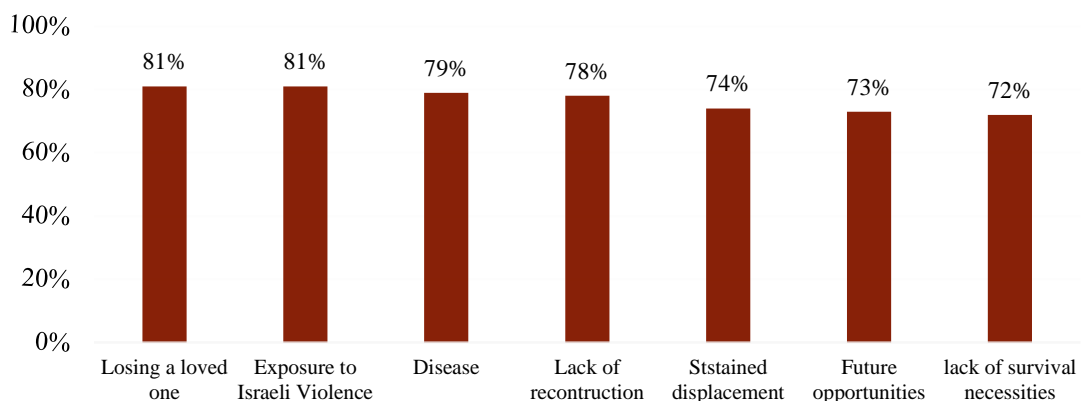
## **Two: Widespread Feelings of Insecurity**

The poll also found broad feelings of insecurity among the people of Gaza. Overall, (72%) of respondents expressed concerns about their household security, with (41%) describing their sense of security as poor or very poor. In contrast, (31%) rated their level of security as moderate, and (29%) felt secure. The high percentage of respondents experiencing insecurity underscores the continued fragility, instability and uncertainty in Gaza after the ceasefire.

## **Three: The Likelihood and Concerns of Negative Outcomes**

The most significant concerns reported by residents revolve around personal safety, family well-being, and the future of Gaza's reconstruction. The most common concern of respondents was fear of losing loved ones (81%) or being fear of personnel safety (81%). Another (79%) reported concern over contracting diseases, a likely reflection of the war's destruction of Gaza's healthcare sector, alongside critical water, sanitation, and hygiene infrastructure. Additionally, (78%) were concerned that reconstruction efforts might never fully materialize, leaving them in a state of long-term homelessness and hardship, while (74%) worried about prolonged displacement, fearing that temporary housing arrangements might become permanent. Other fears included loss of opportunities for future generations and the lack of essential items needed to survive.

Chart 2: Main Concerns Regarding the Situation in the Gaza Strip



## **Four: Future Prospects**

Despite these concerns, (56%) of respondents believed that conditions were moving in the right direction, particularly due to the ceasefire and early phases of return. However, (40%) felt that the situation was deteriorating, likely due to slow recovery efforts and ongoing security challenges. A total of (61%) of respondents expressed optimism about the future, while (39%) felt pessimistic about future prospects.

## **Section 3: Humanitarian Aid Efforts**

### **One: News and Information Sources**

In general, (55%) of the respondents use social media as a means to obtain general information and news. In contrast, (23%) of Gazans rely on (those around them, such as family and friends), (19%) depend on the radio, and (3%) on television.

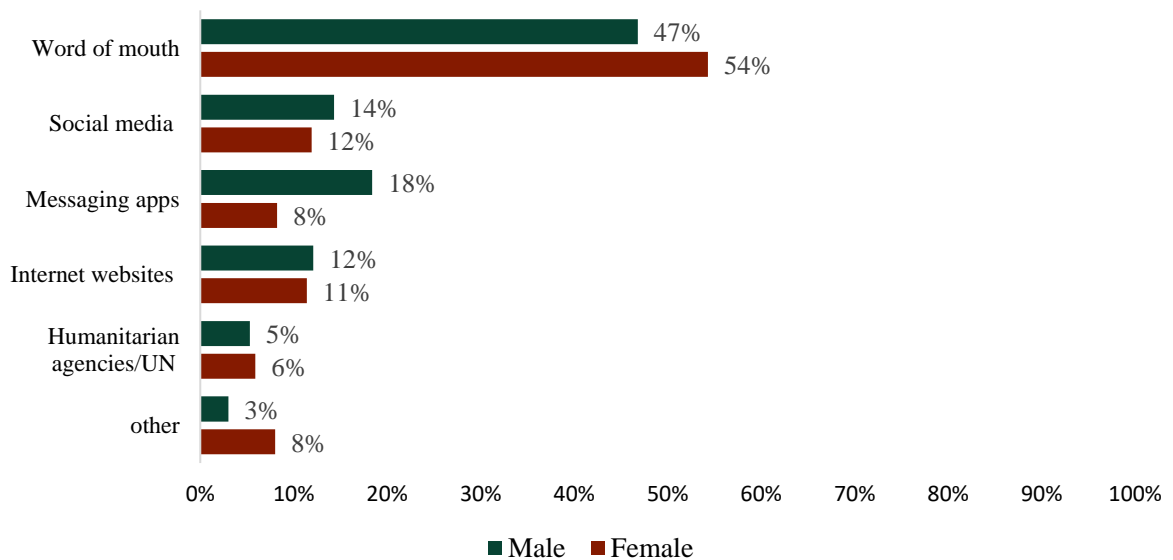
### **Tow: Access to Information on Humanitarian Aid**

One of the major challenges facing displaced Palestinians is limited access to reliable information on humanitarian assistance. The poll found that (51%) of respondents relied primarily on informal sources, such as word-of-mouth from family and friends, to obtain information about available aid.

Only (13%) used social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, or TikTok, while another 13% depended on messaging apps like WhatsApp and Telegram. Additionally, (12%) reported using the websites and (6%) received direct information from humanitarian organizations. As for the rest, they either do not receive information about humanitarian aid or obtain it from other sources.

A significant gender gap was observed in how men and women accessed information. Men were more likely to use digital sources (50%), including social media and official websites, while women relied more on informal networks (54%), such as family and friends. This discrepancy suggests that women face greater barriers in accessing official aid information, potentially limiting their ability to secure necessary assistance.

Chart 3: Sources of Information about Aid According to Respondent's Gender



### **Three: Total Absence of Community Participation in Humanitarian Decision-Making**

When respondents were asked about their participation in decision-making related to the nature of humanitarian aid, only (2%) reported that they had an actual opportunity to participate, while (14%) mentioned that they were given some opportunity to participate. In contrast, (84%) confirmed that they were not allowed to be involved in the decision-making process regarding humanitarian assistance and services.

### **Four: Reconstruction and Community Needs**

Regarding reconstruction efforts, (38%) of respondents are not confident that the needs of the affected population will be met, while (43%) express varying levels of confidence that it will address the needs of those affected. Meanwhile, (19%) remain uncertain about whether the reconstruction process will be effective.

## **Annex (1): Poll Methodology**

Arab World for Research and Development (AWRAD) conducted a public opinion poll between January 24-26, 2025, as part of its “The Day After in Gaza” series. This report represents the second edition of the series and focuses on assessing the humanitarian conditions of displaced people. It examines key factors such as people’s intentions to return to their areas of origin, their current shelter conditions, and the obstacles preventing their return.

The poll also assesses the economic situation of Gaza’s residents and their sense of security. The poll measures public confidence in the reconstruction process and whether it aligns with the needs of the affected population. It also endeavors to analyze the main sources of information that Palestinians in Gaza rely on for news and updates and evaluate the level of public participation in decision-making regarding humanitarian aid, particularly in relation to international donors and aid agencies.

A team of 30 expert researchers conducted 600 face-to-face interviews with adult Palestinians (those 18 years old and older) across Gaza using smart devices. The study covered four governorates: Gaza, Deir al-Balah, Khan Younis, and Rafah. The fifth governorate, North Gaza, was excluded due to the widespread displacement of its population to other areas. At the time of data collection, less than 5% of North Gaza’s original residents remained in the area.

The sampling methodology followed a stratified cluster sampling approach, using reports on population movements produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), satellite imagery from the United Nations Satellite Center (UNOSAT), and independent population estimates from Oxford University’s Gaza (Now Pop) Project, which analyzes data from social media activity. Sampling areas were selected randomly, and the random walk method was used to select respondents. When interviewing families, researchers used a Kish grid system to ensure gender balance.

To ensure demographic accuracy, the final sample was weighted based on data from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), updated in December 2022. The poll has a confidence level of 95% and a margin of error of  $\pm 4\%$ .

## **Annex (2): About This Series of Reports**

In the aftermath of the major transformations occurring in Palestine as a result of the recent war and newly implemented ceasefire, there is an increasing need for a deeper understanding of public opinion and perceptions regarding key issues shaping the future. AWRAD's "The Day After in Gaza" series provides analytical reports based on the latest public opinion polls, offering scientific and objective insights into the political, social, and economic landscape in Gaza.

This second edition of the series focuses on return intentions, humanitarian conditions, urgent needs, sources of information, and inclusion in humanitarian decision-making.

Through these reports, AWRAD aims to provide evidence-based and objective information to help guide public policy decisions. The series is intended to empower the Palestinian people by amplifying their voices and concerns at both local and international levels. Additionally, it serves as a reference tool for humanitarian organizations, donors, and policymakers, ensuring that aid efforts and reconstruction plans are aligned with the true needs of the Palestinian population in Gaza in a more efficient and transparent manner.

### **Upcoming Reports in the Series Will Cover:**

- ***Gaza: Governance and Administration Post-War:** This report will examine governance structures and outcomes for Gaza after the war, challenges in local administration, strategies for institutional reconstruction, and the future of self-governance under current political conditions.*
- ***Elections as a Path to Stability:** This report will explore public support for holding comprehensive elections, prospects for national reconciliation, and political challenges that could hinder the electoral process. It will also analyze citizens' preferences for managing the next phase of governance.*

### **Previous Reports in the Series Will Cover:**

- The first report in the series was published on 2 February 2025 entitled "[The Ceasefire and the Half-Full Glass](#)"

For more details on the poll findings and sample distribution, please visit our website: [www.awrad.org](http://www.awrad.org) or contact us via email: [awrad@awrad.org](mailto:awrad@awrad.org).