



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME  
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**FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE**

## **STATEMENT BY UN-HABITAT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAIMUNAH MOHD SHARIF ON 2 NOVEMBER 2023**

### **Humanitarian systems for more than 2 million civilians in Gaza facing total collapse**

I support the words of UN Secretary-General António Guterres: “This is the moment of truth. Everyone must assume their responsibilities. History will judge us all.”

We are witnessing unprecedented bombardments with devastating impacts in Gaza. We mourn the loss of UN colleagues. One of our UN-Habitat colleagues was injured in Gaza and underwent surgery.

Gaza is home to over 2.1 million people. The damage has affected more than 50 per cent of its housing stock. As of 27 October 2023, almost 16,500 housing units are destroyed, more than 12,000 are uninhabitable. Over 1.43 million people have been internally displaced.

The impact of a siege blocking water, electricity, fuel and food grinds a city to a halt and makes life there impossible for the residents. Sewage is overflowing, basic services are not working, while neighbourhoods are being razed.

In urban conflicts, the civilian population is rarely spared.

UN-Habitat remains committed to supporting the Palestinian people, ensuring their rights are protected and their needs are being met.

I echo Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed’s call: the world needs peace.

Peace. Solidarity. Action. Now.

#womenforpeace