



PALESTINE COUNTRY REPORT

THE STATE OF THE
HUMANITARIAN SYSTEM 2026

ANNEX 1: METHODOLOGY AND ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK

Analytical approach and development

The research was conducted in three iterative phases (50%, 75% and 100%), allowing emerging themes and gaps identified in earlier rounds to inform subsequent data collection and participant selection. After each phase, qualitative data were coded and analysed thematically using MAXQDA, guided by the research questions and aligned with evaluation criteria of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. In total, 22 engagements were conducted across FGDs and KIs with humanitarian practitioners, community representatives and affected populations, ensuring diverse perspectives and progressively deeper analysis.

Data collection methods

The report draws on a combination of desk review, KIs and FGDs. Together, these methods enabled the triangulation of perspectives from humanitarian practitioners and communities affected by crisis, ensuring that the analysis reflects both operational realities and lived experiences.

Desk review

A literature and documentation review was conducted to provide contextual background and identify key trends in the humanitarian response. This encompassed humanitarian response plans and other reports relevant to the Gaza crisis and the broader Palestinian humanitarian context. The review identified existing knowledge gaps and informed the design of the primary data collection tools.

Key informant interviews (KIs)

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with diverse stakeholders involved in the humanitarian response. Participants included representatives from UN agencies,

international and local NGOs, and civil society organisations. Seventeen key informants were interviewed, providing insights into coordination mechanisms, operational challenges and response strategies.

Focus group discussions (FGDs)

Five FGDs were conducted with populations affected by crisis and community representatives to capture perceptions of humanitarian assistance, including access, service quality, coping strategies and engagement with aid actors. Each FGD included 8–10 participants and followed a semi-structured format with open-ended questions. Participants were selected purposively to ensure inclusion of diverse and marginalised groups, including displaced women, youth and persons living with disability.

Ethical considerations

Informed consent was obtained from all respondents. Participation was strictly voluntary and all individuals had the right to withdraw, pause, redirect or end interviews at any time. All responses were fully anonymised to protect participants and the organisations they represent. Data were stored securely with controlled access to ensure confidentiality. The study adopted a do-no-harm and trauma-informed approach, ensuring that distressing experiences were only discussed at the comfort of participants, without pressure to provide details or examples. Researchers remained attentive to potential distress throughout interviews and conducted post-interview debriefs; no participants reported distress related to participation. The research team also maintained reflexive awareness of positionality, recognising the severity of the context and the importance of faithfully representing participants' lived experiences while maintaining analytical rigour.

