

# Palestine and Israel: Impact of 73 Years of Colonialism, Apartheid and Genocide

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## INTRODUCTION

Occupation of Palestine was structured through a colonialist and orientalist perspective. Edward Said, in his work, emphasizes that the vision of Palestine was structured as an unoccupied land, the Palestinians as a barbaric population, and the East was once again inferior to the West. Resistance movements were labeled as terrorists. The counter-hegemonic vision is highly silenced, at the same time that there is a devaluation of the culture and history of these people. An apartheid regime is also installed, where Palestinian citizens are deprived of their land with their population surrounded and controlled in all aspects of daily life.<sup>2</sup>

In May/2021, Israeli attacks on Palestine began once again, killing more than 250 people and leaving almost 2,000 injured in the coastal enclave of the Gaza Strip. In only 11 days, many Gazans lost their homes and livelihoods, suffering both physical and psychological injuries. Gaza's vital infrastructure, including water and sanitation networks, health and educational facilities, were also damaged. Half of the electricity lines in Gaza didn't work and more than a dozen medical facilities, including the central COVID-19 testing lab, were damaged. Today, the situation remains and Palestinian rights continue to be under attack.<sup>4</sup>

## METHODS

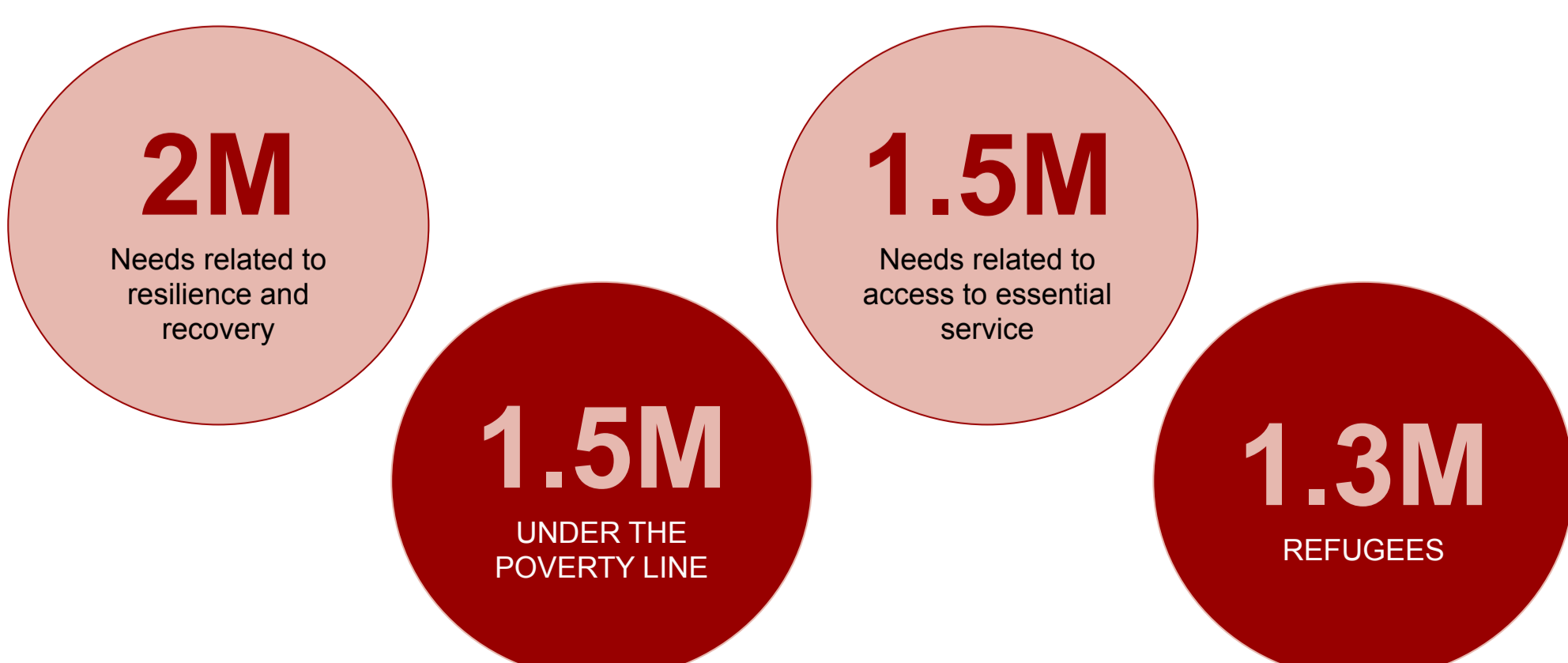
Narrative Review of literature Data were taken from the Humanitarian Needs Overview (2020 and 2021), as well as reports from Médecins Sans Frontières organization (MSF). Theoretical foundation was carried out through a search on Google Academic, Pubmed and Scielo platforms, in which were selected articles between 2010 and 2021, on english and portuguese.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to 2021 OCHA data, Palestine has a total population of 5.2 million people, of which, 2.45 million require some form of humanitarian assistance. Among these people, 60% have severe needs, while in 2020, there were 40%. Approximately 77% of the people with severe needs are in Gaza.<sup>5</sup>

A recurrent problem is the expansion of Israeli settlements and the annexation of land to Israeli territories, which is against international law. The most recent famous episode was the occupation of the Shaik Jerrah neighborhood. Majority of the people in need are related to protection and forced displacement consequences (2.1M). It is important to note that Israel controls the entry and exit of people and goods throughout the occupied Palestinian territory, which creates a shortage of supply and explain the 1.5M people who have needs related to access to essential services.

### HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OVERVIEW 2021:



Resistance against Israeli domination exists and was the reason for the creation of the Great March of Return (GMR). The protests, mostly peaceful, were fought with great military armament by the Israeli army.

### GREAT MARCH OF RETURN NUMBERS



The great difference in armament between the two sides indicates that the situation is not a simple conflict, but an attempt to genocide a people.

Israel also makes it difficult for the Palestinian population to access fundamental rights. About 3000 farmers who own or work on land located 1000 meters from the Israeli perimeter are discouraged from carrying out family farming due to the insecurity of the place. The lack of electricity (in 2019 it was provided 12 hours a day) makes it impossible to deliver essential services, including healthcare.<sup>5</sup>

Apartheid between Israel and Palestine became most apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic. A February 2021 article of MSF reported that by that time, Israel had vaccinated nearly 50% of its population with the first dose and 30% with the second dose. Meanwhile, Palestine had vaccinated only 0.8% of its population. As the occupying power, Israel should have the responsibility to provide medical supplies and the application of measures to combat the spread of contagious diseases and epidemics, as enshrined in the Fourth Geneva Convention, which is clearly not happening.<sup>8</sup>

## CONCLUSIONS

The Palestinians, since the occupation of their territory, has lived in an apartheid regime by a colonizing power that subjugates its inhabitants and exposes them to constant violence and loss of fundamental rights. International humanitarian aid for the 2.45 million people living in vulnerable situations will not be enough to end the inequality experienced in the region. All this is caused by the region's political context, which is increasingly dominant and segregated.<sup>1,2</sup>

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