

Daily Peace and Crisis Report — Wednesday 20 May 2026

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Summary:

- Ukraine's war is intensifying sharply: UN officials warned the Security Council that the conflict is "becoming deadlier by the day" after one of the largest aerial bombardments since Russia's full-scale invasion began in 2022.
- Gaza's humanitarian emergency remains severe, with continuing attacks, extensive displacement, life-changing injuries, collapsing rehabilitation capacity, and ongoing constraints on humanitarian access and essential supplies.
- Sudan remains at extreme famine risk: FAO, WFP and UNICEF warn that nearly 19.5 million people face acute food insecurity, with 825,000 children under five expected to suffer severe acute malnutrition in 2026.
- Lebanon's ceasefire remains fragile, with UNIFIL recording hundreds of firing incidents, trajectories and airstrikes in southern Lebanon, while humanitarian actors continue to assist affected communities.
- Across the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, settler violence, demolitions and access restrictions continue to deepen humanitarian and protection risks.
- Humanitarian workers remain under increasing threat in multiple conflicts, including Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan and Lebanon, reinforcing

the need for protection of civilians and respect for international humanitarian law.

Middle East

Gaza & Palestine

The humanitarian situation in Gaza remains dire, with most people displaced and many families sheltering in overcrowded tents or damaged structures. OCHA reports continued attacks affecting residential areas, limited access to basic services, damaged sanitation systems, and serious public health risks linked to waste, pests and rodents. Between 7 and 12 May, Gaza Ministry of Health data cited by OCHA recorded 10 Palestinians killed, one body retrieved and 45 people injured; since the 10 October 2025 ceasefire announcement, OCHA reports 856 fatalities and 2,463 injuries, with another 103 fatalities retroactively added after identification approval. [OCHA oPt](#)

UNRWA's latest situation report states that, between 7 October 2023 and 6 May 2026, 72,619 Palestinians were killed in the Gaza Strip and 172,484 injured, according to Ministry of Health figures reported by OCHA. UNRWA has recorded 391 colleagues killed in Gaza up to 12 May, and an estimated 65,000 displaced people are living in 82 collective emergency shelters managed by the Agency. [UNRWA Situation Report #221](#)

Health and rehabilitation needs continue to escalate. OCHA cites WHO estimates that more than 43,000 people in Gaza have life-changing injuries, one in four of them children, while more than 50,000 people need long-term rehabilitation. No rehabilitation facility is fully operational, specialized care is limited, and shortages of equipment, prosthetics and assistive devices persist. [OCHA oPt](#)

In the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, UNRWA cites OCHA figures showing 1,091 Palestinians killed between 7 October 2023 and 3 May 2026, including at least 239 children. OCHA reports escalating settler violence, demolitions and movement restrictions, with nearly 90 per cent of 45 Palestinian-owned structures demolished

between 5 and 11 May used for agricultural, livelihood, water or sanitation purposes. [UNRWA](#); [OCHA oPt](#)

Lebanon

UNIFIL continues to warn that the cessation of hostilities in southern Lebanon remains fragile. The UN Secretary-General's 19 May noon briefing reported that, by 4 p.m. local time that day, UNIFIL peacekeepers had recorded 206 firing incidents from Israel Defense Forces positions, seven trajectories attributed to Lebanese non-state actors presumed to be Hizbullah, and five airstrikes in the UNIFIL area of operations. The previous day, UNIFIL recorded 384 IDF firing incidents, 43 trajectories attributed to Lebanese non-state actors and 21 projectile interceptions. [UN Secretary-General noon briefing](#)

UNIFIL and OCHA civil-military coordination continue to support humanitarian missions, including food, water, hygiene kits, medicines and medical supplies to affected families in Tyre and villages in the eastern sector of UNIFIL. The UN has urged all actors to respect the cessation of hostilities, cease further attacks and comply with international humanitarian law. [UN Secretary-General noon briefing](#)

Ukraine–Russia War

UN officials warned the Security Council on 19 May that the war in Ukraine is "becoming deadlier by the day." Between 13 and 14 May, Russia reportedly launched more than 1,500 drones and dozens of missiles targeting cities across Ukraine. The deadliest incident cited by the UN was a 14 May missile strike that reportedly flattened a nine-story apartment building in Kyiv, killing 24 people and injuring at least 48. [UN News](#)

UN reporting cited at least 238 civilians killed and 1,404 injured in Ukraine in April 2026, the highest monthly civilian casualty figure since July 2025. Security Council Report also noted that civilian casualties during the first four months of 2026 were 21 per cent higher than in the same period of 2025. Ukrainian strikes inside Russia have also caused increasing civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure, with

four people reportedly killed in Russia on 17 May and four killed in Ryazan on 15 May. [UN News](#); [Security Council Report](#)

Humanitarian workers are increasingly exposed. UN officials reported that two clearly marked UN convoys were hit on 12 and 14 May, while other humanitarian missions were also hit during the same week. Three humanitarian workers were killed and 10 injured in the first four months of 2026. Despite the dangers, the UN and partners continue to deliver assistance where access permits, but the \$2.3 billion Ukraine humanitarian plan has received only about \$845 million to date. [UN News](#)

Diplomacy remains fragile. The UN Secretary-General welcomed the 9–11 May three-day ceasefire and the agreed exchange of 2,000 prisoners of war, but UN officials reported violations by both sides during the short truce and escalation soon after it expired. On 15 May, Russia and Ukraine returned 205 prisoners each, described as the first step in a larger exchange. UN officials called for negotiations to resume without delay toward a full, immediate and unconditional ceasefire. [UN News](#); [Security Council Report](#)

Sudan

Sudan's civil war continues to drive one of the world's gravest humanitarian emergencies. FAO, WFP and UNICEF warned on 15 May that nearly 19.5 million people — two out of every five people in Sudan — are facing crisis levels of acute food insecurity or worse. The latest IPC analysis cited nearly 135,000 people facing Catastrophic food insecurity across 14 hotspots, more than five million in Emergency food insecurity and 14 million in Crisis food insecurity, with conditions expected to worsen during the June–September lean season. [UNICEF / FAO / WFP](#)

Sudan is also facing a severe nutrition and displacement crisis. An estimated 825,000 children under five are expected to suffer severe acute malnutrition in 2026, while nearly 100,000 children were admitted for treatment for severe acute malnutrition between January and March alone. Close to nine million people were internally displaced within

Sudan as of the end of March 2026. Around 40 per cent of health facilities are non-functional, 17 million people lack safe drinking water and 24 million lack adequate sanitation. [UNICEF / FAO / WFP](#)

The UN and humanitarian agencies continue to call for an immediate cessation of hostilities, protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure, and safe, rapid and unimpeded humanitarian access across conflict-affected areas. Funding remains critically inadequate, with only 20 per cent of Sudan's 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan funded as of April 2026. [UNICEF / FAO / WFP](#)

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

The eastern DRC remains affected by insecurity, displacement, health emergencies and severe humanitarian access constraints. The UN Secretary-General's 19 May briefing reported that the new Ebola outbreak in DRC and Uganda is occurring in a highly complex humanitarian context marked by insecurity, population displacement and weakened health systems. WHO has deployed experts and supplies, UNICEF has mobilized infection prevention and control supplies, and UNHCR warned that more than two million internally displaced people and returnees live in Ituri and North Kivu. [UN Secretary-General noon briefing](#)

International Cooperation & Protection of Civilians

The Security Council's agenda remains dominated by protection of civilians, Ukraine, the Middle East and expanding humanitarian emergencies. UN officials have emphasized that attacks on civilians, humanitarian workers, health systems, shelters, water infrastructure and food systems are compounding crises across multiple regions. The emerging pattern across Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, Lebanon and DRC is a convergence of direct violence, displacement, damaged civilian

infrastructure, blocked or constrained access, and underfunded humanitarian response. [UN Secretary-General noon briefing](#); [UN News](#)

Statistics Tables

Table 1 — Casualties (Killed / Wounded)

Conflict / Crisis	Key Statistic	Source	Killed	Wounded
Gaza	Since 7 Oct 2023 (cumulative, as of 6 May 2026)	UNRWA / OCHA / Gaza MoH	72,619	172,484
	Since 10 Oct 2025 ceasefire announcement (as of 12 May 2026)	OCHA / Gaza MoH	856 (+103 retroactively added)	2,463
West Bank	Since 7 Oct 2023 (cumulative, incl. East Jerusalem, as of 3 May 2026)	UNRWA / OCHA	1,091	—
Ukraine — civilians	April 2026 monthly verified civilian casualties	UN News / OHCHR	238	1,404

Conflict / Crisis	Key Statistic	Source	Killed	Wounded
Ukraine — Kyiv attack	Missile strike on nine-story apartment block, 14 May 2026	UN News	24	48+
Russia — civilians	Reported Ukrainian strikes inside Russia, 15 and 17 May 2026	UN News	8	—
Humanitarian workers in Ukraine	First four months of 2026	UN News / OCHA	3	10

Note: Casualty data in active conflicts are minimum or reported figures and often remain subject to later verification, revision and access constraints. Gaza and West Bank figures rely on OCHA, UNRWA and Ministry of Health reporting as cited by UN agencies. Ukraine figures are UN-reported verified or reported figures available at the time of compilation.

Table 2 — Numbers (Non-casualty figures)

Conflict / Crisis	Key Statistic	Figure	Source
Gaza	People with life-changing injuries	43,000+	OCHA / WHO

Conflict / Crisis	Key Statistic	Figure	Source
	People needing long-term rehabilitation	50,000+	OCHA / WHO
	UNRWA-managed collective emergency shelters / displaced residents	82 shelters / 65,000 people	UNRWA
Sudan	People facing acute food insecurity	19,500,000	UNICEF / FAO / WFP
	Children under five expected to suffer severe acute malnutrition in 2026	825,000	UNICEF / FAO / WFP
	Internally displaced people within Sudan, end of March 2026	Nearly 9,000,000	UNICEF / FAO / WFP
Ukraine	Russian drones reportedly launched against Ukraine, 13–14 May 2026	1,500+	UN News
	Humanitarian response plan funding received	About US\$845M of US\$2.3B	UN News / OCHA
Lebanon	UNIFIL firing incidents from IDF positions recorded by 4 p.m., 19 May	206	UN Secretary-General noon briefing

Conflict / Crisis	Key Statistic	Figure	Source
DRC	Internally displaced people and returnees in Ituri and North Kivu	2,000,000+	UN Secretary-General noon briefing

Sources consulted for this report: UN News, UN Secretary-General noon briefing, OCHA oPt, UNRWA, UNICEF, FAO, WFP, WHO, OHCHR references via UN reporting, and Security Council Report.

This regenerated report covers peace and conflict developments as of Wednesday, 20 May 2026 (AEST), using the latest authoritative source material recovered during the May 20 artifact remediation. All figures are the most recently available at time of compilation. Casualty figures should be treated as minimum estimates; actual numbers may be higher.