

Gaza Fact Sheet 27 July 2006

ISSUE

- The Gaza Strip covers an area of 365 km², 45 km long and 5-12 km in width.
- The total Palestinian population of the Gaza Strip is 1.44 million with 838,000 under the age of 18 years.
- More than 70% of the Palestinian population is estimated to live below the poverty line and more than 40% of heads of households are unemployed
- Reliable supplies of fuel, electricity and water are critical to preserving cold chain system and running basic services. Children rights are violated if there is no access to health, nutrition, safe water and protection.
- There is a significant increase in the number of people seeking assistance from the 3 psychosocial centres operated by Palestinian Center for Democracy and Conflict Resolution (PCDCR) and supported by UNICEF. When comparing the requests for assistance during the first two weeks of July with June 2006, it more than doubled. For example, in a recently opened center in Khan Younis they reported 7 cases in May, 45 cases in June and 150 cases as of 20 July 2006.
- All hospitals and 50 % of Primary Health Care (PHC) facilities in Gaza Strip operate now with generators, substantially increasing maintenance and fuel. Vaccines have had to be transferred from facilities without generators to the nearest facilities with generators.
- Most of the 120 water wells, the 33 sewage pump stations and the 3 waste water treatment plants managed by the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU) were powered through the power station destroyed by the Israeli Air Force (IAF) on 28 June 2006. Generators are being relied upon to power water wells and the pump stations. With 920,000 liters of fuel required daily for the back-up generators to power regular water supplies, pump stations and wastewater treatment plants, CMWU is concerned about the long-term costs of fuel, maintenance of such a large number of generators and obtaining spare parts.
- Numerous recreational, cultural, sport and remedial activities, an integral part of education, have had to be cancelled due to the unavailability of funds and the current level of violence
- There is 50% decrease in the number of children attending the UNICEF-supported safe play areas in Brazil camp (Rafah), and 20% decrease in the north (Bedouin village in the North). Families are afraid of sending children outdoor due to military operations. They therefore stay at home with few opportunities to play and engage with their peers.

ACTION

Health and Nutrition

- All vaccines for 2006 have been procured and delivered. Non-routine vaccines (rabies, Hepatitis B for adults, measles, mumps and rubella, and seasonal flu) have also been procured.
- Based on needs outlined in the Ministry of Health's three-month appeal, UNICEF has procured almost USD 1.2 million in emergency drugs and disposables for over 400 health clinics, including major provisions for neonatal units in the 17 general hospitals.
- Primary health care clinics across oPt have been upgraded with medical and cold chain equipment and supplies that will enable them to offer the full array of quality maternal and child health services.

- UNICEF has provided one year's supply of vitamin A, D2, folic acid and iron syrup for children. To strengthen growth monitoring systems, UNICEF provided scales and measuring tools to 140 clinics.
- Because of fuel shortages and lack of spare parts for vehicles – as well as tighter restrictions on access and movement – MoH's ability to reach isolated villages has been sharply curtailed. UNICEF is providing fuel, and helping maintain or rent vehicles so that mobile health teams can access the hardest to reach areas.
- Given the current invasion into the Gaza strip, UNICEF has taken the following actions:
 - a. 566 family water kits (for 10 families each) are pre-positioned with counterparts.
 - b. 10 large water tanks (5,000 liters each) will be provided to the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility
 - c. UNICEF will also procure water quality field tests kits enabling the MoH and the municipalities to accurately monitor water quality.
 - d. An awareness raising campaign on hygiene, food and water preservation, targeting the most at risk parts of the population, will be launched in partnership with the Department of Health Education.
 - e. 950 Baby and family hygiene kits and 50 tents are pre-positioned with counterparts
 - f. Pre-positioned five generators with Palestinian Red Crescent Society and the Ministry of Health essentially for clinics to ensure vaccines are kept at the right temperature
 - g. UNICEF currently procuring health kits to get drugs and supplies into Gaza.

Child Protection

- Twelve psychosocial emergency teams are operating in oPt: seven in the West Bank and five in Gaza, covering 12 out of 15 districts. Since the beginning of the year, 9,843 children and adolescents participated in psychosocial sessions aimed at reinforcing their capacity to protect themselves and to cope with violence, and 7,758 children participated in fun days.
- In parallel, 4,453 caregivers were equipped with skills on how to support children in distress and how to promote a harmonious family environment, as well as on how to deal with their own stress. Some 296 home and hospital visits took place following violent events.
- To help children better protect themselves from injury from unexploded ordinances, some 36 volunteers from the Palestinian Red Crescent Society have been trained to lead Mine Risk Education activities with children, families and communities in high risk areas, including Northern Gaza
- Given the current invasion into the Gaza strip, UNICEF has taken the following actions:
 - a. Five child protection teams offering home visits/individual counseling in addition to the on-going group counseling reaching approximately 3,000 children and 2,000 parents each month
 - b. Additional 20 outreach centers have been opened throughout the Gaza strip to provide individual counseling to children and parents.
 - c. A toll free line has been set up for counseling
 - d. 45 family kits pre-positioned in the North (clothes, school stationary and hygiene kit)
 - e. 100 indoor recreational kits are pre-positioned with counterparts so that they can be distributed when families are confined at home.
 - f. Support to summer festivals reaching 25,000 children with opportunities to vent stress and engage with peers into sport, artistic and cultural activities
 - g. 50 tents pre-positioned with counterpart

Education

- Ten schools in former enclaves or hard-hit areas have been provided with a comprehensive education package including supplies, lab and sports equipment, computers, library furniture and books, and teacher training.
- For over 900 schools with very limited supplies, UNICEF has procured Maths and Science kits that include child-friendly teaching aids, including abacuses, models, and charts, that will make learning more interactive and fun for children
- UNICEF also procured 380 school-in-a box kits (each kit includes emergency education material for up of 80 students and 2 teachers) and 1,000 recreational kits that includes art supplies and sports equipment
- For disadvantaged students, UNICEF ordered 110,000 school bags that will be stuffed with a full set of school supplies – pencils, erasers, rulers – as well as 10 note books each, for use in the next school term
- UNICEF has also ordered 100,000 more copies of the remedial worksheets that have been so successful in enabling students to keep at their studies in the face of closures, curfews or military activity. The worksheets cover Maths, Science, Arabic and English for grades 1 through 6. More than three-quarters of a million students across oPt are currently using them, either to keep up or catch up with their studies, and thousands of parents and teachers have been trained to help children keep learning.
- Following on a pilot implemented in 2005, some 400 children deeply affected by the conflict in four West Bank districts now participate in twice-weekly arts and music activities. UNICEF provided musical instruments and art supplies, as well as training for both teachers and students.
- Given the current invasion into the Gaza strip, UNICEF has taken the following actions:
 - a. Pre-positioned 888 school-in-a-box and recreational kit and 45 sports for development kits
 - b. 50,000 school bags with stationary, math and science kits for about 200 schools in Gaza and the WB, 50,000 remedial education worksheets (maths, science, Arabic and English) will be distributed to Gaza schools and children before the start of the academic year in September.
 - c. 1000 teachers will receive training on use of teaching kits.
 - d. Support to recreational activities by offering creative reading and writing to about 300 children in the North of the Gaza strip
 - e. Support to other recreational material including arts, story telling, theatre activities for about 4,000 children in the hardest hit areas of Gaza

Adolescents

- UNICEF has established 23 safe play areas in some of the most isolated, deprived or restricted areas in the West Bank and Gaza.
- Bi-weekly activities ranging from sports, drama, art, or non-formal learning continue to be held in these spaces, benefiting approximately 50,000 adolescents and children. Recreational kits, including art supplies and sports equipment have been provided to safe play areas in the West Bank.
- Training has been provided to facilitators and other community members involved in running the safe spaces so that they are well versed in child rights and in how to interact with children. More than 100 animators have been trained to make activities as lively, fun and child-friendly as possible.
- To provide learning opportunities for adolescents who have dropped out of school, mapping is underway for four non-formal learning spaces in areas with a high proportion of school drop-outs. These spaces will provide non-formal education, along with a broad range of extracurricular activities, to adolescents who would otherwise have limited opportunities to continue learning. Under the revised

appeal, UNICEF would aim to establish a total of 11 such spaces, reaching an estimated an estimated 10,000 adolescents.

- Given the current invasion into the Gaza strip, UNICEF actions include the following activities
 - a. Distributed 112 recreational kits (each kit catering for 10 children) to families living in Bet Lahia and Bet Hanoun areas. Kits include indoor toys and games.
 - b. 100 UNICEF indoor recreational kits are pre-positioned with counterparts and 500 additional indoor recreational kits are being distributed.
 - c. Support to 15 safe play areas in Gaza reaching 6,000 children on a monthly basis
 - d. Fostered the creation of six adolescent friendly spaces and two adolescent friendly learning spaces providing non-formal education and extra curricular activities for more than 12,000 adolescents.
 - e. Peer to Peer counseling programme through university students under the supervision of professionals from the psychosocial sector reaching 3,000 adolescents.

FUNDING

- UNICEF's Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) was originally budgeted at USD 8.4 million based on the needs assessment framework completed in November 2005. However, and in light of recent developments in the humanitarian context, the total requirement is USD 22.7 million, out of which USD 5 million has been received. Some US\$ 6-10 mill is in the pipeline, leaving a potential balance of US\$ 7.7 to 11.7 mill.
- This amount caters for the humanitarian and transitional aspects of interventions in the areas of Health and Nutrition, Education, Child Protection and Adolescents' programme.