

Gaza Fact Sheet

6 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:
 - Khan younis. May: 7 cases. June: 45 cases. July: 24 cases (after 5 days only).
 - Gaza: June: 8 cases and 10 calls to the hotline. July: 6 cases and 8 calls to the hotline.
 - Deir El Balah. June: 7 cases. July: 9 cases.
- A child protection team from PCDCR visiting Shoka families was under fire from the Israeli forces. The team withdrew and were uninjured
- Of the 60 summer camps planned this summer in Gaza by various organizations and Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MOEHE), compared to 200 per summer in previous years, only 10 are taking place.
- 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 (military operation, sonic booms...). They therefore stay at home with few opportunities to play and engage with their peers.
- There are 5 families who are stuck their houses in Beit Hanoun, out of which 20 are children (of which 12 are under 10 years of age) and 9 families are stuck in South Shoka and 32 families are living inside Al Seafa (50% are children).
- According to OCHA reports, there have been more than 25 sonic booms from Israeli air force aircrafts across the Gaza Strip since 28 June 2006. Most occur during dawn

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. Four large water tanks (5,000 liters each) pre-positioned as well in four different districts
 - c. 650 Baby Hygiene kits pre-positioned with Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS)
 - d. Pre-positioned eight generators with counterparts as well as UNICEF office in Gaza
 - e. UNICEF currently procuring health kits to get drugs and supplies into Gaza.
 - f. UNICEF trying to get in MMR vaccines stored in WB due to the closure of the Gaza strip

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. An additional 300 kits are being procured locally in Gaza for pre-positioning.
 - f. 50 tents pre-positioned (40 with PRCS and 10 at WFP warehouse).

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 pre-positioned 888 school-in-a-box and recreational kit and 50 sports for development kits

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 has 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.

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
- This amount caters for the humanitarian and transitional aspects of interventions in the areas of Health and Nutrition, Education, Child Protection and Adolescents' programme.