

**Gaza Crisis January 2009:
Initial Response Plan and Immediate Funding Needs
Humanitarian Country Team, occupied Palestinian territory
8 January 2009**

1. Situation

The ongoing Israeli military operation and heavy bombardment of the Gaza Strip, which commenced on 27 December 2008, continues to compound an already grave humanitarian crisis.

The ground incursion which began on 3 January 2009 was preceded by intensive shelling from air and sea along the entire length of the border inside Gaza. According to the Ministry of Health, as of noon on 6 January 573 Palestinians have been killed and 2,745 have been injured since the start of Israeli military operations. At least 30% of the fatalities and 45% of the wounded are women and children. The death toll is expected to rise further as clashes in densely-populated urban areas continue.

Significant damage to, and destruction of, key roads, power and water infrastructure and buildings has been reported, including to a large gas storage facility and electricity transformers, posing immediate risk to health.

The Israeli military operation follows an 18-month-long blockade of the Gaza Strip which has depleted stocks of relief items on which much of the population depends, crippled the private sector, and driven unprecedented numbers of Palestinians out of work and self-sufficiency and into poverty. The crisis had already left most of the population of 1.5 million unable to exercise its most basic rights and access to services amidst a collapse of infrastructure and severe shortages of power, water, food and medical supplies.

It is realistic to assume that the 80% of the population already dependent on humanitarian assistance will increase further once fresh needs assessments can be safely carried out.

During the preparation of the 2009 Consolidated Appeal (CAP), the core assumption of all partners in relation to Gaza was to anticipate further violence, no easing of the closures, and a further degradation in the population's living conditions.

Given the reflection of likely scenarios in the 2009 CAP, and until access to and within Gaza is safe for specialist personnel, inter-agency assessments are being carried out based on information from the extensive network of humanitarian staff who continue to operate in Gaza.

2. Immediate priority needs and initial response plan per sector

Protection:

- Psycho-social teams on the ground and working with families as soon as conditions allow;
- Distribution of child protection kits.

Shelter:

- Blankets, candles and non-food items for 13-15,000 displaced people, including 5,500 people living in emergency shelters;

- Urgent repairs to hundreds of thousands of homes, including basic plastic sheeting for windows.

Food Aid and Food Security:

- Sugar and 450 metric tones of wheat flour needed per day (for entire population);
- Cooking gas for large part of population;
- Bread and high-energy biscuits in the absence of cooking gas.

Water/Sanitation:

- Spare parts for generators, damaged pumps, water wells, and other essential water/sanitation infrastructure;
- Fuel to run water and sewage pumps, generators, etc;
- Tankered water;
- Technical expertise to repair damaged infrastructure;
- Chlorine tablets for wells and domestic water supply.

Agriculture:

Agricultural livelihoods are in grave danger of being lost forever unless there is urgent intervention with:

- Technical expertise for repairing broken irrigation pipes, water sources;
- Seeds, tools and other agricultural essentials.

Cash for Work/Assistance:

No money has been allowed into Gaza from UNRWA accounts in the West Bank since the beginning of November 2008. Until this situation has been resolved, all cash projects are on hold.

Education:

A number of schools have been damaged and others are used as shelters. A more in-depth needs assessment will be carried out when conditions allow.

Health Concerns:

- Increased civilian casualties in the face of limited hospital bed/care capacity coupled with controlled external referral care will only result in a higher number of preventable deaths (tetanus, gangrene, hemorrhagic shock, etc.) and physical and mental disabilities;
- Contamination of water and sewage lines with intermittent electricity to health facilities may result in outbreaks of water-borne disease. Worsening hygiene and sanitation inside and outside health facilities will yield life-threatening nosocomial infections (septicemia, osteomyelitis etc.) and will inevitably affect health outcomes.
- The psycho-social dimension is underestimated due to the prolonged blockade compounded by poverty and restrictions in previous months;
- With a health system already reportedly on the brink of collapse, a grave concern is a spike in maternal and infant mortality because of limited pre-natal, natal and post-natal care. Unmanaged chronic diseases will only add to the preventable disease burden;
- Coordination of health interventions by partners becomes increasingly difficult and involves other countries, including Egypt;
- Influx of unsolicited supplies through various Gaza crossing points poses a special challenge for coordination, warehousing, transport and quality control.

Gaps in specific drugs stocks and medical equipment will be identified in coming days as donated supplies are processed, recorded and checked against hospital requirements.

Coordination and Support Services:

WFP are leading the newly-formed logistics cluster and additional funding is needed to meet the huge demand for this support service.

3. Immediate funding needs

The funding needs of the immediately-needed projects highlighted here amount to \$117.4 million. Of this, \$21.7 million is reported to be already committed by donors for these projects, leaving an unfunded requirement of **\$95.6 million**.

The highlighted projects are a blend of new projects and some projects already presented in the 2009 Consolidated Appeal for oPt that have been selected by the clusters as most relevant and urgent for the current crisis. Some of the latter have budget increases, and in all cases the partners proposing them have reviewed and if necessary re-oriented their projects appropriately for the current emergency.

The new projects and budget increases of existing CAP projects have been added to the CAP, raising its overall requirements for 2009 raised from US\$¹462 million to \$530 million, an increase of \$68 million. This includes \$34.4 million for the UNRWA Gaza 'Flash Appeal'², a target of \$10 million increase for the Humanitarian Response Fund (to quickly fund unpredicted emergency responses), \$9.3 million for the World Food Program (for additional food and to lead the newly-established logistics cluster), \$10.5 million for WHO, \$835,000 for Accion Contra el Hambre, and \$3 million for UNICEF.

A specialist needs assessment team will be deployed to Gaza once it is safe to do so, but in the meantime donor partners are strongly encouraged to make early financing decisions for immediate disbursement based on the new, existing and revised projects from the 2009 CAP selected by the clusters and highlighted here.³

➤ New projects	\$48,082,400	UNRWA (\$34.4m), WHO (\$10.5m), UNICEF (\$2m), ACH (\$835,000), WFP (\$304,000)
➤ Existing projects with budget changes	\$29,495,241 +\$19,990,096	OCHA-HRF (\$10,000,000), WFP (\$9,000,000), UNICEF (\$990,896), ACH/GVC (-\$800)
➤ Highlighted Gaza projects with no budget changes	\$19,838,350	Various
	\$117,406,087	

Following pages:

- *Summary of Gaza requirements and funding to date per sector*
- *Schematic of relation between new and original CAP requirements*
- *List of highlighted Gaza projects (click on links to open full details)*

¹ All dollar signs in this document denote United States dollars.

² Available here: http://www.un.org/unrwa/publications/pubs08/GazaFlashAppeal_jan09.pdf

³ The year-long emergency programming for Gaza in the 2009 Consolidated Appeal, totalling approximately \$310 million, will also have to be funded without undue delay. The projects highlighted here should not prejudice funding for the annual emergency programming.

Summary of funding needs per sector

Sector	Funding requirement (\$)	Funding to date (\$)		Unfunded balance (\$)
AGRICULTURE	1,306,000	-		1,306,000
CASH-FOR-WORK AND CASH ASSISTANCE	11,100,000	6,785,640	*	4,314,360
COORDINATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES	10,304,000	715,308		9,588,692
EDUCATION	2,022,300	-		2,022,300
FOOD	49,497,883	6,792,426	*	42,705,457
HEALTH	18,100,914	-		18,114,110
PROTECTION/HUMAN RIGHTS/RULE OF LAW	6,562,244	-		6,562,244
SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS	11,655,000	7,124,922	*	4,530,078
WATER AND SANITATION	6,844,550	339,282	*	6,505,268
Grand Total	117,406,087	21,757,579		95,648,508

**estimated on pro rata basis, dividing reported flexible funding for Gaza crisis.*

Additionally, there are \$2,974,679 of uncommitted pledges recorded so far for these selected projects.

Original CAP requirements (\$462 million)			Increase due to Gaza crisis (\$68 million)	
(non-highlighted CAP projects -- \$413 million)	Highlighted Gaza projects with no budget changes (\$19.8 million)	Highlighted Gaza projects with budget changes (original budgets \$29 million)	Amount of budget changes (\$19.9 million)	New projects (\$48 million)
	←----- = \$117.4 million -----→			

Table of highlighted projects

Note: You can open a detailed description of each project by clicking the hyperlinked project codes in the second column.

Sector	Project code (click on code to open full project sheet)	Project title	Appealing Agency	Funding requirement (\$)	Remarks	Funding to date (\$)	Unfunded balance (\$)
AGRICULTURE				1,306,000			1,306,000
	OPT-09/A/21099/123	Emergency support to small ruminant herders	Food & Agriculture Organization	1,306,000	only textual changes in project		1,306,000
CASH-FOR-WORK AND CASH ASSISTANCE				11,100,000		6,785,640	4,314,360
	OPT-09/ER/23874/5593	Gaza crisis January 2009: Emergency Cash Assistance	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	11,100,000	new (part of UNRWA special appeal)	6,785,640	4,314,360
COORDINATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES				10,304,000		715,308	9,588,692
	OPT-09/CSS/23879/561	Logistics Coordination in Support to the Crisis in Gaza	World Food Programme	304,000	new		304,000
	OPT-09/SNYS/21206/8487	Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF)	OCHA	10,000,000	existing, but with target now set at \$10 million	715,308	9,284,692
EDUCATION				2,022,300			2,022,300
	OPT-09/E/23885	Immediate after-crisis Education in Gaza	UNICEF	2,022,300	new		
FOOD				49,497,883		6,792,426	42,705,457
	OPT-09/F/20675/5838	Food assistance for 600 needy families in Eastern Khan Younis & Gaza for 10 months	Islamic Relief	550,000	only textual changes in project		550,000
	OPT-09/F/21377/5277	Provision of food available on local markets to vulnerable families in Gaza through a voucher scheme	OXFAM	1,365,000	only textual changes in project		1,365,000
	OPT-09/F/23873/5593	Gaza crisis January 2009: Emergency Food Response	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	11,111,100	new (part of UNRWA special appeal)	6,792,426	4,318,674

Sector	Project code	Project title	Appealing Agency	Funding requirement (\$)	Remarks	Funding to date (\$)	Unfunded balance (\$)
	OPT-09/F/21079/561	Protracted relief and recovery operations for non-refugee Palestinians	World Food Programme	36,471,783	(43% of total project budget of \$84,818,101, reflecting proportion of planned beneficiaries in Gaza)		36,471,783
HEALTH			18,114,110	-	18,114,110		
	OPT-09/H/21276	Management of severe acute malnutrition and preventing child undernutrition	United Nations Children's Fund	1,716,120	textual changes plus budget increase	1,716,120	
	OPT-09/H/21273	Emergency support to reduce Newborn and Childhood illnesses and deaths	United Nations Children's Fund	1,110,775	textual changes plus budget increase	1,110,775	
	OPT-09/H/20680/1171	Reduce hospital-acquired infections at key maternity and newborn departments	United Nations Population Fund	722,250	only textual changes in project	722,250	
	OPT-09/H/20682/1171	Ensuring access to safe delivery in times of crises	United Nations Population Fund	240,000	only textual changes in project	240,000	
	OPT-09/H/20687/1171	Ensuring availability of RH commodities	United Nations Population Fund	1,000,000	only textual changes in project	1,000,000	
	OPT-09/H/23886/122	Support to the health system in Gaza Strip	World Health Organization	10,500,000	new	10,500,000	
	OPT-09/H/20585/122	Procurement of pharmaceuticals for MoH strategic buffer stock in Gaza	World Health Organization	2,824,965	only textual changes in project	2,824,965	
PROTECTION/HUMAN RIGHTS/RULE OF LAW			6,562,244	-	6,562,244		
	OPT-09/P-HR-RL/21403/8808	Legal Capacity- Investigating Reported Cases of Torture & Mobile Attorney – From Palestinian Security Detainees	Public Committee Against Torture in Israel	100,000	only textual changes in project	100,000	
	OPT-09/P-HR-RL/21879/109	Child Rights at the Centre - Enhancing National Capacities to Monitor, Document, and Report on Child Rights Issues in the OPT	Save the Children - United Kingdom	280,800	only textual changes in project	280,800	
	OPT-09/P-HR-RL/21881/109	Protection from Displacement, Support to IDPs	Save the Children - United Kingdom	166,860	only textual changes in project	166,860	

Sector	Project code	Project title	Appealing Agency	Funding requirement (\$)	Remarks	Funding to date (\$)	Unfunded balance (\$)
	OPT-09/P-HR-RL/21539/124	Providing sports and recreational opportunities to children and adolescents and psychosocial support in 100 safe play areas	United Nations Children's Fund	1,722,700	only textual changes in project		1,722,700
	OPT-09/P-HR-RL/21632/124	14 Psychosocial teams providing front line services for families and children	United Nations Children's Fund	3,156,500	only textual changes in project		3,156,500
	OPT-09/P-HR-RL/21325/5105	Support and protection of women in Gaza under UN Resolution 1325	United Nations Development Fund for Women	106,488	only textual changes in project		106,488
	OPT-09/P-HR-RL/20847/1171	Psychosocial Support to Palestinian Women	United Nations Population Fund	518,736	only textual changes in project		518,736
	OPT-09/P-HR-RL/20855/1171	Support services for protection and prevention of GBV for women in Gaza and Hebron	United Nations Population Fund	400,000	only textual changes in project		400,000
	OPT-09/P-HR-RL/21325/1171	Support and protection of women in Gaza under UN Resolution 1325	United Nations Population Fund	110,160	only textual changes in project		110,160
SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS				11,655,000		7,124,922	4,530,078
	OPT-09/S-NF/23876/5593	Gaza crisis January 2009: Emergency Shelter Response	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	11,655,000	new (part of UNRWA special appeal)	7,124,922 *	4,530,078
WATER AND SANITATION				6,844,550		339,282	6,505,268
	OPT-09/WS/23883	To improve the capacity of water and environmental health sector in Gaza to respond to major emergencies	Accion Contra el Hambre	835,000	new		835,000
	OPT-09/WS/21616/5647	Emergency response to untreated sewage disposal into the Wadi Gaza, Gaza Strip.	Accion Contra el Hambre	834,600	textual changes in project, and \$400 decrease		834,600
	OPT-09/WS/21600/5636	Ensuring regular supply of safe-drinking water to Beach Camp refugees, Gaza Strip.	Gruppo Volontariato Civile	1,050,000	only textual changes in project		1,050,000
	OPT-09/WS/21616/5636	Emergency response to untreated sewage disposal into the Wadi Gaza, Gaza Strip.	Gruppo Volontariato Civile	834,600	textual changes in project, and \$400 decrease		834,600

Sector	Project code	Project title	Appealing Agency	Funding requirement (\$)	Remarks	Funding to date (\$)	Unfunded balance (\$)
	OPT-09/WS/21924/124	Emergency water supply and improvement of access to drinking water in vulnerable locations across the West Bank and Gaza	United Nations Children's Fund	832,571	only textual changes in project		832,571
	OPT-09/WS/21925/124	Rehabilitation of urgent water and wastewater facilities in West Bank and Gaza	United Nations Children's Fund	1,902,779	only textual changes in project		1,902,779
	OPT-09/WS/23875/5593	Gaza crisis January 2009: Emergency Fuel for Water and Sanitation	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	555,000	new (part of UNRWA special appeal)	339,282 *	215,718
Grand Total				117,406,087		21,757,579	95,648,508

*estimated on *pro rata* basis, dividing reported flexible funding to UNRWA for Gaza crisis.

Additionally, there are \$2,974,679 of uncommitted pledges so far: \$2,650,845 for UNRWA, and \$323,834 for WFP.

(Please communicate any funding news to fts@reliefweb.int.)