



The humanitarian situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip deteriorated rapidly in 2006. This is the result of the fiscal crisis facing the Palestinian Authority (PA) following the election of the Hamas movement in the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) elections and increased Israeli security and access restrictions.

The deteriorating situation led UN agencies and NGOs participating in the 2006 emergency Appeal to produce a monthly report to monitor changes according to key humanitarian indicators in the following sectors: health, child protection and psychosocial support, education, food security, agriculture, water and sanitation and job creation and cash assistance.

This report uses a combination of measurable humanitarian indicators and verified field observations. These two data collection methods can provide different accounts of the situation. The humanitarian indicators reveal longer-term changes and trends from one month to another. Field observations show early signs of strain that may indicate future changes in the situation more generally.

Under the Fourth Geneva Convention, Israel as the occupying power bears the responsibility for the welfare of the Palestinian population. In recent years, international donors and the PA have in practical terms taken on this role. The Government of Israel (Gol) is also under an obligation to transfer VAT taxes and customs duties that it collects on behalf of the PA under the Paris Protocol (1994) which amounts to roughly US\$60 million per month or roughly 50% of PA revenues. The Gol has withheld these VAT and customs transfers since the PLC elections in January. The Paris Protocol was reaffirmed as continuing to apply as recently as the 15 November 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access (AMA) between the Gol and PA.

The following UN Agencies and NGOs provide information to the Humanitarian Monitor: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO), Oxfam (GB), Palestine Hydrology Group, World Food Program (WFP) and World Health Organization (WHO).

Situation Analysis:

Attention still needs to be maintained on the ongoing situation in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) military operation inside the Gaza Strip has continued since 28 June. 'Operation Summer Rains', as it was codenamed by the IDF, was launched following an attack by Palestinian militants on an IDF military post at Kerem Shalom. The attack killed two IDF soldiers and two Palestinian militants and injured a further four IDF soldiers. An IDF soldier was also taken captive by Palestinian militants in the attack and has been held ever since.

The military operation caused a massive deterioration in the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip. UNDP initial estimates put the damage to Gaza's infrastructure from IDF incursions, artillery shellings and Israel Air Force (IAF) air strikes at approximately US\$15.5 million. This does not include damage to the Gaza power plant estimated at a further US\$15 million.

In the West Bank, the humanitarian situation also deteriorated in July as ongoing Israeli/Palestinian violence increased and closure throughout the West Bank tightened.

Summary Humanitarian Indicators:

- One hundred and eighty-two (182) Palestinians were killed in July during the ongoing conflict with Israel. Most of the fatalities were recorded in the Gaza Strip (164) from the IDF military operation. This figure accounts for almost as many Palestinian deaths as occurred in the first six months of the year.
- Three Israelis, including two IDF soldiers, were killed in July, the same number of fatalities as the previous month.
- Palestinian deaths and injuries from Palestinian-Palestinian (internal) violence continued at relatively high levels in the Gaza Strip in July. Eighteen (18) Palestinians were killed and 56 injured.
- In July, 39 Palestinian children were killed in the continued conflict with Israel and a further three children were killed in Palestinian internal violence in July. More than 90% of these deaths occurred in the Gaza Strip. According to Defence for Children International Palestine Section (DCI-PS), this is the second highest number of children killed in one month since the beginning of the *intifada*.
- The number of IAF air strikes (missiles and rockets) in the Gaza Strip almost doubled in July compared to June (221 compared to 122). Intensive IDF artillery shelling also continued with, on average, between 200 – 250 artillery shells being fired into the Gaza Strip each day. Thirty-six (36) Palestinian homes and structures were destroyed



by the Israeli military in incursions, air strikes and shelling. Palestinians fired 282 homemade rockets towards Israel in July compared with 275 in June, injuring ten Israelis.

- In the Gaza Strip, 3,666 dunums (366 hectares) of Palestinian agricultural land was destroyed by the IDF during the current military operation.
- The number of Palestinian children held in Israeli detention decreased further compared with the previous month (from 359 to 335).
- The number of truckloads of goods imported into the Gaza Strip almost halved in July compared to June (a daily average in July of 85 compared to 179 in June). However, the volume of basic food commodities imported into the Gaza Strip, including humanitarian aid supplied by WFP and UNRWA, increased in July compared to June. No exported goods left the Gaza Strip in July.
- Food prices continue to fluctuate in the Gaza Strip making household budget planning difficult. The price of wheat flour increased by 10% in July compared to June.
- Palestinian workers and traders from the Gaza Strip have not been not allowed into Israel since 12 March. In the West Bank, Palestinian workers and traders with valid entry permits were prohibited from entering East Jerusalem and Israel during seven days of closure in July.
- The number of physical obstacles restricting Palestinian movement in the West Bank rose from 526 in June to 540 in July.
- Humanitarian organisations reported an increase in access incidents (delay or denial of access at permanent and flying checkpoints) in the West Bank compared to June (65 in July compared to 50 in June).
- A significant proportion of essential drugs remained out of stock in the West Bank (24%) and Gaza Strip (17%) in July.
- In the Gaza Strip, the prevalence of anemia amongst pregnant women is high at 43.1%. High levels of anemia have been a long-standing problem and could be the result of low food intake, increased illnesses and/or lack of caring practices.
- There was a marked increase in the incidence of diarrhea in the refugee population in the Gaza Strip compared with the same month last year, indicating a deterioration in water quality. The bombing of the Gaza power plant has left Palestinians in urban areas with as a little as 2 – 3 hours of water per day. Continued IDF shelling around the Beit Lahia Waste Water Treatment Plant damaged the infiltration pool's sand banks and prevented maintenance teams from assessing the damage. The Coastal Municipal Water Utilities (CMWU) appealed to the international community for assistance in dealing with the threat of flooding from the Plant.
- 70% of households in the oPt are in living in poverty. Poverty among PA employees had risen at a sharper rate (a rise

of 9% between July 2005 and April 2006) than among the general population.

- The overall unemployment level has fallen to 28.6% in the 2nd Quarter 2006 (a decrease of 2.5%) largely due to improvement in the West Bank labour market.
- In July, the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) began the distribution of March 2006 cash subsidies to 40,289 Social Hardship Cases (SHC) in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. These families received subsidies of between NIS 100 and 600 NIS (US\$20 and 130) per family depending on the household size and composition. However, the equivalent of four months of cash subsidies to these families remained outstanding at the end of July.

Field Observations:

Delivery of services / capacity of service-providers

Absenteeism and disrupted work practices:

- Most MoH hospital staff continue to attend work; however closures have affected Al-Watani and Rafidia hospital staff in Nablus from reaching their places of work. Ramallah hospital has been the only hospital to report delays in the arrival of their staff from out of town.
- In three hospitals in the Gaza Strip (Shifa, Gaza European and Kamal Adwan hospitals) and in primary healthcare clinics (PHC) across the Gaza Strip and West Bank staff are increasingly taking regular and forced leave. Working hours in PHCs were reduced in 50% of governorates as staff are relying on MoH transport.
- In July, three charitable associations² in Nablus and Hebron governorates were closed by the Israeli authorities. An additional 17 associations were searched throughout the West Bank.
- In July, there were six incidents involving IDF raids/ searches where staff from hospitals, clinics or ambulances were prevented from treating patients. In one incident, the IDF entered Nablus Specialty hospital, forcing three surgical operations/interventions to be cancelled or postponed, putting seriously ill patients at risk for three hours.

Health:

- Drug availability has continued to decline and the majority of MoH hospitals have ten or more items completely out of stock; in Beit Jala hospital (Bethlehem), 42 items were out of stock. A full stock of drugs was available at the main hospitals in Gaza City, Khan Younis and Rafah (Gaza Strip).
- The 17 hospitals surveyed by WHO in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have reported reducing the type of services provided, including diagnostic, elective surgical and out-patient services because of lack of consumables and shortage of laboratory reagents. In PHC facilities in



the Gaza Strip, vaccines spoiled in two districts due to interruption of the cold chain supply. However, the vaccination programme was maintained in these areas as vaccines were kept in nearby clinics and transported in ice boxes to the clinics on the days when vaccination was to take place.

- Equipment maintenance continues to be a problem in most MoH hospitals, causing some equipment to malfunction. For example, in Al-Mohtaseb hospital in the H2 area of Hebron city, the incubator unit malfunctioned after the maintenance company refused to service it because the hospital could not afford to pay. However, some equipment that had malfunctioned in early July was able to be repaired in four hospitals in the West Bank.
- Renewal of the intifada health insurance, provided by the MoH to SHCs and unemployed people in the West Bank, is no longer affordable to all. The health insurance scheme expired in late June 2006 and subscription fees have increased. UNRWA mobile clinics are increasingly becoming the only health services that residents of remote localities can afford.
- UNRWA clinics are being relied upon to provide basic medicines that refugees can no longer afford to buy. People are also increasingly coming to these clinics to obtain substitutes for expensive medicines prescribed to them by private doctors.
- During the month of July, the number of cesarean sections at Shifa hospital (Gaza Strip) increased significantly and to a lesser extent at Nasser/Khan Younis hospital as well as hospitals in the West Bank. This means that maternity wards are subjected to increased pressure, adversely affecting the quality of services provided. Poorer quality obstetric care services will directly increase morbidity among mothers and their babies as well as maternal and newborn mortality.

Payment of salaries and allowances:

- A minimum payment of NIS 1,200 (US\$260) was made to all PA employees on 22 July³. This meant that PA employees with a salary less than NIS 1,500 (US\$ 330) have received the equivalent of two months' salary since March 2006; employees with a salary of between NIS 1,500-2,500 (US\$ 330 and 550) have received one month's salary; and employees with a salary more than NIS 2,500 (US\$550) have received only half a month's salary.
- In the days immediately following the salary payment in July, UNRWA's micro-credit and micro-finance programme (MMP) noted that there was a near doubling of loan repayments compared to the previous week.
- The Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) medical staff continue to receive their salaries regularly following donations from the ICRC and donor countries.

Fuel, water and electricity:

- It is more than one month since the IAF attacked and destroyed the Gaza power station in the early hours of 28 June. Since then, all Palestinian households in the Gaza Strip have experienced major disruptions in their daily lives as a result of intermittent power supplies. Palestinian households receive between 6-8 hours/day of electricity and 2-3 hours/day of running water in the urban areas. Water is insufficient to meet daily needs in households across the Gaza Strip.
- The bombing of the Gaza power plant has interrupted the provision of essential services with health, water and sanitation sectors relying on back-up generators to ensure continuous electrical supply. For example, all MoH hospitals in the Gaza Strip use generators for the preservation of the cold chain items, such as vaccines, food for patients, and for emergency operations. At the end of July, hospitals had fuel stocks for 2-3 weeks; however, fuel shortages remain a problem in PHCs across the Gaza Strip.
- Since 20 July, the CMWU in the Gaza Strip has started to receive fuel under the auspices of the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM). An agreement has been reached to supply the CMWU with 920,000 litres of fuel per month over the next six months for its water and waste water facilities.
- Hospitals in Hebron, such as the Abu Hasan Al-Qassem in Yatta, reported shortages in water because they could not pay their water bill to the Municipality. This hospital was already in debt to the Municipality and had previously received money from alternative sources other than the PA to pay their water debt.
- Palestinian drivers, contracted by an international NGO to deliver water to drought-hit areas in the southern West Bank, were physically and verbally assaulted on at least four occasions by IDF soldiers at Beit Awwa checkpoint and delayed there 12 times. This impacted the delivery of water to Palestinian communities in the area.

Education:

- Many pupils and students cannot pay their school registration fees (NIS 50/US\$11) required for enrollment in the next scholastic year 2006-2007, which is leading to difficulties in preparations for the upcoming school year.
- The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) in the Gaza Strip has not held any summer camps because of a lack of funds.

Socio-economic conditions

- The number of applications for assistance received by MoSA continues to increase and in general current SHC families continue to be refused credit with shopkeepers.



- The number of residents in the H2 area of Hebron city seeking free meals offered by the Islamic Waqf almost doubled between January and June 2006 (from 14,200 to 26,840 individuals).
- UNRWA Camp Service Officers in all areas of the West Bank report that UNRWA employees are providing support to members of their families who work in the PA and have not been paid.
- Transport expenses continue to be one of the immediate problems facing health workers. The cost of transport is affecting parents' decisions about where to enroll their children for the upcoming school year.
- Bedouins living in the Salfit area are no longer able to sell their produce as most people living in the area are PA employees. PA employees no longer have enough money to buy meat and yoghurt from these Bedouins.
- Landlords complain that tenants are unable to pay their monthly rent on time, especially PA employees.
- The drought continues to affect Palestinian communities in the southern parts of the West Bank and Bedouins in Jerusalem. These communities depend on water for agriculture and shepherding, their sole sources of income.
- Reports of postponed marriages are becoming more frequent, even in the case when the groom has a permanent job. The need to continue supporting immediate and extended families is leading many men to delay starting a family of their own. UNRWA reports marriages in Fara camp (Nablus) are 30% below the level from last year.

Coping mechanisms

- In the Gaza Strip, the poor (79% of households in the Gaza Strip are living below the poverty line) continue to be particularly affected by the bombing of the Gaza power plant. These Palestinians are cutting household expenditure by choosing cheaper foods and reducing food consumption due to shortages of electricity and cooking gas.
- Some poor families are resorting to sending their children to collect empty cartons and wood chips to use as fuel to cook. In the northern West Bank, collecting scrap metal, plastic and tin foil has become a major source of income for men and children, and there has been a marked increase in this kind of work over the last two months.
- In addition to increasing number of applicants to UNRWA's job creation programme, there has been a rise in the number people interested in indirect hire schemes offered by UNRWA through the camp committees. This type of employment only lasts for two weeks and PA employees are also starting to apply.

Access

- The Rafah passenger crossing located on the Gaza Strip border with Egypt has been closed for regular movement since 25 June. It opened for two days in July (18 and 19 July) to allow entry of 5,178 passengers who had been trapped on the Egyptian side of the crossing.
- In the Gaza Strip, the price of one tonne of concrete has almost doubled (NIS 330/US\$73 to approximately NIS 650/US\$144) due to the closure of key Gaza crossing points in July (Karni and Sufa).
- Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip have been prohibited from fishing off the coastline since 25 June. This has meant that there is no fish available in the local market and the livelihood of 35,000 people dependent on the fishing sector is deteriorating.
- Access to Jerusalem for ambulances continues to be problematic. Al 'Ezariya Municipality stated that 80-90% of the Palestinian ambulances were being turned back by Israeli authorities at Az Zayyem checkpoint.
- In one refugee camp in the Jericho area, there were two cases in which access to Jerusalem for women in labour was delayed. In one case, a woman was denied access through Az Zayyem checkpoint and had to enter Jerusalem through Sheikh Sa'd before eventually reaching Maqassed Hospital. The woman was delayed for a number of hours and was forced to change transport and in the end walk part of the way to the hospital. The baby was born with serious health problems and remains under observation in Maqassed hospital.
- Access for Palestinians, including those with dual nationalities (Palestinians who hold foreign passports), is becoming more difficult throughout the West Bank. For example, 40 tour guides from the West Bank were denied permits to access East Jerusalem. Palestinians with Jordan Valley addresses on their ID cards are the only Palestinians allowed to access the Jordan Valley.
- Communities living close to the Barrier continue to be affected. For example, residents of Khillet An Nu'man (Bethlehem) are the only individuals allowed to enter and leave the village using their ID cards. Municipal services, such as garbage collection, are interrupted by the Israeli Border Police manning the gate leading to the community.



NGO and UN capacity to respond to increased demand for assistance

- The revised humanitarian appeal is currently 35% funded. Water, agriculture, health and education are the most under-funded sectors.
- UNRWA has reported an increase in requests for medical consultations and provision of basic medicines at its facilities throughout the West Bank since January, confirming that more people cannot afford to pay the fees at private clinics and hospitals. The number of non-refugees receiving treatment at the UNRWA hospital in Qalqiliya rose by 54% in the first semester of 2006, compared to previous year.
- US\$70 million worth of infrastructure projects for UNDP have been adversely affected due to the shortage of construction materials in the Gaza Strip. According to UNDP, these projects would create 875,000 paid annual working days for Palestinians.
- UNICEF and Tamer Institute, a Palestinian NGO based in Ramallah, held 73 summer activities (including Open Day, art and music activities) throughout the oPt for children during July. More than 4,000 children attended these activities. UNICEF has initiated a Back-to-School Campaign with all possible partners to ensure that schools open and students return to education on time.
- The number of applications for the UNRWA job creation programme from PA employees and women is increasing, demonstrating a growing need for incomes. Head teachers in UNRWA schools are being informally approached by an increasing number of people (both refugees and non-refugees) looking for jobs as school guards or cleaners.

Endnotes

¹ Field observations are collected by staff from participating UN agencies and NGOs. For the health sector, WHO publishes a bi-monthly monitoring report, 'Health Sector Surveillance Indicators', monitoring health and the health sector in the oPt. This report contains humanitarian indicators and field observations.

² The Religious Charitable Association in Nablus provided assistance to 850 orphans and 157 widows. The Az Zakat Committee in Nablus provided cash assistance to 3,000 poor families, 2,800 orphans and poor students. At the same time the Al-Safa dairy At the same time the Al-Safa dairy company employing 70 staff and supervised by the Az Zakat Committee was closed. The Islamic Society for Orphan Sponsorship in Hebron provided financial assistance for 250 families, 350 orphans and 50 widows.

³ The payment was made via the banking system. The Arab bank has also participated in the transfer of salaries for the first time since March. Before, payments were transferred via the post offices, as some Palestinian banks were refusing to make any money



Protection of civilians and access

Indicator	Data			Summary trends
Number of Palestinians killed and injured ¹		West Bank	Gaza Strip	<p>One hundred and eighty-two (182) Palestinians were killed during the ongoing conflict with Israel in July 2006. This figure accounts for almost as many Palestinian deaths as occurred in the first six months of the year.</p> <p>The number of fatalities in the Gaza Strip dramatically increased in July during the continued IDF military operation. In the West Bank, Palestinian fatalities also increased compared to the previous month, with the majority of fatalities occurring during IDF military operations in urban centers.</p> <p>The number of Palestinians injured (799) in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip also increased significantly compared to June.</p>
	Dec 05	12 deaths 124 injuries	14 deaths 33 injuries	
	Apr 06	8 deaths 183 injuries	23 deaths 75 injuries	
	May 06	21 deaths 223 injuries	20 deaths 30 injuries	
	Jun 06 ²	4 deaths 117 injuries	34 deaths 76 injuries	
	Jul 06	18 deaths 209 injuries	164 deaths 590 injuries	
Number of Israelis killed and injured ³		oPt	Israel	<p>Three Israelis (two in the West Bank and one in the Gaza Strip) were killed in the oPt in July 2006. This is the same number of fatalities as recorded in the previous month.⁴</p> <p>The number of Israeli injuries increased to 41 in July compared to June. This figure includes ten Israelis injured by homemade rockets fired from the Gaza Strip into Israel.</p>
	Dec 05	3 deaths 23 injuries	5 deaths 63 injuries	
	Apr 06	0 deaths 17 injuries	6 deaths 61 injuries	
	May 06	0 deaths 15 injuries	1 death 0 injuries	
	Jun 06	1 death 11 injuries	2 deaths 15 injuries	
	Jul 06	3 deaths 31 injuries	0 death 10 injuries	
Number of days of external closure ⁵		West Bank	Gaza Strip	<p>Palestinians with West Bank IDs and valid permits were prevented from entering East Jerusalem and Israel on seven days in July.</p> <p>External closure for Palestinian workers and traders since 12 March 2006 remained in place in the Gaza Strip.</p>
	Dec 05	25	18	
	Apr 06	30	30	
	May 06	5	31	
	Jun 06	0	30	
	Jul 06	7 ⁶	31	
Number of IDF physical obstacles in the West Bank ⁷		West Bank		<p>The number of physical obstacles in the West Bank increased to 540 in July compared to 526 in June. 160 obstacles have been added by the IDF to restrict Palestinian movement in the past 12 months.</p>
	end Dec 05	402		
	end Apr 06	504		
	end May 06	519		
	end Jun 06	526		
	end Jul 06 ⁸	540		
Number of access incidents reported by humanitarian organisations in the West Bank ⁹		West Bank		<p>The number of access incidents reported by humanitarian organisations in the West Bank increased to 65 in July 2006. The majority of incidents (29) occurred in the northern West Bank, especially between Tulkarm and Nablus.</p>
	Dec 05	77		
	Apr 06	92		
	May 06	150		
	Jun 06	50		
	Jul 06	65		

For more information please contact OCHA, (02) 582 9962 (Catherine Osborn or Mai Yassin)

¹ Source: OCHA, *Weekly Briefing Notes*

² The June figures do not include the seven members of the Palestinian family killed and 33 Palestinians injured on 9 June 2006 on a beach in northern Gaza Strip. The circumstances of this incident remained contested by the Palestinian Authority and Government of Israel.

³ Source: OCHA, *Weekly Briefing Notes*

⁴ The Israeli casualties reported are from the on-going Israeli/Palestinian conflict and do not include Israeli casualties in the conflict with Lebanon.

⁵ Source: Ministry of Labour, *closure reports*. These figures include weekends i.e. Saturdays, when they fall within a comprehensive closure period.

⁶ Source: OCHA. The following categories of Palestinians were exempted from this general closure: (1) workers from international organisations; (2) medical staff; (3) humanitarian cases; and (4) Palestinians with legal issues i.e. needing to attend court in Israel

⁷ Source: UN, *Implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access biweekly report*. OCHA compiles several times a year a comprehensive count of physical obstacles to Palestinian movement in the West Bank. The figures reported in this document are based on OCHA field observations only.

⁸ As of 25 July.

⁹ Source: UNRWA, *West Bank Monthly Reports* and OCHA, *ACIS forms*

Job creation and cash assistance

Indicator	Data				Summary trends
		oPt	West Bank	Gaza Strip	
Unemployment rate ('relaxed definition') ¹⁰	3 rd Q 2000	20.2%	16.9%	21.8%	The unemployment rate in the oPt has risen by more than 8% since the start of the <i>intifada</i> . The overall unemployment rate fell by 2.5% from the 1 st Quarter of 2006 to the 2 nd Quarter, mostly driven by the slight improvement in the West Bank labour market. ¹¹
	4 th Q 2005	29.4%	27.7%	33.1%	
	1 st Q 2006	31.1%	27.2%	39.6%	
	2 nd Q 2006	28.6%	24.2%	38.7%	
Number of Palestinians employed in Israel and the settlements ¹²		oPt	West Bank	Gaza Strip	The number of Palestinians employed in Israel and the settlements has decreased from 146,000 to 57,800 since the start of the <i>intifada</i> . Employment in Israel decreased between 1 st Quarter of 2006 and the 2 nd Quarter and remained at very low levels.
	3 rd Q 2000	146,000	116,000	30,000	
	4 th Q 2005	60,000	60,000	NA ¹³	
	1 st Q 2006	61,000	60,000	1,000	
Erez crossing (Gaza Strip): average daily labour movement ¹⁴		Workers to Israel		Traders to Israel	Since 12 March 2006, no workers or traders from the Gaza Strip have passed through Erez crossing.
	2000	22,795		NA	
	Apr 06	0		0	
	May 06	0		0	
	Jun 06	0		0	
Percentage of households in poverty ¹⁵		oPt	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Household poverty in the oPt increased by 16% since November 2001.
	Nov 01	54%	44%	75%	
	Jul 05	68%	62%	77%	
	Apr 06	70%	66%	79%	
Percentage of PA households in poverty ¹⁶		oPt	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Although poverty among PA employees is lower than average across the Palestinian population, the increase in poverty is sharper than the general population and points to a worsening trend. PA employees have not received their full salaries since March 2006.
	Nov 01	31%	23%	42%	
	Jul 05	37%	33%	42%	
	Apr 06	46%	43%	49%	
Number of applicants to UNRWA job creation programme in the West Bank ¹⁷		West Bank			The total number of applications to the UNRWA job creation programme has increased eight-fold during the last two years. A major increase in demand for enrollment in UNRWA JCP has been recorded since December 2005 (number of applications doubled).
	Apr 04	500			
	Dec 05	2,000			
	Apr 06	4,000			
	May 06	4,000			
Jun 06	4,500				

For more information please contact UNRWA, (02) 589 0500 (Elena Mancusi) or UNDP, (02) 6268200 (Rohini Kohli)

¹⁰ Source: PCBS, *Quarterly Labour Force Survey*. In the context of protracted crisis, the standard unemployment definition can be deficient as a considerable number of people are no longer seeking employment. A 'relaxed definition' of unemployment is calculated by adding the total number of unemployed people according to ILO standards and the number of people no longer engaged in active job search.

¹¹ According to PCBS, the improvement can be attributed to the emergency unemployment programme conducted by the MoL and also school and university students have joined the labour market during their summer holiday.

¹² Source: PCBS, *Labour Force Survey*. The indicator was designed according to ILO standards and refers to all persons aged 15 and above who during the reference week (i) were in paid employment or self-employment for at least one hour; or (ii) did not work, but held a job from which they were temporarily absent. Numbers include both West Bank ID holders and Palestinians with Israeli ID.

¹³ According to PCBS, less than 1,000 Palestinians from the Gaza Strip were employed in Israel and settlements during the last quarter of 2005. The exact number is not available for the reporting period.

¹⁴ Source: *Palestinian National Security Forces*. 2000 data obtained from UNSCO. The average daily labour movement is calculated excluding weekends i.e. Fridays and Saturdays except when they fall over a comprehensive closure period.

¹⁵ Source: IUED, *Palestinian Public Perceptions Polls No. 3, 9 and 10*. IUED objective poverty measure is based on the reported household income, taking into account the number of adults and children in the household. Poverty rates for the West Bank include East Jerusalem. The poverty line is calculated using the PCBS poverty line of 2,216 NIS for a family of six (two adults and four children) per month. Since 2001, UN agencies in the oPt have funded the IUED to conduct a poll on Palestinian perceptions of their living conditions. This data can be used to analyse changes in the situation over time and is one of the few sources of currently available information on the situation in 2006. PCBS projections estimate that in Q2 2006, 67% of households would be in poverty, according to income based definitions (Poverty in the Palestinian Territories, 2005).

¹⁶ Source: IUED, *Palestinian Public Perceptions Reports No. 3, 9 and 10*.

¹⁷ Source: UNRWA, *West Bank Job Creation Programme*.

Health

Indicator	Data			Summary trends
		West Bank	Gaza Strip	
% of drugs from the essential drugs list that are out of stock at the Central Drugstore ¹⁸		West Bank	Gaza Strip	A steady number of drug items continue to be out of stock in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip central drugstores.
	Dec 05 ¹⁹	19%	10%	
	Apr 06	23%	18%	
	May 06 ²⁰	26%	20%	
	Jul 06	24%	17%	
Underweight: Number of children aged less than 2 years whose weight for age is less than 5 th percentile per number of children measured ²¹		West Bank	Gaza Strip	Malnutrition amongst children remains low in the West Bank although a slow upward trend has been observed in recent months. Further analysis of district-wide situation is underway to identify any vulnerable areas and reasons for that trend. In the Gaza Strip, data from nutritional surveillance is still not available.
	2004 ²²	4%	4%	
	Mar 06	3.6%	NA	
	Apr 06	3.3%	NA	
	Jul 06	4.2%	NA	
Anemia: Number of pregnant woman (at first pre-natal visit) measured with hemoglobin less than 11 g/l per total number of woman measured ²³		West Bank	Gaza Strip	No significant signs of deterioration in anemia in pregnant women in the West Bank; prevalence remains at a moderate public health significance although possibly underestimated. In the Gaza Strip, the prevalence of anemia amongst pregnant woman is high and of severe public health significance. ²⁴
	Dec 05	NA	NA	
	Mar 06	25.6%	22.9%	
	Apr 06	25.8%	20.1%	
	Jun 06	27.0%	43.1%	
Number of consultations for diarrhea (refugee children, 0 – 3 years) compared with the corresponding month the previous year ²⁵		West Bank	Gaza Strip	The incidence of watery and bloody diarrhea for children between the ages of 0 – 3 years who attended UNRWA health facilities in the Gaza Strip has increased during July 2006 compared to July 2005. This has continued a trend observed in the last few months indicating a possible decline in water quality. ²⁶
	Mar 06/Mar 05	900/786	1,201/1,823	
	Apr 06/Apr 05	667/633	860/840	
	May 06/May 05	889/690	1,390/1,072	
	Jul 06/Jul 05	NA	1,868/1,196	
Number of cesarean births in MoH hospitals ²⁷		West Bank	Gaza Strip	There was a 16 % in the number of cesarean births in July compared to June 2006, with the increase particularly marked in the Gaza Strip.
	Mar 06	NA	331	
	Apr 06	448	290	
	May 06	397	335	
	Jul 06	458	416	

For more information please contact WHO, Dr. Silvia Pivetta (WHO office in the Gaza Strip, (08) 282 2033) and/or Dr. Mohammad Shajahan (WHO office in Jerusalem, (02) 540 0595).

¹⁸ Source: *Central Drug Store, Ministry of Health*. Drugs 'out of stock' refers to stock levels of less than one month's requirement.

¹⁹ In the May Humanitarian Monitor it was reported that no drugs were out of stock. The figures have now been updated following discussions with the Ministry of Health.

²⁰ In the May Humanitarian Monitor it was reported that 23% of drugs were out of stock in the West Bank and 10% in the Gaza Strip. These figures have been updated following discussions with the Ministry of Health.

²¹ Source: *Primary Health Care Directorate, West Bank and Gaza Strip, Ministry of Health Nutrition Department*. The percentage of children underweight can be indicative of a change in the health status of children as a result of low food intake, increased illnesses and/or lack of caring practices. This could be the result of increased closures (lack of access to food, to health services and/or to work) and/or the current fiscal crisis of the PA (lack of salary payments leading to lack of food, lack of health services, increased distress). The 5th percentile has been used as a cut off point instead of -2 standard deviations and this data is from clinics and may not give a representative picture for all children 0-2 years old and is not comparable with data based on z-score.

²² Source: *PCBS/DHS (2004)*

²³ Source: *Primary Health Care Directorate, West Bank and Gaza Strip, Ministry of Health Mother and Child Health Department*. This indicator can be interpreted the same way as the percentage of children underweight.

²⁴ Source: MoH Nutrition Department at the district level (no data available for Khan Younis). This figure cannot be compared with previous figures as a new method of collection has been used. The figure should be more accurate than previous figures as there are reasons to suggest underestimation in the past.

²⁵ Source: *UNRWA Epidemiology Department, West Bank and Gaza Strip Field Offices*. An increase in consultations for diarrhea is related to increased poor quality of water, which suggests that environmental health programmes run by the Ministry of Health and Municipalities are not coping with the need, specifically in water and sanitation programmes. Monthly figures are compared to the corresponding month in the previous year due to seasonal diarrhea trends.

²⁶ WHO calculations based on data collected from UNRWA field offices in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

²⁷ Source: *Hospital Directorate, West Bank and Gaza Strip*. The number of cesarean births is used to measure the extra load on maternity wards, assuming the number of beds and personnel is constant.



Child protection and psychosocial support

Indicator	Data		Summary trends
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	
Number of Palestinian children killed ²⁸	Jan 06	1	<p>Forty-two (42) Palestinian children were killed in July 2006. Three of the fatalities occurred in the West Bank while 39 occurred in the Gaza Strip: 36 Palestinian children have been killed during the ongoing conflict with Israel and three children killed during Palestinian-Palestinian (internal) violence.</p> <p>According to DCI-PS, this is the second highest number of children killed in one month since the beginning of the <i>intifada</i></p>
	Apr 06	3	
	May 06	0	
	Jun 06	0	
	Jul 06	3	
	Jul 06	39	
Number of Palestinian children injured ²⁹	Jan 06	3 ³⁰	<p>One hundred and three (103) Palestinian children were injured in July 2006 including four Palestinian children who were injured in internal violence in the Gaza Strip. This represents an 80% increase from the June figures. Most of the children were injured in Nablus governorate.</p>
	Apr 06	27 ³¹	
	May 06	22	
	Jun 06	24 ³²	
	Jul 06	78	
	Jul 06	25	
Number of Palestinian children held in detention by the Israeli authorities ³³		oPt	<p>The number of Palestinian children in Israeli detention in July has continued to decrease, although figures are still higher than in January 2006.</p> <p>According to the Ministry of Detainee's Affairs (MoDA), the decrease could be partly due to 31 of the children detained turning 18 years in July 2006 and therefore no longer considered children.</p>
	Jan 06	319	
	Apr 06	371	
	May 06	377	
	Jun 06	359	
	Jul 06	335	
Number of adults who have received mental health treatments through Ministry of Health ³⁴		oPt	<p>The overall number of adults who have received mental health treatment in the oPt has increased in July 2006 to reach the highest number since the beginning of the year.</p>
	Feb 06	2,098	
	Apr 06	2,324	
	May 06	2,356	
	Jun 06	2,131	
	Jul 06	2,447	

For more information please contact UNICEF, (02) 583 0013 (Anne Grandjean).

²⁸ Source: OCHA, *Weekly Briefing Notes and DCI-PS*

²⁹ Source: OCHA, *Weekly Briefing Notes*

³⁰ In addition, on 3 January seven teenagers were injured during clashes between the IDF and Palestinian stone-throwers in Jenin city. Because we cannot specify their ages, they have not been included in the total number.

³¹ Seven persons between the ages of 14 – 20 years were reported injured in one incident in April without any specification of their exact age. One 14-year-old child is counted in the April injury figure and the other six injuries are not reported as their ages are unknown.

³² An additional 12 persons under the age of 20 were reported injured in Nablus in June without any specification of their exact age. They are not included in the June injury figure.

³³ Source: *Ministry of Detainee's Affairs*

³⁴ Source: *Ministry of Health, collected by WHO*. Based on a sample of four community mental health centres (in Ramallah, Hebron, Tulkarm and Gaza).



Education

Indicator	Data			Summary trends
		West Bank	Gaza Strip	
Number of schools where there was a least one day of disruption ³⁵	Feb 06	16: - Nablus (13) - Jenin (2) - Tulkarm (1)	No full schools days disrupted.	Given the summer holidays, the current indicator selected for the education sector is not valid. Monitoring of this indicator will resume with the start of the school-year in September 2006. However, field observations related to the education sector are included in the situational analysis.
	Mar 06	40: - Nablus (10) - Hebron (9) - Jericho (7) - Jenin (6) - Jerusalem (6) - Qalqiliya (2)	9 (Khan Younis ³⁶)	
	Apr 06	31: - Nablus (29) - Jenin (2)	4 (Khan Younis ³⁷)	
	May 06	21: - Jenin (12) - Hebron (3) - Jericho (2) - Nablus (1) - Tulkarm (3).	No full schools days disrupted.	
	Jun 06	Not applicable	Not applicable	
	Jul 06	Not applicable	Not applicable	

For more information please contact UNICEF, (02) 583 0013 (Shao Potung) and UNESCO, (02) 295 9740 (Megumi Watanabe).

³⁵ Source: *Ministry of Education*

³⁶ Schools were disrupted in Khan Younis (Gaza Strip) during demonstrations etc following the incident at the Jericho prison on 14 March.

³⁷ Schools were disrupted in Khan Younis (Gaza Strip) during Palestinian funerals.



Food security

Indicator	Data						Summary trends	
	Sept 05		Jun 06 ³⁹		Jul 06			
Price of basic commodities (NIS) ³⁸		West Bank	Gaza Strip	West Bank	Gaza Strip	West Bank	Gaza Strip	
	Wheat flour (50 kg)	83.6	71.6	90.0	74.8	88.9	82.3	Prices for food commodities in the Gaza Strip continue to fluctuate. The price of wheat flour has increased by 10% in the Gaza Strip in July compared to June.
	Olive oil (1 kg)	16.8	19.5	19.0	21.4	19.0	22.6	
	Rice (1 kg)	3.8	3.5	3.1	3.3	3.6	3.0	
	Vegetable Oil (1 kg)	5.7	5.4	5.7	5.7	5.1	5.2	
	Chickpeas (1 kg)	4.8	4.5	5.4	5.8	4.2	5.4	
	Refined sugar (1 kg)	2.7	2.6	4.0	3.7	3.6	4.0	
	Milk Powder (1 kg)	24	NA	23.5	29.7	23.5	29.6	
Availability of basic commodities ⁴⁰	Gaza Strip						In the past year, there were approximately 60 days of available storage for wheat flour in the local Palestinian mills in the Gaza Strip (commercial supply). At the end of July 2006, this has been depleted to just 13 days (and is less than in June) due to the closure of Kami crossing.	
		Jun 06		Jul 06 ⁴¹				
		Available storage (tonnes)	No. of days of coverage	Available storage (tonnes)	No. of days of coverage			
	Wheat flour	7,502	17	5,689	13			
	Sugar	205	2	840	8			
Number of tonnes of food per month imported into the Gaza Strip ⁴²	Gaza Strip						The amount of food, including humanitarian aid supplied by WFP and UNRWA, imported into the Gaza Strip has increased in July 2006 compared to the previous month.	
		Jun 06		Jul 06				
	Wheat flour	4,460		9,158				
	Rice	144		1,998				
	Vegetable Oil	661		1,229				
	Sugar	1,121		4,996				
	Vegetables and fruit	2,117		3,508				
	Other food commodities	300		274				
Total	8,803		21,163					
Number of social hardship case families receiving their monthly cash subsidies from Ministry of Social Affairs ⁴³	West Bank		Gaza Strip				In July 2006, cash subsidies for March were distributed among 40,289 social hardship case families. However, the equivalent of four months of cash subsidies remain outstanding at the end of July.	
	Jan 06	19,406		17,779				
	Apr 06	0		0				
	May 06	0		0				
	Jun 06	0		0				
Jul 06	19,815		20,474					
Fishing catch in the Gaza Strip (in tonnes) ⁴⁴	Gaza Strip						Since 25 June, the Israeli authorities have prevented fishing off the Gaza Strip coastline. Approximately 35,000 people are reliant on the fishing industry for their livelihoods.	
	July 05	75						
	April 06	226.5						
	May 06	880						
	Jun 06	291 ⁴⁵						
Jul 06	0							

For more information please contact WFP, (02) 540 1340 (Genevieve Wills or Salah Lahham).

³⁸ Source: *WFP, Market Monitoring*. The VAM Market Price Survey is the primary means by which WFP collects commodity prices in the local markets. The market price data is collected in the first week of each month from shops in all governorates in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

³⁹ As of 23 June 2006

⁴⁰ Source: *Ministry of National Economy*.

⁴¹ As of 5 August 2006. Data includes the Private Sector only.

⁴² Source: *PalTrade*.

⁴³ Source: *Ministry of Social Affairs*

⁴⁴ Source: *Ministry of Agriculture*. Although seasonal fishing catch is an important indicator in the Gaza Strip as it gives an overview about the availability of the cheapest animal protein in the Gaza Strip, especially if there are future Avian Influenza incidents. The availability of fish in the market affects the poorest Gazan families and increases vulnerability amongst children and pregnant women.

⁴⁵ This figure has been revised following new information supplied by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA).



Agriculture

Indicator	Data			Summary trends
		West Bank	Gaza Strip	
Number of tonnes of agricultural produce imports in the oPt ⁴⁶		West Bank	Gaza Strip	Agricultural imports into the Gaza Strip increased by 61% during July 2006 compared to June 2006.
	Jun 05	NA	NA	
	Apr 06	NA	2,231	
	May 06	NA	2,663 ⁴⁷	
	Jun 06	NA	2,177	
	Jul 06	NA	3,509	
Number of tonnes of agricultural produce exports from the oPt ⁴⁸		West Bank	Gaza Strip	No exports of agricultural produce were allowed to leave the Gaza Strip through Kami crossing since 23 June 2006.
	Jun 05	NA	NA	
	Apr 06	NA	591	
	May 06	NA	509	
	Jun 06	NA	481	
	Jul 06	NA	0	
Number of dunums of agricultural land destroyed/requisitioned (-) and land reclaimed (+) ⁴⁹		West Bank	Gaza Strip	Land destruction continued in July. In the West Bank, 45 dunums of land was destroyed and 3,666 dunums in the Gaza Strip. Total area reclaimed was 265 dunums in the West Bank.
	Jun 05	NA	NA	
	Apr 06	-534/+510	NA	
	May 06	-306/+167	NA	
	Jun 06	-310/+338	NA	
	Jul 06	-45/+265	-3,666/+0	
Number of dunums of land covered by greenhouses destroyed (-) and built/rehabilitated (+) ⁵⁰		West Bank	Gaza Strip	Twenty-four (24) dunums of land covered by greenhouses was reclaimed in July compared to 145 dunums in June in the West Bank. In the Gaza Strip, 179 dunums of land covered by greenhouses was destroyed.
	Jun 05	NA	NA	
	Apr 06	-0/+89	NA	
	May 06	-0/+100	NA	
	Jun 06	-0/+145	NA	
	Jul 06	-0/+24	-179/+0	
Number of confirmed avian influenza outbreaks ⁵¹		West Bank	Gaza Strip	No new outbreaks of avian influenza have been reported or detected since April 2006. At the end of April, 345,986 birds had been culled in 38 commercial farms in the Gaza Strip and in the backyard holdings in the West Bank (an additional 5,861 birds were culled in an Israeli settlement in the West Bank).
	Jan 06	0	0	
	Feb 06	0	0	
	Mar/Apr 06	1 (in an Israeli settlement)	7	
	May 06	0	0	
	Jun 06	0	0	
Jul 06	0	0		

For more information please contact FAO, (02) 532 1950 (Rana Hannoun or Azzam Saleh).

⁴⁶ Source: *PalTrade*

⁴⁷ This number was revised following new information supplied by *PalTrade*.

⁴⁸ Source: *PalTrade*

⁴⁹ Source: *Agricultural directorates, Ministry of Agriculture*

⁵⁰ Source: *Agricultural directorates, Ministry of Agriculture*

⁵¹ Source: *Ministry of Agriculture*



Water and sanitation

Indicator ⁵²	Data			Summary trends
		West Bank	Gaza Strip	
Per capita water use (litre/per day)	Baseline (2005) ⁵³	86	95	On average, 17 litres less water is being consumed per person per day.
	Current Situation	66	81	
Price of tankered water (price of one cubic meter transported through Israel in New Israeli shekels)		West Bank	Gaza Strip	In the West Bank, there has been a 3.6 NIS rise in the price of tankered water.
	Baseline (2005)	11.4	NA	
	Current Situation	15	NA	
Percentage cost recovery of water bills by Village Councils and Municipalities		West Bank	Gaza Strip	In the West Bank, percentage cost recovery has fallen by 25%. The decline has been more marked in the Gaza Strip with a fall of over 50% in cost recovery.
	Baseline (2005) ⁵⁴	75%	75%	
	Current Situation	49.7%	22.3%	

For more information please contact Palestinian Hydrology Group, (02) 532 4355 (Dr. Ayman Rabi)

⁵² Source: *Palestine Hydrology Group, Water and Sanitation, Hygiene (WaSH) Monitoring Program*. The data is calculated on the basis of 60 Palestinian communities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip surveyed on a monthly basis.

⁵³ Assuming an average of 90 litres (pre-Intifada).

⁵⁴ Assuming cost recovery at 75% (pre-Intifada).