



The Humanitarian Monitor

occupied Palestinian territory



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The humanitarian situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip continued to deteriorate in 2006. The primary causes of this deterioration were Israeli access and security restrictions and the military incursions together with the Palestinian Authority (PA) fiscal crisis (freezing of the VAT and donors' cutting off of assistance) following the election of the Hamas movement in the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) elections.

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:

Although violence and conflict have decreased in August 2006, the overall situation in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) continues to crumble and existing resources are being stretched to the limit. The ongoing PA employees strike since September has meant that some data could not be collected for this edition. However, field observations and existing data all point towards a continuous degradation of the living conditions of the Palestinians parallel to increasing access restrictions.

In August the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) initially developed by the Quartet and supported by the European Commission has started to address some urgent needs through the provision of fuel and the payment of allowances to certain PA employees. The mid-term impact of the TIM is unfolding and is yet to be measured.

Summary Humanitarian Indicators:

- Seventy-seven (77) Palestinians were killed during the ongoing conflict with Israel in the oPt in August 2006 compared to 181 in July. The number of Palestinians injured (266) in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip has decreased significantly compared to July (799). One IDF soldier was killed and ten Israeli injured in August.
- Palestinian deaths (12) and injuries (55) caused by Palestinian-Palestinian (internal) violence have remained at a high level in August, particularly in Gaza Strip, compared to July (44 injuries and 13 deaths).
- Sixteen (16) Palestinian children were killed in August 2006, which is the second highest number this year and brings the total number of Palestinian children killed in 2006 to 80 (over 15% of all Palestinian deaths). An additional Palestinian child died as a result of internal violence in the Gaza strip.
- The number of Palestinian children held in Israeli detention has decreased compared to July (from 335 to 227). However, the children in detention that are being defended by private lawyers will be included in the report from August. This places the total number of detained children at 391.
- Palestinian workers and traders from the Gaza Strip have not been 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 on 20 days of closure in August.



- The number of physical obstacles restricting Palestinian movement in the West Bank rose from 540 in July to 547 in August. The net increase in the number of obstacles is actually made of a series of additions and removals, 13 and 6 respectively in August, of obstacles that contribute to further hamper and complicate Palestinian movement.
- Humanitarian organisations reported 99 access incidents (delay or denial of access at permanent and flying checkpoints) in the West Bank compared to 65 in July and to 50 in June.
- The number of IAF air strikes (missiles and rockets) in the Gaza Strip decreased to 58 in August compared to 221 in July. Intensive IDF artillery shelling also continued during the 1st week of August with, on average, 91 artillery shells being fired into the Gaza Strip each day. The number decreased from the 2nd week of August and stabilised around 14 per day¹. Eighty (80) Palestinian homes and structures were destroyed and 27 damaged by the Israeli military in incursions, air strikes and shelling. Palestinians fired 94 qassam (homemade) rockets towards Israel in August compared with 282 in July, injuring 10 Israelis.
- The ongoing general strike by PA employees meant that it was not possible to obtain the surface area of Palestinian agricultural land that has been destroyed by the IDF in August. IDF operations into the Gaza Strip continued throughout August levelling Palestinian agricultural land and infrastructure.
- According to PalTrade, there has been 2,121 truckloads of goods (daily average of 73), including basic commodities, humanitarian aid and building materials entered the Gaza Strip in August 2006 through the Karni crossing. The highest volume of imports was fruits and vegetables (15%) and frozen products (8%). Nineteen (19) truckloads of exported goods (ice-cream) crossed out of the Gaza Strip in August (the first since 23 June) to the West Bank and 21 truckloads of empty boxes and 302 containers were allowed out of the Gaza Strip. Agricultural imports into the Gaza Strip decreased by 79% in August 2006 compared to July. 2,16.7 mT of fertilizers and 526 mT of fodder were imported into the Gaza Strip in August. The volume of basic food commodities imported into the Gaza Strip, including humanitarian aid supplied by WFP and UNRWA was 3,618.5 mT.
- Food prices continue to fluctuate in the oPt. In Gaza Strip the average cost of the food commodities followed by the Humanitarian Monitor increased by 9.95 % compared to July ; the increase was of 1.56% in the West Bank.
- A significant proportion of essential drugs remained out of stock in the oPt : on the whole, 114 out of the 416 essential drugs are out of stock (27.4%).
- In the Gaza Strip, the prevalence of anaemia amongst pregnant women remains high at 39.8% (slight decrease

compared to July). High levels of anaemia have been a long-standing problem and could be the result of low food intake, increased illnesses and/or lack of caring practices.

- The incidence of watery and bloody diarrhea for children between the ages of 0 – 3 years who attended UNRWA health facilities in the oPt are significantly higher than during the same month in 2005 (+ 56% in the Gaza Strip) which may indicate a decline in water quality. The situation in the West Bank is similar to that of last year at the same period.
- On 23 August discussions have started over the fate of the Beit Lahia Waste Water Treatment Plant where repairs are urgently needed to prevent the sewage overflowing into the neighbouring towns.

Field Observations:²

Delivery of services / capacity of service-providers

Absenteeism and disrupted work practices:

- A two-day strike took place within all the Palestinian governmental institutions in the West Bank on 23 and 24 August to protest against the six months overdue salaries. No strike has taken place in the Gaza Strip.
- According to UNESCO, 376 Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) staff at the central office have been redeployed to limit the increased costs of transportations. In effect, workers in the West Bank must use longer routes to overcome restricted access, which they cannot afford in the present context of not being paid.
- Most of MoH hospitals staff continued to attend work before the strike that took place in late August. Before the strike, MoH hospital directors started to report that the performance of the staff has declined, likely a result of deteriorating conditions of life and transport in the absence of regular payments. During the strike, treatment was provided only to critical and chronically ill patients, including accidents, women in advanced labour, chest pains, chemotherapy and dialysis.
- Staff attendance at the PHCs in the West Bank governorates was significantly affected by the two-day strike. In the oPt, PHC workers tended to take more annual leave than in previous years so as to limit their transportation costs and possibly to participate indirectly to the strike hence affecting the quality of service delivered at PHC level, with the notable exception of Gaza City.
- On 13 August, three hospitals³ located in the H1 area in Hebron City were raided by IDF soldiers. The soldiers searched the emergency unit, the other sections of the hospitals and two ambulances for wanted Palestinians.



- Raids on charitable associations⁴ by the IDF also continued in Hebron in August leading to confiscation of computers, projectors, cameras, etc were confiscations.

Health:

- Drug shortages continue in most of the MoH hospitals. The majority of hospitals have ten or more items completely out of stock. The lack of drugs is affecting work at PHC facilities, especially in the West Bank, where between 40 and 52 drugs are completely out of stock compared to between 11 and 20 items in the Gaza Strip.
- The 17 hospitals surveyed by WHO in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have reported reducing the type of services provided during August, including diagnostic services due to lack of laboratory reagents and shortages in X-Ray films.
- Equipment needed for the delivery of services is in poor condition in terms of availability and functionality. Some hospitals reported that diagnostic or life supporting machines are not functioning due to the lack of spare parts for the equipment and the incapacity of repairing them.
- Because of the reduced cash availability, refugees from nearby villages can no longer afford to buy medicines and are increasingly relying upon UNRWA clinics. According to field observations, the number of patients approaching UNRWA mobile health teams for treatment is increasing.
- The number of admissions in the MoH hospitals and the number of PHCs consultations in the MoH and UNRWA facilities in the Gaza Strip have been steady over the last months, but are higher than in January (baseline).

Payment of salaries and allowances:

- Another partial payment of NIS 1,500 (\$260)⁵ was made to all PA employees on 18 August⁶. Hence PA employees with a salary lower than NIS 1,500 (\$ 330) have received the equivalent of three months' salary since March 2006; employees with a NIS 1,500-2,500 (\$ 330 and 550) salary have received one and a half months' salary; and employees with a salary over NIS 2,500 (\$550) have received one month's salary.
- In August, the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) has started to deliver to a NIS 1,500 (\$260) to 42,983 PA employees low income cases, as well as a NIS 2,000 (\$440) to 11,562 MoH employees. The total amount disbursed for this operation stands at NIS 87,598,500 (\$15,812,504).

Fuel, electricity and water:

- No developments have been reported for the urgent repairs needed to the Gaza Power Plant. Currently, the remaining electricity available from Israel (approximately 57% of daily supply) is being shared among the 1.4million people of the Gaza Strip. Gazans are still receiving on average between 6-8 hours/day of electricity and for most families living in urban areas between 2-3 hours/day of running water.
- In all hospitals in the Gaza Strip, a stock of fuel for 2-6 weeks is available. However, the shortage in power supply continues to be a major concern for the PHC in the Gaza Strip: fuel is only available for 1-3 weeks in all clinics that use generators.
- The bombing of the Gaza power plant has significantly impacted the distribution of water in the Gaza Strip. Fuel provided through the TIM has however contributed to lift the pressure (770,057 to 103 water facilities) although actual impacts have not yet been calculated. The TIM has also provided 530,247 litres of fuel to 40 public and private health facilities and 245,978 litres for 33 jetter/suction trucks and 32 waste water facilities.
- The provision of services at the PHCs in the Gaza Strip was maintained, except for diagnostic services and vaccinations. Immunisation services have been reorganised to take place in clinics in other governorates where generators are available to maintain the cold chain.
- Illegal connection to electrical networks between the houses by neighbours is increasing in the West Bank, as people are becoming unable to pay electricity bills. Some people undertake to share costs with neighbours at a later stage.
- According to Oxfam, the municipalities have not interrupted the water provision although more and more users cannot pay their bills, and are therefore increasingly indebted.

Education:

- The PA has reduced the school registration fee for the scholastic year 2006-2007 from NIS 50 (\$11) to NIS 20 (\$4) in August. However, there are fears that the number of students and pupils who are unable to pay the fees would increase significantly by the beginning of September as well as later on this year. The number of students who are unable to pay these fees have already increased by 90% from the scholastic year 2004-2005 to 2005-2006 (from 29,700 to 56,285).
- The number of summer camps held by the MoEHE in oPt was 323 (287 in the West Bank and 36 in the Gaza Strip), compared 374 camps during the academic year 2004/2005.



Socio-economic conditions

- The livelihood of farmers in the northern parts of the West Bank is further deteriorating. The number of farmers depending on olive harvest as a main source of income is increasing this year due to PA salaries crisis and the current economical situation.
- Drought issue continues to be a problem in the southern parts of the Hebron governorate, as highlighted by Oxfam and Action contre la Faim-Spain. In addition, there is an increased concern over water provision in the West Bank Refugee Camps as the PA is facing major problems in paying outstanding bills.
- Milk powder is available in very limited quantities in the south and middle areas of the Gaza Strip due to the closure of crossings. This is reflected on the prices of the available liquid and powder milk.
- Prices of vegetables are still high in the Gaza Strip and are anticipated to further increase: the higher costs of electricity lead to increased costs of irrigation while the agricultural banks are reluctant to give loans to farmers.
- UNRWA field medical staff start to report on an increasing number of requests for contraceptives by villages and Bedouin women in the southern parts of the West Bank and in the Refugee Camps, including from those women with one child. This seems to be linked to their deteriorating economic situation.
- Reports on stealing and selling of public items such as telephone and electric cables are becoming frequent in the West Bank villages and Refugee Camps. During August, the aluminium bars of UNRWA Boys School in Shufat Refugee Camp were stolen by a group of unknown youth.
- A 10% increase in the labour deliveries is reported at MoH hospitals while a decrease was confirmed at NGOs and private facilities in the Gaza Strip during the period from January to May 2006. This could be due to the economical situation since the delivery service is free of charge at the MoH facilities.
- The number of Bedouins seeking assistance from UNRWA mobile clinics is increasing. In Rashaydeh community (Bethlehem governorate) the number has gone up from 50-70 to 100-110 over the last three months.
- In an assessment recently conducted in Ar Ramadin and Green Line clusters (South-West Hebron) Action contre la Faim – Spain advanced conclusions point the drastic situation of the Bedouins communities with regard to water; with for instance 0% of the Ar Ramadin communities being connected to a water network; up to 36% of the households having no water system at all; an adequate water coverage not exceeding 6.9 months per year in average, etc. Water issues strongly

relate to the indebtedness of an increasing number of Bedouins as well as to the reduction in numbers of livestock because of a lack of fodder, in turn affecting the households' food and economic security.

- Early observations indicate that more married women are trying to obtain the secondary school certificate (Tawjihi) or an admission to universities in the southern parts of the West Bank, in hope of finding a job afterwards to support their husbands. Sending daughters to achieve a better education is becoming more frequent.
- It also appears that students who passed the secondary school exam (Tawjihi) opt to attend universities that charge lower fees such as Al Quds Open University .
- Landlords complain that tenants are unable to pay their monthly rent on time, especially PA employees.
- People in the northern West Bank Refugee Camps are now unable to participate in social events as they cannot afford buying any sort of gifts.
- Reports on postponed marriages are becoming more frequent within refugee communities due to the need of supporting immediate and extended families. Consistent findings across locations⁷ that the average age for wedding is increasing, and the Imam at Aroub Refugee Camp in Bethlehem governorate has requested people there to reduce wedding expenses and arrangements. The dowry value in Ramadin village in Hebron governorate has been reduced from 3,500 JDs to 2,000 JDs. In Bedouin communities in the southern parts of the West Bank, polygamy has decreased since men can no longer afford to marry more than one wife.

Coping mechanisms

- Public health workers are reported to be seeking alternative jobs, as in the case of Rafidia hospital where two physicians and four nurses have left their jobs in August to find jobs elsewhere.
- Poor families in the Gaza Strip are still resorting to negative coping mechanisms such as reducing household expenditure, choosing cheaper food, reducing food consumption in light of the increase in food prices and the fact that they have to cook daily due to shortages in power and cooking gas.
- In southern areas of the West Bank, PA employees, mainly teachers during the school vacation and security forces staff, are seeking other job opportunities within Israel although they do not have regular working permits.
- Requests for enrolment in UNRWA's job creation scheme are increasing from applicants in the Jerusalem area holding secondary certificates who are willing now to accept any unskilled types of work.



Access

- The Rafah passenger crossing located on the Gaza Strip border with Egypt has been closed for regular movement since 25 June, and opened for only two days in July for passengers trapped at the Egyptian terminal to enter the Gaza Strip. The crossing opened for a further five days in August to allow the entry of 5,986 (or an average of 193 passengers/day) and the departure of 10,877 (or an average of 351 passengers/day).
- Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip have been prevented from fishing off the coastline since 25 June. This has meant that there is no fish available in the local market for the second consecutive month and the livelihood of 35,000 people dependent on the fishing sector is deteriorating.
- On 21 August, the external closure imposed on the West Bank by the IDF since 31 July was lifted although it remained in place in the northern West Bank for an additional day. However, access for Palestinian workers or traders to enter East Jerusalem and Israel continued to be denied until valid permits were re-issued.
- Since 19 July, the IDF prevented Palestinian northern West Bank males between the ages of 16 to 35 from travelling southward. The age limitation has been reduced to 16-30 on 23 August. Long queues were also reported at checkpoints across the northern West Bank including into the Jordan Valley as closure tightened.
- Access to Jerusalem for ambulances continues to be problematic with no significant improvement. The Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) is reporting that even the six ambulances that were agreed upon between the Israeli authorities and other parties such as MDA, the Swiss government and ICRC, are having problems at the checkpoint where access is granted according to the soldier's assessment of the patient condition.
- A back-to-back system for transferring patients is taking place between MDA and other PRCS, private hospitals and NGOs ambulances since they are not allowed to access Jerusalem. This is currently costing the patient between NIS 600-800 (USD 133 and 178).
- The Barrier continues to affect Palestinians access to basic health services. For example, villages of Al Khas and Al Numan in Bethlehem governorate were separated by the Barrier two months ago and Al Numan residents cannot utilise UNRWA mobile clinics located at Al Khas village anymore.

NGO and UN capacity to respond to increased demand for assistance

- The revised humanitarian appeal is currently 44% funded. Agriculture and health are the least funded sectors.
- A needs assessment study was conducted by the NGO Action contre la Faim - Spain, in response to the impact of the drought in affected areas in Hebron governorate. This study is not yet finalised but preliminary results show that the Bedouin inhabited areas of Ar Ramadin and around the Green Line, in south-western Hebron governorate are the most vulnerable ones in the West Bank (cf. socio-economic conditions section above).
- Some university students have approached UNRWA field offices asking for assistance in order to pay their education fees for the new academic year.
- UNRWA reported a 7% increase in the number of patients visiting an UNRWA clinic at Shufat Camp from both unregistered refugees and non-refugees from the neighbouring areas, in comparison to the previous year. This is the result of the recent developments in the access regime into Jerusalem, including a permanent checkpoint at the main entrance of the Camp, by which patients and especially Bedouins can no longer access the services of the Jerusalem Health Centre in the Old City of Jerusalem as they used to.
- In Hebron governorate, PA employees are increasingly approaching UNRWA requesting urgent cash assistance, food subsidies and medication.

Endnotes

¹ An average of 39 artillery shelling per day from 1st to 22nd August.

² 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.

³ The hospitals are Alia (governmental), Al-Mezan (private) and Al Ahli (non-governmental non-for-profit hospital)

⁴ The Islamic Charitable Societies branch of Ash Shoyokh and its associated school were raided on August 20, Halhoul Zakat Committee, which provides regular assistance to 165 orphans and 60 poor families and its associated school and kindergarten were raided on August 19. The idhna

⁵ USD1 for NIS 4.54

⁶ For this payment, the medical staff has been excluded since they were paid through the TIM. Furthermore, some banks have withheld about half the amount of the payment for some PA employees who had loans of which the instalments were not paid on time. This has caused more distress among these PA employees as they are already unable to pay their household expenditures.

⁷ This is evident in Shufat Refugee Camp in Jerusalem governorate and in Tulkarem Refugee Camp and in southern villages of Tulkarem governorate.

Protection of civilians and access

Indicator	Data			Summary trends
Number of Palestinians killed and injured ¹		West Bank	Gaza Strip	Seventy-seven (77) Palestinians were killed during the ongoing conflict with Israel in August 2006. ² 12 additional Palestinians, including one child, were killed during Palestinian internal violence.
	Dec 05	12 deaths 124 injuries	14 deaths 33 injuries	
	Apr 06	8 deaths 183 injuries	23 deaths 75 injuries	
	May 06	21 deaths 222 injuries	17 deaths 30 injuries	The number of Palestinians injured (266) in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip has decreased significantly compared to July, while an additional 55 Palestinians have been injured during internal violence events. .
	Jun 06	4 deaths 114 injuries	34 deaths 76 injuries	
	Jul 06	17 deaths 209 injuries	164 deaths 590 injuries	
	Aug 06	16 deaths 120 injuries	61 deaths 146 injuries	
Number of Israelis killed and injured ³		oPt	Israel	There have been one death and ten injuries amongst the Israeli in August, the lowest figures since December 2005.
	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 deaths 0 injuries	
	Jun 06	1 death 11 injuries	2 deaths 15 injuries	
	Jul 06	3 deaths 31 injuries	0 death 10 injuries	
	Aug 06	1 death 9 injuries	0 death 1 injuries	
Number of days of external closure ⁴		West Bank	Gaza Strip	Palestinians with West Bank IDs and valid permits were prevented from entering East Jerusalem and Israel on 20 days in August.
	Dec 05	25	18	
	Apr 06	30	30	
	May 06	5	31	External closure for Palestinian workers and traders since 12 March 2006 remained in place in the Gaza Strip.
	Jun 06	0	30	
	Jul 06	7	31	
	August 06	20 ⁵	31	
Number of IDF physical obstacles in the West Bank ⁶		West Bank		The number of physical obstacles in the West Bank increased to 547 in August compared to 540 in July.
	end Dec 05	402		
	end Apr 06	504		
	end May 06	519		
	end Jun 06	526		
	end Jul 06	540		
	end Aug 06	547		
Number of access incidents reported by humanitarian organisations in the West Bank ⁷		West Bank		Access incidents reported by humanitarian organisations have significantly increased in the West Bank in August, one of them involving a settler in the close vicinity of Aleazror settlement.
	Dec 05	77		
	Apr 06	92		
	May 06	150		
	Jun 06	50		
	Jul 06	65		
	Aug 06	99		

For more information please contact OCHA, (02) 582 9962 (Helene Quentrec or Mai Yassin)

¹ Source: OCHA, *Weekly Briefing Notes*

² The figures reported are 'direct conflict related casualties' and do not include casualties indirectly related to the conflict such as incidents involving unexploded ordinances, traffic accidents between Israelis and Palestinians in the oPt, deaths after medical access was denied at checkpoints or during curfews/military operations. The figures also do not include casualties when the circumstances remain unclear or are in dispute.. In August, an additional nine Palestinians were killed and 13 injured in indirect conflict related incidents.

³ Source: OCHA, *Weekly Briefing Notes*

⁴ Source: Ministry of Labour, *closure reports*. These figures include weekends i.e. Saturdays, when they fall within a comprehensive closure period.

⁵ 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

⁶ 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.

⁷ Source: UNRWA, *West Bank Monthly Reports* and OCHA, *ACIS forms*

Job creation and cash assistance

Indicator	Data				Summary trends
Unemployment rate ('relaxed definition') ⁸		oPt	West Bank	Gaza Strip	The unemployment rate in the oPt has risen by more than 8% since the start of the <i>intifada</i> .
	3 rd Q 00	20.2%	16.9%	21.8%	
	4 th Q 05	29.4%	27.7%	33.1%	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. ⁹
	1 st Q 06	31.1%	27.2%	39.6%	
	2 nd Q 06	28.6%	24.2%	38.7%	
Number of Palestinians employed in Israel and the settlements ¹⁰		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> .
	3 rd Q 00	146,000	116,000	30,000	
	4 th Q 05	60,000	60,000	NA ¹¹	Employment in Israel decreased between 1 st Quarter of 2006 and the 2 nd Quarter and remained at very low levels.
	1 st Q 06	61,000	60,000	1,000	
	2 nd Q 06	57,800	57,800	0	
Erez crossing (Gaza Strip): average daily labour movement ¹²		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	
	Jul 06	0		0	
	Aug 06	0		0	
Percentage of households in poverty ¹³		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 ¹⁴		oPt	West Bank	Gaza Strip	No new figure on poverty is available in August. Through the Window III of the TIM 11,562 MoH employees received a NIS 2,000 allowance by 18 August, while a 1,500 allowance was in the process of being distributed to 42,983 low income PA employees from MoH, MoEHE and MoSA.
	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 ¹⁵		West Bank			The total number of applications to the UNRWA job creation programme has increased eight-fold during the last two years. Since April 2006 the number of applications has remains stable at 4,000 with a peak in June at 4,500 that may be partly explained by students and teachers being on holiday and seeking additional revenues.
	Apr 04	500			
	Dec 05	2,000			
	Apr 06	4,000			
	May 06	4,000			
	Jun 06	4,500			
	July 06	4,000			
	Aug 06	4,000			

For more information please contact UNRWA, (02) 589 0500 (Elena Mancusi)

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ 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.

¹² 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.

¹³ 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 2006 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).

¹⁴ Source: IUED, *Palestinian Public Perceptions Reports No. 3, 9 and 10*.

¹⁵ Source: UNRWA, *West Bank Job Creation Programme*.

Health

Indicator	Data		Summary trends
% of drugs from the essential drugs list that are out of stock at the Central Drugstore ¹⁶		West Bank	Gaza Strip
	Dec 05	19%	10%
	Apr 06	23%	18%
	May 06	26%	20%
	Jun 06	27%	19%
	Jul 06	24%	17%
	Aug 06	22%	14%
Underweight ¹⁷ : - West Bank : % of 0-24 months children whose weight for age is less than 5 th percentile - Gaza Strip : -2 standard deviation amongst 9-12 months children since June 06		West Bank	Gaza Strip
	2004 ¹⁸	4%	4%
	Mar 06	3.6%	NA
	Apr 06	3.3%	NA
	May 06	3.7%	NA
	June 06	4.2%	4.47%
	July 06	NA	5.15%
Anaemia: Pregnant woman (at first pre-natal visit) measured with haemoglobin less than 11 g/l per total number of woman measured ¹⁹		West Bank	Gaza Strip
	Dec 05	NA	NA
	Mar 06	25.6%	22.9%
	Apr 06	25.8%	20.1%
	May 06	30.9%	24.1%
	Jun 06	27.0%	42.9%
	July 06	NA (PA empl. strike)	39.8%
Number of consultations for diarrhoea (refugee children, 0 – 3 years) compared with the corresponding month the previous year ²⁰		West Bank	Gaza Strip
	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
	Jun 06/Jun 05	1,246/993	2,235/1,475
	Jul 06/Jul 05	887/894	1,868/1,196
Number of caesarean births in MoH hospitals ²²		West Bank	Gaza Strip
	Mar 06	NA	331
	Apr 06	448	290
	May 06	397	335
	Jun 06	420	333
	Jul 06	458	416
	Aug 06	NA	NA

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)

¹⁶ Source: *Central Drug Store, Ministry of Health*. Drugs 'out of stock' refers to stock levels of less than one month's requirement for 416 items.

¹⁷ Source: *Primary Health Care Directorate, West Bank and Gaza Strip, Ministry of Health Nutrition Department*. Two different methods are used in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to measure underweight. The 5th percentile is being used in the West Bank as a cut off point while the -2 standard deviation is used since June 06 in the Gaza Strip. Both data are collected at clinic level and may not give a representative picture of the nutritional situation. Rather, they can serve as an early indicator of a change/deterioration in the nutritional situation.

¹⁸ Source: *PCBS/DHS (2004)*

¹⁹ 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.

²⁰ 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.

²¹ WHO calculations based on data collected from UNRWA field offices in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

²² 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
Number of Palestinian children killed ²³		West Bank	Gaza Strip	Sixteen (16) Palestinian children were killed in August 2006 (including one child who was killed during Palestinian internal violence), which is the second highest number in 2006 and brings the total number of Palestinian children killed this year to 82 (18% of Palestinian deaths).
	Jan 06	1	1	
	Apr 06	3	3	
	May 06	0	2	
	Jun 06	0	12	
	Jul 06	3	39	
	Aug 06	1	15	
Number of Palestinian children injured ²⁴		West Bank	Gaza Strip	Fifty-eight (58) Palestinian children were injured in August 2006 (including four children injured during Palestinian internal violence in the Gaza Strip). Most of the children were injured in Nablus governorate.
	Jan 06	3 ²⁵	1	
	Apr 06	27 ²⁶	17	
	May 06	22	5	
	Jun 06	24 ²⁷	32	
	Jul 06	78	25	
	Aug 06	49	9	
Number of Palestinian children held in detention by the Israeli authorities ²⁸		oPt		From August, the total number of Palestinian children held in Israeli detention includes those cases followed by a private lawyer, which explains the significant increase in the number of cases this month (227 without private cases). Most of the children held in detention were arrested in Nablus and Ramallah.
	Jan 06	319		
	Apr 06	371		
	May 06	377		
	Jun 06	359		
	Jul 06	335		
	Aug 06	391 (227)		
Number of adults who have received mental health treatments through Ministry of Health ²⁹		oPt		The August figure does not include cases from Tulkarm as the MoH staff were on strike which could partly explain the lower figure.
	Feb 06	2,098		
	Apr 06	2,324		
	May 06	2,356		
	Jun 06	2,131		
	Jul 06	2,447		
	Aug 06	1,754 (partial)		

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

²³ Source: OCHA, Weekly Briefing Notes and DCI-PS

²⁴ Source: OCHA, Weekly Briefing Notes

²⁵ 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.

²⁶ 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.

²⁷ 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.

²⁸ Source: Ministry of Detainee's Affairs

²⁹ 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
Number of schools where there was a least one day of disruption ³⁰		West Bank	Gaza Strip	Given the summer holidays, the current indicator selected for the education sector is not available. 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.
	Feb 06	16: - Nablus (13) - Jenin (2) - Tulkarm (1)	No full schools days disrupted.	
	Mar 06	40: - Nablus (10) - Hebron (9) - Jericho (7) - Jenin (6) - Jerusalem (6) - Qalqiliya (2)	9 (Khan Younis ³¹)	
	Apr 06	31: - Nablus (29) - Jenin (2)	4 (Khan Younis ³²)	
	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	
	Aug 06	Not applicable	Not applicable	

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

³⁰ Source: *Ministry of Education*

³¹ Schools were disrupted in Khan Younis (Gaza Strip) during demonstrations etc following the incident at the Jericho prison on 14 March.

³² Schools were disrupted in Khan Younis (Gaza Strip) during Palestinian funerals.

Food security

Indicator	Data									Summary trends
Price of basic commodities (NIS) ³³		Sept 05		Jun 06		July 06		August 06		Food prices continue to fluctuate in the oPt. In Gaza Strip the average cost of the food commodities followed by the Humanitarian Monitor increased by 9.95 % compared to July ; the increase was of 1.56% in the West Bank.
		West Bank	Gaza Strip	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	90	79.5	
	Olive oil (l kg)	16.8	19.5	19.0	21.4	19.0	22.6	20	23.7	
	Rice (l kg)	3.8	3.5	3.1	3.3	3.6	3.0	3.6	3.2	
	Vegetable Oil (l kg)	5.7	5.4	5.7	5.7	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.4	
	Chickpeas (l kg)	4.8	4.5	5.4	5.8	4.2	5.4	4.2	5.2	
	Refined sugar (l kg)	2.7	2.6	4.0	3.7	3.6	4.0	3.6	3.24	
	Milk Powder (l kg)	24	NA	23.5	29.7	23.5	29.6	23.5	47	
Availability of basic commodities ³⁴		Gaza Strip								No information was available for August 2006. However, given the limited numbers of trucks allowed into the Gaza Strip through Karni crossing (Karni was open for 11 working days) it is unlikely that the situation in terms of available stocks has improved in August 2006.
		Jun 06		Jul 06		August 06				
		Available storage (tonnes)	No. of days of coverage	Available storage (tonnes)	No. of days of coverage	Available storage (tonnes)	No. of days of coverage			
	Wheat flour	7,502	17	5,689	13	NA	NA			
	Sugar	205	2	840	8	NA	NA			
	Rice	1,350	19	1,315	18	NA	NA			
	Vegetable Oil	800	19	810	19	NA	NA			
Number of tonnes of food per month imported into the Gaza Strip ³⁵		Gaza Strip								Due to the PA employees strike, data on food imports could not be fully collected for this edition of the Humanitarian Monitor.
		Jun 06		Jul 06		August 06				
	Wheat flour	4,460		9,158		NA				
	Rice	144		1,998		182				
	Vegetable Oil	661		1,229		323				
	Sugar	1,121		4,996		763				
	Vegetables and fruit	2,117		3,508		NA				
	Other food commodities	300		274		NA				
Number of social hardship case families receiving their monthly cash subsidies from Ministry of Social Affairs ³⁶		West Bank				Gaza Strip				In August, no social hardship case receive a monthly cash allowance.
	Jan 06	19,406				17,779				
	Apr 06	0				0				
	May 06	0				0				
	Jun 06	0				0				
	Jul 06	19,815				20,474				
	Aug 06	0				0				
Fishing catch in the Gaza Strip (in tonnes) ³⁷		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								
	Jul 06	0								
	August 06	0								

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

³³ 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.

³⁴ Source: *Ministry of National Economy*.

³⁵ Source: *PalTrade*.

³⁶ Source: *Ministry of Social Affairs*.

³⁷ 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.



Agriculture

Indicator	Data			Summary trends
Number of tonnes of agricultural produce imports in the oPt ³⁸		West Bank	Gaza Strip	Agricultural imports into the Gaza Strip decreased by 79% in August 2006 compared to July. 216.7 mT of fertilizers and 526 mT of fodder were imported into the Gaza Strip.
	Jun 05	NA	NA	
	Apr 06	NA	2,231	
	May 06	NA	2,663 ³⁹	
	Jun 06	NA	2,177	
	Jul 06	NA	3,509	
	Aug 06	NA	742.7	
Number of tonnes of agricultural produce exports from the oPt ⁴⁰		West Bank	Gaza Strip	No exports of agricultural produce were allowed to leave the Gaza Strip through Karni 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	
	Aug 06	NA	0	
Number of dunums of agricultural land destroyed/requisitioned (-) and land reclaimed (+) ⁴¹		West Bank	Gaza Strip	Due to the PA employees strike, data on land destruction/requisitions could not be collected for this edition of the Humanitarian Monitor.
	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	
	Aug 06	NA	NA	
Number of dunums of land covered by greenhouses destroyed (-) and built/rehabilitated (+) ⁴²		West Bank	Gaza Strip	Due to the PA employees strike, data on greenhouses destruction could not be collected for this edition of the Humanitarian Monitor.
	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	
	Aug 06	NA	NA	
Number of confirmed avian influenza outbreaks ⁴³		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	
	August 06	0	0	

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

³⁸ Source: *PalTrade*

³⁹ This number was revised following new information supplied by *PalTrade*.

⁴⁰ Source: *PalTrade*

⁴¹ Source: *Agricultural directorates, Ministry of Agriculture*

⁴² Source: *Agricultural directorates, Ministry of Agriculture*

⁴³ Source: *Ministry of Agriculture*



Water and sanitation

Indicator ⁴⁴	Data			Summary trends
Per capita water use (litre/per day)		West Bank	Gaza Strip	The reduction in the daily use of water is partly seasonal, and aggravated by the on-going drought in the southern West Bank.
	Baseline (2005) ⁴⁵	86	95	
	Current Situation	66	81	Figures for the Gaza Strip have not been updated and do not reflect possible reductions due to limited power in the Gaza Strip since the beginning of the 'Operation Summer Rains' on 28 June.
	Figure provided for NAF – Aug 06	58	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) ⁴⁶	75%	75%	
	Current Situation	49.7%	22.3%	

For more information please contact UNICEF, Hubert Oribon (02) 583 013 or Palestinian Hydrology Group, (02) 532 4355 (Dr. Ayman Rabi)

⁴⁴ 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.

⁴⁵ Assuming an average of 90 litres (pre-Intifada).

⁴⁶ Assuming cost recovery at 75% (pre-Intifada).