

Occupied Palestinian Territory: Gaza Emergency

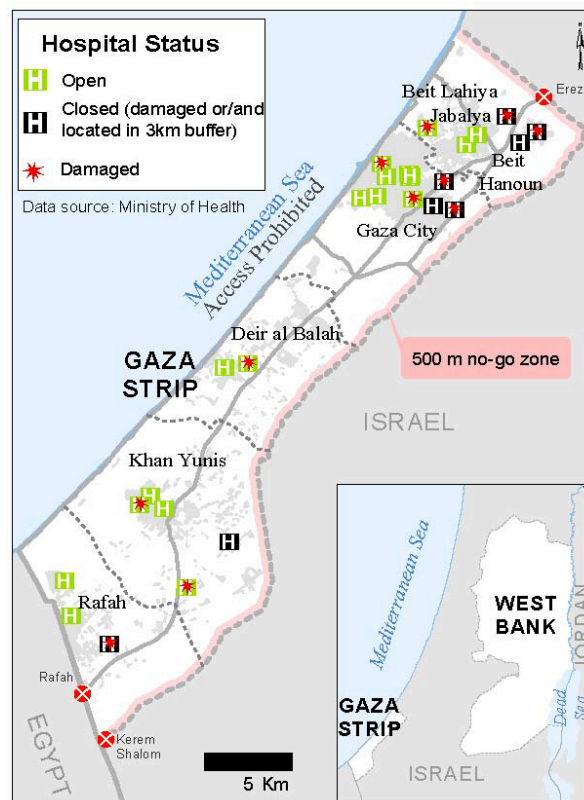
Situation Report (as of 6 August 2014, 0800 hrs)



This report is produced by OCHA oPt in collaboration with humanitarian partners. This report covers the period from 5 August (0800 hrs) to 6 August (0800 hrs). The next report will be issued on 7 August.

Highlights

- The Egyptian proposal for a 72-hour cease-fire which entered into force yesterday at 08:00 is holding, with no reports of violations or casualties.
- Rescue teams continue to retrieve bodies from the rubble. The cumulative death toll of Palestinians is at least 1,843, with civilians representing the majority of those whose status and identity has been verified. Children have borne the brunt of the emergency, with 415 killed.
- Thousands of explosive remnants of war are posing a major threat to children, farmers, IDPs returning home and humanitarian workers
- The number of internally displaced persons in UNRWA shelters has declined from a peak of over 273,000 on 4 August to 187,000 by this morning. These numbers could rise again if hostilities resume.
- Alternative housing will be needed for the approximately 65,000 people whose homes have been destroyed or damaged beyond repair.



1,843

Palestinians killed, including at least 1,354 civilians, of whom 415 are children and 214 are women.¹

67

Israelis killed, including 64 soldiers, two civilians and one foreign national.

373,000

Children require psycho-social support.

187,000

People still displaced in UNRWA emergency shelters.

65,000

Displaced people have had their homes destroyed or damaged beyond repair.

¹ Data on fatalities and destruction of property is consolidated by the Protection and Shelter clusters based on preliminary information, and is subject to change based on further verifications.

+ For more information, see “background on the crisis” at the end of the report

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The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.

Coordination Saves Lives

Situation Overview

The first day of the 72-hour cease-fire, which entered into force on 5 August at 08:00, has passed without serious incident, as negotiations continue under Egyptian mediation to reach a more permanent agreement. Markets and shops gradually resumed operating as Gaza residents overcome fears from the experience of previous, short-lived pauses. Municipal workers and service providers are clearing streets and rehabilitating and repairing infrastructure. Many of the displaced have returned to check if their homes are still inhabitable or their contents salvageable. Medical and rescue teams succeeded in reaching previously inaccessible area and to recover the dead from under the rubble. Of growing concern are the thousands of explosive remnants of war which are scattered throughout civilian areas, posing a major threat to children, farmers, IDPs returning home and humanitarian workers.

Most of the Gaza population has to cope with severe shortages in water and power services. Although Gaza Electricity Distribution Company (GEDCO) workers are now deployed in strength to assess and repair damaged feeder lines, rolling power cuts still extend up to 22 hours daily. Food availability remains limited due to the lack of electricity for refrigeration and lack of access to farmed land and to fishing waters for the past four weeks. Farmers and herders reports losses as they were unable to irrigate or harvest, with many livestock killed or left unfed and unattended. Aid agencies are consequently distributing food aid to displaced people in locations where assistance was severely obstructed by hostilities.

Hostilities and casualties

Rescue and medical teams have succeeded in recovering bodies from areas which have witnessed significant hostilities, including Ash Shuja'iyyeh, Khuza'a and Rafah. Up to 08:00 on 6 August, the cumulative death toll among Palestinians was at least 1,849, according to preliminary data collected by the Protection Cluster from various sources, including 279 persons (15 per cent), who could not be identified or their status established. Of the fatalities whose identity and status could be verified (1,570), (1,354 people) are believed to be civilians, including 415 children and 214 women, and nearly 14 per cent (216) members of armed groups.

The most serious incident recorded during the reporting period was the recovery of the badly decomposed bodies of eight members of the Wahdan extended family from under the rubble of their home in Beit Hanoun. The dead included four women and three children who were believed to have been killed in an Israeli airstrike soon after the ground invasion on 17 July. Some members of the family managed to flee Beit Hanoun before the ground invasion, with some taking refuge in the house of Jameel Abu Al Qomsan in Jabalia Camp. However, this house was itself shelled by the Israeli air force on 3 August. Three other member of the Wahdan family were killed in this attack, a man and two women; a two-year-old girl died later from her injuries. Eleven others were injured in this incident, including four children and three women, four in critical condition.

How do we expect parents and caregivers to care for their children and to raise them in a positive and nurturing way when they themselves are barely functioning as humans? People have lost entire strands of their family in one blow. How can a society cope with this? This is a deep, deep, deep wound.

Pernille Ironside, Head of UNICEF office, Gaza.

Since the launch of the Israeli military operation, hundreds of homes have reportedly been directly targeted by Israeli airstrikes, and it is estimated that at least 968 houses have been totally destroyed or severely damaged in this manner, causing civilian casualties, including multiple members of the same families. Up to 08:00 on 4 August, at least 122 families have lost three or more family members in the same incident, for a total of 652 fatalities. Such cases raise serious concerns about the targeting of civilians and civilian objects and the launching of indiscriminate attacks.

There were no reports of firing by Palestinian armed groups in Gaza into Israel during the ceasefire. Since 8 July, three civilians in Israel had been killed, including one foreign national, and dozens directly injured by rockets or shrapnel. The total of Israeli military fatalities stands at 64.

Displacement

As the ceasefire appears to be holding, IDPs are beginning to leave shelters and host families. For the first time since the emergency began, the overall IDP number in UNRWA shelters decreased from almost 273,000 on 4 August to approximately 208,000 by the evening of 5 August, with a further decline to 187,000 by this morning. However, these numbers could rise again if IDPs find their homes uninhabitable or otherwise unsafe, or if hostilities resume. UNRWA is expecting that a core group of displaced, who have nowhere else to go, will remain in the schools which have been designated as shelters. Of most imminent concern is the start of the new school year, planned for 24 August 2014 as 90 of UNRWA's 156 school buildings are serving as shelters.

There is currently no update available on the number of IDPs outside UNRWA shelters. Approximately 16,000 IDPs were residing in 19 government schools and other institutions and another 13,000 in four UNRWA-supported government shelters. The Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) has registered about 20,600 displaced families (approximately 123,600

individuals) who are staying with relatives and friends. However, MoSA had estimated that there are as many as 93,000 unregistered IDPs with host families as many displaced in Rafah did not register due to the security situation. Thousands of Israelis who fled their homes in southern Israel are also waiting to see if the 72-hour truce leads to a more lasting ceasefire, before deciding to return to their homes.

Key humanitarian priorities

Prepare to activate assessments in the Gaza strip as soon as an extension of ceasefire is confirmed.

Humanitarian space: increased access for humanitarian workers to carry out life-saving activities, should be maintained, among other reasons, to complete search and rescue operations in several areas, and repair critical water and electricity infrastructure. Removal of the threat of numerous UXOs in built up areas.

Additional fuel supply: needed to operate backup generators at essential facilities, including water, sanitation and health, for longer hours.

Strengthen response to IDPs: improving priority response to IDPs in non-UNRWA facilities and with host families; ensuring common standards of response to IDPs throughout the Gaza strip, including comprehensive and common registration.

Restoration of water and energy services to communities in Gaza.

Humanitarian needs and response



Needs

- At least 373,000 children require direct and specialized psychosocial support (PSS). Children are showing symptoms of increasing distress, including bed wetting, clinging to parents and nightmares.
- Child protection and psychosocial support is urgently required to address issues of child abuse, exploitation and violence inside shelters and refuges.
- Thousands of explosive remnants of war are left in civilian areas affected by conflict, causing a major threat, especially to children, farmers, humanitarian workers and IDPs returning home. UN premises have also been contaminated by ERW.

373,000

Children in need of psychosocial support

Response

- Protection Cluster members continue monitoring and investigating incidents to identify possible violations of international law, as well as consolidating information on civilian fatalities.
- The Protection Cluster consolidated inputs from partners on the “UNRWA Guidance to Basic Protection Issues in Shelters” in order to address ongoing protection concerns and to mainstream the needs of priority groups including women, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly and persons with injuries.
- Since 8 July, emergency PSS teams and PRCS teams have been able to provide initial psychosocial support to 2,891 children across the Gaza Strip.
- PCDCR (Palestinian Centre for Dispute and Conflict Resolution) emergency psychosocial teams provided PSS to 180 children between 3 and 4 August.
- Since 20 July, 220,000 child protection and PSS text messages have been sent to Jawal subscribers in Gaza.
- Since 13 July, the Sawa Child Protection Helpline has provided counselling to 1,277 callers, including 377 children.
- World Vision is providing PSS to children in hospitals and UNRWA shelters.
- Since 8 July, UNRWA Community Mental Health Programme has provided 8,699 PSS sessions to 73,016 parents and conducted recreational activities for 79,089 children through 104 counsellors. Activities include playing, relaxation, meditation, drawing and storytelling. Partners of the Community Mental Health Programme have provided PSS services to 5,772 adult IDPs and 36,426 displaced children in coordination with UNRWA.

- Since 18 July, Tamer Institute has been conducting daily activities for children in their libraries. It has also started to distribute children's books and games to children and their families hosted in the Holy Land school shelter. So far, 640 children have benefitted from such activities.
- Tomoh is conducting support activities for parents and children in two government schools, and has reached a total of 500 children to date. Ma'an is also in the process of establishing ten family centres,
- Ma'an started providing child protection training to managers of government shelters. As of 4 August, 42 staff in six shelters have been trained.
- UNICEF through its partnership with AMAAN organization is providing daily PSS and extracurricular activities to 2,000 children in six shelters in Gaza city, that are managed by Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) and other NGOs.
- UNRWA, UNICEF and UNMAS are distributing ERW awareness leaflets to families in UNRWA shelters. Radio and TV ERW awareness messages are broadcasted several times a day to spread awareness about the danger posed by unexploded ordnance. Save the Children will also include ERW awareness leaflets in their education packages which will be distributed to children.
- UNMAS has deployed three EOD experts and is engaged in conducting risk assessments of UN premises and mapping needs of future interventions to be implemented over the coming days to ensure a rapid, safe and efficient ERW threat management response. UNMAS ERW educators will be deployed to all governorates to provide risk education as soon as security permits.

Gaps and Constraints

- Local organizations continue to face fuel and electricity shortages.
- Quicker coordination is required to allow for urgent evacuations of injured people to hospitals in East Jerusalem.
- Sawa Child Protection Help Line needs additional trained counsellors.
- The number of social workers and psychosocial support counsellors at hospitals is insufficient to meet current needs.
- Displaced children and their families hosted with community members remain largely unreached by child protection interventions.



Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI)

Needs

- 10,770 families (approximately 64,650 individuals) whose homes were totally destroyed or heavily damaged by either air strikes or tank shelling are in need of emergency NFI kits. In the medium term, they will also need cash assistance.
- Emergency shelter repair interventions are needed for about 5515 families (33,100 individuals), whose homes were damaged but are still inhabitable. Another 30,950 families (an estimated 185,700 individuals), whose homes sustained minor damage need basic NFI assistance.

64,650

Persons whose homes were totally destroyed or sustained major damage.

Response

- An estimated 187,000 people are being provided with shelter in 90 designated UNRWA schools across the Gaza Strip and an estimated 17,213 individuals are sheltered in 19 government shelters. An additional 13,721 IDPs are taking shelter in four government schools, supported by UNRWA. More than 200,000 are believed to be sheltering with host families, 123,600 of whom have registered with MoSA to date.
- On 4 August, UNRWA delivered 24 truckloads of NFIs to IDP shelters.

Gaps and Constraints

- Cash assistance of over US\$ 44 million is needed for 10,770 families to cover rental fees and urgent expenses.

- Emergency shelter kits are required needed for 18,588 displaced families.
- Displaced families with hosting families are considered to be particularly vulnerable and in need of NFIs and food items.
- UNRWA's NFI stock at minimum level. Workers face difficulties accessing some storage warehouses safely.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Needs

- There is an urgent need for drinking water and water for domestic use as well as access to sanitation and hygiene articles for IDPs.
- Fuel is urgently needed to operate critical WASH facilities.
- Damaged electricity feeder lines, water and waste water lines need urgent repairs.

Response

- The ceasefire has allowed water service providers, including CMWU and municipalities, to access WASH facilities for operations, maintenance and repairs, as well as carry out assessments for needed damage repairs. Technical teams have restored the pipeline from the Rafah Waste Water Treatment Plant to the sea, and stopped the seeping of partially treated water into ground water wells. Ongoing repairs are also carried out to the damaged sanitation system in Beit Lahia.
- UNRWA continued to distribute potable and non-potable water to emergency shelters during the reporting period. On 4 August, a total of 405 cubic meters of potable water and 641 cubic metres of non-potable water were tankered to UNRWA shelters by the Agency, its suppliers and municipalities.
- Fuel was delivered on 5 August to municipalities and WASH facilities, including 20,000 litres delivered to UNICEF for the CMWU on 4 August.
- Water trucking of potable water took place in North Gaza, Gaza city, Khan Younis and Rafah.
- On 4 August, UNRWA sanitation staff removed 374 tons of solid waste from all Gaza camps, including 32 tons from Bureij and Maghazi camps which were previously inaccessible.

Gaps

- The damage sustained to the GPP (the Gaza Power Plant) on 29 July has had a devastating effect on all WASH facilities in Gaza.
- Lack of energy to operate facilities and limitations on access hinder the critical operations of WASH facilities, including operations of water service providers as well as maintenance and repairs, with potential devastating consequences for the entire population of the Gaza Strip.
- WASH partners' communication with CMWU and municipalities is challenged due to lack of electricity and internet.
- Movement restrictions hamper field assessments.
- The desalination plant in Deir El Balah continues to be non-operational after it sustained damage during airstrikes, further restricting the availability of much needed drinking water.



Health and Nutrition

Needs:

- Emergency care for the increasing number of injuries remains a high priority.
- The immediate health needs of IDPs remain a high priority as well, especially those with chronic diseases, those who are more vulnerable to communicable diseases, and pregnant women, new mothers and infants.
- High numbers of patients are seeking care at hospitals for acute, non-trauma related reasons.

- There is a need for a follow up at community level of all injured who were discharged from hospitals.
- Fuel reserves for hospitals are decreasing more rapidly than anticipated due to the loss of the Gaza Power Plant. WHO is seeking solutions for fuel re-supply through donations from other sources, in addition to that provided by the Islamic Development Bank which had been intended to meet hospital needs for a six-month period.
- Alongside an increase in the number of hospitals which have sustained damage by missiles, rockets and shrapnel from attacks in their vicinity, hospitals are also facing shortages of staff and water.

Response:

- UNRWA health personnel are working together with shelter managers to raise awareness about food-related health risks as well as personal hygiene. UNRWA also cooperates with Palestinian Medical Relief Society, which served IDPs in three shelters with mobile health services.
- WHO's first shipment of medical supplies, worth US\$ 1.4 million donated by Switzerland, Norway, and Italy, was delivered to the MoH Central Drug Store in Gaza this week; additional shipments are scheduled to arrive over the next week.
- Medical supply donated to MoH hospitals by Bahrain and the Jordanian army are en route.
- On 1 August, a team of MoH specialist physicians and surgical nurses (24 members), led by the MoH Director of Hospitals, traveled to Gaza to assist colleagues in Gaza hospitals in neurosurgery, anesthesiology, plastic surgery, general trauma surgery, advanced orthopedics and burn management.
- UNRWA offered logistical support to enable the distribution of 39,950 litres of fuel to WHO on 4 August for the operation of critical health facilities.

Gaps:

- The destruction of the Gaza Power Plant (GPP) impedes the ability of the health sector to provide care for patients.
- Shortage of medical equipment, supplies and specialized personnel means that complex surgeries for vascular, neurological and spine cord injuries are being referred outside of Gaza.
- Lack of adequate protection of health facilities and personnel is impeding emergency assistance to sick and injured.
- 13 out of 21 UNRWA health centres were operating on 4 August. A portion of the medication stored in non-operational UNRWA health centres is unusable due to the fact that refrigerators were not supplied with electricity.



Needs

- At least 400,000 IDPs are still in need of emergency food assistance.
- Emergency food assistance to thousands of displaced people in informal shelters in Rafah, Khan Younis and Gaza city is urgently needed.
- Additional bread production capacity is required due to lack of electricity in households.
- Immediate emergency funds to cover massively increasing food needs of IDPs are required.
- Animal feed for 4,000 breeders/herders should be provided in order to avoid further loss of livestock and additional erosion of livelihood of herder's communities.
- Humanitarian access to allow for provision of food and other emergency assistance to the civilian population should continue.

400,000

IDPs require food assistance and water tankering.

Response

- Aid agencies are taking advantage of the ceasefire to dispatch food aid to displaced people in locations where urgent humanitarian assistance was severely obstructed due to ongoing military action.

- WFP, in cooperation with UNRWA, is providing ready-to-eat emergency food rations to all IDPs sheltered in UNRWA or government schools on a daily basis. On 4 August, UNRWA delivered 95 truckloads of food to shelters.
- WFP continues to provide food assistance to patients and hospital staff.
- Food Security Sector (FSS) partners are delivering complementary food distributions to IDPs at UNRWA and government shelters. WFP is distributing bread from West Bank bakeries to meet the mounting food needs.
- Food vouchers and food packages are delivered to approximately 25,000 IDPs in host communities and informal shelters by FSS partners, members and local institutions.
- The Food Security Sector is preparing for the post-conflict phase, engaging all partners in the assessment and planning process of the continued response.
- Food assistance support to the post-conflict phase will include a large-scale food distribution undertaken by UNRWA and WFP to cover most people in the Gaza Strip.

Gaps and Constraints

- IDPs residing in public schools and private shelters require food and other assistance. Immediate emergency funding to address the food needs of the increasing IDP population and for fodder provision for 4,000 herders.
- Some food stores are located in areas which require ‘prior coordination’ due to the Israeli-imposed “buffer zone” impeding the ability to provide much needed food assistance.
- The Israeli military ground operation is limiting access to food warehouses and putting at risk the provision of food commodities for those in need. It also affects the regular emergency food distributions to more than 1 million people.
- Inaccessibility of agricultural lands affect the availability of fresh crops along with significant increases in prices for some vegetables, hampering food security partners’ ability to provide fresh crops to IDPs in non-UNRWA shelters.
- The ongoing reduction of electricity supply has heavily impacted commercial activities, the milling capacity and the performance of bakeries.

Education

Needs

- Several buildings of the Islamic University in Gaza city sustained severe damages due to Israeli attacks and are in need of repair.
- Four kindergartens have been significantly damaged or destroyed since the start of the emergency, and are in need of repair / reconstruction.

Response

NTR

Gaps & Constraints

- Access restrictions impede the ability to assess impact of hostilities and carry out repairs to damaged school infrastructure.
- No information available about possible damage sustained to schools in the eastern part of the Gaza Strip and Beit Hanoun due to ongoing hostilities.

4

kindergartens
damaged by shelling

General Coordination

Assessments are ongoing and clusters are meeting to map needs and coordinate responses.

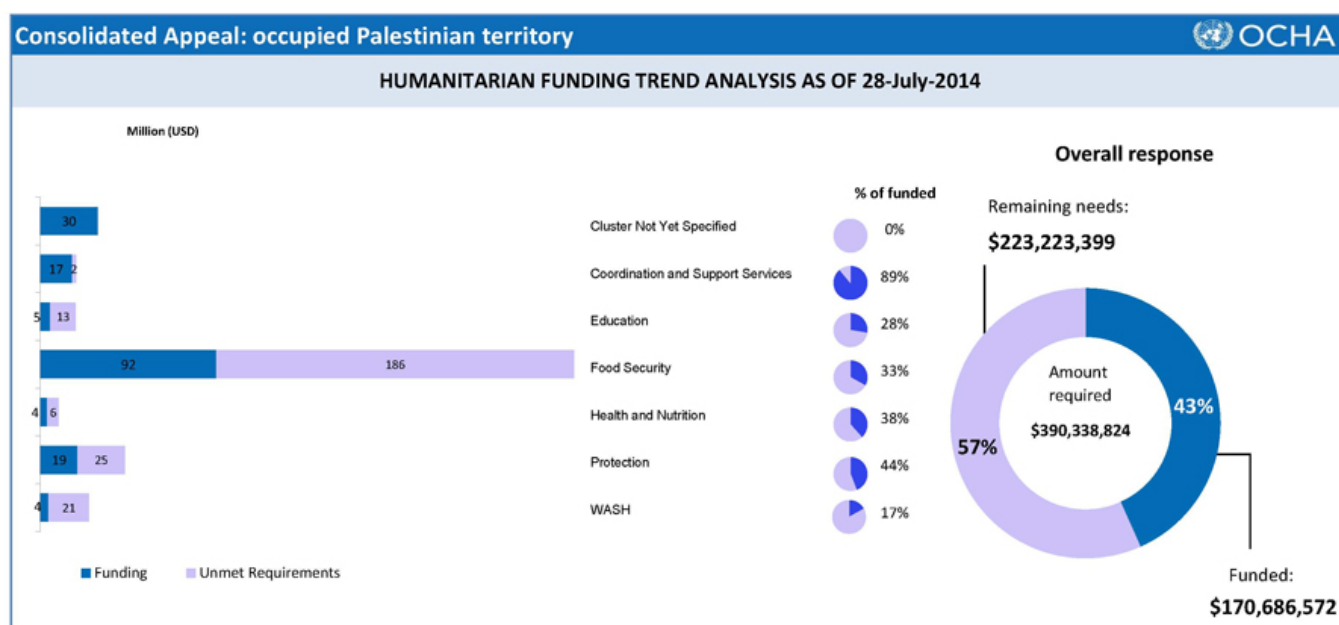
Funding

Mr. Shawqi Issa, Minister of Social Affairs and Minister of Agriculture of the State of Palestine along with the Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. James W. Rawley launched the 2014 Gaza Crisis Appeal which outlines the planned humanitarian response of the HCT, including UNRWA to the current emergency. The appeal is intended to address urgent needs in Gaza and currently requests US\$ 367 million to implement 86 projects in clusters/sectors including Education, Food Security, Health and Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and WASH as well as Coordination and Support Services. The clusters/sectors requesting the largest amount of funds are Food Security and Shelter which are requesting a total of US\$ 293 million together. The appeal is based on the latest analysis of the required emergency assistance to meet the most critical needs of the affected population and will be revised as further information from the ground becomes available and needs assessments become possible. The Crisis Appeal supersedes the estimates presented in the Gaza Crisis Preliminary Needs and Requirements paper of 24 July. The Crisis Appeal is available online at www.ochaopt.org.

The Emergency Response Fund (ERF) is an additional mechanism available to fund interventions in Gaza through rapid and flexible support to affected civilian populations. The ERF has begun processing project applications in regards to the Gaza emergency. To date, seven project proposals were approved for a total of US\$ 1.6 million. ACF's two projects to provide emergency shelter and NFIs and water, sanitation and hygiene to affected families; Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) project to support for the emergency needs of neonatal units in Gaza hospitals by procurement of essential drugs and disposables; Union of Health Work Committees (UHC) emergency intervention to support the continuation of health services in the northern area of Gaza Strip by providing dedication fuel and consumables to Al Awda hospital, Dan Church Aid and PARC projects to provide food packages and hygiene kits to IDPs hosted in Shelters in Deir Al Balah, Rafah and Khan Yunis; by and UNMAS' project for the management of ERW to reduce the risk posed to civilians. In addition, the following proposals are in process; a proposal by Palestinian Medical Relief Society – PMRC for Emergency Intervention (totalling US\$ 249,845) to build community support teams in Gaza Strip; a proposal by Agricultural Development Association (PARC) to provide Safe Water for IDPs in Gaza for US\$ 249,780; a proposal by B'Tselem - The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories promoting respect for IHL and human rights: Gaza Crisis Appeal 2014 for US\$ 48,732; a proposal by Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights for provision of legal assistance to Gazans seeking accountability and/or redress following Operation Protective Edge for US\$ 175,000; and a proposal by MA'AN Development Center (MA'AN) as Emergency Reparation of WASH facilities in the Gaza Strip for US\$ 275,000.

is under process. Further funding for the ERF is still being sought.

UN humanitarian agencies, in cooperation with NGO partners are in the process of finalizing an application to the CERF Rapid Response window covering urgent needs in food assistance, psychosocial support, WASH, rubble removal and critical drugs.



Background to the crisis

On 7 July 2014, the Israeli army launched a large military operation in the Gaza Strip, codenamed “Protective Edge”, with the stated objective of stopping Palestinian rocket firing at southern Israel and destroying the military infrastructure of Hamas and other armed groups.

This development marked the collapse of the Egyptian-brokered ceasefire understanding reached between Israel and Hamas in November 2012, which has been gradually undermined since December 2013. The latest escalation round started in early June, characterized by an intensification of Israeli airstrikes and rockets launched from Gaza at southern Israel. Tensions further increased following the abduction and killing of three Israeli youths in the southern West Bank, on 12 June, which the Israeli government attributed to Hamas. Overall, in the period leading up to the start of the current operation a total of 15 Palestinians, including one civilian, were killed, and another 58 others, mostly civilians, injured, as a result of Israeli airstrikes in the Gaza Strip; seven Israelis, five of whom were civilians, were injured due to rocket fire.

The current crisis comes against a backdrop of heightened vulnerability and instability. Unemployment increased dramatically since mid-2013, following a halt of the illegal tunnel trade, exacerbating the impact of the Israeli blockade in place since June 2007. Additionally, former de facto government employees, including the security forces, have not been paid salaries regularly since August 2013 and no salaries at all since April 2014. Delivery of basic services has been also undermined due to an ongoing energy crisis, involving power outages of 12 hours per day.

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