

Occupied Palestinian Territory: Hostilities in Gaza and Israel

Situation Report (as of 9 July 2014, 1500 hrs)



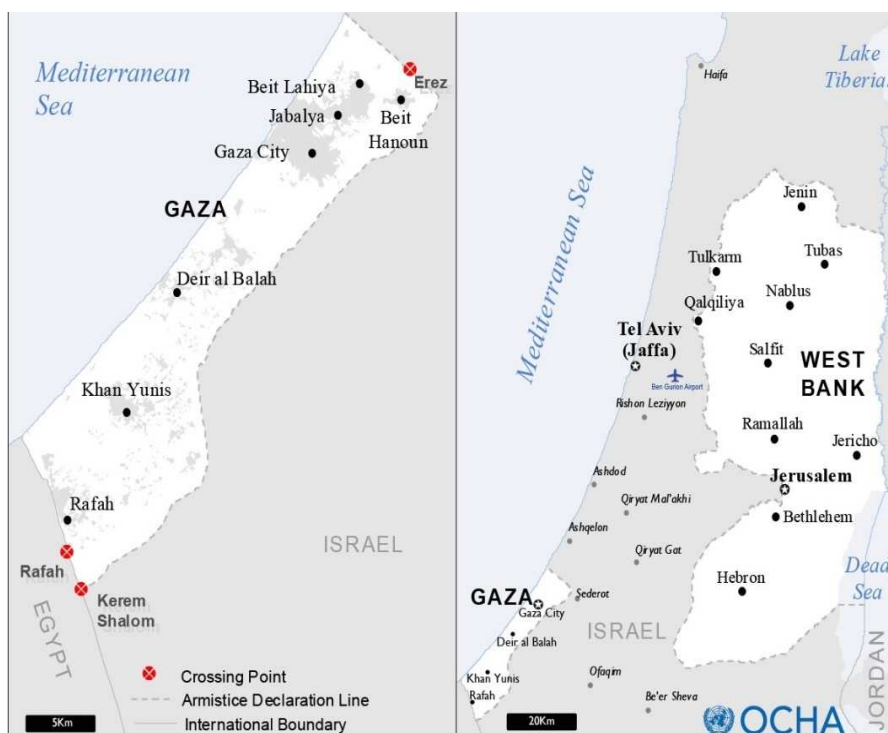
OCHA



This report is produced by OCHA oPt in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 7 July (1800 hrs) to 9 July (1500 hrs). The next report will be issued on 10 July.

Highlights

- 23 Palestinian civilians, including seven children, have been killed in Gaza, since the start of “Operation Protective Edge”, on 7 July.
- The targeting and destruction of residential properties in Gaza is the main cause of civilian casualties.
- Some 150 homes have been destroyed or severely damaged by Israeli airstrikes, displacing about 900 people who are being hosted by relatives.
- Gaza hospitals treating injuries are affected by severe shortages of medical supplies and fuel needed to operate backup generators.
- Indiscriminate rocket firing by armed groups from Gaza has targeted main Israeli population centers, but has resulted in no casualties, so far.



1,800,000

Affected people in the Gaza Strip

4,000,000

Under threat of rocket fire in Israel

35

Palestinians killed

300

Palestinians injured

150

Houses destroyed or severely damaged in Gaza

25,000,000

Liters of raw sewage dumped to the sea due to damage to a pumping station

Situation Overview

Overview

On the night of 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. Israeli attacks have so far included heavy aerial and navy bombardment throughout the Gaza Strip, targeting military installations, rocket launching sites and the residences of alleged members of armed groups. Israeli media reports indicate that the operation will be gradually scaled up, and may include ground operations.

Prior to the start of the operation and throughout, Palestinian armed groups, including Hamas’ military wing, have shot hundreds of rockets towards Israel, reaching the Tel Aviv and Jerusalem metropolitan areas and other localities as far as 100km from the border with Gaza. However, the vast majority of the rockets have fallen in open areas, while dozens of others

+ 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

targeting built up areas have intercepted by the Iron Dome missile interception system. A total of four Israelis, including two civilians, have been injured as a result of rockets, alongside limited damage to property.

Since the start of the operation, at least 35 Palestinians, of whom at least 23 were civilians, including seven children, have been killed by Israeli bombardment. Approximately 300 others, including 71 children and 66 women, have been injured, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza. At least 35 residential buildings were reportedly targeted and destroyed, resulting in the majority of the civilian casualties recorded so far, including an attack on 8 July in Khan Younis that killed seven civilians, including three children, and injured another 25. In most cases, prior to the attacks, residents have been warned to leave, either via phone calls by the Israel military or by the firing of warning missiles.

It is estimated that 150 houses in Gaza have been totally destroyed or rendered uninhabitable, and another 1,900 have sustained damage during airstrikes and shelling. So far, some 900 people have been displaced and are being hosted by relatives. No emergencies shelters have yet been opened. Damage was also inflicted on one sewage pumping station and two key water facilities disrupting the provision of water and sanitation services. Hospitals operated by the Ministry of Health (MoH) are functioning and treating injuries, despite severely depleted medical supplies and long electricity outages.

The streets of Gaza are mostly empty and almost all shops are closed. Due to a general strike, most government institutions were also closed, except for medical facilities. The Erez passengers crossing with Israel is open only for foreigners and urgent humanitarian cases, while the Rafah crossing with Egypt remains closed. The Kerem Shalom commercial crossing is functioning partially, allowing for the entry of only urgent humanitarian supplies and fuel. The Gaza Power Plant continues to function at half of its capacity, while electricity outages of 12 hours per day continue.

The Humanitarian Coordinator and the Director of UNRWA Operations in Gaza have both declared an emergency and set up mechanisms to coordinate emergency assistance. Local emergency coordination mechanisms, including by the Palestinian Civil Defence (PCD), the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and Gaza City Municipality, have been also set up to provide first responses, as needed. There is coordination at the field level between PCD and PRCS for ambulances and search and rescue operations.

The current crisis comes against a backdrop of heightened vulnerability and instability. Unemployment has increased dramatically since mid-2013, following the halt of the illegal tunnel trade by the Egyptian authorities, exacerbating the impact of the longstanding access restrictions imposed by Israel. 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 also been undermined due an ongoing energy crisis.

Humanitarian needs and response



- At least 23 civilians, including seven children, have been killed over the course of Israeli bombardments. Approximately 300 Palestinians, including 71 children and 66 women, were injured during the attacks, according to the Ministry of Health in Gaza.
- At least 35 homes were reportedly targeted and destroyed, causing the majority of civilian casualties. Initial information on some of these cases raises the concern that no effective prior warning was provided to the affected families.
- An urgent need for the deployment of psychosocial support teams, particularly targeting affected children, by Protection Cluster members has been identified.
- Protection Cluster members have reiterated their call to all actors to abide by the rules of International Humanitarian Law, including the prohibition on the targeting of civilians and civilian objects and on the launching of disproportionate attacks.

35

Civilian homes targeted and destroyed



Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI)

- 50 housing units have been totally destroyed and another 100 seriously damaged and rendered uninhabitable, according to estimates by the Ministry of Housing and Public Works (MoHPW) and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) in Gaza.
- Some 700 housing units sustained structural damages and about 1,200 sustained minor damage, according to estimates by the MoHPW and the MoSA in Gaza.
- An estimated 150 families, comprising about 900 people, have been displaced and most of them are being hosted by relatives. Most of these families are in need of Non-food item (NFI) kits, including mattresses, blankets, hygiene kit, kitchen sets etc. They will also require cash assistance to cover rental fees and furnishing of new accommodations.
- NFI interventions are estimated to be needed for about 11,100 individuals who have suffered minor damage to their homes.

150

Families displaced due to the loss of their homes



Health

- Hospitals operated by the Ministry of Health (MoH) are functioning despite severely depleted medical supplies: 28 per cent of the essential drug items and 54 per cent of disposables are currently out of stock in Gaza's Central Drug Store. Gaza requires US\$ 3.2 million monthly to secure the needed drugs and disposables.
- The operation of hospitals has been also disrupted in recent months due to electricity outages. Hospitals need 10,000 liters of fuel daily to operate the standby electric generators and most report low fuel reserves. Some ambulance services have been stopped due to lack of fuel.
- Most primary health care clinics, except one UNRWA clinic, are also functioning, although residents are venturing onto the streets only for the most urgent needs. One governmental health clinic has temporarily relocated to a school in Khan Younis, due to its proximity to a police station.
- PRCS has activated its contingency plan and is prepared to receive normal cases from Shifa hospital in Al-Quds hospital, to allow the latter to allocate more resources to deal with casualties.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has appealed to the international community for support in providing essential medical supplies in a coordinated manner, according to the specific needs of the MoH. UNRWA has appealed for US\$ 400,000 to replenish its own medical stocks.

28%

Of essential medicines out of stock in Gaza's Central Drug Store



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Israeli airstrikes and shelling have inflicted damage to a number of WASH facilities disrupting the provision of water and sanitation:
 - A sewage pumping station (Al Muntada) housing four pumps, serving over half of Gaza City area, which was damaged. As a result, raw sewage is now discharged into the sea. Engineers estimate that full rehabilitation would take as long as one month. Losses are estimated at US\$ 1 million.
 - The main water carrier line to the Beach Refugee Camp, serving 70,000 people, which has been destroyed. Gaza Municipality is supplying water to the Camp from an alternative source, at the expense of a reduction in the supply to other areas.
 - One water well serving 15,000 people in Alnasser neighborhood of Gaza City has been hit and significantly damaged. Estimated losses stand at US\$ 100-150,000. Residents are forced to purchase water from private vendors.

25m liters

Of raw sewage dumped to the sea due to damage to pumping station

- Cluster members were prevented from assessing on the field the damage and delivering assistance due to the ongoing hostilities.
- An extension of an Islamic Development Bank project to provide emergency fuel to the most essential WASH, health and solid waste collection installations has been approved for implementation, and coordination for distribution is ongoing

Education

- 13 public schools have sustained damage during bombardments. Assessments could not be conducted yet due to ongoing hostilities.
- Two schools in Khan Younis are being currently used as a Health Clinic and a Civil Defence center, respectively. No school is being operated as shelter for IDPs.
- Cluster members have not been able to mount any response due to the ongoing hostilities.

13

Schools sustained damage

Food Assistance

- So far all type of basic commodities are available on the market without changes in prices. The commercial stock of wheat is sufficient to cover the needs of the population for approximately 19 days. Stocks of WFP commodities at cooperating partners' warehouses and bakeries could be utilized to meet emergency needs.
- UNRWA continues operating its 12 food distribution centres across Gaza, assisting more than 830,000 refugees, while WFP does so regarding 177,000 non-refugees.
- WFP has programmed 500 emergency vouchers. Emergency voucher shops are in close vicinity to UNRWA and public schools, which will be used as shelters for potential displaced people.
- WFP is providing additional food rations in Gaza to people that have been affected by the violence. Currently WFP provides additional assistance to more than 820 people, while more than 200 people are being reached in hospitals

Over 1 million

receive food aid (regular caseload)

General Coordination

Following the declaration of an emergency by UNRWA and the Humanitarian Coordinator an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) has been set-up at the UNDP Compound in Gaza, and is managed by OCHA. In parallel, an UNRWA operations room has been established at the UNRWA Field Office in Gaza. The EOC's primary role is to centralize information management and coordinate operational responses among HCT members and clusters, as well as with UNRWA, ICRC, and local emergency bodies. Under the EOC, an OCHA-led Humanitarian Information Cell (HIC) has been set-up in Jerusalem responsible for reporting, communication and humanitarian advocacy. A sub-group of the EOC in Gaza led by OHCHR has been designated to monitor casualties.

HCT representatives met today with the Israeli Ministry of Defense (COGAT) in Tel Aviv and discussed ways to facilitate humanitarian operations in Gaza, including access of humanitarian goods and staff. An Israeli Operations Room will be working at the Erez crossing as of 9:00 AM on 10 July, with the presence of an HCT representative.

Local emergency coordination mechanisms of the Palestinian Civil Defence (PCD) and the Palestinian Red Crescent have been put in place to provide first response. The High Council for PCD also declared a state of emergency and has set up an emergency operations room to coordinate operations with other governmental institutions. There is coordination at the field level between PCD and PRCS for ambulances and search and rescue operations.

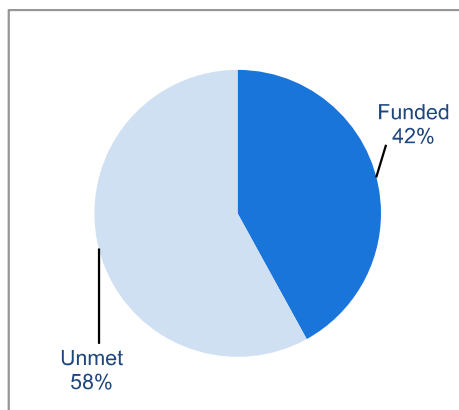
Funding

The 2014 Strategic Response Plan (SRP) for the oPt has received \$164 million (42 per cent) out of a total request of \$390 million. Nearly 90 per cent of 1.9 million vulnerable people targeted in the SRP are in Gaza. Less than 30 per cent of the funds requested for projects targeting Gaza specifically have been mobilized. Projects targeting Gaza and the West Bank jointly are fully funded, however, such projects only represent \$68.2 million of the SRP total request. Funding across clusters has been uneven however, no clusters are on track with funding at the mid-year point with the exception of Coordination. Food Security interventions, which represent the bulk of humanitarian assistance in Gaza, are only 30 per cent funded.

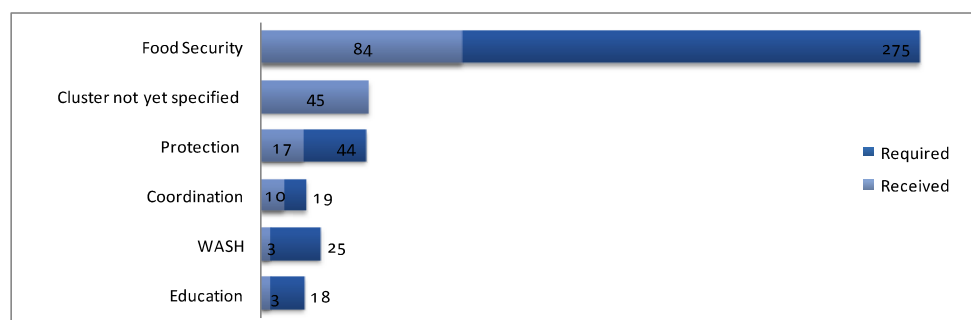
The Emergency Response Fund (ERF) is an additional mechanism available to fund interventions in Gaza. While the ERF balance currently stands at \$4 million, \$2 million worth of proposals are already being processed to meet previous underfunded, critical SRP projects. The ERF is therefore in urgent need of replenishment to ensure the fund's ability to provide rapid and flexible support to affected civilian populations.

Although operations for UNRWA continue in all areas, there is an urgent need for funding to cover the \$22 million of UNRWA's Emergency Appeal shortfall, already projected by the Agency. Currently, the most urgent funding needs include funding to continue the food assistance programme and additional resources to procure additional non-food items (\$1 million) and fuel for critical installations (\$2.5 million).

Overview of oPt Strategic Response Plan



Funding by sector (in million US\$)



Background on 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 on 11 June, when Israeli forces targeted and killed an alleged member of an armed group, along with a child accompanying him, and Palestinian factions responded by shooting rockets at southern Israel. Tensions further increased following the abduction of three Israeli youths in the southern West Bank, on 12 June, which the Israeli government attributed to Hamas. Overall, in the period leading 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 firing.

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 longstanding access restrictions imposed by Israel. 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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