



State

of Palestine

Humanitarian Situation Report

unicef 

Highlights

- **Tensions are on the rise in the State of Palestine.** Several incidents were reported in the Gaza Strip, including the first exchange of fire since the entry into force of the ceasefire on 26 August 2014. On 20 December, IAF carried out an airstrike on a Hamas facility in Khan Younis, without causing any casualty, in response to the launch of a rocket into Israel earlier that day; on 24 December an exchange of fire between IDF and Palestinian snipers caused the death of a Palestinian man and the severe injury of an Israeli soldier. IDF opened fire in the al-Farrahin area east of Khan Younis on 2 January; no injuries reported.
- The **number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)** in UNRWA Collective Centers stands at **17,913**.
- **In 2014, 14 boys aged between 11 and 17 years old were killed in the West Bank.** 13 boys were reportedly killed by ISF live ammunition and one boy by Israeli settlers. Two boys were killed in East Jerusalem and 12 in other areas of the West Bank.
- **1,555 m3 of drinking water** were delivered to communities during the reporting period thanks to a partnership with the NGO Gruppo di Volontariato Civile (GVC). 8,721 m3 of drinking water were delivered since the onset of the crisis, reaching 70,947 beneficiaries.
- The UNICEF-WHO led Mental Health Psychosocial Working Group provided 814,015 children with Psychological First Aid during the July and August escalation of hostilities and **72,082 children have been reached through structured group and individual counselling activities** since the end of the hostilities on 26 August.

19 December 2014 – 2 January 2015

539 children killed

(Protection Cluster, 4 December 2014)

2,257 total deaths

(Protection Cluster, 4 December 2014)

54,000 children homeless

(OCHA, 4 September 2014)

2,956 children injured

(Protection Cluster, 4 December 2014)

1,500 children orphaned

(Protection Cluster, 1 September 2014)

89 entire families killed

(OCHA, 25 August 2014)

UNICEF Funding Need

\$39.9 million

UNICEF Funding Gap

\$29.7 million

Note: Data and information above relate to the Gaza conflict of July-August 2014

Situation Overview

- **Tensions are on the rise in the State of Palestine.** During the reporting period, several incidents were reported in the Gaza Strip, including the first exchange of fire since the entry into force of the ceasefire on 26 August 2014. On 20 December, IAF carried out an airstrike on a Hamas facility in Khan Younis, without causing any casualty. IAF responded to the launch of a rocket into Israel earlier that day; on 24 December an exchange of fire between IDF and Palestinian snipers caused the death of a Palestinian man and the severe injury of an Israeli soldier. Fire was

opened against Gaza by IDF on Friday 2 January, no injuries were reported. Testing of rockets allegedly by Hamas militants in the Mediterranean Sea from the Gaza shore was also reported. Tensions amongst settlers, Israeli army and Palestinian civilians continues in East Jerusalem and West Bank as children continue to be involved in attacks: one additional case of a child killed in the West Bank was documented over the past two weeks: on 29 December, a 17-year old boy was shot dead by Israeli forces at the Tappuah checkpoint south of Nablus.

- **Hamas barred 37 war orphans from participating in a trip into Israel:** on Sunday 27 December, a trip arranged by the Israeli Kibbutz Movement and local Arab-Israeli officials to allow the Palestinian kids, aged between 12 and 15, to get acquainted with Israeli children their age. On the same day, the Coordinator of the Government's Activities in the Territories (COGAT) allowed the passage through Israel of 38 Gazan students who are enrolled abroad and whose passage through Rafah was denied due to the closure of the Egyptian crossing point.
- **UN doubles the estimate of destroyed Gaza homes:** despite an initial preliminary assessment conducted with satellite images and field work in the aftermath of the conflict, which estimated the number of damaged houses to 46,000 units, the results of the joint United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), and the Ministry of Public Works and Housing (MOPWH) Infrastructure Assessment show that the effective damage is double that previously estimated: according to the study, 7,000 homes were completely lost, affecting some 10,000 families, and an additional 89,000 homes were damaged, about 10,000 of them severely.
- **400 trucks of goods were allowed into Gaza:** on 23 December, Israel allowed the passage of 400 trucks of fuel and goods, including 100 trucks containing material for Qatari-funded infrastructure projects, through the Kerem Shalom/Karim Abu-Salem crossing. Goods are to be allocated to trade, agriculture, transport, and aid sectors.
- **Gaza hospital cleaners suspend strike after 16 days.** Gazan hospital cleaners decided to suspend their 15-day-old labor strike Thursday 18 December after receiving promises that their grievances would be addressed within two weeks.
- The number of **Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)** in 19 UNRWA Collective Centers (CCs) continues to decrease and stands at 17,913 as of 28 December.
- **Rafah crossing was opened on 23rd December for one day,** allowing 630 Palestinian to cross the border. This is the third day of opening since the closure of the border on 25 October. More than 1,950 Palestinians, mainly exiting Gaza, used the crossing in the 3 days of opening. During the 57 days of closure, it is estimated that the waiting list for Palestinian people to cross from Egypt into Gaza now exceeds 30,000 people.
- **The National Consensus Government convened in Gaza from 28 December to 2 January,** gathering for the second time in Gaza since the ceasefire. Issues discussed were: reconstruction, employment, crossing opening and transfer of construction materials. Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Shawqi Al Ayasa, reported positive outcomes of the three-days meeting, opening the way to a future visit with the participation of Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah.
- **A bid calling for creation of a Palestinian State and end of Israeli occupation by 2017** was presented to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on 28 December. The vote did not reach the minimum quorum and the resolution did not pass. On 31 December, President Mahmoud Abbas signed the application of Palestine to 18¹ international laws and treaties, including the Rome Statute for the International Criminal Court, asking the Court to consider Israeli grave violations of human rights and war crimes as of July 2014.

¹ 1. Convention on the Political Rights of Women

2. Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (the 'New York Convention')

3. Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal

4. Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity

5. Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II)

6. Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III)

7. Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses

8. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents

9. United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

10. Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel

11. United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

12. Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity

13. Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court

14. Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

15. Declaration in accordance with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

16. The Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons

17. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

18. Convention on Cluster Munitions

- **At least 539 Palestinian children were reported killed as a result of the hostilities in Gaza** between 8 July and 26 August. The child fatalities include 339 boys and 200 girls. 81% of them, or 440 children, were killed during the period of the IDF ground incursion, in the course of 20 days between 17 July and 5 August, this translates to 22 children killed on average per day. At least 2,956 Palestinian children were reported injured or maimed between 8 July and 26 August 2014. In total, a reported 11,100 Palestinians have been injured or maimed, of which children make up 26 per cent. The children injured include 1,938 boys (66%) and 1,018 girls (34%), aged between two days and 17 years.

Donor Visits UNICEF Adolescents' Programmes in Palestine

UNICEF State of Palestine had the pleasure and honour to receive the visit of Mr. Wissam al-Mana, and his wife Mrs. Al-Mana, or Janet Jackson. The couple had made a contribution in support of adolescents and psychosocial programmes in Gaza during the conflict in 2014. On their 2-day visit, they visited ongoing UNICEF support in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, attending a briefing on UNICEF programmes including in Gaza, and expressed their wish to enhance their partnership with UNICEF in support of vulnerable Palestinian children.



Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Education and Adolescents

- UNICEF with the support of NGO partners, MA'AN, Tamer and Al Nayzak, reached at least **88,457 adolescents and children (52% females)** since the beginning of the programme, through various types of activities such as **recreational activities, life skills, and stress relief activities** to help them build their resilience and cope with the recurrent crises.

The activities for adolescents and children were mainly conducted in 124 government schools, 22 community-based organizations, and 19 government shelters located in different Gaza districts. During the reporting period, **3,100 adolescents and children participated in recreational activities**

- At least **16,607 adolescents** since the beginning of the programme, (15,739 during the reporting period) were provided with **non-cognitive skills development training** such as creative and critical thinking, communication, problem solving, team work and others, with the support of UNICEF's partners, TAMER, MAAN, Al Nayzak, Save Youth Future Society and INJAZ. The skills development program will enable adolescents to conduct initiatives in their communities and act as agents of positive change and has so far exceeded the initial planned target of 3,000 adolescents.



A family in Gaza uses the e-voucher they have been given to purchase warm clothes and school uniforms.

UNICEF in collaboration with WFP and Oxfam, continues the implementation of the e-voucher programme, which allows children most affected by the war to redeem school uniforms and shoes through the use of an electronic card. The programme has already reached over than 4,866 children and aims to reach more than 14,780 children.



Adolescents participating in a psychosocial activity conducted by UNICEF's partner PCDCR. The adolescents came from Jabalya an area that was hard hit during last summer's war.

UNICEF/SoP/Alessio Romenzi

Child Protection

- UNICEF and Palestinian Centre for Democracy and Conflict Resolution (PCDCR) reached **5,339 Children with psychosocial support in the reporting period**. In total 26,063 (12,632 girls and 13,431 boys) have received psychosocial support since 15 September.
- 23 Family Centers are currently functional and provide core child protection services, psychosocial assessment, ERW risk education and outreach to vulnerable children and families. Caregivers of children attending the centers are also receiving awareness raising sessions on child protection and on supporting the psychosocial development of their children. The **23 Family Centres are currently providing child protection services to 13,362 children**

(6,911 girls and 6,451 boys). Additionally, 2,909 caregivers (1,945 females and 964 males) have received awareness raising sessions on child protection.

- With technical support from UNICEF, the partners of the Mental Health Psychosocial Working Group since 26 August to 31 December have reached 72,082 children and have established a database to track psychosocial interventions.
- The UNICEF-WHO led Mental Health Psychosocial Working Group provided 814,015 children with Psychological First Aid during the July and August escalation of hostilities and **72,082 children have been reached through structured group and individual counselling activities** since the end of the hostilities on 26 August.
- The UNICEF-led Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) has documented programme implementation by **57 implementing partners reaching 34,804 children and 4,059 adults with awareness raising, capacity building, and case management** throughout the Gaza Strip since 26 August 2014. These numbers do not include the children reached with psychosocial interventions.
- UNICEF- led CPWG finalized and disseminated the Child Protection Rapid Assessment and the Child Protection Response Strategy. Among the main findings of the Rapid Assessment it should be noted that: 1. 100% of respondents confirmed that there had been changes in children's behavior as a result of the psychological distress of the conflict; and 2. 54% of respondents reported an increased aggression towards children, noting that caregivers' attitudes towards children were found to have changed since the conflict. The results of the CPRA are being used to improve targeted response to children in Gaza.
- CPWG members are undertaking an in-depth service mapping and referral pathways exercise to improve service delivery for children in Gaza.
- CPWG members are undertaking a self-assessment on child safety within their organizations with a view to strengthening adherence to Standard 2 of the Child Protection Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Action related to the skills, capacity and expertise of child protection staff.
- The UNICEF-led Working Group on Grave Violations against children continued to document grave violations against children. One additional case of a child killed in the West Bank was documented over the past two weeks – On 29 December, a 17-year old boy Palestinian youth was shot dead by Israeli forces at the Tappuah checkpoint south of Nablus. In 2014, 14 boys aged between 11 and 17 years old were killed in West Bank. 13 boys were reportedly killed by ISF live ammunition and one boy by Israeli settlers. Two boys were killed in East Jerusalem and 12 in other areas of the West Bank.
- On 29 December 2014, the YMCA held a workshop to launch the UNICEF/ECHO-funded mapping of the mental health and psychosocial services (MHPSS) Report. The Workshop was attended by a number of national authorities including the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) and Ministry of Health (MoH) as well as national and international organizations. The discussions focused on ensuring that the mapping of services remains a live tool of use to all practitioners.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- 1,555 m3 of drinking water were delivered to communities during the reporting period thanks to a partnership with Gruppo di Volontariato Civile. (GVC). 8,721 m3 of drinking water were delivered since the onset of the crisis, reaching 70,947 beneficiaries.

Al-Bureij refugee camp. A man filling up his water bottle from a UNICEF established safe drinking water filling point. UNICEF has been providing drinking water to 50,000 people from communities that were hard hit during the 51 day conflict and have no access to safe drinking water.

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Child Health & Nutrition

- **During the reporting period, breastfeeding awareness-raising sessions were conducted for 1,543 lactating mothers** by UNICEF-supported **MoH Community Health Workers (CHWs)**, while awareness-raising session about communicable diseases (NCD) and vaccination were conducted to 1,365 women and 70 children. In total, the breastfeeding sessions reached 12,137 women and the NCD/vaccination sessions reached 1,710 men, 11,626 women and 3,665 children.
- **MoH and Near East Council of Churches (NECC) teams continue to provide post-natal care at home and in shelters**, reaching 178 women during the reporting period. NECC concluded the training of its staff and is now serving households in Rafah and Al Daraj areas. Since the escalation of violence between Israel and Gaza which began on 8 July 2014, UNICEF has supported postnatal home visits for more than 3,000 mothers and newborns in conflict-affected areas.



Midwives and nurses visiting mothers and new-borns at home as part of a UNICEF-supported postnatal home visit programme in Gaza.

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#gaza4children

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

- UNICEF, as part of the UN Country Team, coordinates with the Government of National Consensus to support its role in humanitarian response, early recovery and reconstruction.
- UNICEF is co-leading a new Nutrition Sub Group together with Ministry of Health (MoH) in both West Bank and in Gaza.
- In cooperation with the Government and other UN partners, UNICEF has participated extensively in an on-going Palestinian Detailed Needs Assessment and will continue to support the development of the recovery framework and strategy.
- UNICEF leads the Child Protection Working Group and affiliated groups for mental health and psychosocial services (MHPSS), and for monitoring and reporting of grave violations against children (MRM - Children and Armed Conflict reporting mechanism). These groups have been merged to maximise coordination of child protection responses during the emergency. UNICEF also leads the UN Theme Group on Social Protection.
- UNICEF continues to lead the WASH cluster and co-lead the Education cluster with Save the Children, both in Gaza and at the national level, with dedicated staff capacity.

Funding

Funding requirements (as defined in revised humanitarian Gaza Crisis appeal)				
Appeal Sector	Requirements	Funds received*	Funding gap	
			\$	%
Education	17,313,401	2,249,478	15,063,923	87%
WASH	11,876,216	3,995,123	7,881,093	66%
Child Protection	5,093,875	2,227,321	2,866,554	56%
Health & Nutrition	4,729,536	1,563,793	3,165,743	67%
Cluster Coordination	865,269	99,238	766,031	89%
Total (USD)	39,878,297	10,134,952	29,743,345	75%

Note 1: Total cash on hand is **\$15,084,506** of which **\$10,134,952** is funding received against the appeal for this year, and **\$4,949,554** is budget carried forward from prior years and reallocated to the SoP office.

Note 2: The table does not include the EPF loan of **\$4 million**.

Next SitRep: 15 January 2015

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