



State of Palestine

Humanitarian Situation Report

unicef 

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Highlights

- *The 2014 Gaza Crisis Appeal requesting \$551 million in support of the vulnerable population of the Gaza Strip affected by the conflict was launched on 9 September in a joint press conference by the Deputy Prime Minister of the State of Palestine and the Humanitarian Coordinator. It focuses on displaced persons, the injured, the elderly, children, and women, as well as farmers and fishermen who have lost their livelihoods.*
- *Preparations for the first day of school set for 14 September as part of a major Back to School campaign are on-going in close coordination with the Ministry of Education, Education Cluster and UNRWA.*
- *In a joint statement on 11 September, the National Consensus Government's Ministry of Public Works, UNRWA and UNDP announced a joint assessment of damaged houses and assistance packages for affected families. Assessments will take 60-90 days and families will be offered rental subsidies for transitional shelter and reintegration packages.*
- *The mass movement of civilians, children in particular, into areas that were intensively affected by airstrikes and shelling, raises major concerns about Explosive Remnants of War (ERW).*
- *Despite extensive repairs, electricity outages of 18 hours a day continue in most areas across Gaza. As a result, WASH services are disrupted with 450,000 unable to access municipal water.*

Situation Overview

- An open-ended ceasefire brokered by the Egyptian government and agreed by the armed groups in Gaza, the Palestinian Authority and Israel entered into force on 26 August, the 50th days of the conflict. However, the terms of the agreement were not officially released and there are currently unmet conditions on both sides including Israel's demand to demilitarize Hamas, and Hamas' demand for the construction of air and seaports in Gaza.
- On 9 September, the \$551 Gaza Crisis Appeal was launched in a joint press conference with Deputy Prime Minister of the State of Palestine, H.E. Dr. Mohammad Mustafa, and the Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. James W. Rawley. "It is painfully clear that the scope of damage and

11 September 2014

503 children killed

(Child protection cluster, 11 September 2014)

2,131 total deaths

(OCHA, 4 September 2014)

54,000 children homeless

(OCHA, 4 September 2014)

3,106 children injured

(Protection Cluster, 1 September 2014)

1,500 children orphaned

(Protection Cluster, 1 September 2014)

89 entire families killed

(OCHA, 25 August 2014)

Flash Appeal: \$39.8 million

UNICEF revised its emergency appeal to meet the immediate and medium-term needs of IDP children and families until the end of 2014. UNICEF is urgently seeking US\$ 39.8 million to provide a holistic package of relief assistance to at least 600,000 children with a focus on:

- *Back to School Campaign including all necessary repairs to damaged schools in priority areas and integrating psychosocial support and extra-curricular activities into the school programme;*
- *Strengthening the Gaza child protection network and case management systems with MoSA;*
- *Repairs to essential WASH infrastructure and continued interim support to communities in need.*

devastation is unprecedented in the Gaza Strip. Equally clear is that the crisis is far from over,” said Mr. Rawley. “It is imperative that this Appeal be strongly supported so that the humanitarian needs identified through the multi-cluster rapid assessment (MIRA) can be addressed. But this will only carry us through the next few months and is not a solution. We need fundamental changes in the Gaza Strip, to transform the situation from one of death and despair to one of hope and opportunity. Foremost among these is a continued ceasefire, a full lifting of the blockade, and a political solution.”

- There are currently over 65,000 IDPs still seeking refuge in 26 UNRWA emergency collective shelters and a small number of IDPs in two MoSA shelters. There are thought to be 50,000 IDPs living with host families.
- The National Consensus Government’s Ministry of Public Works, in partnership with UNRWA and UNDP have commenced joint shelter assessments of damaged homes in the Gaza Strip. The joint shelter assessments and assistance packages will help facilitate a transition period for internally displaced persons currently taking refuge UNRWA schools and elsewhere. All affected families in Gaza will be assessed, including refugees and non-refugees. Beneficiaries do not need to apply for assessments and assistance as has occurred after previous wars; assessments of all damaged homes will be undertaken simultaneously in all five areas of the Gaza Strip. All assessments should be completed within 60 to 90 days. There will be an opportunity for beneficiaries to appeal after assessments are complete. Families with uninhabitable homes, approximately 20,000 households, will be given one-time assistance of \$500 intended for non-food items to help the families get back on their feet. IDP families living in communities will be offered monthly support based on their family-size: 1-5 receive \$200 per month, 6-10 \$225 per month and over 10 \$250 per month.
- The Shelter Cluster estimates that 60,000 homes were impacted during the fifty days of hostilities. 40,000 of these sustained minor damage and require modest repairs. The remaining 20,000 are either destroyed or sustained major damage and are uninhabitable. It will take construction material and significant time and effort to rebuild or repair. Funding for the shelter sector is desperately required to ensure that the displaced with uninhabitable homes are able to find alternative shelter before the onset of winter. Under the current restrictions imposed by the Government of Israel, it will take twenty years to rebuild Gaza.
- Tensions continue in East Jerusalem and the West Bank with a Palestinian shot dead in Al Am’ari Camp in the West Bank during clashes with ISF on 10 September. Clashes between Palestinians and Israeli settlers in the West Bank occurred throughout the past 4 days in settlements around Ramallah, Nablus and Jenin. On the evening of Sept 10th, Al Saweyeh Alleban Secondary School in South Nablus was set on fire, with damage reported to the principal’s office, teachers rooms and secretary’s room. As a result, the school was closed on Sept 11th leaving 400 students without classes. The school has been a regular scene of clashes between students, ISF and local settler communities. The area around the school remains sealed pending a full investigation. In East Jerusalem, there were also demonstrations and clashes between Palestinians and ISF near settlements in the Mount of Olives, Wadi Al Joz and in Shu’fat Refugee Camp.
- The Gaza Power Plant remains inoperable, resulting in electricity outages of 18 hours per day. Some 450,000 people remain unable to access municipal water due to damage or low pressure. The Gaza economy has been very badly impacted due to damage in the main industrial areas, mostly situated in Eastern Gaza.
- The average seven year old Palestinian child from Gaza has never left the 365 square kilometer coastal enclave due to the blockade in place since 2007, and has witnessed three major military escalations.



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Damages to water roof top tanks supplied by UNICEF

Summary Analysis of Programme response

UNICEF’s emergency scaled-up response in Gaza is targeting under five year old children and mothers, children who will attend public schools, and vulnerable households in the most affected communities. UNICEF is currently focusing on supporting affected children and families in shelters, host families, and the communities that have been most severely hit.

Education

- UNICEF is working closely with partners and the Ministry of Education and UNRWA in planning a comprehensive **Back to School Initiative for all children in Gaza**. This will include school repairs and reconstruction, staff training in psychosocial approaches and school supplies aiming to benefit 230,000 children to improve the learning environment and resilience of children. UNICEF is preparing the following ahead of the next school year due to start on 14 September (will be implemented in a phased approach, dependent on available funding—currently the amount received so far is insufficient to reach all targets):

School supplies

- School teaching kits and recreational kits in all schools
- School bags and stationary kits for at least 130,000 children
- School uniforms and shoes through the e-voucher programme for 100,000 children of the most vulnerable families
- Early childhood development kits for at least 16,000 children

Repairs and reconstruction

- School disinfection: in all 25 schools used as emergency collective shelters, before 14 September
- Repairs to partially damaged schools (60 schools in 2014, with an additional 48 schools repaired in 2015. If funding is provided, UNICEF commits itself to repairing 108 of 122 affected schools in the forthcoming 6 months, in cooperation with NGO partners
- Provision of school furniture: the same 75 schools targeted for repairs and reconstruction

Training of school teachers and staff: integrating psychosocial support in schools

- Psychosocial training programmes for teachers, counselors, supervisors including classroom management for all 395 MoEHE schools in Gaza. To include a special psychosocial support and extra-curricular activity programme for children and youth returning to school



Child Protection

- UNICEF is supporting training on psychosocial support and prevention of violence targeting 800 professionals. The training will be expanded to all 395 public schools across the Gaza strip.
- 10,427 adolescents and children (48% females) benefited from basic psychosocial and recreational activities provided by UNICEF partners MA'AN and Tamer in 19 government shelters, 15 community-based organizations and 7 Libraries. UNICEF's partners will target an additional 7 CBOs to maximize coverage of affected children both in their homes and in community centers.
- **Radio spots are aired on radio stations to alert children and their families on the dangers posed by explosive remnants of war (ERWs)** (up to 1 million people in Gaza have been reached to date).
- Since 20 July, **child protection and psychosocial text messages** were sent to 790,000 subscribers of Jawwal in Gaza. The messages include actions that caregiver should take to reduce the vulnerability of children to death and injury, to reduce psychosocial distress and to prevent and respond to child abuse. UNICEF and Jawwal provided a free phone number to call for advice and support from the UNICEF supported Sawa Helpline.
- UNICEF is coordinating the **Child Protection Working Group, the Mental Health and Psychosocial Working Group** and the Working Group on Grave Violations against Children. Fifteen organisations are implementing child protection activities through 23 implementing partners.
- The CPWG's Child Protection Rapid Assessment Task Force is coordinating a **child protection assessment** which will inform the child protection sector strategy
- A **UNICEF-led Task Force on referral and case management** is mapping services across the Gaza strip, where children can be referred to. This mapping exercise is beyond child protection services, and once completed, orientation and training programmes will need to be developed. This will form the basis of the strengthening and rebuilding of child and family referral networks and case management systems in Gaza.

- As part of the planning for the next phase of the humanitarian response, the CPWG has hosted two workshops on the Child Protection Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Action for members of the CPWG, which will precede and inform the development of the Child Protection Response Plan.

Child Health & Nutrition

- On 10 September, a **UNICEF shipment of 90 tons of medical supplies**, including 49,900 doses of PCV vaccine, entered Gaza. This is part of UNICEF's commitment to ensure that hospitals and health facilities are frequently re-stocked with **essential drugs, vaccines and supplies**. PCV is an essential vaccine for children 5 years and younger to prevent conditions such as pneumonia and meningitis caused by the Streptococcus pneumonia bacteria and frequent causes of death among infants. Vaccinations are underway in Primary Health Centers run by the Ministry of Health and UNRWA.
- UNICEF is funding Ministry of Health (MoH) **Community Health Workers** to conduct outreach activities in collective centres. 1,332 men, 1,980 women and 2,226 children participated in 93 awareness sessions on communicable diseases and breastfeeding in 36 UNRWA collective shelters.
- MoH teams continued to make home visits to provide **postnatal and neonatal care** and advice to 773 mothers and 752 neonates. This agreement with MoH is a long-standing agreement that has been scaled-up to respond to current needs.



Water Sanitation and Hygiene

- UNICEF in partnership with MA'AN is cleaning and disinfecting 27 schools used as IDP emergency collective shelters during the conflict in preparation for the new school year starting on 14 September. UNICEF's partner, ACF, will proceed with essential repairs in the coming week to 26 schools that were severely damaged during the conflict.
- WFP and UNICEF distributed **eVouchers for water, hygiene products** and food to vulnerable families, many of which have lost their homes. 14,000 families (approximately 84,000 people) have been reached through the distribution. This will be increased to cover 50,000 families (300,000 individuals). While the majority of the eVouchers are spent on food, analysis has shown that over 45 per cent of the vouchers' value has been spent on sanitation products showing a clear need for these items by households. Further expansion of the voucher programme is under discussion with the Ministry of Social Affairs, WFP, UNICEF and UNRWA to give families maximum choice in terms of selecting the items they most need in a way that also benefits the local economy.
- UNICEF is supporting CMWU with urgent water network repairs including to water and sewage pipe systems. CMWU will be repairing generators for essential WASH operations in the coming days with parts procured by UNICEF.
- In partnership with MA'AN, UNICEF is supporting on-going **water tankering for domestic use** in Gaza City. So far, 4,504 cubic meters of water reached 31,528 beneficiaries.
- UNICEF, in cooperation with PHG and GVC, is also supporting on-going **water tankering for drinking water**. So far they have delivered 3,794 cubic meters of water for 50,000 individuals. These partners have also distributed 370 communal tanks in the Middle area of Gaza. In partnership with MA'AN 14 water bladders have been installed: 6 in Gaza City, 5 in Khan Younis and 3 in Beit Hanoun. In total these **water filling stations** will provide water to 71,000 people.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

- 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). These groups have been merged to maximise coordination of child protection responses during the emergency.
- 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.
- Emergency Operations Centres (EOC) have been established in Gaza and Ramallah.

Funding

Funding requirements (as defined in revised humanitarian appeal)				
Appeal Sector	Requirements	Funds received*	Funding gap	
			\$	%
Health & Nutrition	4,729,536	651,928	4,077,608	86%
WASH	11,876,216	1,796,947	10,079,269	85%
Education	17,313,401	523,164	16,790,237	97%
Child Protection	5,093,875	49,952	5,043,923	99%
Cluster Coordination	865,269	97,631	767,638	89%
Total	39,878,297	3,119,622	36,758,675	92%

Note 1: Total cash received is **\$ 4,813,660** of which \$3,119,622 is funding received against the appeal for this year, and \$ 1,694,038 is budget carried forward from prior years and reallocated to the SoP office.

Note 2: The above does not include the EPF loan of \$2 million.

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