



State of Palestine

Humanitarian Situation Report



SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Highlights

- *The five-day temporary ceasefire that entered into effect at midnight 13 August has held with no major incidents reported. The ceasefire was extended on 18 August for an additional 24 hours due to expire at midnight on 19 August. An agreement is yet to be reached from the Egyptian-brokered talks.*
- *The situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) is fluid and has risen, with 265,888 now seeking refuge in 88 UNRWA-managed emergency shelters. The number of IDPS housed in 20 Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) collective shelters is currently fluid and unclear.*
- *Alternative housing will be needed for the approximately 100,750 people whose homes have been destroyed or rendered uninhabitable.*
- *An exceptional one-off food distribution targeting families that do not regularly receive food assistance, is continuing with 52,000 out of a targeted 143,000 people now reached.*
- *Despite ongoing repairs to utilities, the majority of the population has severe shortages in water and power services. In some areas the demand for water is so high that tensions at communal water points prevent the delivery of water.*
- *The first phase of a joint humanitarian assessment was launched on 13 August to assess needs and inform responses by humanitarian organizations. The second phase is currently ongoing and will be completed by 20 August, depending on the ceasefire.*

Situation Overview

- The number of IDPs in UNRWA-managed collective shelters has increased from 224,859 on 14 August to 265,888 in 88 UNRWA emergency shelters. IDPs are also living in 9 MoSA shelters but the current number of IDPs in these shelters is unknown. In addition, over 115,000 individuals are known to be living with host families. The known number of IDPs is therefore around 386,000.
- Reports from the ground indicate that IDPs are not moving out of the shelters primarily because of fear that the ceasefire will not hold, and because their homes have been destroyed and they have nowhere to go.
- UNRWA, WFP and MoSA continue the exceptional food distribution to all families not currently receiving regular food aid from the two agencies. Since 11 August almost 52,000 of the eligible 143,000 families received a 30kg ration of flour and a 10kg ration of rice.

18 August 2014

50,375 children homeless

(Shelter Cluster, 14 August 2014)

459 children killed

(Protection Cluster, 18 August 2014)

3,084 children injured

(OCHA, 18 August 2014)

1,976 deaths

(OCHA, 18 August 2014)

Key Messages

- **A permanent halt to the violence** is crucial to mitigating the humanitarian disaster in the Gaza Strip.
- **We cannot return to the status quo.** A comprehensive agreement is needed that includes lifting of the closure of Gaza while taking into account Israel's need to protect its citizens.
- **Build Back Better!** We must seize this opportunity to bring about transformational change in Gaza.
- **All parties have obligations under international law** to protect children from violence and harm. This includes ensuring humanitarian access and space for essential services to reach the population in need.

- A permanent ceasefire is required to continue repairing water and wastewater networks and facilities. Many repairs in the worst affected areas of Gaza need to be urgently addressed in order for families to return to their homes. Over 50% of WASH infrastructure is thought to be damaged in areas that experienced intense conflict. As repairs are made, further destruction is discovered in such areas. In Khuza'a, the demand for water is so high that tensions have occurred at distribution sites during water deliveries. Tanker drivers have been unable to deliver in eastern Khan Yunis and particularly Khuza'a. The WASH Cluster and partners are working closely with local community representatives to address this problem.
- The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) report that 230 schools (90 UNRWA and 140 government) have sustained damages. This includes 25 schools that are completely destroyed or severely damaged and are now unusable. Facilities that require significant repairs cannot open in time for the new school year due to start on 24 August. Two universities and four colleges have also been damaged by shelling.
- In the West Bank, during the past 72 hours, Palestinian protests took place in Hebron and Ramallah and Palestinians and ISF clashed in Shufat Refugee Camp. ISF demolished and sealed the homes of three Palestinian suspects in the killing of three Israeli settlers last month. This was followed by clashes between ISF and Palestinians in the area. A group of seven Israeli youths were arrested for attacking Palestinians in West Jerusalem and protests by Ultra Orthodox Jews also took place in West Jerusalem. These incidents are indicative of the increasing tensions between Israelis and Palestinians throughout the West Bank and Jerusalem.

Summary Analysis of Programme response

UNICEF's emergency response in Gaza is focusing on supporting conflict-affected populations inside collective shelters and in host communities. In East Jerusalem and the West Bank, UNICEF's support will expand with a focus on families affected by recent violence and hostilities.

WASH

- WFP and UNICEF distributed **eVouchers for water, hygiene products** and food to vulnerable families, many of which have lost their homes. 10,000 families (approximately 60,000 people) have been reached through the distribution. Discussions are underway to increase coverage to 50,000 families.
- In partnership with MA'AN, UNICEF is supporting **water tankering for domestic use** that will benefit 10,500 individuals in Gaza City for one month. So far MA'AN has provided 398 cubic meters of water for 8,900 beneficiaries.
- UNICEF, in cooperation with PHG, is also supporting water tankering to provide **drinking water** for 50,000 individuals for one month. As of 10 August they have delivered 138 cubic meters of water and 90 communal tanks in the Middle area of Gaza.
- The Coastal Municipal Water Utility (CMWU) is carrying out **critical repairs** across Gaza with \$350,000 of emergency funding from UNICEF. There are ongoing repairs to the damaged sanitation system in Beit Lahia. In total CMWU has repaired 1100m of water pipes and 740m of waste water pipes across the Gaza Strip.
- 3,000 Posters with messages on lice and scabies control, hand washing and proper water treatment have been printed and are being distributed in collective shelters.

Child Protection

- UNICEF is supporting partners to **verify all child fatalities**. Daily reports are produced on killings, injuries and other grave violations against children including age and location analysis.
- Five **emergency psychosocial teams** (PCDCR) supported by UNICEF provided initial psychosocial support to 3,337 children across the Gaza Strip in both hospitals and shelters.
- 42 staff and volunteers working in the government collective shelters have received a 3 hour **briefing on core child protection principles** to assist with their management of the shelters. The formation of child/adolescent friendly areas in shelters is also in process.
- Since 8 July 2014, Sawa has been able to provide counselling to 2,181 callers from Gaza (North Gaza 138; Gaza City 1305; Middle Area 53; Khan Younis 213; Raffah 438; and 34 non documented).

A 12-year old girl called the Sawa child protection hotline and said:

"We ran away from Shoja`yeh at midnight. We saw our home being destroyed. I was crying because we have memories and dreams there, from our birthdays. I am afraid they may bomb us. We are now in my grandfather`s house."

The counsellor asked her how she feels. The girl answered:

"I cannot live, I only feel pain. My memories, pictures, clothes, toys... everything is gone."

498 calls were about concerns about the impact of the conflict on children, and 807 calls were about persistent fear of violence (see boxed text).

Education and Adolescents

- UNICEF is working closely with the Ministry of Education on the Back to School campaign to ensure that the needs of the children are fully met. The first week of school will not involve school lessons but will instead focus on the psychosocial wellbeing of the children and teachers in attendance. UNICEF will also provide more a more comprehensive psychosocial assistance package for children in schools showing signs of psychological distress throughout the coming months.
- UNICEF is repositioning stationary kits, learning kits and other school supplies ahead of the new school year.
- 3,181 adolescents and children have so far benefited from **basic psychosocial and recreational activities** provided by UNICEF partners MA'AN and Tamer in 12 government shelters. The activities are designed to help children and adolescents to better cope with displacement and their experiences during the conflict. UNICEF partners also trained shelter managers on core child protection principles to help with maintaining a proactive environment inside government shelters.

Health & Nutrition

- UNICEF provided **essential vaccines to continue routine immunization**. Vaccinations are underway in Primary Health Centers run by the Ministry of Health and UNRWA. UNICEF is monitoring vaccination coverage through PRCS.
- A shipment of **essential drugs** for children and medical consumables arrived on 13 August with further shipments to arrive in the coming days.
- UNICEF is cooperating with WHO, MOH and UNRWA to **raise awareness on the importance of breastfeeding** and monitor breast milk substitute donations.
- UNICEF is coordinating with MoH health teams to ensure provision of post natal care in collective shelters. So far 381 mothers and 634 neonates have been provided with advice and support.
- Coordination with and technical advice to UNRWA and WFP on provision of food to displaced children aged 6 months to 2 years is on-going in collective shelters.

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. The Gaza EOC meets every other day to focus on the emergency response including monitoring visits to collective shelter and conflict affected communities. The EOC also acts as an advocacy platform to raise challenges related to humanitarian access. The EOC Secretariat in Ramallah supports Gaza to provide a coordinated approach to appeals by different Ministries. A more limited coordination group focuses only on IDP needs, in which UNICEF also participates.

Funding

Funding requirements (as defined in the humanitarian appeal being revised on 31 July for a period of 5 months).

Appeal Sector	Requirements (\$)
Health & Nutrition	3,000,856
WASH	3,421,826
Education	3,949,788
Child Protection	2,253,584
Cluster Coordination	1,090,044
Total	13,716,098

Funding (USD)		
Donor	Funds Received	Funds Pledged
Govt. of Japan	1,000,000	
DFID (RO)	722,765	
Japan NatCom	700,000	
Spain	339,674	
Thematic Education (RO)	300,000	
UK NatCom	100,000	51,000
HQ Children in Armed Conflict	90,000	
Danish NatCom	89,686	
UNICEF - UAE	49,952	
UNICEF - Indonesia	31,558	
UNICEF - Malaysia	27,161	
UNICEF - Thailand	369	
French NatCom		400,000
ERF		250,000
Thematic Education (RO)		205,000
Iceland		50,000
Total	3,451,164	956,000

EPF loan received from HQ and allocations	
Sector	Allocations (\$)
Health & Nutrition	400,000
WASH	520,000
Education	300,000
Child Protection	400,000
Technical and Operational Support	380,000
Total	2,000,000

Next SitRep: 21 August 2014

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