

FLASH APPEAL OPT

OCTOBER 2023



Destruction in Gaza Strip. 8 October 2023. © 2023 UNRWA Photo by Mohammed Hinnawi

HOSTILITIES IN GAZA AND ISRAEL

VERSION 1 AS OF 12 OCTOBER 2023

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Flash Appeal at a Glance

Introduction

The OPT Flash Appeal calls for approximately US \$ 294 million for 77 humanitarian partners to address the most urgent needs of 1,260,000 people in the Gaza Strip (Gaza) and the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. It brings together the work and funding requirements of the humanitarian community in OPT, including 13 UN Agencies, 29 International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs), the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and 35 National NGOs (NNGOs). UNRWA plays a unique role in OPT, serving as the main direct provider of basic services – education, health, relief and social services, protection, camp infrastructure and improvement and emergency assistance - to 1.5 million registered Palestine

refugees in Gaza. In the West Bank, UNRWA serves 1.1 million Palestine refugees and other registered persons, of whom 890,000 are refugees. UNRWA is part of the humanitarian architecture in OPT and coordinates through the humanitarian cluster system. Their requirements are included in this appeal.

However, funding in 2023 has been a challenge and the humanitarian needs compounded by the current situation in Gaza, May 2023 escalation in Gaza, and deteriorating situation in the West Bank have left humanitarian organizations without the resources required to adequately respond to the full range of needs of the most vulnerable Palestinians.



Palestinians inspect the damage following an Israeli airstrike on the Sousi mosque in Gaza City on October 9, 2023. ©Photo by Mahmud HAMS / AFP

Crisis Overview

The 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) identifies 2.1 million Palestinians as requiring urgent assistance in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), where humanitarian needs are primarily driven by the protracted Israeli military occupation, 15 years of the Gaza blockade, internal Palestinian political divisions and recurrent hostilities between Israeli security forces and Palestinian armed groups. This represents 58 per cent of Gaza Strip residents and one quarter of West Bank Residents.

As of 7 October 2023, since the early morning hours, Palestinian armed groups in Gaza launched more than 3,500 missiles and rockets towards Israel and breached the perimeter fence of Gaza in multiple locations. Members of armed groups entered Israeli towns, communities, and military facilities near the Gaza Strip, killing and capturing Israeli forces and civilians. The Israeli military declared “a state of war alert,” and began striking targets in the Gaza Strip.

The deadliest attack in Israel in decades, more than 1,300 Israeli and foreign nationals, including women, children, and the elderly, were killed in Israel by members of Palestinian armed groups, including one paramedic, according to Israeli media. According to the Ministry of Health, at least 3,391 people have been injured, the vast majority on 7 October. Between 100 and 150 Israelis, including Israeli forces and civilians, including women, children, elderly and foreign nationals, have been captured and forcibly taken into Gaza, according to Israeli sources.

The Palestinian Ministry of Health reports at least 1,417 Palestinians have been killed, including 447 children and 248 women, and 6,268 injured. At the time of writing, 423,378 Palestinians have been displaced, with UNRWA hosting around 64 per cent of them in 102 premises, some of which are designated emergency shelters. Additionally, 26,984 IDPs have taken refuge at 29 public schools. It is estimated that over 153,004 IDPs are with relatives and neighbours, as well as in other public facilities. According to the Gaza Ministry of Public Works, 752 residential and non-residential buildings, comprising 2,835 housing units, have been destroyed. Another 1,791 housing units have been damaged beyond repair and rendered uninhabitable.

Gaza’s sole power plant ran out of fuel and has stopped functioning, cutting the only electricity source to the Gaza strip. This followed the announcement on 9 October by Israeli authorities that they would halt provision of electricity and fuel supplies to Gaza. Sanitation facilities have also been damaged, destroyed or rendered inoperable.

As of 12 October, most residents in the Gaza Strip no longer have access to drinking water from service providers or domestic water through pipelines. Since the start of hostilities, six water wells, three water pumping station, one water reservoir, and one desalination plant serving over 1.1 million people have been damaged by airstrikes and Israeli authorities

ceased providing water supplies on 8 October. UNICEF reports some have already begun drinking seawater, which is highly saline and contaminated with sewage from the discharge of over 120,000 cubic meters of untreated wastewater daily.

Health facilities are overwhelmed, medical stocks are in short supply and access to hospitals and medical care is hindered by the ongoing hostilities and damaged roads. According to WHO, 18 healthcare facilities and 20 ambulances were hit by airstrikes. PRCs reports 11 fatalities and 16 injuries to medical personnel, four of whom were killed when an ambulance was hit. Gaza is home to 50,000 pregnant women who are struggling to access essential health services as healthcare workers, hospitals and clinics come under attack. Some 5,500 of these women are due to give birth in the coming month. Since the imposition of closures in the West Bank there have been cases reported to UNFPA of women having to birth at checkpoints.

Prior to the recent hostilities, Gaza already bore a heavy mental health burden, particularly among children. A recent assessment conducted by Terre des Hommes on behalf of the Child Protection Mental Health and Psychosocial Working Group, revealed that 54.6 per cent of those surveyed exhibited below-average levels of well-being and 36 per cent reported experiencing moderate to severe levels of anxiety. The level of toxic stress under which children live is having a clear and significant impact on their psychosocial wellbeing.

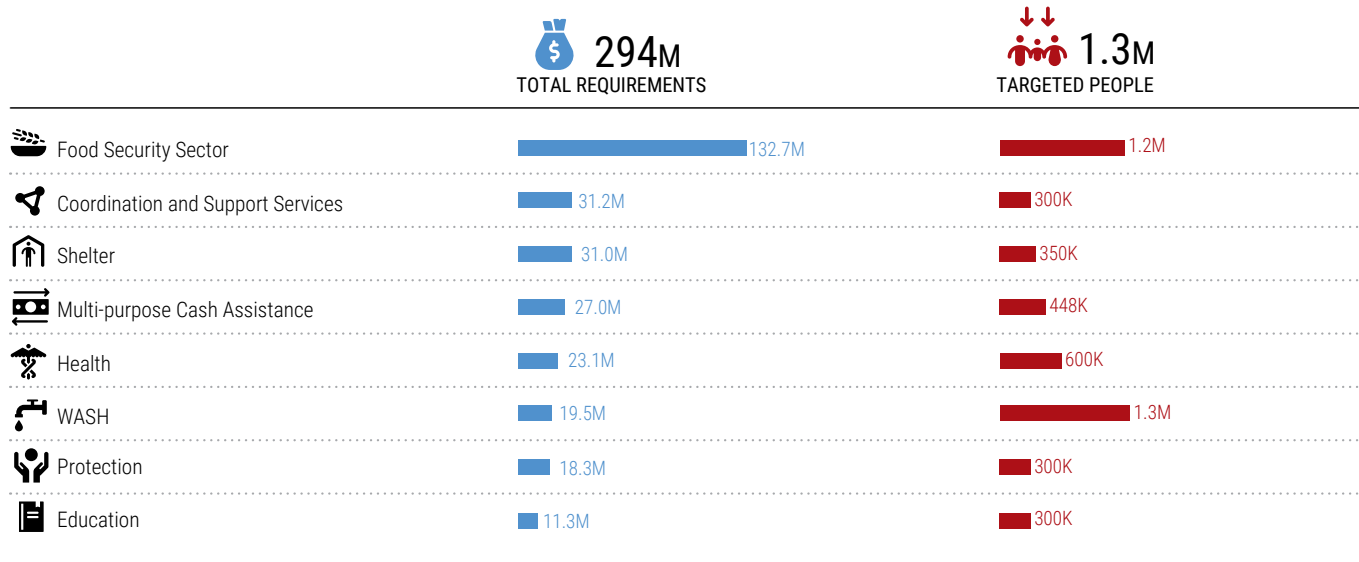
According to the Education Cluster, at least 88 education facilities have been struck. This includes 18 UNRWA schools, two of which were used as emergency shelters for IDPs, and 70 public schools. For the sixth consecutive day, there has been no access to education or safe spaces for more than 600,000 children in Gaza.

Nearly 60 per cent of households in Gaza were considered food insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity prior to the October hostilities. The livelihoods of many farmers, breeders, herders, and fishers have been negatively impacted by the destruction, damage or lack of access to their lands, productive assets, and farming infrastructure. Poultry and livestock sectors risk complete collapse due to the severe shortage of fodders, placing at risk the livelihood of 30,000 households, or 150 000 people, and the availability of meat and other fresh sources of protein for the entire population of Gaza.

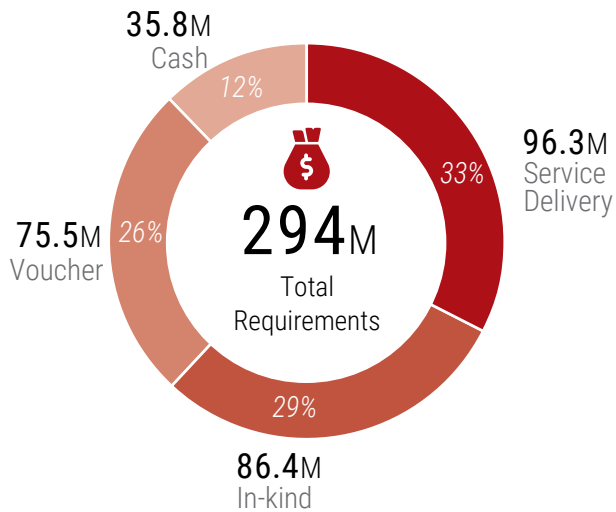
Initial Ministry of Agriculture estimates daily losses of more than US \$100,000 from the closure of borders and the inability to export more than 80 tons of fresh agricultural products. Affected farmers, herders and fishers require immediate food, fodder, and production inputs assistance to reactivate their productive capacities and livelihoods and avoid long-term aid dependence. Those still displaced remain in need of emergency food assistance. Also in need are vulnerable families, including those headed by women, the elderly, and those with special needs and people in poor health.

Funding Requirements

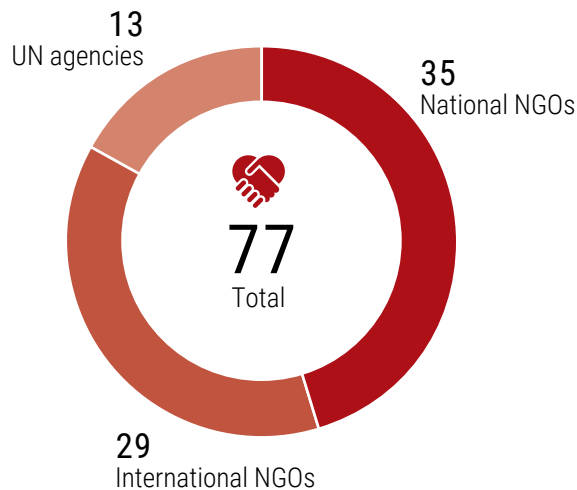
FUNDING REQUIREMENTS AND TARGETED PEOPLE BY CLUSTER



FUNDING REQUIREMENTS BY MODALITY



IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS BY TYPE



DISAGGREGATION BY GEOGRAPHY



While focus has primarily been on Gaza, the situation in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, remains tense. Since the start of the recent hostilities in Gaza and Israel, confrontations between Israeli forces and Palestinians has resulted in 33 fatalities, including five children. Settler violence has also been growing with additional communities being displaced, citing settler violence. Extensive closures have been imposed around West Bank cities and are severely impacting access to essential services.

Gender-Specific Impacts

The humanitarian consequences of the ongoing hostilities are accompanied by gender specific vulnerabilities and risks. Recognizing that the crisis affects women, girls, boys and men differently, with differing needs, interests, resources, capacities and coping strategies, an accountable response must assess and respond to gender-specific impacts.

The crisis has resulted in a high number of fatalities among men, which also translates into women who are now “new widows”. In OPT, widowed women lack protection in accessing rights to child custody and guardianship, as well as control over inheritance from a deceased spouse. In contrast, female headed households in OPT are eligible for permanent social safety nets, however minimal.

According to the Gender Based Violence (GBV) Secondary Data Review published in 2022, longstanding drivers of GBV in Gaza include the Israeli blockade, which constrains economic opportunities and freedom of movement; recurring escalations of violence; political fragmentation; and strong, prevailing traditional gender norms. The impact of GBV is exacerbated by extremely limited lifesaving GBV services and access to services is further restricted by stigma and discrimination. For those experiencing GBV, the ability to access quality and timely care as well as support to protect themselves or recover is a reoccurring challenge.

With forced displacement that leaves women and girls outside of their homes, the threat of GBV increases. Large-scale destruction of homes has resulted in families taking refuge with hosts, often resulting in overcrowding. In previous escalations of hostilities affecting Gaza, this has resulted in an increase in sexual and gender-based violence among women and girls. In addition, prolonged electricity cuts, water scarcity and cooking gas shortages will increase the domestic burdens and psychosocial impact of the crisis, primarily affecting women and girls.

According to women-led organizations, women who are internally displaced identified access to food and clean water as top priorities. They emphasize the need for food security and

nutrition interventions that meet the needs of different family members (including pregnant and lactating women, women and girls with disabilities, older people, and children). Women also highlighted the need for livelihood interventions, most immediately through unconditional cash assistance to support them in addressing urgent needs of their families. Non-food items (NFIs) and dignity kits that are gender and age sensitive were also cited as critical. In previous escalations, women report the need for psychosocial assistance for themselves and their children.

Securing women’s and girls’ easy access to comprehensive health services, including sexual and reproductive health, is of key importance. This includes protecting families from the spread of contagious diseases in host communities and designated emergency shelters- and equitable access to medicine men and women.

Ensuring that GBV prevention and response activities continue is also a priority. This includes using agreed GBV case management standard operating procedures (SOPs) and referral pathways and prioritizing those who are most at risk.

Civilian men, particularly young men, have heightened vulnerability of death and injuries due to their public engagement, role in first response services and community support. Threats to men and boys include risks associated with the Explosive Remnants of War (ERW).

Ongoing Assessments

The Flash Appeal is based on the Inter-Agency Contingency Plans (IACP) for Gaza and the West Bank. It builds upon the 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and comprehensive Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) that underpins it, alongside new and additional information from UN organizations and partners on the ground, including UNRWA staff who continue to provide essential services.

The situation is continuing to unfold rapidly, and staff continue to have limited movement due to the ongoing hostilities and insecurity. Subject to improvement in the security situation, UN OCHA aims to conduct inter-cluster/agency needs assessments in collaboration with Cluster Coordinators. The assessment will aim to comprehensively evaluate the severity and scale of humanitarian needs in the Gaza Strip. Additionally, in cooperation with UNOSAT OCHA plans to collect and analyse high-resolution satellite imagery to identify and quantify damage to urban and agricultural areas.

Response Strategy

Strategic Objectives

While prioritizing the immediate needs generated by the current hostilities, the Flash Appeal aligns with the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan under the following Strategic Objectives:

1

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1:

The rights of Palestinians living under occupation, including those living under the blockade and other restrictions, are protected, respected, and promoted in accordance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights Law, (IHRL) while duty-bearers are increasingly held to account.

2

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2:

The basic needs of vulnerable Palestinians living under occupation are met through the provision of quality basic services and improved access to resources, in accordance with the rights of protected persons under IHL.

3

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3:

The capacity of vulnerable Palestinians to cope with and overcome the protracted crisis, including from environmental threats, is supported while solutions to violations and other root causes of threats and shocks are pursued.

The response will put communities at the center. Partners under this appeal will work to further scale accountability to affected people, including PSEA support through the Sawa hotline and activities focused on sensitization, training, and monitoring. Protection serves as the foundation for the overall response which will be inclusive and gender-responsive with a specific focus on gender-based violence (GBV).

Government response efforts

Ultimate responsibility for the provision of relief assistance to people impacted by humanitarian crises rests with the Government of the affected territory. The OPT Flash Appeal addresses gaps in the fulfilment of those responsibilities while seeking to work in coordination with efforts made to alleviate humanitarian needs and enhance the rights of the affected population.



Prioritization

Activities have been identified by UN Agencies and partners that aim to address immediate needs which have been caused by or significantly exacerbated by the current hostilities in Gaza and associated tensions in the West Bank.

Operational Capacity

OPT hosts a substantial presence of national and international organizations, with 35 national NGOs, 29 international NGOs, and 13 UN agencies.

Access and Logistical Constraints

The hostilities are currently ongoing in Gaza and Israel, with associated tensions increasing in the West Bank, creating heightened insecurity that is severely limiting the movement of staff and humanitarian organizations, as well as civilians. Access for the efficient delivery of humanitarian aid is currently restricted.

At the time of writing, the Erez and Kerem Shalom crossings remain closed due to the hostilities while the Rafah crossing with Egypt remains limitedly operative for movement of some people and goods. Movement within the Gaza strip is

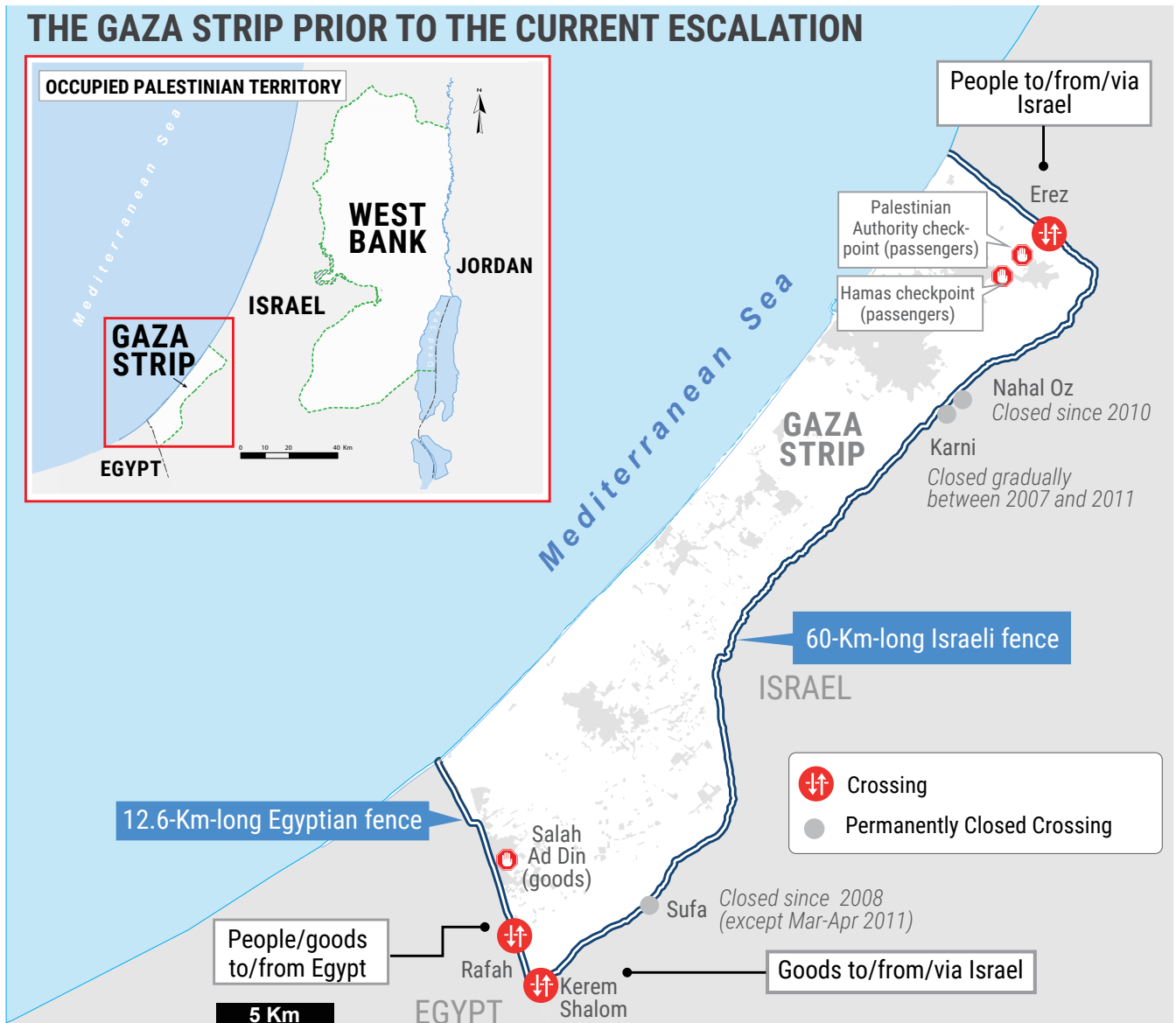
constrained due to the intensity of hostilities and damage to infrastructure. Communications towers have been affected by airstrikes, causing connectivity issues and inhibiting communications with colleagues in the Gaza Strip.

In the West Bank, Israeli authorities continue to impose numerous movement restrictions, including the closure of several checkpoints and the erection of barriers at entrances to towns and, effectively isolating cities and towns from the main roads. This approach further impedes access and the efficient delivery of humanitarian aid.

Costing

Under the leadership of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), the National Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (NICCG) launched a two-year pilot transition to activity-based costing (ABC) in 2023 for the 2024 HRP. This Flash Appeal draws upon the work done by the NICCG and partners and employs an ABC methodology.

Further, efforts will be made to ensure that the response outlined is fully complementary with humanitarian-development-peace nexus initiatives.



Priority Needs and Response

Health and Nutrition

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$23.1M

PEOPLE TARGETED

0.6M

PARTNERS

27

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Priority humanitarian needs

- The thousands of injured need various levels of trauma and emergency healthcare services including early rehabilitation.
- Procurement of trauma and emergency care drugs, medical disposables, lab supplies and equipment which are in critical shortage which is hindering case management.
- Need for fuel supplies at key hospitals and for ambulance services to support their capacity to continue providing life-saving services to the injured.
- Limited or no access to essential healthcare services, including sexual and reproductive health, to the general affected population especially impacting women and children.
- Mental health and psychosocial support to the highly traumatised population including provision of psychotropic medicines for those suffering from mental health disorders.

Planned response

The following critical activities that can be implemented in the 90-day timeframe have been identified:

- Support pre-hospital, hospital, and post-hospital case management of the injured through procurement of emergency and critical care drugs, medical disposables, lab supplies and equipment as well as deployment of surge staff and specialized Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs).
- Provide early access to multidisciplinary rehabilitation services for the injured including limb reconstruction.
- Provide fuel to key hospitals and ambulance services to ensure that they can continue treating the injured.
- Support provision of essential primary and secondary healthcare services including nutrition, sexual and reproductive health, non-communicable disease management, maternal and child health services.
- Provide mental health and psychosocial support including provision of psychotropic medicines.
- As the logistical challenges of accessing Gaza are ever present it is important to support emergency preparedness by immediately replenishing depleted prepositioned supplies.

Food Security

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$132.7M

PEOPLE TARGETED

1.2M

PARTNERS

13

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Priority humanitarian needs

- The scale of displacement has overwhelmed existing resources, leaving many vulnerable families without access to basic necessities, including food, clean water and electricity.
- The destruction has severely disrupted the food supply chains in Gaza. Families face acute food shortages. By now, food unavailability is not just a crisis; it is a catastrophe.
- Emergency food assistance is needed to cover around 1.2 million people. Moreover, the agricultural sector has been hugely damaged. Urgent support is needed to help farmers and herders rebuild their lives. This support can provide essential resources to restart farming/herding and fisheries activities and restore dignity.
- It is expected the situation is worsening also in the West Bank.

Planned response

The following critical activities have been identified for implementation in the 90-day timeframe:

- Deliver essential food provisions to the most vulnerable individuals, including in-kind assistance, cash transfers, and e-vouchers.
- Deliver inputs indispensable to ensure the survival of the animals, reactivate productions by farmers, herders and fisher and restore supply of essential nutritious foods.

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$18.2M

PEOPLE TARGETED

0.3M

PARTNERS

67

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Priority humanitarian needs

- Protection of civilians.
- Documentation of violations of International Human Rights Law and Humanitarian Law.
- Legal aid for movement of people including patients, and for housing, land, and property rights.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

- Comprehensive GBV services for GBV survivors and those in heightened risk of GBV.
- Emergency referral pathways for GBV.
- Enhanced infrastructure for GBV remote services, including hotlines.
- Dignity kits for women and girls.

Child Protection and Mental Health and Psychosocial Services (MHPSS)

- Structured and specialized child protection, mental health and psychosocial support services for children and caregivers.
- Remote psychological first aid and counselling.
- Psychosocial/recreational kits inside formal and informal shelter.
- Awareness raising for vulnerable including children and caregivers.

Mine Action

- Unexploded ordnance contamination.
- Rapid ERW risk assessments at UN and humanitarian sites and routes to ensure safe access for UN and humanitarian partners.
- Clearance of deep buried bombs.
- Widespread delivery of explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) and Conflict Preparedness and Protection (CPP) messaging.

Planned Response

The following critical activities that can be implemented in the x-day timeframe have been identified:

- Monitoring, and reporting on violations of IHL and IHRL including tracking civilian casualties.
- Provision of legal aid to support freedom of movement outside Gaza.

- Delivering awareness raising on accessing legal aid in the context of IHL/IHRL violations and displacement.
- Legal cases/representation for individual victims of IHL/IHRL violations.
- West Bank: Protective presence.

GBV

- Comprehensive GBV services for GBV survivors, and women and girls who are at the risk of GBV, including virtual/remote MHPSS, counselling, hotlines, legal support, case management, shelters, and awareness raising.
- Support for GBV frontline workers.
- Procurement and provision of dignity kits for women and girls.
- Cash assistance for host community and protection cases in shelters.
- Activation of GBV emergency referral pathways.

Child Protection and MHPSS

- Structured and specialized Child Protection, MHPSS for children and caregivers.
- Remote PFA and counselling through helpline scale up.
- Distribution of psychosocial/ recreational kits inside formal and informal shelter.
- Provision of child protection and MHPSS services to support vulnerable children and families affected by conflict-related violence and violations and violence in households.
- Awareness raising for vulnerable communities' members (including children and caregivers) on CP issues and on ERW life-saving messages.

Mine Action

- Provision of Community Based Explosive Remnants Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) including Conflict Preparedness and Protection (CPP) for vulnerable communities and UN and Humanitarian Partners personnel.
- Provision of Risk Assessment for UN and humanitarian partners project sites.
- Provision of Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) clearance and deep buried bomb (DBB) excavation and disposal.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$19.5M

PEOPLE TARGETED

1.26M

PARTNERS

42

CONTACT INFORMATION

Yasser Nassar (ynassar@unicef.org)

Priority humanitarian needs

- Access to WASH facilities, ample water supply and hygiene materials.
- Waste accumulation in communities deprived of solid waste collection services.
- Delivering an ample supply of water to households experiencing shortages due to interrupted water services in their communities.
- Wastewater accumulation in households and communities affected by sewer service interruptions.
- Preparedness, and emergency response capabilities of WASH service providers, including securing spare parts and consumables for the operation of WASH facilities in the Gaza Strip.

Planned response

The following critical activities that can be implemented in the 90-day timeframe have been identified:

- Installation/ rehabilitation of water transmission pipelines, sewer collection networks and HHs connections.
- Provision of chlorine and operation chemicals for critical WASH facilities.
- Provision of emergency fuel for the WASH facilities suffering power supply shortage.
- Provision of sufficient quantity of water for drinking and domestic purposes and provision of HHs hygiene materials.
- Provision of water facilities critical operation and maintenance materials and tools.
- Provision/ rehabilitation of household sanitation units.
- Vacuuming and discharging wastewater, solid waste collection and removal.

Shelter and Non-Food Items

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$31M

PEOPLE TARGETED

410K

PARTNERS

18

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Priority humanitarian needs

- During the first five days of the escalation, around 36,600 housing units were subjected to different levels of destruction and damage, of which 4,600 HUs were destroyed or severely damaged and rendered unliveable, and 32,000 HUs with minor to moderate damage. 3,800 families were displaced due to housing destruction.
- 410,000 estimated people were internally displaced from the beginning of the escalation, 280,000 in 102 UNRWA schools, some of which operated as designated emergency shelters, and 130,000 in urban displacement hosted by their relatives or at PA schools.
- Many collective centers are not equipped with the necessary infrastructure and services to protect the IDPs and ensure their dignity. In addition, many of these centers reach their maximum capacity and more IDPs still influxing, which will lead to extra strain on the existing services, over crowdedness, creating GBV, PSEA, and protection concerns.
- Tracking and identifying the IDPs in urban displacement are another main challenge, as one-third of the IDPs are hosted by other families. Collective efforts are required to improve the CWC to address the needs of IDPs in urban displacement.

Planned response

The following critical activities that can be implemented in the 90-day timeframe have been identified:

- Provision of temporary shelter cash assistance (TSCA) to IDPs families due to the destruction of shelters.
- One-time reintegration shelter cash assistance for IDP families.
- Provision of essential elements to the designated emergency shelters to ensure minimum adequate services for the IDPs, including but not limited to showers, mobile latrines, and partitions for privacy.
- Distribution of basic shelter/NFIs for affected and displaced families.
- Prioritized damage repair to allow the displaced families to return to their shelters.
- Winterization assistance to seal off the damaged windows, cracks, and doors.
- Rental cash subsidy for displaced families.

Education

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$11.3M

PEOPLE TARGETED

300K

PARTNERS

15

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Priority humanitarian needs

- All education facilities are closed for the fourth day affecting 600,000 students and compounding learning loss.
- Displaced families are taking shelter in at least 284 public schools.
- Initial reports as of 12 October state that 20 UNRWA schools sustained damage of which 2 are used as shelters. At least 70 public schools sustained damages (1 school fully damaged, 2 severely damaged, 18 with moderate damage, and 49 with minor damage).
- School-aged children's mental wellbeing is affected due to the escalation.
- School-aged children have been displaced of which 100,000 are in shelters.
- School-aged children with disabilities have been displaced and affected in need of access to education services.

Planned response

The Education Cluster launched a partners' capacities mapping update exercise and activated the Education Cluster Assessment Team (ECAT) to rapidly deploy to undertake an in-depth sectoral assessment once the situation allows. The following critical activities that can be implemented in the 90-day timeframe have been identified:

- Provision of school-based PSS and recreational activities to at least 150,000 children and school staff as soon as the situation allows.
- Emergency rehabilitation for at least 90 damaged schools and 102 schools used as shelters (88 UNRWA DES, 28 public schools), following a cluster rapid need assessment.
- Provision of emergency supplies and learning kits to 150,000 children in DES or children in schools if/when they reopen.
- Identify and support children with disabilities needs with assistive devices for continuity of learning.

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$27M

PEOPLE TARGETED

410K

PARTNERS

6+

CONTACT INFORMATION

Luca Sangalli (lsangalli@pt.acfspain.org)

Priority humanitarian needs

- Ensure HHs capacities to meet their most essential basic needs which were significantly impacted by displacement and loss of livelihoods.
- Ensure capacities of HHs sustaining shelter damage to meet their needs and recover without falling into more severe vulnerability.

Planned response

The following critical activities that can be implemented in the 90-day timeframe have been identified:

- One round of Emergency MPCA (754 NIS) for 22,000 HHs displaced HHs to meet their most urgent basic needs. Cases to be identified in coordination with authorities and UNRWA.
- Three rounds of Emergency MPCA (754 NIS) displaced 11,000 HHs who have sustained shelter damage. Cases to be identified in coordination with authorities and UNRWA.
- UNRWA one round of unrestricted cash assistance to 250,000 people (circa 41,667 HHs) displaced outside emergency shelters.

Coordination and Support Services

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$31.2M

PEOPLE TARGETED

NA

PARTNERS

NA

CONTACT INFORMATION

Andrea De Domenico (dedomenico@un.org)

Coordination and Access

Priority Needs

- Strengthened cluster, areas of responsibility and inter-agency coordination capacity to ensure implementation of a principled, timely, effective and efficient humanitarian operational response and carry-out effective monitoring, analysis and reporting of the highly complex and ongoing crisis where access is limited, and communications are challenged. The current situation has overwhelmed existing coordination capacity.
- Enhanced coordinated advocacy with all duty holders for respect for International Humanitarian Law, the protection of civilians (including relief workers) and civilian facilities, and humanitarian access.
- Enhanced coordination on logistics to address the challenges resulting from the complete closure of Gaza.
- Coordinated multi-sectoral needs assessments will be required to rapidly assess the scale and magnitude of needs once the security situation allows.
- Enhanced civil-military coordination mechanisms to facilitate efficient flow of aid and streamline the consolidation, safe transport, and delivery of humanitarian supplies through border crossings into Gaza.
- There is urgent need for UNRWA to expand its emergency operations and services in Gaza required to address the needs of Palestine refugees and facilitate UNRWA's operation including risk assessments, neutrality, information tracking, M&E activities, guarding and security measures, surge staffing.

Planned Response

- Coordinate multi-sectoral needs assessment and collect and analyse high-resolution satellite imagery to identify and quantify damage to urban and agricultural areas to obtain robust data to humanitarian and development organizations to inform allocation of resources efficiently, plan reconstruction efforts, and advocate for the recovery needs of the affected Gaza Strip communities.
- Increase efforts to negotiate and secure safe humanitarian access in Gaza and the West Bank.
- Establishment of logistics cluster.
- Enhanced civil-military coordination mechanisms to facilitate efficient flow of aid and streamline the consolidation, safe transport, and delivery of humanitarian supplies through border crossings into Gaza.
- Enhanced UNRWA capacity to address critical situation in Gaza.

Protection Against Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, Accountability to Affected People, and Community Engagement

Priority Needs

- Awareness raising about AAP/PSEA within population.
- Reinforcing AAP/PSEA network resources to receive, process and refer claims on behalf of the humanitarian community.
- Psychosocial, medical, protection and legal support to survivors of sexual exploitation and abuse through the GBV response system.
- Awareness raising about AAP/PSEA within the population.

Planned Response

To ensure cost effectiveness and to build on the existing experience and efficiencies, the proposed AAP/PSEA activities will utilize and build upon those established by the Risk Communications Community Engagement Working Group (RCCE) to address the current emergency, retailoring upcoming and ongoing assessments, and tailoring feedback mechanisms and channels. Current restrictions and limitations, such as those resulting from extensive damage to infrastructure in the Gaza Strip, will be factored in. The proposed activities will be administered through the AAP/PSEA network with a view of supporting and not replacing the activities at the project level per individual organization commitments and responsibilities.

- Produce awareness raising materials about AAP/PSEA, including audio-visual materials and messaging to be communicated over text messaging, social media and printed material, particularly about women and girls, who might be facing violence and discrimination.
- Reinforce AAP/PSEA network resources to receive, process and refer claims on behalf of the humanitarian community.
- Provide psychosocial, medical, protection and legal support to survivors of sexual exploitation and abuse through the GBV response system.
- Promote safety and protection practices and health seeking behaviors among families and children through interpersonal and group communication approaches, and targeted digital media and mass media message dissemination.

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ISSUED
OCTOBER 2023