



UNICEF statement on situation in Gaza

New York, 29 December 2008

UNICEF is deeply concerned about the impact of the current violence in Gaza on children. UNICEF urges all parties to the conflict to abide by their international legal obligation to ensure that children are protected and that they receive essential humanitarian supplies and support.

Over half of the population in Gaza are children, and children are particularly vulnerable in situations of armed conflict. The UN Office of the Humanitarian Coordinator (OCHA) indicates that children are among victims killed and injured as a result of the recent air strikes.

It is critical that humanitarian assistance, including food, medical supplies and equipment be allowed into Gaza to address the urgent needs of children and women.