



# State of Palestine

## Humanitarian Situation Report



## Highlights

- **The number of Palestinian child casualties from the recent Gaza war continues to rise**, as children with serious injuries are still being treated in hospitals, and as further verification of earlier incidents is ongoing. Between 8 July and 26 August, at **least 538 Palestinian children were reported killed during the hostilities in Gaza**.
- In 2014, 40 civilians have been either **injured (30) or killed (10) as a result of Explosive Remnants of War in Gaza**. This figure includes **11 children**, representing the highest number in the last 6 years.
- Preliminary findings from the Child Protection Rapid Assessment indicate that **children's behavior changed considerably as a result of conflict-related psychosocial distress**.
- A joint Health Sector assessment, published this week, highlights the dire situation in Gaza.
- In partnership with the World Bank, EU and UN, the PA launched a **Damage Needs Assessment (DNA)** exercise in order to update its Early Recovery and Reconstruction Plan for Gaza.
- As a follow-up to the Cairo Conference, trucks of cement and construction **material are** entering into Gaza, facilitated by an agreement between Israel, the Palestine Government and the United Nations.
- A **harsh winter** is feared in Gaza. UNICEF and partners are procuring supplies to respond to the urgent needs of the population.
- The ceasefire continues to hold but a number of **security incidents** were reported this week, including in Jerusalem.

23 October 2014

**538 children killed**

(Protection Cluster, 22 October 2014)

**2,254 total deaths**

(Protection Cluster, 22 October 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)

**UNICEF Funding Need**

\$39.9 million

**UNICEF Funding Gap**

\$33.3 million

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## Harsh winter feared in Gaza

Palestinian officials fear that an expected cold spell this winter could further aggravate the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza, where 50 days of armed conflict damaged and further degraded the rickety infrastructure. Up to 20,000 houses were destroyed or rendered inhabitable; 40,000 people remain displaced in collective shelters and many others stay with host families. "A cold spell would portend a fresh humanitarian disaster," a representative of Gaza City's Water Authority warned. "Many sewage pipes and water networks are still buried under the rubble. The worst that could happen this winter is that raw sewage trapped under the rubble would mix with rainwater and flood homes in Gaza City."



A Gaza family in their home on 22 October.

Last winter, some 10,000 people had to be evacuated after floods hit Gaza following powerful thunderstorms and four days of torrential rain. UNICEF reached out to affected children and families with essential hygiene supplies and children's clothing to protect their health and to keep them warm, with support of Bank of Palestine.

For the upcoming winter, UNICEF preparedness measures include procuring winter blankets, sleeping mats and winter track suits for children and women. A winterization workshop will be organized with Gaza's Coastal Municipal Water Utilities (CMWU) in order to assess the needs for mobile wastewater pumps for storm evacuation, should storm water lagoons threaten to overflow. There is also a need for other preventive measures such as cleaning gullies in the areas prone to flooding. Additional funds are required to meet the urgent needs of affected families in Gaza.

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## Situation Overview

- **The number of Palestinian child casualties** continues to rise, as children with serious injuries are still being treated in hospitals, and as further verification of earlier incidents is ongoing. Between 8 July and 22 October, **at least 538 Palestinian children were reported killed during the hostilities in Gaza**. The child casualties include 341 boys and 197 girls, aged between one week and 17 years old. Of the 538 children, at least 368 child casualties, or 68%, are 12 years old or younger. Child casualties were recorded in Khan Younis (127); Gaza City (126); Rafah (126); north Gaza (87); and Middle Area (72). The neighbourhoods with the most child casualties since the beginning of the hostilities include: Shuja'iyeh, Gaza City (43); Jabaliya, north Gaza (37); Bani Suheila, Khan Younis governorate (32); Nuseirat, Middle Area (22); Deir Al Balah, Middle Area (24). In total, 2,254 persons were killed due to the hostilities in Gaza, of which 1,585 civilians, 547 militants and 122 unknown. **Children** make up for **34 per cent of the civilian casualties**.
- In addition, children continue to be at grave **risk of unexploded ordnance** as a direct result of the hostilities. This week, UNMAS reported that, to date in 2014, 40 civilians were either injured (30) or killed (10) as a result of Explosive Remnants of War in Gaza. This figure includes **11 children**, representing the highest number in the last six years. These cases are being individually verified.

- **The report of the Child Protection Rapid Assessment** conducted in Gaza in October 2014 is being reviewed and finalised. The preliminary findings include the following: **Children’s behaviour changed considerably as a result of psychosocial distress.** 100 per cent of respondents noted significant changes in children’s behaviour and 99% reported significant changes in attitudes of caregivers. Conflict related events were found to be the largest source of stress. In the period after the conflict, travelling far from home to attend school, was identified as the biggest source of stress. The conflict appears to have affected boys and girls differently. Aggressive behaviour, anger and frustration were found to be common among the boys, while the most significant changes noted in girls’ behaviours were unusual crying, screaming, bedwetting, nightmares and general sadness.
- **A joint health sector assessment report** published this week highlights the **dire situation in Gaza.** “The direct impact of the conflict led to the loss of life, disabilities, decompensation of chronic illnesses and severe negative effect on the mental wellbeing of the population. Security issues and the destruction of vital health infrastructure were and are large contributors to the reduced availability of health services during and after the conflict. Although the hostilities have halted, much of its impact will continue for some time. Shortages of drugs and medical supplies, limitations in tertiary care capacity, extreme fuel shortage and complicated referral mechanisms for the referral of severe cases abroad exacerbated the situation.” If the blockade remains in place it will continue to impede rehabilitation of the sector.
- This week the number of **internally displaced persons (IDPs)** in UNRWA shelters continued to decline. Over 38,346 IDPs are currently staying in 18 UNRWA shelters, down from 42,506 IDPs from last week.
- As a **follow-up to the Cairo Conference** on the reconstruction of Palestine, the international community has been showing solidarity and support for the people of Palestine, particularly for the reconstruction of Gaza. Important developments include: the recent agreement on intra-Palestinian reconciliation; the tripartite agreement between the Unity Government, the Government of Israel and the UN on a temporary monitoring mechanism for Gaza reconstruction (the first trucks carrying cement and construction material entered into Gaza); and the upcoming humanitarian payment to the de facto civil servants in Gaza. The management by the Palestinian Authority of the Gaza crossings would also enable the flow of construction materials into Gaza, and restore trade between the West Bank and Gaza and people links.
- The Palestinian Authority launched this week a **Damage Needs Assessment (DNA)** exercise in order to update its Early Recovery and Reconstruction Plan for Gaza. The DNA is conducted in partnership with the World Bank, EU and UN with the participation of relevant ministries, national institutions and civil society. The report is expected to be released in December.
- **Security incidents** reported this week included IDF warning fire towards Palestinian boats in the west of Deir al-Balah, Beit Lahia and Gaza City. An increased number of protests and clashes were reported in and around the Old City of Jerusalem and the West Bank. A Palestinian boy was shot dead by ISF during a search operation in Beit Liqya and a three-month-old girl was killed and several others were injured when a car hit passengers disembarking from a light train in Jerusalem.

**#Gaza4children** - 5-year old Kasem was hit by shrapnel in four parts of his foot as he played with his friends and his sister, eight-year old Souad, during the 50-day armed conflict in Gaza. Kasem still has nightmares about what happened and keeps close to his dad.

“The only thing I wish for myself, my family and for Gaza is that my home is rebuilt again,” he says. Kasem’s house was destroyed during the hostilities.

His 8-year-old sister Souad says that the worst thing about the war was “the shooting,” and that her wish for Gaza is “peace.”

I like school, because it is so good to be educated,” Souad says. “I want to become a doctor in the future to take care of sick and wounded people like my little brother who has his foot in a cast.”



## Summary Analysis of UNICEF Scaled-up Programme Response

### Child Protection

- **This week 3,252 (1,651 girls and 1,601 boys) have been reached with psychosocial support activities**, including PSS first aid and structured group activities in the five Gaza governorates. In addition, 841 caregivers have been reached through awareness raising sessions and training in the five Gaza governorates. In total, 5,172 children (2,636 girls and 2,536 boys) and 841 caregivers have been reached with the two activities.
- **600 children between the ages of 6 and 18 participated** in programmes to reduce child protection vulnerability across 10 family centres.
- On 22 October 2014, a UNICEF supported **Workshop on Child Protection & Gender Based Violence (GBV) was held for UNWRA Protection Focal Points** from each collective centre and the Area Collective Centre Coordinators. Participants learned about key child protection and GBV issues related to prevention and response in UNRWA collective centres. A referral mechanism was adopted to address child protection and GBV incidents.
- The report from the Child Protection Rapid Assessment conducted in October in Gaza is being finalized this week.



*Children participate at recreational activities on 22 October, with support from UNICEF and the TAMER Institute (Ajyal Centre for Creativity and Development in Toffah, east of Gaza City).*

### Education and Adolescents

- **This week 2,318 adolescents participated in psychosocial recreational activities.** In total, UNICEF through partners, MA'AN, Tamer and Al Nayzak, has reached at least 72,986 adolescents and children (53% females) in 19 government shelters, 20 community-based organizations, and 112 schools, with stress relief and life-skill development activities to help adolescents and children to better cope with the recurrent crises.
- UNICEF and Al Nayzak, in cooperation with MOEHE, continue to provide weekly **extracurricular education and life skill training to 3,138 adolescents** in 25 schools using innovative and interactive tools.
- UNICEF and TAMER are providing 21<sup>st</sup> century skills development sessions to 265 adolescents including trainings on communication and critical/creative thinking. Using these skills, the adolescents will implement adolescents-led community initiatives in order to make a positive change in their society.

### Water Sanitation and Hygiene

- **Additional 22 polyethylene tanks (1M<sup>3</sup>) to store drinking water were installed** in the Middle Area bringing the total number of water tanks installed by GVC and PHG to 492, benefitting 94,400 people. The beneficiaries include IDPs in informal shelters, population from the eastern border whose houses have been partly or completely destroyed, unemployed farmers and fishers.
- UNICEF through partner GVC continued **to deliver safe drinking water** to affected populations in the Middle Area; this week **1,450 cubic meters were delivered, benefitting 71,000 people.** In total 5,819 cubic meters have been delivered.



## Child Health & Nutrition

- This week, the Ministry of Health organized three **Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) training workshops for 75 trainees**. Six EPI training workshop out of 10 courses have now been completed, and 150 health workers out of 250 have been trained
- UNICEF supports the Ministry of Health (MoH) Community Health Workers to conduct outreach activities in collective shelters. This week, 862 women and 110 children participated in **awareness sessions on communicable diseases** in collective shelters and with host families. To date 1710 men, 8476 women and 3518 children have participated in the sessions.
- **Breastfeeding awareness-raising** was conducted for 862 mothers in the reporting period, as a result 8,476 mothers in shelters and with host families have benefitted in total. This outreach is also carried out by UNICEF-funded MoH Community Health Workers.
- **MoH and Near East Council of Churches provided 360 women with Post Natal care through home visits this week**. In total 2,113 women that had high risk pregnancies have benefitted from home visits.

### Humanitarian leadership and coordination

- UNICEF, as part of the UN Country Team, coordinates with the **Government of National Consensus** to support its growing role in humanitarian response, early recovery and reconstruction.
- 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 **leads the WASH cluster and co-leads the Education cluster** with Save the Children, both in Gaza and at the national level, with dedicated staff capacity.
- UNICEF has brought in additional international staff for sectoral coordination using established internal "surge" arrangements and standby partners. UNICEF also leads the **UN Theme Group on Social Protection**.

## Funding

Funding requirements (as defined in the revised humanitarian Gaza Crisis Appeal)

Appeal Sector	Requirements	Funds received*	Funding gap	
			\$	%
Education	17,313,401	597,648	16,715,753	97%
WASH	11,876,216	3,161,411	8,714,805	73%
Child Protection	5,093,875	1,600,596	3,493,279	69%
Health & Nutrition	4,729,536	1,131,324	3,598,212	76%
Cluster Coordination	865,269	97,631	767,638	89%
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,878,297</b>	<b>6,588,610</b>	<b>33,289,687</b>	<b>83%</b>

**Note 1.** The total amount received for the Gaza response amounts to \$8,282,648, which includes \$6,588,610 against the Gaza Crisis appeal, and \$1,694,038 carried forward from prior years and reallocated to the SoP office. Out of this total amount, 69% has been already committed or spent.

**Note 2.** The table does not include the Emergency Programme Fund loan of \$4 million received from UNICEF HQ.

**Next SitRep: 6 November 2014**

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