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State of Palestine*

September 2013

Update of humanitarian situation

The main manifestations of the Israeli occupation across the State of Palestine during the first half of 2013 remain unchanged. As a result serious protection and human rights concerns and limited access to essential services including education and health continued to characterize the day-to-day lives of many Palestinians. Movement and access is restricted by the Gaza closure, and in the West Bank a combination of physical obstacles such as checkpoints, roadblocks and gates and bureaucratic constraints such as permits and lack of access to restricted areas. The escalation in hostilities in Gaza and southern Israel in November 2012 exacerbated pre-existing

vulnerabilities, and in some cases generated new needs. Shortages of drugs and medical disposables particularly in Gaza continue to limit delivery of health services. In Gaza, less than 10 per cent of available groundwater resources is suitable for drinking purposes. In the West Bank, over one million people continue to access less than 60 litres per capita per day of water. More than 2,500 children in the West Bank cross through one or more checkpoints daily to reach their schools, with girls mostly dropping out when they need to travel to schools outside their communities. Exposure to the November 2012 escalation of conflict in Gaza has had a devastating impact on the psychosocial wellbeing of children and adolescents.

Adjusted planned results for 2013

Between November 14 and 21, 2012 Israeli forces conducted a major military operation in the Gaza Strip ("Operation Pillar of Defence"). The period was marked by Israeli Air Force (IAF) airstrikes, firing from Israeli naval vessels and tanks into Gaza, and Palestinian rocket fire into Israel, including Tel Aviv. It was reported that 158 Palestinians were killed, including 103 civilians, of whom at least 33 were children and 13 women. According to the Ministry of Health (MOH), 1,269 Palestinians were also injured. Six Israelis (four civilians and two soldiers) were killed and 224 were injured. In Gaza, approximately 300 houses were destroyed or sustained major damage, while 1,700 houses suffered light damage. UNICEF together with Cluster partners participated actively in the inter-agency Initial Rapid Assessment (IRA) carried out in January 2013 to assess the impact of the November 2012 hostilities in Gaza, and adjust planned interventions to take into account these new needs. UNICEF and its partners, including other UN agencies and international and national non-governmental organizations work closely with local authorities to address the humanitarian needs of at least 800,000 affected children, half of them girls. UNICEF continues to lead the WASH Cluster, the Child Protection Working Group and the Israel/oPt Working Group on grave violations against children, and co-lead the education cluster with Save the Children.

Results from 2013

In response to the escalation in hostilities in November 2012, UNICEF in collaboration with Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU) supported the repairs of the damaged water and sewage networks and damaged generators. A total of 280 m³ of chlorine and chemicals for water disinfection and treatment were delivered to the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU), benefiting the entire population in Gaza (around 1.6 million people – half of which are children). In addition, UNICEF procured 1,500 adult hygiene kits and 1,000 baby hygiene kits for the benefit of 3,000 families and 1,000 babies. Initial plans for the introduction of Community Management and Child Malnutrition (CMAM) were overridden by prioritized needs in neonatal care including urgent needs for small scale rehabilitation and equipment of neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) – expected to significantly improve survival rates and other neonatal care outcomes. UNICEF scaled up its psychosocial programmes implemented in Gaza in Family Centres, Adolescent-Friendly spaces, and through the five Psychosocial Emergency Teams reaching a total of 149,894 children, half of them girls. UNICEF responded to the educational needs of affected children in Gaza following the 2012 November crisis through the procurement of 29,000 school bags and 6,100 stationary kits benefiting around 29,000 children.

* 'State of Palestine' was designated for use in all official United Nations documents as of 19 December 2012. It reflects General Assembly resolution 67/19.

2013 adjusted programme targets

Health

- 15,000 at-risk new-borns in Gaza and the West Bank access lifesaving drugs and improved essential neonatal care
- 17,000 children access improved paediatric health services
- 12,000 women access improved obstetric health services

WASH

- 1.6 million men, women, girls, boys in vulnerable communities have improved access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation

Child protection

- 119,000 children (50 per cent girls) and 56,750 caregivers (50 per cent female) in conflict-affected areas benefit from protection and psychosocial support activities
- 115,000 men, women, girls, boys benefit from mine risk education

Education

- 73,000 school-aged children (50 per cent girls) in highly vulnerable communities have protected access to safe learning environments

Adolescents

- 15,000 adolescents (50 per cent girls) access after-school learning, recreational and life-skills programmes

	UNICEF 2013 target	UNICEF results Jan.-July
NUTRITION		
# of acutely malnourished children treated ¹	8,000	N/A
HEALTH		
# of sick children in Gaza benefiting from essential paediatric drugs	15,000	15,000
# of at-risk new-borns who access life-saving drugs and improved essential neonatal care	15,000	0 ²
# of children who access improved paediatric health services	17,000	0 ³
# of women who access improved obstetric health services	12,000	0 ⁴
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE		
# and % of men, women, girls, boys in vulnerable communities who have improved access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation	1.6 million ⁵ (50% children) (50% girls/women)	1.6 million (50% children) (50% girls/women)
CHILD PROTECTION		
# and % of men, women, girls, boys in conflict-affected areas who benefit from protection and psychosocial support activities	119,000 children ⁶ 56,750 caregivers (50% girls/women)	150,000 children (50% girls) 18,000 caregivers (35% males)
# and % of men, women, girls, boys who benefit from mine risk education	115,000	52,000 ⁷
EDUCATION		
# of school-aged children (% girls) in highly vulnerable communities who have protected access to and safe learning environments	73,000 ⁸	91,000 ⁹ (50% girls)
ADOLESCENTS		
# of adolescents (% girls) who access after-school learning, recreational and life-skills programmes	15,000	0 ¹⁰

UNICEF funding requirements for 2013

The initial funding requirement for UNICEF State of Palestine humanitarian action (developed before the November 2012 escalation of hostilities) was US\$17,280,000. Based on the findings of an UN and NGO inter-agency Multi-cluster Initial Rapid Assessment carried out in January 2013 to assess the impact of the November 2012 hostilities in Gaza and southern Israel, UNICEF increased its appeal to US\$27,337,000. To date 54 per cent of the appeal (US\$14,667,696) has been received.

Sector	Initial HAC 2013 requirements	Change in requirements	Total 2013 requirements	Income through August 2013	Funding gap
Nutrition	770,000	-770,000	-	-	-
Health	1,540,000	3,665,000	5,205,000	5,205,000	-
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	4,435,000	1,450,000	5,885,000	758,000	5,127,000
Child Protection	3,441,000	3,607,000	7,048,000	4,100,000	2,948,000
Education	3,176,000	1,203,000	4,379,000	2,158,000	2,221,000
Adolescents	2,795,000	902,000	3,697,000	1,428,000	2,269,000
Cluster/Sector Coordination	1,123,000	0	1,123,000	1,019,000	104,000
Total	17,280,000	10,057,000	27,337,000	14,668,000	12,669,000

¹ In light of prioritized needs at MOH, the focus was shifted to neonatal care

² On track for reaching target by year end at final delivery of procured drugs and completion of rehabilitation of neonatal units

³ Idem

⁴ Idem

⁵ Target revised at the beginning of 2013 to include immediate needs that resulted from the 2012 November crisis: Entire population in Gaza reached with chlorine for water disinfection

⁶ Target revised at the beginning of 2013 to include immediate needs that resulted from the 2012 November crisis

⁷ Same cohort reached through direct psychosocial support

⁸ Target revised at the beginning of 2013 to include immediate needs that resulted from the 2012 November crisis

⁹ Figure includes children reached from rehabilitation of school in Gaza and protective presence

¹⁰ On track for reaching target by year end