The situation in Gaza remains tense in what is the fourth week of the open-ended ceasefire. There is great uncertainty amongst the population regarding what the future will hold ahead of the reconstruction conference due to take place in Cairo on October 12.

An agreement on reconstruction in Gaza has been reached between Israel, the Palestinian Authority and the UN that will allow the movement of construction supplies into the Gaza Strip while putting systems in place to alleviate some of Israel's security concerns.

The open-ended ceasefire that entered into force on 26 August, is holding. 1 or 2 rockets were fired from Gaza on 16 September. Hamas condemned the incident and maintained that they were committed to observing the ceasefire.

Half a million children in Gaza returned to school on 14 September facilitated by a wide-scale Back to School campaign led by the Education cluster, co-chaired by Save the Children and UNICEF. The first week of school is devoted to structured psychosocial support and recreational activities that ease the transition back to learning.

Just over 58,000 IDPs continue to seek shelter in 19 UNRWA schools. With 26 Ministry of Education schools destroyed beyond repair and another 258 schools and kindergartens damaged, there is a massive strain on an already stretched education system in Gaza.

As many as 300 Palestinians from Gaza are feared to have drowned when their boat sank off the coast of Malta on 13 September while being smuggled to Europe. 15 others drowned in a similar incident off the coast of Egypt on 15 September.

Situation Overview

The UN Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Robert Serry, announced on 17 September that a deal had been reached between the Palestinian Authority, Israel and the UN for the import of essential construction materials for rebuilding in the Gaza Strip. The arrangement is said to give prominent roles to both the Palestinian Authority and the private sector. The deal brokered between the two opposing sides addresses Israeli concerns that cement and other construction materials would not be used to rebuild Hamas tunnels because imports would be closely monitored. Mr. Serry urged for the

18 September 2014

503 children killed
(Child protection cluster, 11 September 2014)

2,131 total deaths
(OCHA, 4 September 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)

Flash Appeal: $39.8 million

UNICEF revised its emergency appeal to meet the immediate and medium-term needs of IDP children and families until the end of 2014. UNICEF is urgently seeking US$ 39.8 million to provide a holistic package of relief assistance to at least 600,000 children with a focus on:

- Back to School Campaign including all necessary repairs to damaged schools in priority areas and integrating psychosocial support and extracurricular activities into the school programme;
- Strengthening the Gaza child protection network and case management systems with MoSA;
- Repairs to essential WASH infrastructure and continued interim support to communities in need.
reopening of crossing points between Israel and the Gaza Strip so that construction supplies would not be interrupted, stressing that fast work on reconstruction would provide a "signal of hope to the people of Gaza".

- The mass movement of civilians, children in particular, into areas that were intensively affected by airstrikes and shelling, raises major concerns about Explosive Remnants of War (ERW).

- A boat carrying 500 people smuggled from Egypt to Europe sank off the coast of Malta on 13 September. Up to 300 were thought to be Palestinians fleeing from Gaza who may have paid intermediaries in Gaza who took them to Egypt through tunnels and transferred by smugglers to Alexandria where they left by boat for Europe.

- More than half a million students returned to school in Gaza on 14 September. Huge efforts have been made to ensure that students return to safe, clean, and well equipped schools with supportive teachers, and counsellors. Unlike previous years, the first week of schooling is devoted to structured psychosocial support and recreational activities that ease the transition back to learning. In Gaza, over a quarter of a million students attend public-run schools.

- 58,141 IDPs still seek refuge in 19 UNRWA emergency collective shelters and another 50,000 IDPs live with host families. The combined figure of 115,000 IDPs is broadly commensurate with the number of families now homeless after 20,000 homes were destroyed during the conflict. Based on the average family size of six in Gaza, 20,000 homes would usually house 120,000 people. The Ministry of Public Works, in partnership with UNRWA and UNDP have commenced joint shelter assessments of damaged homes in the Gaza Strip. The joint shelter assessments and assistance packages will help facilitate a transition period for internally displaced persons currently taking refuge UNRWA schools and elsewhere.

- As families transition from collective shelters to other shelter solutions such as host families or rented accommodation, it is imperative that case management of these families continues to help prevent exposure to sexual or gender-based violence, domestic violence and other kinds of abuse that are common in a post-conflict context. Lessons learned from the Syria Crisis and known protection risks around displacement in collective centers and host families are key to mitigating such protection risks. The UNICEF-led Child Protection Working Group is actively working with shelter partners, UNRWA and other key players, to ensure that essential monitoring, referral pathways and case management systems are in place for this high risk period of transition.

Summary Analysis of Programme response
UNICEF’s emergency scaled-up response in Gaza is targeting children who attend public schools, under five-year-old children and mothers, and vulnerable households in the most affected communities. UNICEF is currently focusing on supporting affected children and families in shelters, host families, and the communities that have been most severely hit. To respond to the urgent needs of the population, UNICEF has brought in significant additional international surge staff for programme response and cluster coordination.

Education
On 14 September, approximately 230,000 school children returned back to Government schools after 3 weeks of delay due to the 50 days of hostilities in the Gaza strip. During the crisis, and after a ceasefire was reached on 26 August, UNICEF worked closely with Education Cluster members, the MoEHE and partners in preparing for the re-opening of schools.

Since early September UNICEF: Supported:
- The cleaning and disinfection of 27 Government Schools that were used as collective shelters during the conflict. This was achieved through efforts of various organizations coordinated by MA’AN and UNICEF.
- The orientation of about 12,000 school principals, school counsellors, supervisors, and teachers on psychosocial support, the nonviolence in schools policy, detection of traumatized children and referrals. This was achieved through cascade training. 56 school principals and subject supervisors were trained as trainers on the nonviolence in schools policy and on classroom management. They in turn trained 400 school principals and 11,000 teachers. 400 school counselors had a refresher training on psychosocial support in schools and then oriented the teachers in their schools. In total, 186 subject supervisors, 400 school principals, 400 school counselors and 11,000 teachers had received training before the start of the new school year.
- Tankering of safe drinking water to schools (on daily basis, to serve 76,050 students and 2430 teachers in 117 schools.
**Distributed:**
- 35,659 school bags and 36,496 stationary kits for school children in MOEHE schools;
- 395 teaching aids to 395 schools to enable teachers to work in a more conducive teaching and learning environment.
- 623 recreational kits to 395 schools to enable the schools to implement recreational activities with the school children in the first week of the new academic year.
- 28 ECD kits to schools that have preschool classes.
- 50 tarpaulins to 50 elementary schools to provide shade for children playing.

**In addition, UNICEF is currently organizing:**
- Distribution of the remaining 100,000 school bags that are being locally manufactured in Gaza by 3 suppliers at a rate of 24,000 bags per week, as well as 100,000 stationary kits.
- Repair of 26 schools that sustained minor damage during the conflict in West Gaza directorates through partner ACF.
- Provision of school uniforms and shoes to the most vulnerable children through the joint WFP-UNICEF e-voucher programme. So far, funding has been secured for 15,000 pairs of school uniforms and shoes.
- Recreational and fun activities in Government schools through partnership with Tamer, MA’AN and Alnayzak, to help children transition to learning and identify those who suffer from acute psychological distress.

**Child Protection**

- 12,395 adolescents and children (49% females) benefited from basic *psychosocial support and recreational activities* including stress relief and self-expression activities with the support of UNICEF partners MA’AN and Tamer in 19 government shelters, 15 community-based organizations and 7 Libraries. On 11 September, MA’AN conducted “fun-day” events in 8 communities and 2,360 children participated in psychosocial and recreational activities. UNICEF in partnership with NGOs and MoEHE will expand their activities in other CBOs and government schools, reaching more children to help them better cope with their experiences of the conflict.
- Emergency support to children and caregivers was provided through Sawa *Child Protection Helpline*, 2,128 children have been reached and 3,686 caregivers.
- A *UNICEF-led Task Force on referral and case management* continues to meet to identify potential focal points that should be trained to recognize child protection risks. This will contribute to the strengthening and rebuilding of child and family referral networks and case management systems in Gaza.
- UNICEF has reached an agreement with Internews to broadcast Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) Radio spots to raise awareness of children and their families on ERW dangers. During the conflict, 1 million people in Gaza were educated on ERW risk through local radio stations.

**Water Sanitation and Hygiene**

- CMWU is continuing urgent repairs of water and sewage pipe systems. UNICEF is procuring generator parts for CMWU to do repairs for essential WASH operations.
- PHG and GVC, with UNICEF’s support, continue to provide **water tankering for drinking water**. To date, 4,253 cubic meters of water have been provided to 50,000 individuals. PHG and GVC have also distributed 370 communal tanks in the Middle area of Gaza. In partnership with MA’AN, 14 water bladders have been installed: 6 in Gaza City, 5 in Khan Younis and 3 in Beit Hanoun. In total these **water filling stations** will provide water to 71,000 people.
- Water tankering for domestic use is ongoing. MA’AN delivered 4,504 cubic meters of water to 31,528 beneficiaries in Gaza City.
**Child Health & Nutrition**

- On 10 September, a **UNICEF shipment of 90 tons of medical supplies**, including 49,900 doses of PCV vaccine, entered Gaza. This is part of UNICEF’s commitment to ensure that hospitals and health facilities are frequently re-stocked with **essential drugs, vaccines and supplies**. PCV is an essential vaccine for children 5 years and younger to prevent conditions such as pneumonia and meningitis caused by the Streptococcus pneumoniae bacteria and frequent causes of death among infants. Vaccinations are underway in Primary Health Centers run by the Ministry of Health and UNRWA.

- UNICEF is funding Ministry of Health (MoH) **Community Health Workers** to conduct outreach activities in collective shelters. 8,417 IDPs participated in awareness sessions on communicable diseases in shelters and in host families.

- Breastfeeding awareness-raising was conducted with 6,202 people in shelters and in host families, also by UNICEF-funded MoH Community Health Workers. MoH teams also continued to make home visits to provide **postnatal and neonatal care** and advice to 773 mothers and 752 neonates. This agreement with MoH is a long-standing agreement that has been scaled-up to respond to current needs.

**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.

**Supply and Logistics**

- UNICEF has made efforts to use local suppliers where possible in the procurement and production of NFIs. However, in Gaza, there have been challenges around local suppliers being able to deliver on time. This has impacted on the speed at which some supplies have been distributed. UNICEF has tackled this by using more than one local supplier to meet demand.

**Funding**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Funds received*</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>17,313,401</td>
<td>523,165</td>
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<td>WASH</td>
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<td>Child Protection</td>
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<td>Health &amp; Nutrition</td>
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<td>3,986,737</td>
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<td>Cluster Coordination</td>
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<td>97,631</td>
<td>767,638</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>39,878,297</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,125,327</strong></td>
<td><strong>33,752,970</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note 1:** Total cash on hand is $7,819,365 of which $6,125,327 is funding received against the appeal for this year, and $1,694,038 is budget carried forward from prior years and reallocated to the SoP office.

**Note 2:** The table does not include the EPF loan of $2 million.

**Note 3:** The overall revised HAC requirements (for Gaza and West Bank) total $ 45,661,321. This includes $ 39,878,297 for Gaza.

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**Next SitRep: 22 September 2014**

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