

Occupied Palestinian Territory

Successive waves of violence caused by prolonged Israeli military occupation have chipped away at living conditions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, leading to psychological damage, poverty and lack of such essentials as health services, safe drinking water, sanitation and education. As the Israeli blockade on Gaza enters its fourth year, serious humanitarian consequences continue for the 1.5 million people – at least half of them children – who live there. In the West Bank, the intrusive barrier, which when complete will be more than 700 kilometres long, restricts access to land, water and education for thousands of children, while restrictions on movement affect the total population of 2.4 million in the West Bank. Distressing effects of settler violence and forced displacements are manifest among Palestinians, particularly children.

UNICEF is requesting US\$18,759,000 for its humanitarian work in the Occupied Palestinian Territory in 2011. The organization has aligned its request with the 2011 Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) requirements, with additional funding requested in the health sector to cover pressing needs. In 2011, UNICEF will continue to work with the Palestinian Authority, NGO partners, communities and other United Nations agencies to respond to the increasing humanitarian needs of the Palestinian population. UNICEF expects to facilitate access to health and nutrition services, safe drinking water, sanitation and education, and to reduce psychosocial distress and strengthen child protection networks. UNICEF's 2011 response will reach out to women and children within affected communities, primarily in Area C, East Jerusalem and Gaza.

UNICEF will lead the Monitoring and Reporting Working Group on grave violations against children in Israel and oPt and will also provide leadership in the WASH and education clusters, the child protection working group and sub-cluster and the mental health psychosocial support working group. Through cluster coordination mechanisms, UNICEF will strengthen systems for emergency preparedness and response, enhancing inter-sectoral coordination and ensuring high-level evidence-based advocacy and advocacy-related activities.

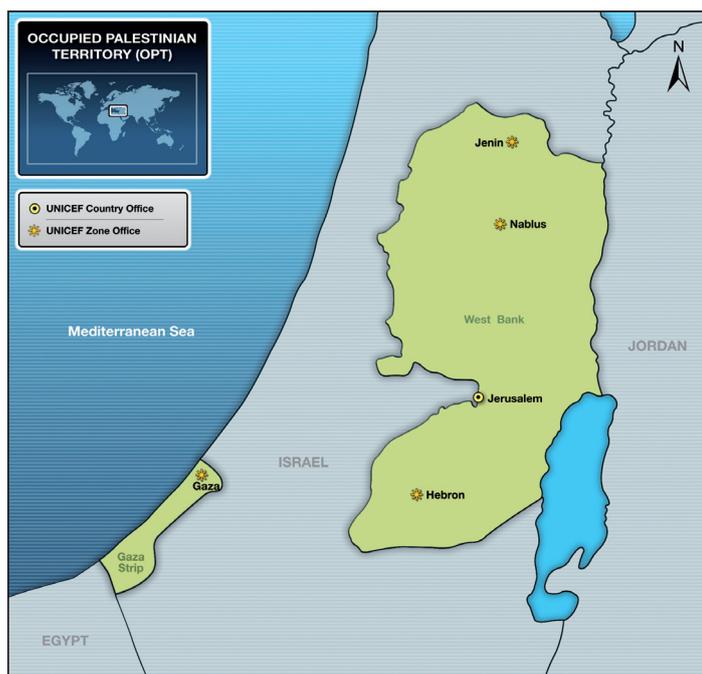


CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN

Micronutrient deficiencies in the Occupied Palestinian Territory are a major concern, with high rates of anaemia among pregnant women and children as well as vitamin A deficiency among children. Only 25 per cent of infants are exclusively breastfed (0–5 months),¹ and reports reveal limited dietary diversity among the people of Gaza. Infant health indicators show growing rates of prematurity, low birth weight, congenital abnormalities and neonatal infection. Health-care workers lack expertise needed to care for high-risk infants and many hospitals are not equipped to help critically ill infants.²

In Gaza, 90 per cent of water sources are tainted with high levels³ of chlorides and nitrates. Nearly half a million people (half of them children) must use cesspits as an alternative means to sewage, posing a public health risk. In the West Bank, more than 113 communities with a total of 312,827 people, half of them children, do not have access to piped water and at least 600 schools suffer from water shortages and lack of suitable toilets.

Thousands of children in Gaza cannot attend school because their schools are damaged. In Area C, education is threatened by the closure regime, which denies thousands of children access to quality education, and by violence and searches at checkpoints. In East Jerusalem, a shortage of more than 1,000 classrooms leaves approximately 12,000 children out of school.



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

CORE COUNTRY DATA

Population (thousands 2009)	4,277
Child population (thousands 2009)	2,204
U5 mortality rate (per 1,000 live births, 2009)	30
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births, 2009)	25
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births 2008)	–
Primary school enrolment ratio (net male/female, 2005–2009*)	75/75
% U1 fully immunized (DPT3, 2009)	96
% population using improved drinking-water sources (2008)	91
HIV/AIDS prevalence (% aged 15–49, 2009)	–
% U5 suffering from moderate and severe wasting (2003–2009*)	–

Source: UNICEF, *The State of the World's Children 2011*.

*Data refer to most recent year available during the period specified.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2010

In 2010, UNICEF estimated that US\$24,247,910 was needed to fund its humanitarian work in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. As of October 2010, a total of US\$9,794,657 had been received, or 40 per cent of the goal. Working with the Palestinian Authority and national and international partners in 2010, UNICEF responded to the humanitarian needs of about 325,000 Palestinian children and their caretakers.

UNICEF provided emergency polio vaccines for 42,000 children. In Gaza, UNICEF, the ministry of health and the Breast Feeding National Committee trained 60 health-care providers and counselled 7,500 mothers on infant feeding practices.

UNICEF, in collaboration with non-governmental and government organizations, improved access to safe water and sanitation for about 131,000 people (including 100,500 children) by rehabilitating WASH school facilities and water tankers, and by repairing water and sewage networks. UNICEF also helped the WASH cluster create a database to coordinate related responses, enhance advocacy concerning crucial issues, and strengthen cluster capacity through trainings and workshops.

Approximately 19,000 children whose education had been disrupted or stalled were able to catch up through remedial education sessions, which were sponsored by 2009 rollover funds. About 680 teachers attended UNICEF-funded workshops on teaching low-achieving students. The UNICEF-led education cluster provided enhanced coordination among education partners and national stakeholders, and supported the humanitarian county team advocacy for a caseload of 26 schools in Area C that were in urgent need of rehabilitation and emergency education support. UNICEF collaborated with the ministry of youth and sports and NGOs to engage 35,000 adolescents in after-school remedial and recreational activities.

In conjunction with non-governmental and government agencies, UNICEF implemented child protection and psychosocial services to strengthen the coping mechanisms of more than 70,000 children and 36,000 caregivers in Gaza. UNICEF provided group and individual counselling for some 5,000 children and 1,800 caregivers. UNICEF trained 442 professionals, teachers and volunteers to better respond to emergencies. UNICEF submitted bi-monthly reports on the grave violations affecting children in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory to the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, and developed a database to strengthen the analysis of trends and patterns of violations in accordance to Security Council Resolutions 1612 and 1882. UNICEF also trained at least 10,000 adolescents in first aid and emergency preparedness.

HUMANITARIAN ACTION: BUILDING RESILIENCE

Because children's sense of well-being, resilience and security is largely linked with how they are supported by their caregivers, UNICEF continues, through local NGOs, to offer psychosocial support services to both children and their caregivers. Psychosocial group support, in-depth group counselling, individual support, and toll-free lines and emergency visits by psychosocial support teams are available to affected children. UNICEF also works with parents and caregivers to re-establish their capacity for good parenting, which is vital both to their own psychological well-being and that of their children.

Since the crisis in Gaza in 2009, UNICEF continues to couple psychosocial support with a community-based approach that is integrated with child protection networks. UNICEF provides holistic child protection services inside 20 Family Centres across Gaza, where children and parents are provided the protective space and support mechanisms needed to recover and build resilience. This has allowed children the opportunity to engage in restorative learning, recreational, health and psychosocial activities.

PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2011

UNICEF leads the WASH and education clusters, the child protection sub-cluster and the monitoring and reporting working group on grave violations against children in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory. UNICEF also contributes to the health, food security and nutrition clusters. UNICEF will focus its nutrition role on strengthening the Palestinian Authority's capacity for technical coordination. Together with the Government, other UN agencies and NGOs, UNICEF plans to use funds gathered for 2011 to improve the prospects of an estimated 1.5 million women and children. UNICEF will also continue to collaborate with its partners to ensure preparedness capacity in case of sudden-onset emergencies.

NUTRITION (US\$1,403,000)

UNICEF will work closely with the ministry of health in order to reduce micronutrient deficiencies, to benefit a total of 548,000 people.

- Approximately 311,000 women and 237,000 children will benefit from appropriate infant and young child feeding programmes enacted through social mobilization, nutrition education, increased counselling of mothers in clinics and maternity wards and through the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative. They will also receive adequate micronutrient supplementation.
- Timely nutritional assessment and surveillance systems will be reinforced through expansion of surveillance sites, provision of equipment for nutrition assessments, technical support to ensure micronutrient testing and improvement of the ministry of health's nutrition information system.

HEALTH (US\$1,023,000)

More infants will survive because UNICEF will work closely with the ministry of health supporting hospitals, primary health centres and families by providing life-saving medical equipment, promoting early interventions and improving knowledge on caring for infants in crisis. This support will benefit about 50,000 high-risk neonates.

- UNICEF will ensure maternity hospitals have necessary infant life-saving equipment and therapeutics to ensure an infant has the best opportunity to survive.
- In hospitals, UNICEF will help establish health policy, procedures and practices concerning equipment maintenance and operation. The organization will also train health-care workers in proper utilization of equipment in order to minimize infections.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH) (US\$5,079,000)

As cluster lead in WASH and in collaboration with partners, UNICEF will provide inter-agency coordination on crucial inter-sectoral issues, and support activities to benefit over 200,000 people.

- About 35,000 people (including 17,500 children) in Gaza will gain access to drinking water after the installation of five desalination plants in areas selected in close collaboration with the Coastal Municipal Water Utility, in consultation with both women and men in Gaza.
- About 56,000 children and 1,600 teachers in Gaza will gain access to safe drinking water through distribution of water to 80 primary schools.
- At least 28,000 children (about 50 per cent girls) and 1,100 teachers (about 50 percent women) in Gaza, Area C and North West Bank will be able to access safe drinking water and gender-sensitive sanitation through rehabilitation of WASH facilities in 55 schools. Safe and gender-appropriate sanitation facilities will be ensured as per Sphere standards.
- About 70,000 inhabitants (35,000 children) in semi-urban and rural areas in Area C, Hebron, Jenin and Nablus will be able to access safe drinking water when emergency repairs are made to water piping.
- Approximately 15,000 inhabitants of Gaza (including 7,500 children) will benefit from improved sanitation coverage through emergency upgrading of sewage networks in areas with high levels of sewage-contaminated water.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA: OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

- About 97,500 children and 1,200 community members in targeted areas will receive crucial WASH-related information to prevent water-related diseases through hygiene awareness campaigns, including World Water Day and Global Handwashing Day.
- In collaboration with the ministry of youth and sports, the ministry of social affairs, the ministry of education and higher education and a number of local NGOs, UNICEF will work to meet the needs of more than 34,000 adolescent girls and boys, with a focus on out-of-school children and those at high risk of dropping out.

CHILD PROTECTION (US\$4,892,000)

UNICEF will work closely with the ministry of social affairs and NGO partners to mitigate the impact of violence and conflict for about 310,000 boys and girls and 95,000 caretakers and volunteers (50 per cent of them women). The organization will also enhance psychosocial and protective support by mobilizing emergency teams using a community-based approach that is integrated with child protection networks.

- UNICEF will also ensure evidence-based advocacy and informed programme responses in relation to grave violations against children in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 1612 and 1882.
- Effective leadership will be established for the child protection working group, with links to other cluster/sector coordination mechanisms on critical inter-sectoral issues.
- Monitoring and reporting of grave violations and other serious protection concerns regarding children and women will be undertaken, and efforts related to response plans and advocacy will be increased.

EDUCATION (US\$1,917,000)

UNICEF will work closely with the ministry of education and higher education and other stakeholders to improve access to basic education for about 210,000 girls and boys by facilitating transportation, supplies and learning material to schools and by supporting remedial and recreational programmes.

- Effective leadership will be established for education cluster inter-agency coordination with links to other cluster/sector coordination mechanisms on critical inter-sectoral issues, including psychosocial support, feeding programmes and WASH in schools.
- Adolescents (US\$2,365,000)

- 20,500 adolescent girls and boys will be engaged regularly in sports in safe play areas, coupled with peer and psychosocial support to mitigate stress and help restore normalcy in their daily lives.
- 13,500 conflict-affected adolescents (mostly at high risk of dropping out of school) will have access to alternate learning, recreational and life-skills programmes on a daily basis.

CLUSTER COORDINATION (US\$2,080,000)

To enable an effective and efficient coordinated response to improve the prospects of people affected by emergencies, all cluster coordination costs need to be adequately funded. These costs include a team for coordination and information management, along with administrative and operational support, to undertake a number of key actions and outputs. These include coordinating the collective response to maximize synergy and minimize duplication of efforts; identifying priority needs of affected communities based on experience and the results of rapid impact assessments; and developing a common strategic operational framework and response strategy that meets priority needs. In addition, UNICEF, as cluster lead, expects to put in place an effective monitoring mechanism that tracks progress and identifies gaps in the type of services being provided and in their geographical scope, and also articulates impact and outcomes through periodic progress reports. Information will be disseminated in a timely way and used in decision-making and planning.

1. Palestinian Family Health Survey, PCBS, 2006, page 99.
2. 2011 CAP H&N Needs Analysis Framework, UNICEF Occupied Palestinian Territory, Jerusalem, 2011.
3. This figure represents up to six times the World Health Organization standard of 250 mg/l for chloride and 50 mg/l for nitrates.
4. Total number of beneficiaries may not equal the sum of beneficiaries per sector, due to overlap in services provided to individuals.

UNICEF EMERGENCY FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2011		ESTIMATED BENEFICIARY NUMBERS ⁴		
By sector	US\$	Total per sector (all beneficiaries)	Boys	Girls
Nutrition	1,403,000	548,000	118,500	118,500
Health	1,023,000	61,200	25,000	25,000
WASH	5,079,000	206,700	72,000	72,000
Child protection	4,892,000	405,600	155,000	155,000
Education	1,917,000	217,700	105,000	105,000
Adolescents	2,365,000	34,260	16,750	16,750
Cluster coordination	2,080,000			
Total	18,759,000	1,473,460	492,250	492,250