

GAZA FACTS & FIGURES

UNICEF oPt – November 2012

Population¹:

- 1,644,293 people with 839,000 children below the age of 18 (51 % of the population).
- There are 251,829 children under the age of five, including 54,923 under 12 months.
- Total area is 365 km². It is one of the most densely populated areas around the world, with of over 4,505 people per square kilometre².
- 1.2 million of the total population (two-thirds) are registered refugees, living in eight refugee camps.

Education^{3, 4}:

- 460,784 children attend 689 schools (basic and secondary) - 396 government schools, 245 UNRWA schools and 48 private institutions.
- Net enrolment for basic education is 92 % with more girls enrolled (95 %) than boys (90%).
- The enrolment rate declines to 67 % in secondary schools (75% for girls, 59% for boys who appear to be more likely to leave school for work)⁵.
- Despite high rates of attendance, maintaining the quality of education remains a major challenge, partly due to a shortage of schools
- 85 % of schools (governmental + UNRWA) teach on a double-shift system⁶, forcing children to study in overcrowded classrooms. School hours are often shorter.
- An estimated 250 new schools are needed now and an additional 275 schools by 2020, to accommodate the increase in student population⁷. Double shift system and crowded classrooms make learning difficult.

Protection⁸:

- In the first ten months of 2012, before hostilities started in November, eight children were reported killed in Gaza and 87 injured. 18 children were reported killed in Gaza and 141 injured in 2011.

Health and Nutrition⁹:

- Under five mortality rate is 29.2 per 100,000 live births and infant mortality rate is 23 per 100,000 live births.
- One quarter of children under five are anaemic, and 10 per cent of children stunted (short/age).
- Secondary care is limited to 25 hospitals across the Gaza Strip, providing 2,047 beds, or 1.3 beds per 1,000 people, with 3,520 physicians and 5,910 nurses. Most health facilities are unable to provide safe and adequate services and need rehabilitation or upgrading.¹⁰

Water, sanitation and hygiene:

- The coastal aquifer is the only source of freshwater. 95% of its water is unfit for human consumption.¹¹
- The aquifer could become unusable as early as 2016¹², with the damage irreversible by 2020¹³
- 90 million litres of untreated and partially treated wastewater are dumped into the Mediterranean each day.
- The average water consumption for personal and domestic use in Gaza is about 80-90 litres, below the 100 litres per capita per day recommended by WHO.¹⁴

Poverty:

- Unemployment stood at 29 % in 2011¹⁵, out of a labour force that represents only 38 per cent of Gaza's population of working age.
- Women labour force participation stood at 12 %¹⁶
- Women unemployment rate was 44 % and 57 % for people aged 20-24 in the fourth quarter of 2011¹⁷.
- More than half of the households in Gaza are either food insecure (44%) or vulnerable to food insecurity (16%) even when taking into account UN food distributions to almost 1.1 million people.¹⁸

¹ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics.

² Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 18 April 2012.

³ Ministry of Education Annual Report 2011.

⁴ Ministry of Education Database. 2012

⁵ Ministry of Education Database. 2012

⁶ OCHA. 2012

⁷ United Nations Country Team. Gaza in 2020 – Liveable place? 2012.

⁸ UNICEF MRM database 2012

⁹ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, UNFPA and UNICEF. Household Survey 2012

¹⁰ Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process 2012a: 19.

¹¹ Al-Yaqubi, 2006: 2.

¹² Palestinian Water Authority, 2011.

¹³ Oxfam

¹⁴ UNICEF, 2011: 31.

¹⁵ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 22 February 2012.

¹⁶ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 22 February 2012.

¹⁷ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, www.pcbs.gov.ps

