



UNICEF Special Representative and UNICEF partners with youth volunteers cleaning rubble and debris from the streets and schools of Gaza City caused by the recent hostilities.

02 June 2021

### Highlights

- No further hostilities have been reported in the Gaza Strip since the ceasefire on 21 May. However, 8,500 people still remain internally displaced.
- On 25 May, 120,000 doses of Pfizer vaccine arrived through the COVAX mechanism, with 45,000 doses already delivered to the Gaza Strip.
- The three major desalination plants in the Gaza Strip are back in operation, operating for 8 hours each per day, serving approximately 370,000 people.
- UNICEF with partners mobilized over 1,000 adolescent volunteers towards clean-up efforts and to provide support to internally displaced persons in the Gaza Strip in the aftermath of the recent escalation.
- UNICEF delivered 156,700 medical consumables items to the Gaza Strip, as well as 7,500 catheter tubes and 250 oxygen prongs for neonates to Al-Makased hospital in East Jerusalem.
- UNICEF has provided Psychosocial Support Services (PSS) to 3,000 children in Hebron Area C, H2 and East Jerusalem.
- The Education Cluster co-led by UNICEF and Save the Children, and the UNICEF-led WASH cluster are undertaking assessments to contribute to the Rapid Damage Needs Assessment (RDNA), and UNICEF is contributing to the Social Protection and Youth components of the RDNA undertaken by the World Bank, the EU and the UN.
- UNICEF has revised the urgent funding requirements to respond to the conflict in line with the Inter-Agency Flash Appeal. UNICEF's funding needs were revised to \$ 11.3 million, with a funding gap of 90 per cent to respond to urgent humanitarian needs in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

### Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

Tensions in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, continue with the ongoing legal cases on evictions in Sheikh Jarrah and other neighborhoods still pending. On 26 May, the Jerusalem District Court postponed a hearing on the eviction of six Palestinian households from Silwan, comprising 33 people, including 19 children. Protests around the evictions led to the injury and arrest of one Palestinian boy.

Search-and-arrest operations and night raids across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Nablus, Jenin, Hebron, and Bethlehem have increased, impacting children. Between 7-27 May, four Palestinian children were killed in the West Bank and 276 children were injured by live ammunition, rubber-coated bullets, concussion grenades, and tear gas. In East Jerusalem alone, one child was reported killed, 60 children reported injured, and 56 children were reported arrested.

Since the Gaza Strip ceasefire came into effect on 21 May, no armed incident has been reported between Israel and Palestinian armed groups in the Gaza Strip. However, the damage caused by the conflict has exacerbated the Gaza Strip's chronic infrastructure and electricity deficits, resulting in a decrease of availability of clean water and sewage treatment and daily power cuts of 18-20 hours per day. This decline in services has affected hundreds of thousands of people, including children. Municipal teams and utility providers continue to work to re-open roads, remove rubble, and repair water, sewage, and electricity networks. However, the extent and severity of the damage, insufficient spare parts, and other essential equipment, and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW), are slowing down recovery efforts.

## State of Palestine 'Escalation in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and Israel'

Report No. 4  
3 June 2021

unicef   
for every child

### Situation in Number



73 Children killed (71  
Palestinians & 2 Israelis)



1,006 Children injured  
(946 Palestinians & 60  
Israelis)



8,500 Internally  
Displaced People remain  
with host families



57 Educational facilities  
damaged



29 Health facilities  
damaged

The Erez crossing remains closed for most Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, except for urgent medical referrals. The Kerem Shalom Crossing for goods remains open for specific essential commodities, including medical supplies, however, import restrictions continue to hinder the post-conflict recovery.

## **Summary Analysis of Programme Needs and Response**

### **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**

With the cessation of hostilities, all the major water production plants that were non-functional during the escalation have commenced operations, although at a limited capacity. Power supply has further declined and is now available for only 3-5 hours a day. The lack of a continuous power supply remains a significant obstacle to improving the water supply. The Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU) estimates that water supply to the Gaza Strip is now more than 26 per cent below the pre-escalation level, with significant disparities within governorates. The decline in power supply, coupled with the damage to major wastewater pumping stations has led to more than 100,000 cubic metres (including 70,000 cubic meters in Gaza City) of untreated or partially treated wastewater discharged to the sea daily, creating major public health and environmental concerns. Therefore, WASH partners require significant support to operate emergency power generators and undertake urgent repairs at water supply and wastewater treatment installations to meet Gaza's minimum water supply needs and maintain sanitation services.

### **Current Response**

UNICEF is supporting partners to undertake urgent repairs and maintenance to damaged water supply and wastewater infrastructure, using spares and materials earlier prepositioned in critical humanitarian locations across the Gaza Strip. The Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) and the CMWU have been able to restore minimum water and sanitation services for some affected areas through emergency and temporary maintenance of the affected WASH infrastructure. UNICEF has also distributed 130,000 litres of fuel, which partners are using to extend operating hours of primary water supply and wastewater treatment installations across the Gaza Strip. The three major desalination plants, Northern Gaza, Middle Area and Southern Gaza plants, are back in operation, operating for 8 hours each per day, compared to twelve hours pre-escalation. These plants serve approximately 370,000 people in the Gaza Strip. The CMWU has also commenced the operation of the three major wastewater treatment plants using emergency generators, reducing the flooding of wastewater in households in the Gaza Strip's northern and central districts.

The WASH Cluster is undertaking a rapid assessment of the damage to WASH facilities to contribute to the Rapid Damage Needs Assessment done by the World Bank, the EU and the UN.

### **Planned Response**

UNICEF will continue to support essential repair and rehabilitation, operations and maintenance to damaged WASH infrastructure. UNICEF supports service providers and civil society partners through ensuring a sustained pipeline of essential WASH spare parts, fuel and water treatment consumables. With the World Food Programme (WFP), hygiene items are being provided for the most affected households through e-vouchers in the Gaza Strip for 4,000 families.

### **Child Protection (CP)**

There has been a substantial increase in services requested for Palestinian children detained in the West Bank in May, including East Jerusalem, corresponding to an increase in number of children arrested. Since 7 May, at least 56 children have been arrested in East Jerusalem.

### **Current Response**

Between 23-28 May, a West Bank partner helpline received 33,653 calls and provided emergency support for 8,292 callers (24.7 per cent). A total of 243 counselling sessions were provided to 162 men and 81 women, with 198 (80 per cent) of the calls coming from the Gaza Strip.

Across the State of Palestine there are 143 available trained child counsellors (51 in East Jerusalem and 92 in the Gaza Strip). UNICEF partners in East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip provide Psychological First Aid, including specialized psychosocial support and counselling to affected children. In the Gaza Strip, UNICEF-supported governorate focal points and counsellors started conducting home visits to people who lost their homes during the hostilities. They also assessed the needs of approximately 25 households and provided Psychological First Aid (PFA) to the families. Partners, including 17 counsellors, started operating 12 family centres providing PFA, life skills education, structured group and individual counselling for children, and helping the helpers activities for family centre staff. The family centres are also following up on specialized child protection and case management services. One family centre remains non-operational as it was severely damaged.

Also in the Gaza Strip, out of 194 counselling sessions provided, 77 were provided to children (32 per cent). Specific psychosocial support was provided to eight boys and 26 girls in the Gaza Strip, many of whom were deeply distressed and traumatized by the intense bombardment.

Between 1-27 May, two partners provided legal assistance to 90 children detained by Israeli Forces in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Of these children, 24 from East Jerusalem, including one girl, received PFA, and six children

were transferred to receive specialized psychosocial support. In East Jerusalem, one partner provided specialized therapeutic services to two children and six adults.

UNICEF is engaged in a multi-sectoral needs assessment and analysis through the joint Emergency Assessment Teams led by OCHA. This includes mapping of child protection risks and the provision of remote protection monitoring through Governorate Protection Focal Points.

### **Planned Response**

To strengthen remote counselling, UNICEF is working with Child Protection sub-cluster partners in the Gaza Strip to scale up mental health and psychosocial support across the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. UNICEF plans to work with Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CP-AOR) partners to respond to the psychosocial needs of children and caregivers in the West Bank.

### **Health and Nutrition**

The recent hostilities in the Gaza Strip have worsened an already struggling health system burdened by the COVID-19 pandemic. The central testing laboratory in Gaza City sustained damage during an Israeli airstrike on 17 May, suspending all COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing for three days. The only vaccination centre in the northern Gaza Strip also sustained severe damage and is not functioning.

### **Current Response**

UNICEF delivered 156,700 medical consumable items, including chest tubes with a trocar, disposable irrigation syringes 50/60ml, umbilical cord clamps, 2000cc urine bags for adults with outlet valves, spinal needles 25g x90mm, intravenous cannulas, foley catheters, self-sealing sterilization pouches 133/360mm, and medical cotton wool. The supplies were released and distributed to five health facilities in the Gaza Strip to support critical life-saving medical interventions for around 3-4 months of use. In the West Bank, UNICEF delivered medical consumables including 7,500 catheter tubes and 250 oxygen prongs for neonates to Al-Makased hospital in East Jerusalem.

On 25 May, 120,000 Pfizer vaccines arrived through the COVAX mechanism, with 45,000 doses distributed to the Gaza Strip. In the West Bank, the national vaccination campaign is ongoing, prioritizing teachers.

### **Planned Response**

With health cluster partners, UNICEF plans to support the procurement of essential drugs and medical consumables for 24,000 conflict-affected people in the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem to cover needs for three months. UNICEF, with partners, will support around 200 malnourished young children in the Gaza Strip through the procurement of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) and high energy biscuits. UNICEF, health partners and authorities will also work on strengthening the Ministry of Health's capacity to monitor medical supply distribution to end-users. This work will be achieved through regular consultations with the Ministry of Health and key health cluster partners in the Gaza Strip.

### **Education and Adolescents**

As of 31 May, the Education Cluster verified that at least 57 education facilities, including 46 schools, were affected and/or damaged in the Gaza Strip, affecting 42,845 children. This has worsened the pre-conflict shortage of classrooms in the Gaza Strip, where more than half of schools are operating on double shifts.

Since mid-April schools in the Gaza Strip were closed for face-to-face learning due to increased COVID-19 infection rates, perpetuating further learning losses amongst children. The recent escalation has also had a significant impact on the mental health and wellbeing of students and their families.

### **Current Response**

UNICEF is procuring essential education in emergencies stationery kits for 60,000 conflict-affected children. These supplies will help the most vulnerable children to continue learning and accessing distance education opportunities for immediate response. In partnership with a local partner, UNICEF is mobilizing over 1,000 adolescent volunteers to be engaged in rebuilding their communities after the recent escalation, including clean-up efforts and providing support to internally displaced persons. UNICEF has provided 3,000 children in Hebron Area C, H2 and East Jerusalem with PSS through "team-up" sessions in the communities through an ongoing partnership.

The Education Cluster is undertaking a rapid assessment of the damage to education facilities in the Gaza Strip to contribute to the Rapid Damage Needs Assessment.

### **Planned Response**

In the Gaza Education Response Plan, three key priority areas were highlighted: rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure; provision of Psychosocial Support (PSS) to children and teachers through summer activities; and the provision of legal services for children in East Jerusalem. UNICEF's response will focus on: i) the provision of learning materials to students affected by emergencies; ii) During the summer break in July and August, support learning and recreational programs to keep children engaged and mitigate learning loss; iii) Rehabilitation and repairs to 30 damaged schools to ensure they are operational in time for school re-opening for the new academic year in September 2021; and

iv) support the safe administration of the national Grade 12 examinations for more than 70,000 students in the State of Palestine.

### **Social Protection**

The current crisis adds to existing vulnerabilities and it is likely to increase poverty, vulnerability and loss of livelihoods exacerbating an already dire situation. According to the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, in the Gaza Strip the war resulted in 678 housing units becoming uninhabitable, with a further 12,886 suffering damage.

### **Current Response**

UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Social Development and other Social Protection actors to support the roll-out of the national social protection response for displaced people in the Gaza Strip. UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Social Development Emergency Response Plan to support the basic needs of families who have lost their homes, including through the provision of cash and MHPSS support.

UNICEF is working with the World Bank and the European Union to develop inputs for the Social Protection component of the Rapid Disaster Needs Assessment.

### **Planned Response**

UNICEF has appealed for funding for emergency cash transfer as part of the Inter-Agency Flash Appeal in response to most vulnerable households in the Gaza Strip. UNICEF will continue to work with the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) and WFP to provide humanitarian cash and voucher support to the most vulnerable affected households to provide humanitarian social protection support including given high levels of underlying poverty in the Gaza Strip.

### **Coordination**

UNICEF's work fully aligns with inter-agency programming for the immediate humanitarian response and recovery and reconstruction following the recent escalation. UNICEF, and the UNICEF-led clusters, contributed to the [Inter-Agency Flash Appeal](#) launched on 27 May. Following the release of the Inter-Agency Flash Appeal by OCHA, UNICEF now requires \$11.3 million to respond to humanitarian and life-saving needs, an update from the original UNICEF appeal of \$7.7 million to respond to the conflict. Against this requirement UNICEF has a remaining gap of \$10.1 million. This updated funding requirement is based on assessments conducted by the authorities and cluster partners and is aligned to the Inter-Agency Flash Appeal. The requirement remains subject to revision based upon the ongoing Rapid Damage Needs Assessment of infrastructure across the Gaza Strip with the World Bank, the European Union and the UN.

The inter-agency response is coordinated through the cluster system. UNICEF is a key member of the Humanitarian Country Team and leads the WASH Cluster and co-leads the Education Cluster with Save the Children. UNICEF also leads the Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CP-AoR) and leads the Nutrition Working Group under the Health Cluster.

### **Funding Status\***

The budget summary below provides the overview of the [updated UNICEF funding requirement](#) based upon the Inter-Agency Flash Appeal.

Thus far, UNICEF has received a total of \$ 500,000 from the Government of Norway allocated for education in emergencies. UNICEF has reprogrammed \$ 200,000 from Regular Resources, and a further \$ 436,732 is available from other grants, following agreements with donors, to be used for the immediate response and recovery efforts. The Country Office (CO) received an Emergency Programme Fund (EPF) loan of \$1.5 million from UNICEF HQ.

The CO is working with the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) to mobilise additional resources through the United Nations Global Emergency Response Fund (CERF), the Humanitarian Pooled Fund, and other partners. UNICEF is promised by a number of donors to receive additional funding based on the updated Inter-Agency Flash Appeal. Pledges include CA\$ 750,000 from the Government of Canada, € 500,000 from the Government of Ireland, \$ 173,00 from the Government of Iceland, as well as \$ 800,000 from Education Cannot Wait (ECW).

UNICEF extends its sincere appreciation for the support of the Government of Norway, Government of Finland, the Government of Canada, the Government of Ireland, the Government of Iceland, the French National Committee for UNICEF and ECW for their vital support to the children in the State of Palestine.



## Funding Requirements

Sector	Total Requirements	Received	Reprogrammed	Balance	Gaps
Health and Nutrition	\$ 2,393,269	\$ 0	\$ 429,732	\$ 1,963,537	82%
WASH	\$ 2,880,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 2,880,000	100%
Child Protection/ PSEA	\$ 668,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 668,000	100%
Education	\$ 1,880,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 157,000	\$ 1,223,000	65%
Social Protection/ AAP	\$ 1,868,240	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 1,868,240	100%
C4D/ RCCE	\$ 250,000	\$ 0	\$ 50,000	\$ 200,000	80%
Cluster Coordination	\$ 251,470	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 251,470	100%
Operational Support	\$ 1,085,646	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 1,085,646	100%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,276,625</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>\$636,732</b>	<b>\$10,139,893</b>	<b>90%</b>

### Human Interest Stories and External Media

UNICEF delivered the third shipment of the COVID-19 vaccine through the COVAX facility:

<https://twitter.com/UNICEFpalestine/status/1397182214446649352>

<https://twitter.com/UNICEFpalestine/status/1397207007061544962>

Other tweets posted during the reporting period:

UNICEF Special Representative visit to the Gaza Strip:

<https://twitter.com/UNICEFpalestine/status/1397534261251657728>

Article published on the UNICEF global website on our response on the Gaza:

<https://twitter.com/UNICEF/status/1396851102730047489>

The HC/RC visit to a UNICEF's WASH construction site in the Gaza Strip;

<https://twitter.com/UNICEFpalestine/status/1396714932754866177>

Delivery of humanitarian assistance to the Gaza Strip:

<https://twitter.com/UNICEFpalestine/status/1395737825451122689>

UNICEF State of Palestine: <http://www.unicef.org/oPt>

UNICEF State of Palestine on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/unicefstateofpalestine>

UNICEF State of Palestine on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/UNICEFpalestine>

UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children 2021: [https://www.unicef.org/appeals/state\\_of\\_palestine.html](https://www.unicef.org/appeals/state_of_palestine.html)

**Who to contact for further information:**

**Lucia Elmi**  
**Special Representative**  
**UNICEF**  
**State of Palestine**  
**Tel: +972 (0)2 584 0400**  
**Email: [lelmi@unicef.org](mailto:lelmi@unicef.org)**

**Etona Ekole**  
**Deputy Special**  
**Representative**  
**UNICEF State of Palestine**  
**Tel: +972 (0)2 584 0400**  
**Email: [EEKOLE@unicef.org](mailto:EEKOLE@unicef.org)**

**Iain Murray**  
**Chief of Planning,**  
**Monitoring and Evaluation**  
**UNICEF State of Palestine**  
**Tel: +972 (0)2 584 0419**  
**Email: [imurray@unicef.org](mailto:imurray@unicef.org)**