



# Humanitarian Action for Children

unicef 

## State of Palestine

Prolonged conflict and occupation are directly impacting the livelihoods of 2.4 million Palestinians<sup>1</sup> and denying them safety and access to essential services, such as health care, safe drinking water and education. The divide between the West Bank and Gaza and the fiscal crisis are affecting institutions and exacerbating vulnerabilities. The 12-year blockade on Gaza has limited the access of 1 million children to basic commodities and restricted freedom of movement.<sup>2</sup> Since 30 March 2018, demonstrations at the fence between Israel and Gaza in the context of the Great March of Return have continued, leaving nearly 7,700 children injured and 43 children dead.<sup>3</sup> The deterioration in the humanitarian situation in Gaza has led to increasing poverty and overwhelmed social services. In 2019, children in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, have been affected by increases in insecurity, attacks on schools, settler violence, forcible transfer and movement restrictions. Children in contact with security forces, especially boys, continue to face grave protection risks, with potential long-term impacts. The realization of the right to education is compromised due to search operations in schools and violence towards students and teachers. Services addressing gender-based violence remain insufficient, nationwide.

### Humanitarian strategy

UNICEF will work closely with partners in the State of Palestine to foster synergies between humanitarian and development assistance, emphasizing emergency preparedness. Given the deterioration of the water and sanitation situation and the energy crisis, UNICEF will provide safe drinking water through solar power, water tank rehabilitation and network upgrades. Households will receive drinking water taps, latrines, sewage connections and hygiene promotion activities. To address the deteriorating security and protection situation, UNICEF will continue to prioritize strengthening child protection systems, including case management and referrals, psychosocial support, legal aid and counselling, and addressing negative coping mechanisms for adolescents. Monitoring and reporting on child rights and other assessments will inform evidence-based advocacy for improved child protection. In line with the National Health Strategy (2017–2022), UNICEF will support neonatal emergency health care, postnatal care and early childhood development, focusing on children with developmental delays and disabilities. In line with the Education Sector Strategic Plan (2017–2022), UNICEF will ensure that more Palestinian children and adolescents benefit from improved access to quality and inclusive learning opportunities in safe and protected environments and are enabled to contribute to their communities and national development. UNICEF will also support flood preparedness and mitigation activities in high-risk areas.

### Results from 2019

As of 31 August 2019, UNICEF had US\$13.7 million available against the US\$21 million appeal (65 per cent funded).<sup>4</sup> With UNICEF support, over 30,000 people have benefited from improved access to water and over 4,100 households have received portable and domestic water tanks. Additional water system interventions are underway to improve access by the end of 2019. Nearly 6,400 children received life-skills education, counselling and child-parent programmes, and over 90,000 children and adolescents in Gaza participated in summer life-skills activities. Through UNICEF education programmes, nearly 6,200 children safely accessed school, and nearly 4,600 children received assistance to improve their literacy and numeracy. With UNICEF support, partners delivered essential postnatal home visits to reduce mother- and infant-related morbidity in Gaza, reaching 13,000 neonates and mothers. Nearly 98,700 children under 5 years and women benefited from life-saving medical supplies. Over 3,000 children under 5 years were screened for malnutrition, and 82 children with severe acute malnutrition and 237 children with moderate acute malnutrition received treatment. A nutrition assessment for Gaza was finalized and will inform action planning with other humanitarian actors. UNICEF is also working with inter-agency and implementing partners to strengthen capacities on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

### Total people in need

2.4 million<sup>5</sup>

### Total children (<18) in need

1.06 million<sup>6</sup>

### Total people to be reached

561,000<sup>7</sup>

### Total children to be reached

421,000<sup>8</sup>

### 2020<sup>9</sup> programme targets

#### Nutrition

- 247,000 children under 5 years and pregnant and lactating women received micronutrient supplements
- 142,637 caregivers of children under 5 years and pregnant and lactating women received nutrition education

#### Health

- 10,000 newborns benefiting from life-saving equipment and drugs
- 142,637 high-risk pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 years benefiting from life-saving equipment and medical supplies

#### WASH

- 280,000 people benefiting from improved access to water for safe drinking and domestic use
- 68,000 people benefiting from improved access to water in public institutions (schools and health facilities)

#### Child protection

- 15,000 children affected by conflict-related violence benefiting from structured psychosocial support services and child protection interventions
- 80,000 children who benefited from structured summer activities in Gaza to build their physical and mental health<sup>10</sup>
- 15,600 children and caregivers reached with risk education on explosive remnants of war

#### Education

- 35,000 children benefiting from the provision of education supplies and materials
- 5,000 children in Grades 3 to 6 benefiting from catch-up classes in Gaza

	Sector 2019 targets	Sector total results	UNICEF 2019 targets	UNICEF total results
<b>HEALTH AND NUTRITION</b>				
Women and children under 5 years (boys and girls) who benefited from medical supplies			94,295	98,661
Pregnant and lactating women receiving health services			20,390	7,903 <sup>i</sup>
Neonates receiving quality life-saving services			10,420	5,061
<b>WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE<sup>ii</sup></b>				
People in humanitarian situations who benefited from improved access to water	731,165	449,429	320,226	30,350
People in humanitarian situations who benefited from improved access to sanitation services	116,848	76,499	14,295	3,411
People with increased access to WASH services in health institutions			284,490	0
People who received hygiene materials/kits	73,137	77,195	19,699	14,134
<b>CHILD PROTECTION</b>				
Children, including the injured, who received interventions, including life-skills, group and individual counselling and child-parent interaction programmes	35,472	19,286	13,250	6,373 <sup>iii</sup>
Women and men who received information on their rights and access to legal services	4,061	1,156	1,400	1,156
People (children and caregivers) who received explosive remnants of war risk education	43,606	5,917	15,606	5,917
Children who benefited from structured psychosocial support activities in Gaza during the summer months to build their physical and mental health			80,000	92,482
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
Children who benefited from the provision of supplies and materials	316,813	7,000	33,300	7,000 <sup>iv</sup>
Children benefiting from protective presence / accompaniment to school	6,900	6,150	6,700	6,150

\* Results are as of 31 August 2019.

<sup>i</sup> Reporting for these indicators will increase by the end of 2019 pending the finalization of health and postnatal care guidelines.

<sup>ii</sup> Reporting on WASH programme indicator results is expected to rise in the last months of 2019 following the full implementation of contracts and partnership agreements.

<sup>iii</sup> Reporting under this indicator will be made available at the end of the fourth quarter of 2019, after new partnerships are in place.

<sup>iv</sup> Funding has recently been received for projects related to the provision of supplies and materials, and procurement is underway.

#### Funding requirements

In line with the inter-agency Humanitarian Response Plan, UNICEF is requesting US\$18.4 million to respond to the humanitarian situation in the State of Palestine and ensure capacities for response and preparedness in 2020. Without this funding, UNICEF will be unable to support affected communities with critical health, nutrition and WASH services, and ensure that children and caregivers in vulnerable areas have access to education and protection. UNICEF will continue to support the coordination of the WASH and education clusters and the child protection working group.

Sector	2020 requirements (US\$) <sup>11</sup>
Health and nutrition	2,920,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	8,396,000
Child protection	2,693,728
Education	3,575,388
Cluster/sector coordination	817,140
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,402,256</b>

<sup>1</sup> This figure is provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency needs and planning documents. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'State of Palestine: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview' (draft), OCHA, October 2019.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Children's Fund, 'State of Palestine Humanitarian Situation Report January–June 2019', UNICEF, <[www.unicef.org/appeals/files/UNICEF\\_State\\_of\\_Palistine\\_Humanitarian\\_Situation\\_Report\\_Mid\\_Year\\_2019.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/appeals/files/UNICEF_State_of_Palistine_Humanitarian_Situation_Report_Mid_Year_2019.pdf)>, accessed 24 September 2019.

<sup>3</sup> Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Humanitarian snapshot: Casualties in the context of demonstrations and hostilities in Gaza 30 Mar 2018 - 31 July 2019', OCHA, 31 August 2019, <[www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-snapshot-casualties-context-demonstrations-and-hostilities-gaza-30-mar-2018-0](http://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-snapshot-casualties-context-demonstrations-and-hostilities-gaza-30-mar-2018-0)>, accessed 24 September 2019.

<sup>4</sup> Available funds include US\$6 million received against the 2019 appeal and US\$7.7 million carried forward from the previous year.

<sup>5</sup> This figure is provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency needs and planning documents. 'State of Palestine: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview' (draft).

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> This includes the number of people targeted for access to water (280,000, 50 per cent girls); 80 per cent of children under 5 years (50 per cent girls) and pregnant and lactating women to receive micronutrients (distinct from the WASH target); and 20 per cent of the targets for children (50 per cent girls) to receive education supplies, children/adolescents to benefit from recreational activities, caregivers of children under 5 years and pregnant and lactating women to receive nutrition education (face-to-face) and children under 5 years and pregnant and lactating women to receive life-saving equipment and supplies. UNICEF targets are projected based on populations in most acute need, its own delivery capacity and other cluster and non-cluster partner contributions.

<sup>8</sup> This is calculated as 75 per cent of the total people to be reached based on internal discussion and analysis by UNICEF State of Palestine.

<sup>9</sup> Programme targets are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.

<sup>10</sup> This intervention includes referrals of children in need of case management.

<sup>11</sup> Figures are provisional estimates. Financial requirements are subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency appeals/planning documents.

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