



A Palestinian boy and his younger siblings visiting their completely demolished home in the Gaza Strip @UNICEF-SoP/2021/Eyad AlBaba.

State of Palestine Country Office

‘Escalation in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and Israel’

Situation Report No. 5

unicef 
for every child

Reporting Period: 03 June -15 June 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

- Tensions in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, continue to remain high with the potential forced eviction of Palestinian families in Sheikh Jarrah and in Silwan. Since the ceasefire came into effect on 21 May, no major escalation has been reported in the Gaza Strip, however humanitarian access to the Gaza Strip remains a critical challenge.
- UNICEF continues to support local authorities and humanitarian actors in the Gaza Strip to undertake immediate repair and re-establishment of water and sanitation services. Some of the essential services have been restored, including the urgent repair of water and wastewater pipes, re-supply of essential items and provision of fuel, benefiting some 800,000 people.
- UNICEF and partners ensured access to safe water to 415,000 people by maintaining the desalination plants operational, supporting water pumping stations and delivering water treatment chemicals for two to three months. UNICEF also provided e-vouchers for 29,084 vulnerable people (50 per cent children), in the Gaza Strip, to purchase essential hygiene items.
- On 1 June, through the COVAX facility and with UNICEF logistics support, 72,000 doses of Astra Zeneca COVID-19 vaccines were delivered, of which 9,600 doses were dispatched to the Gaza Strip and 62,400 doses to the West Bank. This is in addition to the 120,000 does delivered on 25 May after the end of the escalation of hostilities.
- UNICEF and partners provided Psychosocial Support (PSS), Psychological First Aid (PFA), and structured psychosocial care for approximately 988 children and continue to scale up. The response included specialised counselling sessions, deployment of mobile child protection teams, and remote support. A partner helpline received a total of 41,883 calls on its hotlines.
- Since the beginning of the crisis, the Family Centres in the Gaza Strip reached 2,834 children and caregivers with Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) and other child protection awareness raising messages. Plans are underway to scale this up with new partnerships and to complement this with recreational activities and summer camps for 50,000 children and young people.
- The Rapid Damage Needs Assessment (RDNA) being undertaken by the World Bank, the EU and the UN is progressing. The Education and WASH clusters, led by UNICEF, have collected data and are analysing the results. UNICEF is also working with the EU and the World Bank on the Social Protection sector.

KEY FIGURES*



1.3 million people in need of WASH services



275,000 children in need of psychosocial support in Gaza



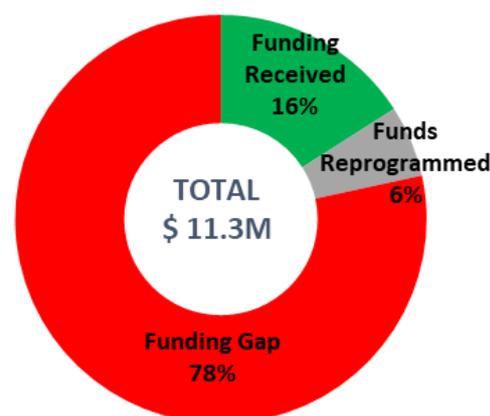
613 thousand children in need of Education in Emergency assistance



141 Educational facilities damaged

*Escalations of Hostilities and Unrest in oPt Flash Appeal 2021

FUNDING STATUS



Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

No major incidents have been reported since the ceasefire entered into effect on 21 May. Since May 7, 66 Palestinian children were killed in the Gaza Strip, four in the West Bank, one in East Jerusalem and 2 Israeli children in Israel. A total of 610 children were injured in the Gaza Strip, 276 in the West Bank and 60 in East Jerusalem were injured by live ammunition, rubber-coated bullets, concussion grenades, and tear gas. 60 Israeli children were injured during the escalation. In East Jerusalem, 76 children were reported arrested.

In the Gaza Strip, an estimated 8,500 internally displaced people (IDPs) remain with host families and in two UNRWA schools¹.

Tensions in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, remain high with the potential forced eviction of Palestinian families in Sheikh Jarrah, in Silwan and other neighbourhoods. Israel's High Court has temporarily postponed a ruling on the forced eviction of Palestinian families from their homes in Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan for 29 families, including 37 children.

In the West Bank, including the East Jerusalem, access remains a key challenge due to the closures of entrances to villages, checkpoints, clashes and demonstrations.

The Erez Crossing has remained closed for most Palestinians in Gaza, with the exception of urgent medical referrals, including cancer patients. The Kerem Shalom Crossing is open for the entry of only very specific and limited humanitarian commodities such as medical supplies. All other imports are not allowed to enter constraining the response. Humanitarian access for supplies into Gaza also remains a concern with local material availability significantly decreased in the Gaza Strip. There is a substantial need to import some materials especially for WASH and other reconstruction projects that were significantly impacted by the closure and the recent hostilities. The lengthy importation process for supplies into the Gaza Strip is posing a challenge to the delivery of immediate humanitarian interventions. Entry of supplies is limited to a few humanitarian items only.

The humanitarian consequences of the conflict are dire. There is a significant increase in the demand for mental health and wellbeing support, particularly for children and frontline workers directly affected by the hostilities. Health coordination and referrals from the Gaza Strip remains a concern, with lengthy exit authorization processes for those injured, including children. There remain gaps in the provision of more complex medical treatments in Gaza, thus requiring treatment outside the Gaza Strip. During the conflict escalation, 10 hospitals were damaged, 22 Primary Health Care facilities partially damaged and one fully damaged.

COVID-19 infections in the Gaza Strip jumped in the wake of the recent escalations. While COVID-19 awareness-raising, prevention and control measures, testing, vaccination was severely disrupted during the conflict, testing capacity has slowly resumed. Active new cases in the Gaza Strip now make up 84 per cent of all cases in the State of Palestine. In May 2021, a total of 7,741 COVID-19 confirmed cases were registered in the Gaza Strip. During the first week of June 2021, there were a total of 1,872 COVID-19 cases in the State of Palestine, of which 1,644 were in the Gaza Strip.

The COVID-19 vaccination programme has resumed after being disrupted by the recent escalation. The health authorities in the Gaza Strip have increased the number of vaccinations centres to 25, including nine operated by UNRWA. New vaccination centres have also opened in Nablus, Jenin and Tulkarm governorates in the northern part of the West Bank. As of 6 June, approximately 373,000 Palestinians have been vaccinated, of whom 234,000 have received a second dose, representing only seven per cent of the Palestinian population.

The Education Cluster co-led by the UNICEF and Save the Children, and the UNICEF-led WASH cluster are analyzing the data gathered through the damage impact assessments of the education and WASH infrastructure conducted in the field in the Gaza Strip as a contribution to the Rapid Damage Needs Assessment (RDNA). The RDNA is a broad-based assessment to identify the impact and the priority reconstruction needs of the critically affected sectors leading to the development of a preliminary reconstruction plan. UNICEF is also contributing to the Social Protection component of the RDNA undertaken by the World Bank, the EU and the UN. During the conflict escalation, 141 Palestinian Authorities

¹ OCHA Situation Report No. 3: 4-10 June 2021

operated schools were damaged, out of which 10 were fully damaged, 67 moderately damaged, and 64 schools sustained light damage.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

In response to the escalation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, UNICEF is providing both an immediate humanitarian response in affected areas across the State of Palestine, while also undertaking early recovery and rehabilitation in the Gaza Strip.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Immediate Response: From the early days of the conflict, UNICEF and partners began urgent repairs and maintenance of the damaged water supply and wastewater infrastructure, using spare parts and materials prepositioned in strategic locations in the Gaza Strip. These critical interventions quickly allowed the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) and the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU) to restore the provision of minimum water and sanitation services for some affected areas.

Since the beginning of the conflict UNICEF distributed 200,000 litres of fuel which partners are using to extend the operating hours from 8 hours to 12 hours of primary water supply and wastewater treatment installations in the Gaza Strip. This fuel supply is benefitting 800,000 people for 30 days, with an estimated 415,000 people benefitted from the improved water supply and 385,000 from the improved sanitation. The three major desalination plants in Northern Gaza, Middle Area and Southern Gaza are back in operation operating for 12 hours each per day, serving approximately 370,000 people in the Gaza Strip. UNICEF also delivered water treatment chemicals sufficient for two months to the three desalination plants, benefitting 415,000 people.

Between 25 May to date, UNICEF in partnership with the World Food Programme provided e-vouchers for 29,084 vulnerable people (50 per cent children) in the Gaza Strip to purchase essential hygiene items from shops across the Gaza Strip. UNICEF used the criteria agreed by the WASH cluster including displacement status of the families, family members with disabilities, and female headed households for the targeting of the distribution.

The WASH Cluster, coordinated and supported by UNICEF, has finalized the assessment of 310 pieces of WASH infrastructure in the Gaza Strip. The results will contribute to the Rapid Damage Needs Assessment (RDNA) coordinated by the World Bank, the EU and the UN. WASH partners will use the results of the RDNA to plan the coordinated restoration and scale-up of WASH services in the Gaza Strip.

Child Protection

Immediate Response: There is a significant increase in demand for mental health and wellbeing support for Palestinians, including children and frontline workers directly affected by the hostilities. The Child Protection Area of Responsibility, under UNICEF leadership, convened partners around the humanitarian protection priorities identified in the Inter-Agency Flash Appeal, with 46 partners in the West Bank and 47 partners in the Gaza Strip.

UNICEF continued supporting Child Protection and specialized Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPS) responses including counselling sessions, mobile child protection teams, hotlines to receive calls and provide Psychosocial Support (PSS), Psychological First Aid (PFA), and structured psychosocial care.

After having recovered from the distress encountered during the crises, Family Center staff in the Gaza Strip immediately contacted previous beneficiaries to check on them and to resume structured group and individual activities. Since the beginning of the crises, the 12 Family Centres in the Gaza Strip reached 561 children (45 per cent girls) impacted by the recent escalation and military operations with Psychological First Aid. Counselling, expressive arts, life skills education, case management and child-parent interaction were provided to 392 children (51 per cent boys). A house to house campaign was implemented by one of the Family Center partners, targeting 200 conflict affected households which have the least opportunities to reach the Family Centres. In addition, 400 caregivers were oriented on ways to support the protection and psychosocial wellbeing of their children, encouraging them to listen and to resort to positive discipline when necessary.

Since the beginning of conflict, the Family Centres in the Gaza Strip reached 2,834 children and caregivers with Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) awareness raising messages using social media platforms. ERW messages have been added to other child protection related messages.

Since the beginning of the crisis, a West Bank based partner helpline supported by UNICEF received a total of 41,883 calls and provided emergency support to 10,393 people. Between 1–6 June, 4,430 calls were received, and 1,003 (23 per cent) were provided with emergency support which included counselling as well as referrals to organisations that provide specialized case management support. UNICEF is scaling up the response and is helping the partner to strengthen its capacity.

In East Jerusalem, UNICEF implementing partners continued to deliver child protection services to vulnerable and affected children. Since the start of the escalation, one partner provided bi-weekly training sessions to 242 vulnerable students in four schools (50 per cent girls). Another two partners provided 35 children, including 12 girls, with PSS and specialized therapeutic services. The 12 girls were referred by other members of the East Jerusalem Coordination platform as victims of trauma due to the recent escalation in East Jerusalem. Another partner delivered more than 60 sports and other recreational training sessions targeting some 300 children, including 20 children with disabilities. In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, two child protection partners provided legal assistance to 102 children detained by Israeli Forces (95 per cent boys).

Planned Response: UNICEF is working with Child Protection Area of Responsibility partners in the Gaza Strip to scale up Mental Health and Psychosocial Support across the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Social media messaging on protection needs and services and rapid feedback mechanisms for children and adolescents have been adapted from the COVID-19 response to facilitate feedback from children and families. School counsellors are also being capacitated to provide PFA and access to basic services. This scale up of partner capacity is one strategy used by UNICEF to address the staggering need of children and their caregivers for psychosocial support.

Health and Nutrition

Immediate Response: On 1 June, through the COVAX facility and with UNICEF logistics support, 72,000 doses of Astra Zeneca vaccines were delivered. Of these doses, 9,600 were dispatched to the Gaza Strip and 62,400 doses to the West Bank. This is in addition to the 120,000 doses that were previously delivered on 25 May.

UNICEF continues to replenish and position emergency health and nutrition supplies in the Gaza Strip. During the reporting period UNICEF delivered 246,760 bottles of saline solution to the Ministry of Health in Gaza. The supplies were distributed to seven hospitals in the Gaza Strip to provide critical life-saving medical interventions to 45,000 people including women and children sufficient for three months of use. Furthermore, UNICEF has also dispatched some medical supplies such as tubes, medical bracelets, needles sufficient for 1,500 women and 30,000 newborns.

Planned Response: UNICEF will support essential repair of damaged hospitals and primary health centre facilities identified as in need of support through the RDNA assessment. UNICEF will undertake rehabilitation of these facilities as well as provide essential drugs and medical material with the focus on the neonatal, mother and child health care departments. To prevent an increase in malnutrition across the Gaza Strip UNICEF with partners, will also support around 200 malnourished young children through the procurement of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) and high energy biscuits.

Education and Adolescents Engagement

Immediate Response: In partnership with a local partner, UNICEF mobilized over 1,000 adolescent volunteers to rebuild their communities after the conflict in the Gaza Strip, including cleaning up efforts and providing support to internally displaced persons.

Through a local partner, UNICEF provided 3,000 children (50 per cent girls) in Hebron Area C, H2 and East Jerusalem with psychosocial support through “team-up” sessions in the communities.

The Education Cluster has finalized the assessment and data collection on 141 damaged Palestinian Authorities operated schools to contribute to the Rapid Damage Needs Assessment (RDNA).

Planned Response: UNICEF's response will focus on: i) provide learning materials to 60,000 students affected by emergencies; ii) support learning and recreational programmes to keep 50,000 children engaged and mitigate learning loss during the summer break; iii) the education partners will use the results of the RDNA to plan the coordinated restoration education services in the Gaza Strip in advance of the new school year in September; 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

Immediate Response: UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) and other Social Protection actors to support the MoSD Emergency Response Plan. This plan is for support to the basic needs of 4,000 households, with an estimated 14,000 children, who have lost their homes in the Gaza Strip, including through the provision of cash assistance and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support.

Planned Response: UNICEF is working with the World Bank and the EU to develop inputs for the Social Protection component of the RDNA including for the design of a Social Protection package of immediate and longer-term support for families made vulnerable by the escalation.

Coordination

The inter-agency response is led by the Humanitarian Coordinator and 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.

UNICEF, and the UNICEF-led clusters, contributed to the development of the inter-agency Flash Appeal launched by the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator on 27 May. Following the release of the Inter-Agency Flash Appeal, UNICEF requires US\$11.3 million to respond to humanitarian and lifesaving needs. This is an increase of approximately 47 per cent from the original UNICEF escalation humanitarian requirements of US\$7.7 million. UNICEF has a funding gap of US\$8.8 million as of 15 June 2021. The UNICEF funding requirement remains subject to revision based upon the ongoing Rapid Damage Needs Assessment and in aligned to inter-agency plans with the Humanitarian Country Team.

UNICEF's programmes are fully aligned with inter-agency programming for the immediate humanitarian response, recovery, and reconstruction following the recent escalation. UNICEF is also supporting the Rapid Damage Needs Assessment (RDNA) with the World Bank, the European Union and the UN.

Funding Status

The budget summary below provides the overview of the updated UNICEF funding requirement which is fully aligned with the Inter-Agency Flash Appeal. The UNICEF Humanitarian Appeal stands at US\$11.3 million. As of 15 June 2021, UNICEF has received a total of US\$500,000 from the Government of Norway allocated for Education in Emergencies (EiE), US\$1,198,475 received from CERF UNOCHA and US\$98,040 from UNICEF Malaysia to support cross sectoral activities. UNICEF has reprogrammed US\$200,000 from Regular Resources, and a further US\$436,732 is available from other grants, following agreements with donors, to be used for the immediate response and recovery efforts. The Country Office received an Emergency Programme Fund (EPF) loan of US\$1.5 million from UNICEF HQ.

UNICEF is working with the Humanitarian Country Team to mobilise additional resources the Humanitarian Pooled Fund, and other mechanisms. Several donors have indicated additional pledges based on the Inter-Agency Flash Appeal including CA\$750,000 from the Government of Canada, €500,000 from the Government of Ireland, US\$173,000 from the Government of Iceland, as well as US\$800,000 from the Education Cannot Wait (ECW).

UNICEF extends its sincere appreciation for the support of the Government of Norway, the Government of Finland, the Government of Canada, the Government of Ireland, the Government of Iceland, the French National Committee for UNICEF, UNOCHA/ CERF and the Education Cannot Wait for their vital support to children in the State of Palestine.

Funding Requirements²

Sector	Total Requirements	Received	Reprogrammed	Balance	Gaps
Health and Nutrition	\$ 2,393,269	\$ 0	\$ 429,732	\$ 1,963,537	82%
WASH	\$ 2,880,000	\$ 1,198,475	\$ 0	\$ 1,681,525	58%
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	\$ 98,040	\$ 0	\$ 987,606	91%
TOTAL	\$ 11,276,625	\$ 1,796,515	\$ 636,732	\$ 8,843,378	78%

Advocacy, Human Interest Stories and External Media

UNICEF is calling for the delivery of immediate humanitarian assistance to all people in need, particularly in the Gaza Strip where humanitarian needs are significant, to be unfettered and unimpeded. Assistance must get to those who need it most, especially children and their families. UNICEF calls on all parties to ensure that children are always protected from violence, in all its forms. Moreover, children held in detention should be released. Alternatives to the detention of children should always be sought. If children are detained, this should only be for the shortest possible duration. A long-lasting cessation of hostilities in the Gaza Strip is critical, so damaged infrastructure such as water networks, schools, and electricity grids can be repaired. Above all else, however, what is required is a political dialogue and sustainable peace that allows all parties to live with dignity and all children to reach their full potential.

On 2 June: 62,400 doses of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine was delivered to the Ministry of Health in the West Bank.

<https://twitter.com/UNICEFpalestine/status/1400079031991771140>

<https://www.facebook.com/unicefpalestine/posts/3967486286621608>

On 3 June: 9,600 doses of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine was delivered to the Ministry of Health in the Gaza Strip.

<https://twitter.com/UNICEFpalestine/status/1400472492708347908>

<https://www.facebook.com/unicefpalestine/posts/3970662222970681>

On 3 June: 312 pallets (over 245,000 bottles) of saline solution funded by the French Development Agency (AFD) were delivered to the Ministry of Health in the Gaza Strip.

<https://twitter.com/UNICEFpalestine/status/1400692895070441482>

<https://www.facebook.com/unicefpalestine/posts/3972351369468433>

Links to Social Media Videos:

Video 1: 21 May 2021

After fleeing her home with her family, Bara is afraid for her future. She dreams of becoming a neurologist one day, but with no schools open & no books, her dream, & the dreams of other children in the Gaza Strip, remains threatened. Gaza's students need support. #AChildIsAChild:

<https://twitter.com/UNICEFpalestine/status/1395731991413370885>

<https://www.facebook.com/593049637398640/videos/2940579269559139>

Video 2: 3 June 2021

"I took my bird and my backpack, and I went down 12 floors holding my bird." Abd Al-Rahman, 6, tells us how he fled his home during the recent escalation in the #Gaza_Strip. #ForEveryChild, Peace

<https://www.facebook.com/593049637398640/videos/1015302089214883>

² Results partially achieved with the UNICEF Emergency Programme Fund (EPF) loan. EPF is not reflected in the table as it is a loan.

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

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Annex A: Escalation - Humanitarian Performance Monitoring – May-June 2021 ³

Sector	UNICEF	
	Target	Results ⁴
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)		
# of people benefiting from improved access to water services (reached at least one time) ⁵	900,000	415,000
# of people benefiting from improved access to sanitation services (reached at least one time)	400,000	385,000
# of households benefitted from the provision of hygiene materials (e-vouchers)	4,400	5,288
Child Protection		
# of children benefited from CP and MHPSS services	5,000	988
# of children and adults benefited from mine Risk Education/ UXO Awareness	2,300	2,834
Health and Nutrition		
# of people benefited from essential medical supplies, drugs and consumables (Gaza)	185,000	145,000
# of people benefited from the procurement of essential medical supplies, drugs and consumables (East Jerusalem)	74,280	59,280
# of people benefited from the procurement of supplies for prevention of acute malnutrition	1,000	0
Education and Adolescence		
# of children benefited from the distribution of learning materials	30,000	0
# of children benefited from the rehabilitation of schools	15,000	0
# of children benefited from the summer activities	50,000	0
# of children benefited from psycho-social support (remote or face to face)	5,000	3,000

³ The indicators are subject to revision based upon alignment to the indicators in the Inter-Agency Flash Appeal.

⁴ The results reflected in the table cover the period with the start of the escalation to June 6, 2021

⁵ Supported through provision of fuel, operational materials, tools, chlorine and chemicals.