



Children participating in an art and crafts session as part of UNICEF supported summer activities in the Gaza Strip. @UNICEF-SoP/2021.

Reporting Period: 29 June - 15 July 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

- Tensions in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, continue. Between 7 May and 13 July six Palestinian children were reported killed in the West Bank and 276 children were reported injured by live ammunition, rubber-coated bullets, concussion grenades, and tear gas. In East Jerusalem, one child was reported killed, 60 children were reported injured, and 145 children were reported arrested.
- In July, the Gaza 2021 Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA) was jointly launched by the World Bank, the European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN). It estimates the total damage and losses incurred in the Gaza Strip following the latest conflict, including the immediate and short-term needs, as well as the longer-term reconstruction needs, to be between US\$290 and US\$380 million. UNICEF and the cluster partners contributed to the RDNA development in the WASH, Education and Social Protection sectors.
- In collaboration with implementing partners UNICEF provided 2,629 children in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip with access to Child Protection, Mental Health, and Psychosocial Support Services.
- On 13 July, UNICEF launched summer activities in the Gaza Strip providing access to learning and recreational programmes for 55,000 vulnerable children and adolescents. These activities engage children during the summer break (July and August) in structured child friendly activities which mitigate learning losses and help to overcome mental health distress and trauma. Case management referral pathways are in place. In the same week, UNICEF has started the emergency rehabilitation of the first batch of 20 schools (in total, UNICEF has committed to repair 46 schools hosting 46,241 children - 54 per cent are girls) that will contribute to children going back to school in mid-August.
- Since the ceasefire, UNICEF and partners have ensured access to safe water and adequate sanitation to 300,000 people in the Gaza Strip UNICEF also ensured access to safe water for 355,000 people in the Gaza Strip by supporting the main desalination plants.
- Following the release of the Inter-Agency Flash Appeal, UNICEF requires US\$11.3 million to respond to humanitarian and lifesaving needs, of which US\$6.7 million remains a gap as of 13 July 2021.

State of Palestine Country Office

'Escalation in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and Israel'

Situation Report No. 7

unicef 

for every child

KEY FIGURES*



1.3 million people in need of WASH services



671,000 children in need of psychosocial support in Gaza



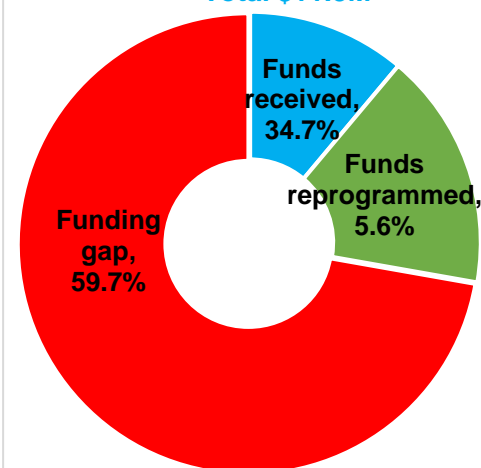
613,000 children in need of Education in Emergency assistance



154 public and private schools damaged

*Escalations of Hostilities and Unrest in SoP Flash Appeal 2021

Funding Required Total \$11.3M



Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

Tensions in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip continue. Over the 7 May – 13 July period, six Palestinian children were reported killed in the West Bank, and 276 children were reported injured by live ammunition, rubber-coated bullets, concussion grenades, and tear gas. In East Jerusalem, one child was reported killed, 60 children were reported injured, and 145 children were reported arrested.

On 6 July, the Gaza 2021 Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA) was jointly launched by the World Bank, the European Union (EU), and the United Nations (UN). It estimates the total damage and losses incurred in the Gaza Strip following the latest conflict, including the immediate and short-term needs, as well as longer-term reconstruction needs to be between US\$290 and US\$380 million.

UNICEF with cluster partners contributed to the RDNA development in the WASH, Education, and Social Protection sectors. According to the RDNA findings, a wide range of Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) infrastructure across Gaza was either damaged, destroyed, or unable to operate after the conflict. The immediate (0–6 months) and short-term (6-24 months) recovery and reconstruction needs of the water supply and sanitation sector requires US\$15 million to US\$25 million, respectively, including infrastructure reconstruction, service delivery restoration, and sector capacity building.

The RDNA for the Education sector with the Ministry of Education estimates that 116 private kindergartens and 140 public school buildings sustained damage; an additional 41 UNRWA school buildings were damaged. Furthermore, another 63 UNRWA school buildings were damaged due to the wear and tear of accommodating around 70,000 internally displaced people in Gaza who sought refuge in these schools during the conflict. The RDNA estimates that US\$40 million to US\$55 million is required for the immediate and short-term recovery and reconstruction needs of the education sector, including restoring access to schools and the wide deployment and institutionalization of mental health and psychosocial programmes across all schools in the Gaza Strip. It is important to note that any delays in beginning the next school year would add to the already substantial learning losses suffered by Palestinian children to date and can lead to sharp drops in school enrolment and achievement, with recovery taking many years.

Approximately 8,220 internally displaced persons (IDPs) remain in the Gaza Strip, some of whom are living in two UNRWA schools. Most of these families continue to be displaced as they have no home to return to, with their houses destroyed or rendered uninhabitable by the May conflict. According to local authorities, an estimated 15,130 housing units sustained some degree of damage.

On 7 July the Israeli Civil Administration (ICA), accompanied by the military, demolished 30 residential and animal structures in the herding community of Humsa - Al Bqai'a in the Jordan Valley. Based on field assessments, water tanks were also demolished, and food parcels were confiscated, leaving the community with no access to food and water. The ICA also confiscated all personal belongings of the families, including food, milk for children, clothes, hygiene materials and toys. Also, the livestock from the community was left without fodder and water. Six Palestinian families, comprising 42 people, including 24 children, were displaced with increased levels of vulnerability.¹

In Gaza, limitations are still in place on supplies necessary for critical reconstruction and for basic livelihoods and basic services. The Kerem Shalom crossing into the Gaza Strip is only open for the entry of specific essential items and limited humanitarian commodities. There are indications that supplies related to water, food and health will be allowed in the coming few

¹ <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humsa-al-bqaiia-flash-update-6>

days. Humanitarian access for supplies into the Gaza Strip remains a concern, with material availability in the local market significantly decreased. There is an urgent need to import some materials, especially for WASH and other reconstruction projects that were significantly impacted by the recent hostilities. An additional challenge is the continued ban on the entry of “dual use” materials into the Gaza Strip, which constrains the transfer of essential goods. This affects the operation and maintenance of vital water and sanitation facilities and infrastructure as well as the Gaza Strip’s only power plant. The lengthy importation process for supplies is also challenging to the delivery of timely humanitarian assistance. A positive development is the approval of international organizations’ staff movement from and to the Gaza Strip including Gaza based staff travel to the West Bank including, East Jerusalem, with appropriate permits.

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 immediate humanitarian response in affected areas across the State of Palestine, while also undertaking early recovery and rehabilitation projects in the Gaza Strip.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Immediate Response: Since the ceasefire, UNICEF and partners have ensured access to safe water and adequate sanitation to 300,000 people in the Gaza Strip by maintaining and repairing damage to several water and sanitation network locations. This response was facilitated using prepositioned spare parts and materials in Rafah, Khan Younis, Deir Al Balah, Gaza City and Beit Lahiya. UNICEF also ensured access to safe water for 355,000 people in the Gaza Strip by providing water treatment chemicals sufficient for the coming two months to the main desalination plants serving neighbourhoods in the Gaza City, Middle Area, Khan Younis and Rafah.

With the completion of fast-track repairs, UNICEF and partners have started to extend the scope of response activities. This includes undertaking more substantive repairs and rehabilitation of water and wastewater networks for the most affected areas of Beit Hanoun in North Gaza serving more than 6,000 people. The rehabilitation works will include repairs to power generators for critical water wells and sewage pumping stations serving around 100,000 people that are especially vulnerable to frequent electricity shortages.

Since 25 May, UNICEF in partnership with the World Food Programme, provided e-vouchers for 29,084 vulnerable people (50 per cent children) to purchase essential hygiene items from shops across the Gaza Strip. The e-vouchers target improved hygiene practices among most vulnerable households in the Gaza Strip. Distribution was targeted using criteria agreed by the WASH Cluster, such as the displacement status of the families, family members with disabilities, and female-headed households.

The WASH Cluster partners and UNICEF, working with the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA), the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU) and the Gaza Strip municipalities, has finalised the assessment of 290 damaged WASH facilities¹. In coordination with the PWA and CMWU, WASH Cluster partners are supporting the operation of critical WASH facilities (water desalination plants, wastewater treatment plants, sewer and water pumping station) by providing the essential treatment chemicals. Cluster partners are also supporting the most vulnerable households with maintenance and repairs of WASH facilities, such as home water storage tanks that were damaged during the escalation. The cluster partners are also providing the IDPs and host families with hygiene items, which are especially critical in light of the COVID-19 response in the Gaza Strip.

Next Steps: Based on the WASH damage assessment conducted by the WASH Cluster and included in the RDNA, UNICEF has identified key interventions for the restoration and improvement of WASH infrastructure in the Gaza Strip. UNICEF is planning to respond to

eight damaged WASH networks. UNICEF is developing a WASH reconstruction and recovery plan that will go beyond the restoration of services to pre-escalation levels, and will aim to increase the coverage, efficiency, and resilience of WASH services in the Gaza Strip.

Child Protection

Immediate Response: In the Gaza Strip, UNICEF and its partners organised structured psychosocial support activities, including individual and group counselling sessions, targeting 174 children (81 girls and 93 boys). Case management was provided to 34 children (13 girls, 21 boys). Additionally, 233 beneficiaries (125 children, 108 adults) received explosive remnant of war risk education sessions.

In the West Bank, a UNICEF partner provided 92 caregivers and children (17 boys, 18 girls, 24 women, and 33 men) affected by conflict-related incidents with psychosocial services, including psychological first aid services. A total of 15 children (six boys and nine girls) have been involved in structured psychosocial group activities in Hebron. These group programmes include expressive and creative activities, sports, games, which take place in community-based child-friendly spaces.

Between 2 and 15 July, a telephone hotline supported by UNICEF received 22,338 calls from adults and children in need of protection information and was able to respond to 15,990 (72 percent). A total of 916 counselling sessions were provided to 628 men and 378 women, with 836 from the Gaza Strip. A total of 283 children (85 per cent girls) accessed structured psychosocial counselling sessions.

In East Jerusalem, one partner provided 133 children (including 69 girls) aged 12-17 years with psychosocial support, recreational and structured psychosocial activities. The same partner organisation provided individual Mental Health and Psychosocial Support sessions to 29 adults (including 19 women).

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, UNICEF supported two child protection partners to provide legal assistance to 191 children detained by Israeli forces (95 per cent boys). These children were made aware of their legal rights, with most reached prior to interrogation.

Next steps: UNICEF and partners are scaling up the response to meet the critical protection needs of children and their families. Efforts are underway to prioritise MHPSS interventions across other sectors. As a result, UNICEF has committed to reach 55,000 children in 138 schools with summer activities that include psychosocial support, and UNRWA summer camp activities are expected to reach 120,000 children in the Gaza Strip.

Health and Nutrition

Immediate Response: UNICEF continued to support the Ministry of Health (MoH) to ensure the sustainability of service provision of Maternal Neonatal and Child Health (MNCH) and other emergency services. Drugs and medical consumables were delivered to the MoH in the West Bank including, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. The delivered supplies will serve 19 hospitals for about three months - six in the Gaza Strip, twelve in the West Bank, as well as Al Makassed hospital in East Jerusalem. UNICEF delivered COVID-19 testing kits to MoH in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, that will serve around 90,000 suspected patients of COVID-19.

Next steps: UNICEF will provide further medical supplies over the coming months, including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Intensive Care Unit (ICU) medical equipment, Infection Prevention and Control (IPCs), and drugs as well as additional COVID-19 diagnostic kits.

Education and Adolescents Engagement

Immediate Response: On 13 July, UNICEF launched summer activities in the Gaza Strip providing access to learning and recreational programmes for 55,000 vulnerable children and adolescents. These activities engage children during the summer break (July – August) in structured child-friendly activities that mitigate learning losses and help overcome mental health distress and trauma. Case management referral pathways are in place. Beneficiaries include 20,000 children aged three to nine, and 35,000 adolescents aged ten to eighteen from vulnerable communities, and disadvantaged households in the Gaza Strip.

Additionally, partners began a staggered series of training sessions targeting 3,000 personnel, volunteers, and teachers to support children and adolescents over the summer break with recreational activities.

In the same week, UNICEF has started the emergency rehabilitation of the first batch of 20 schools. In total UNICEF has committed to repair 46 schools hosting 46,241 children (54 per cent girls) that will contribute to children going back to school in mid-August. UNICEF has procured learning materials to support 60,000 students and these will be distributed to children to support the Back-to-School Campaign in mid-August. In collaboration with local partners and the Ministry of Education (MoE), UNICEF will train 13,000 teachers to provide psychological first aid.

The Education Cluster finalised the report on the damage of education facilities during the recent escalation in May in the Gaza Strip. The cluster assessment was released to partners at the beginning of July and fed into the RDNA.

Next steps: UNICEF will start the procurement process of the second phase of the schools' rehabilitation projects, targeting heavily damaged schools. UNICEF is also finalising the implementation of summer activities and drawing up lessons learned to improve response capacities for similar activities in the future. In collaboration with the MoE and other partners, UNICEF is completing the Back-to-School strategy.

Social Protection

To support the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) to make the Social Protection component of the RDNA operational, UNICEF designed a Child Sensitive Social Protection Response for Gaza. The plan targets 9,000 children and youth (0 –18 years) members of poor and vulnerable households affected by the recent crisis with monthly cash grants. UNICEF will also work with the MoSD to develop a national Shock Responsive Social Protection policy alongside the delivery of the cash grant to make the national cash transfer more shock responsive in the longer-term.

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's programmes are fully aligned with inter-agency programming for the immediate humanitarian response, recovery, and reconstruction following the recent escalation.

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 30 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, US\$98,040 from UNICEF Malaysia to

support cross-sectoral activities, US\$173,000 from the Government of Iceland, EUR€500,000 from the Government of Ireland and CAD\$750,000 from the Government of Canada. 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 from the Humanitarian Pooled Fund and other mechanisms. Several donors have indicated additional pledges based on the Inter-Agency Flash Appeal including US\$800,000 from the Education Cannot Wait (ECW) programme. 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 Education Cannot Wait for their vital support to children in the State of Palestine.

Funding Requirements²

Sector	SoP - Escalation 2021 Funding Requirements				
	Total Requirements	Received	Reprogrammed	Balance	Gaps
Health and Nutrition	\$2,393,269	\$279,191	\$429,732	\$1,684,346	70%
WASH	\$2,880,000	\$1,428,171	\$0	\$1,451,829	50%
Child Protection/ PSEA	\$668,000	\$157,954	\$0	\$510,046	76%
Education	\$1,880,000	\$1,298,713	\$157,000	\$424,287	23%
Social Protection/ AAP	\$1,868,240	\$32,400	\$0	\$1,835,840	98%
C4D/ RCCE	\$250,000	\$11,936	\$50,000	\$188,064	75%
Cluster Coordination	\$251,470	\$0	\$0	\$251,470	100%
Operational Support	\$1,085,646	\$700,714	\$0	\$384,932	35%
TOTAL	\$11,276,625	\$3,909,079	\$636,732	\$6,730,814	60%

All amounts include weighted the indirect cost.

Advocacy, Human Interest Stories and External Media

Addressing the most pressing concerns for children, UNICEF is calling for the delivery of immediate humanitarian assistance to all people in need, particularly in the Gaza Strip, this is essential to accelerate the unfettered and unimpeded restoration of critical services for families and children. Requests for authorisation of delivery are accumulating and delays have already surpassed the average time observed pre-escalation. All of this is having an impact on children and the efficiency of donor assistance. Assistance must get to those who need it most immediately, 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. All the administrative restrictions that constrain the delivery of the humanitarian assistance to the

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

Gaza Strip must be lifted. Above all else, 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 13 July: Links to summer activities in the Gaza Strip

<https://twitter.com/UNICEFpalestine/status/1415391681256566788>

<https://twitter.com/UNICEFpalestine/status/1415365968323399684>

<https://twitter.com/LynnHastings/status/1415549744986923008>



UNICEF supported summer activities, with an aim to engage 55,000 children and adolescents in the Gaza Strip.



UNICEF summer activities in the Gaza Strip to boost children and adolescents' mental, emotional and physical well-being



UNICEF summer activities in the Gaza Strip to boost children and adolescents' mental, emotional and physical well-being



UNICEF team engaging with children during summer activities in the Gaza Strip

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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	800,000	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	2,764
# of children and adults benefited from mine Risk Education/ UXO Awareness	2,300	3,067
Health and Nutrition		
# of people benefited from essential medical supplies, drugs and consumables (Gaza)	265,280	217,000
# of people benefited from the procurement of essential medical supplies, drugs and consumables (East Jerusalem)	74,280	67,080
# 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	55,000	17,500
# of children benefited from psychosocial support (remote or face to face)	55,000	17,500

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 28, 2021

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