



UNICEF staff supervising the delivery of COVID-19 vaccines to the Ministry of Health warehouse 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. 6

unicef 
for every child

Reporting Period: 16 June - 28 June 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

- Tensions in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem continue. Between 7 May and 28 June six 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, one child was reported killed, 60 children were reported injured, and 137 children were reported arrested.
- There remain approximately 8,400 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Gaza Strip, including in two UNRWA schools. Those displaced are primarily people whose houses were destroyed or rendered uninhabitable. According to local authorities, an estimated 15,130 housing units sustained some damage.
- In spite of stringent restrictions on the delivery of materials and goods into Gaza, UNICEF and partners ensured access to safe water to 415,000 people in the Gaza Strip maintaining the desalination plants, supporting water pumping stations and delivering water treatment chemicals sufficient for two to three months, including through the use of pre-positioned supply. UNICEF also provided e-vouchers for 29,084 vulnerable people (50 per cent children) in the Gaza Strip, to purchase essential hygiene items. The Kerem Shalom crossing into the Gaza Strip is only open for the entry of specific essential items, limited humanitarian commodities such as medical supplies and fuel for the private sector and UNRWA. All other imports are not allowed to enter, constraining the humanitarian response, as the availability of local material has significantly decreased in the Gaza Strip.
- In collaboration with local implementing partners, UNICEF provided 1,345 children in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip with Child Protection and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services and is working towards an expansion of coverage through multi partner and multi-sectoral interventions to cover the considerable unmet needs.
- Under the leadership of UNICEF, the WASH and the Education sectors conducted Rapid Needs Assessments. The results depict the extent of the damage and urgent humanitarian needs that will require immediate and mid- to longer-term solutions. The findings of those assessments will be incorporated in the Rapid Damage Needs Assessment report to be published in the coming weeks jointly by the World Bank, EU, and the UN.
- 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\$7.5 million remains a gap as of 28 June 2021.

KEY FIGURES*



1.3 million people in need of WASH services



691,000 children in need of psychosocial support



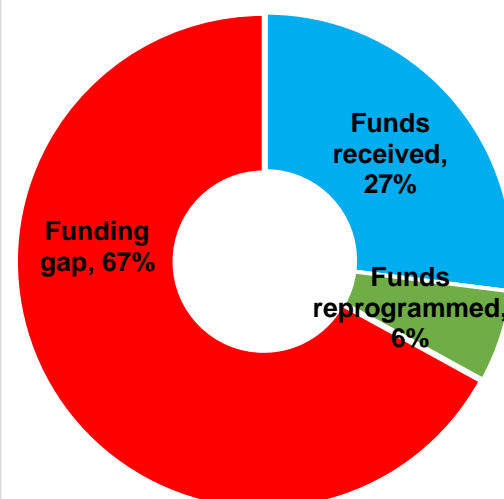
613,000 children in need of Education in Emergency assistance



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

The tensions in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip continue. Over the 7 May - 28 June period, a cumulative record of six 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, one child was reported killed, 60 children were reported injured, and 137 children were reported arrested.

29 Palestinian families (including 37 children) continue to face the threat of forced eviction from their homes in Karm Al Jaouni area of Sheikh Jarrah, due to court cases initiated by Israeli settler organizations.

There remain approximately 8,400 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in two UNRWA schools in the Gaza Strip. Those displaced are primarily people whose houses were destroyed or rendered uninhabitable. According to local authorities, an estimated 15,130 housing units sustained some damage.

The water and wastewater systems in the Gaza Strip have been badly damaged by the escalation of hostilities in May. The provision of domestic water supply to the residents decreased by 50 per cent due to damage and stoppage to the water supply from several underground wells and desalination plants, water supply mains, drinking water networks, and pumping stations. Furthermore, the wastewater infrastructure was severely affected, where most of the treatment plants and pumping stations were disrupted. Wastewater facilities including a pumping station, main carrier pipelines and the wastewater network sustained collateral damage during strikes on roads or other targets, or because of disruptions to power supply facilities. The WASH sector assessment concluded in June 2021 identified that almost 170 water facilities, almost 110 wastewater facilities, at least 10 stormwater facilities and three other facilities (administrative buildings, warehouses, etc) were damaged¹. A total of 290 WASH facilities will require maintenance, rehabilitation, and upgrades.

An estimated 613 thousand children need an education in emergency response. Quality education continues to remain a major concern for multiple reasons. Due to COVID-19, schools in the Gaza Strip had been closed since 8 April and education was provided through distance learning modalities. During the escalation and after the ceasefire, all schools remained closed in Gaza. The Ministry of Education announced the end of the academic year on 3 June and latterly UNRWA on 10 June. The preliminary results of the Education Sector Assessment conducted in June 2021 indicate that 154 public and private schools, sustained some degree of damage during the escalation. Moreover, three Ministry of Education directorate buildings reported minor damage. As for UNRWA, 38 schools and three training centres were also collaterally impacted. Another 63 UNRWA schools were used as designated emergency shelters during the escalation to host IDPs and were partially damaged and in need of minor rehabilitation. In addition, 80 kindergartens were also assessed and reported damage due to the escalation.

UNICEF independently verified the findings of the damage assessment carried out by the Ministry of Health (MoH). The assessment verified 33 health facilities damaged during the last hostilities in the Gaza Strip.

Health coordination and referrals from the Gaza Strip remains a concern, with lengthy exit authorization processes for those injured, including children. The Erez Crossing has remained closed for most Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, except for urgent medical referrals, including cancer patients. In June, some 43 per cent of referrals for patients to exit the Gaza Strip to Israel or the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, were approved, compared to 13 per cent in May.

The Kerem Shalom crossing into the Gaza Strip is only open for the entry of specific essential items, limited humanitarian commodities such as medical supplies and fuel for the private sector and UNRWA. All other imports are not allowed to enter, constraining the humanitarian response. Humanitarian access for supplies into the Gaza Strip also remains a concern, with local material availability significantly decreased in the Gaza Strip. There is an urgent need to import some materials, especially for WASH and other reconstruction projects that were significantly impacted by the recent hostilities. The lengthy importation process for supplies into the Gaza Strip posing a challenge to the delivery of timely humanitarian assistance, as in some instances it takes up to 60 days to get authorization to deliver materials. An additional challenge is the continued ban on the entry of "dual use" materials into the Gaza Strip, which constrains the transfer of goods critical to the functioning of basic services for children. This affects the operation and maintenance of vital water and sanitation facilities and infrastructure as well as the Gaza Strip's only power plant.

¹ More information on the outcomes of the WASH sector assessment is available be at <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Gaza%20WASH%20sector%20damage%20assessment.pdf>

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 projects in the Gaza Strip.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Immediate Response: Since the ceasefire UNICEF and partners ensured access to safe water to 415,000 people in the Gaza Strip by maintaining the desalination plants, supporting water pumping stations and delivering water treatment chemicals sufficient for two to three months. With the restoration of electricity to key water and wastewater infrastructure, UNICEF and partners started to extend the scope of its activities by undertaking more substantive repairs and rehabilitation. UNICEF has launched the procurement of pipe repair materials and is contracting a service provider to repair key sections of piped networks in seven locations around the Gaza Strip.

Starting 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. 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, carried out a systematic field assessment of damage to water supply, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure. WASH Cluster partner staff were mobilized to document the severity of damage, previous and current operating capacities, needed repairs and equipment replacement, the service area, and population served. This field work was followed by validation of the findings by partners, leading to agreement on the calculated damage, losses, and needs. The WASH Cluster has finalized the assessment and data collection on 290 damaged WASH facilities.

Next Steps: Based on the WASH damage assessment conducted by the WASH Cluster, 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 sites. A Bill of Quantities (BOQ) for each intervention combined with a local market survey yielded estimated reconstruction costs. 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 implementing partner provided 92 people (17 boys, 18 girls, 24 women, and 33 men) affected by conflict-related incidents with psychosocial services, including psychological first aid services. In addition, 15 children (six boys and nine girls) have been involved in structured psychosocial group in Hebron. These group programmes include expressive and creative activities, sports, games, which take place in the community-based child friendly spaces.

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 organization 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: The child protection and psychosocial interventions above will continue during the next reporting period. Towards MHPSS scale up a strategic approach was adopted that includes a wide range of multisectoral interventions- including in education, health, and community and adolescents engagement-beyond child protection- in complementarity to UNRWA's interventions to respond to largely unmet needs across the three tiers of UNICEF's focus of intervention in MHPSS- Family and community support (total

children in need: approx. 691,000), Focused, non specialized support (total children in need: approx.. 103,000 children), and Specialized services (total children in need: approx. 11,000 children)

Health and Nutrition

Immediate Response: UNICEF continues to support the Ministry of Health (MoH) to provide immediate primary health care through follow up on the pre-positioned supplies deployed immediately following the escalation in the Gaza Strip. UNICEF supported the MoH to develop a reconstruction and recovery action plan for 11 health facilities (seven primary health centres and four hospitals) to improve quality of health care services and to create more resilient communities including an effective health system. The total estimated number of people targeted from these 11 facilities is over 500,000 including women and children.

Next steps: UNICEF will address access to quality, gender-sensitive, and responsive maternal, new-born and child health and nutrition care services for the most vulnerable women and children at hospitals and primary health care centres in the Gaza Strip. As part of its commitment to ensure the provision of quality health care services to women and children and to reduce the risk of any future emergency and conflict, UNICEF is mobilizing resources to commence reconstruction and revitalization of four conflict-damaged health facilities: Al Zaitoon, Hala Shawwa, Al Remal; Hospital: Al Shifa hospital) in 2021. If funding is available, reconstruction of additional seven health facilities will start in early 2022.

Education and Adolescents Engagement

Immediate Response: As co-chair for the Education in Emergencies thematic working group (EiE TWG), UNICEF continued to support the Ministry of Education (MoE) to coordinate with partners on the development of the *Back to School* strategy based on the identified priorities of the Ministry of Education. The 1,000 adolescent volunteers that were mobilized in partnership with a local partner continue to work with the community leaders to rebuild their communities after the conflict in the Gaza Strip. 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 Authority operated schools to contribute to the Rapid Damage Needs Assessment (RDNA). UNICEF plans to immediately rehabilitate 46 out of the 141 public schools damaged.

Next steps: UNICEF’s continued response will focus on: i) provision of learning materials to 60,000 students affected by emergencies; ii) support learning and recreational programmes to keep 55,000 children engaged, mitigate learning loss and address Mental Health and Psychosocial Support needs to improve the wellbeing of children during the summer break in July and August – this will commence after the end of the national Grade 12 examinations; iii) the education partners will use the results of the RDNA to plan the coordinated restoration of education services in the Gaza Strip in advance of the new school year in September; iv) Support the rehabilitation and building back better for 46 schools benefitting 46,241 children (25,385 girls); and v) 13,000 teachers in Gaza will be trained on how to provide psychological first aid.

Social Protection

Immediate Response: UNICEF worked 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. The support to most vulnerable families will include 18-months of support to conflict-affected children to support their families to recover and reduce the risk of any negative coping mechanisms. The RDNA Social Protection package also includes MHPSS support to most affected children to help them recover from the psychological impact of the conflict.

Next steps: To support the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) to make the Social Protection component of the RDNA operational UNICEF has 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. The UNICEF funding requirement remains subject to revision based upon the ongoing Rapid Damage Needs Assessment.

As of 29 June 2021, UNICEF has received a total of US\$ 3.1 million from the Government of Norway, CERF UNOCHA and UNICEF Global Thematic (Malaysia) and the government of Ireland. 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. UNICEF has a funding gap of US\$7.5 million as of 28 June 2021. The Country Office also 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 through 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, US\$173,000 from the Government of Iceland, as well as US\$800,000 from 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 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	\$108,000	\$429,732	\$1,855,537	78%
WASH	\$2,880,000	\$1,079,708	\$0	\$1,800,292	63%
Child Protection/ PSEA	\$668,000	\$157,954	\$0	\$510,046	76%
Education	\$1,880,000	\$1,201,513	\$157,000	\$521,487	28%
Social Protection/ AAP	\$1,868,240	\$0	\$0	\$1,868,240	100%
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	\$557,916	\$0	\$527,730	49%
TOTAL	\$11,276,625	\$3,117,027	\$636,732	\$7,522,866	67%

All amounts include the indirect costs.

Advocacy, Human Interest Stories and External Media

Addressing the most pressing concern, UNICEF is calling for the unfettered and unimpeded delivery of goods and materials and entry by technical experts to the Gaza Strip, as they are essential to accelerate the restoration of critical services for families and children (water, schools for instance). Requests for authorisation of delivery are accumulating and delays have already surpassed the average time observed pre-escalation- all of this 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 also calls on

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

all parties to ensure that children are always protected from violence, in all its forms, and that all of those held are 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 16 June: Link to a testimony of a mother who lives in the Gaza Strip on the impact of the last escalation on the mental health of children:

<https://twitter.com/UNICEFpalestine/status/1405046792417382400>

On 24 June: link to a video on the impact of the last escalation on the lives of children in the Gaza Strip:

<https://twitter.com/UNICEFpalestine/status/1408034398956658688>

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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	1,344
# 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)	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 28, 2021

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