




State of Palestine

Humanitarian Situation Report



January – March 2017

Highlights

In 2017, as the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) enters its 50th year of occupation, humanitarian needs remain high. Tensions continue in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, and Gaza continues to experience restrictions and deprivations stemming from the blockade imposed on it since 2007.

During the first quarter of 2017, a total of 136 children were detained and/or arrested in East Jerusalem, including 4 children below the age of 12 (age of criminal responsibility). Out of these 136 children, UNICEF provided 113 children (83 %) and their families with legal aid services through Mada Creative Center in East Jerusalem.

UNICEF, in collaboration with GVC, distributed tankered water to the most vulnerable communities of Ar Ramadeen, Masafer Bani Naim, Khalet Al Mayya, Al Karmel, Yatta, Tubas and Jericho through a coupon system to benefit 7,500 people in 2017.

In Gaza, UNICEF in coordination with the Ministry of Health and the Near East Council of Churches reached 1,175 mothers and their newborn babies with post-natal home visiting services, exceeding its target in the first quarter. Additionally, 510 at-risk newborn babies benefited from quality life-saving and effective interventions.

In education, protective presence needs continue to be high. In the first half of 2016 alone, education-related grave violations nearly doubled since 2015: there were 127 education-related violations in Palestine, affecting 14,751 children. UNICEF continues to facilitate access to education in high-risk locations in the West Bank, particularly in Area C by providing protective presence in partnership with the international NGO Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine.

UNICEF SoP’s humanitarian response requirements for 2017 amount to US\$ 24.5 million. UNICEF’s funding gap stands at US\$ 17.2 million, which if not met will jeopardise UNICEF’s ability to meet the needs of up to 221,296 targeted children with essential emergency services.

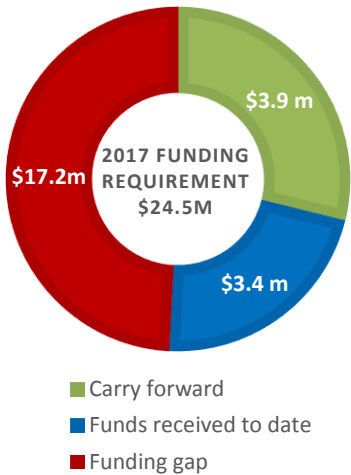
13 April 2017

911,000
of children affected out of
2,300,000
of people affected
(UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children 2017)

221,396
of children targeted out of
327,483
of people targeted
(UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children 2017)

UNICEF Appeal 2017*
US\$ 24.5 million

Funding Status 2017



**funds available includes funding received for the current appeal year as well as the carry-forward from the previous year.*

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

In 2017, as the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) enters its 50th year of occupation, humanitarian needs remain high. Tensions continue in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, and Gaza continues to experience restrictions and deprivations stemming from the blockade imposed on it since 2007. In addition, the three major escalations of hostilities in Gaza over the past six years have increased the vulnerability of the 1.9 million Palestinians living in the Strip. Seventy per cent of the population in Gaza has access to water for only a few hours, every two to four days, most of which is not potable. Power shortages continue, with most households receiving electricity for only six to eight hours per day. Such power shortages also hinder the delivery of essential services. Health care services in Gaza continue to struggle to meet the needs of the population, facing challenges including the lack of adequate stocks of lifesaving medicines and supplies.¹ In the West Bank around 35,000 people are estimated to be without water network connections in vulnerable communities in Area C. Accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law by all sides is an urgent priority. The challenges faced by human rights defenders monitoring protection issues are an emerging area of concern.

The economy has not been able to create enough jobs, resulting in unemployment rates reaching 27 per cent in 2016 (18 percent in the West Bank and 42 percent in Gaza).² The latter impacts on household poverty rates, causing children to slip deeper into poverty. For youth, the high unemployment rate and lack of opportunities remain a significant challenge throughout Palestine. The practice of demolitions and seizures of Palestinian property accelerated in the first month of 2017 with 140 structures destroyed or seized, more than 50 per cent higher than the monthly average in 2016.³ Such demolitions create significant numbers of children being displaced and exposed to vulnerabilities as a result.

According to the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan the humanitarian requirements total US\$ 547million, covering 243 projects to be implemented by 95 partners. It is worth noting that these requirements are 4 percent lower than the 2016 humanitarian requirements due primarily to a significant reduction in the shelter request for Gaza.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

UNICEF, as part of the UN Country Team, coordinates with the Palestinian Government to support its role in humanitarian response, early recovery and reconstruction. UNICEF leads the WASH cluster in close cooperation with the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA), and co-leads the Education Cluster with Save the Children in Gaza. At the national level, the Education Cluster has transitioned to a sector working group on Education in Emergencies, co-chaired by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MOEHE) and UNICEF, responsible for coordinating emergency response. UNICEF is also leading Cluster transitioning in WASH, through capacity building towards increased Government ownership, with the PWA playing an increasingly important role.

UNICEF also leads the Child Protection Working Group and affiliated groups on Mental Health and Psychosocial Services (MHPSS), and on Monitoring and Reporting of Grave Violations against children (Children and Armed Conflict reporting mechanism). UNICEF co-leads the Nutrition Working Group under the Health Cluster in Gaza and at the national level, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Health and WHO.

Humanitarian Strategy

UNICEF promotes 'resilient development', in ways that is responsive to children and families' needs to be better prepared for and manage crises, and recover from them more rapidly. This requires addressing the underlying drivers of inequity and fragility that cause grave violations, social deprivation and stresses. It also entails bridging the arbitrary divide between development and humanitarian assistance, integrating risk factors into programming, and strengthening systems that can anticipate as well as absorb shocks in the event of conflict, violence or disasters.

¹ UNOCHA Humanitarian Response Plan 2017, https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/humanitarian_response_plan_2017.pdf

² World Bank Ad Hoc Liaison Report, Sept 2016. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/474311473682340785/pdf/108205-V2-WP-PUBLIC-SEPT-14-2PM-September-2016-AHLC-World-Bank-Report.pdf>

³ UNOCHA Article. Monthly overview 2017. <https://www.ochaopt.org/publications/articles>

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In Palestine, UNICEF ensures complementarity with national efforts in the most vulnerable communities. UNICEF provides technical expertise and support in strengthening child protection systems and services, including case management and referrals. It monitors and reports on grave violations against children, thus informs evidence-based advocacy for improved protection of children, as well as programming. Children crossing checkpoints in the West Bank are protected to ensure safer access to schools. Children affected by conflict benefit from education supplies and remedial learning. Adolescents engage in learning and recreational programmes, to become agents of positive change in communities. UNICEF also supports the rehabilitation of water and sewage systems in affected communities in Gaza and the West Bank. In addition, UNICEF promotes early childhood development, and supports the provision of essential and life-saving paediatric medicines and medical consumables, including micronutrient supplementation and infant and young child feeding for children and women.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

In Gaza, UNICEF with its partners, improved basic WASH conditions through repairs to water networks by connecting 112 households (1,350 people) to the existing municipal sewage system, and through the distribution of subsidized drinking water (1,698 m3), benefitting 604 households (3,624 people: 1,776 women and 1,848 men). A further 3,408 people were provided with water storage tanks/ cisterns for drinking and domestic use.

UNICEF in cooperation with its partner MA'AN, completed the rehabilitation of the main transmission water pipeline line in the Hebron directorate localities of Um al Kher, Najada, Khashem Al Kareem, and Dkaika, benefitting 267 families. Another 15 families (75 people) benefited from the rehabilitation of household water cisterns by end of February.

Among the many challenges faced in the WASH sector, those that stand out are: delays in the entry into Gaza of material for repair work and rehabilitation; the limited resources compared to the immense needs; the lack of knowledge related to women's rights, especially in rural areas; and a lack of a networking platform among women CBOs.



Water tankering in the West Bank's most vulnerable communities. - UNICEF SoP / Ahded Izhiman

Child Protection



Children turning cans into musical instruments for a scout show at the Deir Al Balah Family Center in Gaza - *Tamer*
Photo Credit: EAPPI, 2016.

In Gaza, the 28 Ma'an and Tamer/ PCDCR Family Centres supported by UNICEF reached 799 children (out of the overall 27,020 reached by the cluster) with structured psychosocial support (both group and individual counselling). 471 received child protection services in the form of life skills and child/parent interaction programs, while an additional 524 vulnerable children received case management services. Awareness raising sessions for caregivers on the protection of their children and positive discipline reached 1,452 caregivers. Furthermore, awareness raising sessions on ERW were delivered to 661 children out of the overall 6,583 reached by the cluster through family centers.

In the West Bank, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) and the Palestinian Counselling Center, 30 child protection counsellors received trainings and mentoring on the case management of children in need of protection. A total of 19 child protection counsellors received 8 group supervision sessions on the rehabilitation of children

victims of violence and abuse in their families. A 2-day stress management workshop was conducted for 30 counsellors using expressive arts for releasing the stress of participants. The procedural manual for children of unknown descendants was finalized and endorsed by the MoSD, enabling the Palestinian Counselling Center accompanied by Child protection Counsellors to arrange the first fostering arrangements for two children.

The main challenge is the limited financial resources to sustain child protection services in the oPt, coupled with the volatile political situation in Gaza and West Bank, which threatens to increase the need of children for psychosocial support and child protection services.

Education and Adolescents

UNICEF facilitated access to education in high-risk locations in the West Bank, particularly in Area C by providing protective presence in partnership with the international NGO Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine (EAPPI) to 3,634 children and 376 teachers on their commute to and from schools. The initiative is aimed at protecting school children on their way to school from serious harassment and obstacles which can negatively impact their access to education.

Furthermore, during the reporting period, UNICEF provided technical support to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) in the development of the first-ever national emergency contingency plan for the education sector, covering both the West Bank and Gaza. The support included technical guidance, facilitation of training, and the development of capacity building materials; a draft plan is expected to be ready by mid-May.

The primary challenge in 2017 has been the funding deficit, which could negatively affect the implementation of planned activities, such as material support to the most vulnerable children and life-skills trainings for adolescent girls and boys and support to develop community initiatives. Only 14 per cent of 4.2 million, the total education and adolescents HRP asked, has been received.

Progress towards the cluster objectives has been limited due to the lack of funds for the humanitarian education response. More specifically, only three education projects included in the 2017 HRP have received funding to date.

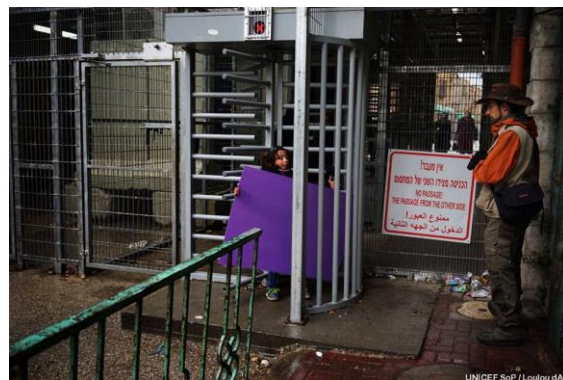
Child Health & Nutrition

UNICEF continued to provide emergency health care supplies, including neonatal lifesaving equipment to the Ministry of Health and its partner, NECC, in Gaza. In the reporting period, at the National level a total of 27,300 children and pregnant women (two thirds were children) in vulnerable communities benefited from emergency health care supplies, which included micronutrient supplementation.

A total of 1,297 women attended 76 awareness sessions on breastfeeding promotion and nutrition education on complementary feeding in both primary health facilities and hospitals in Gaza.

In support to the MoH, UNICEF and its partner Juzoor completed two basic life support training sessions, (BLS) reaching a total of 42 nurses and doctors. Additionally, and for the first time in the country, a Paediatric Emergency Assessment, Recognition, and Stabilization (PEARS) Course was introduced to health professionals, reaching a total of 37 doctors and nurses from vulnerable communities in the West Bank (Ramallah, Beir Nabala, Jerusalem, Beitunia, Jericho, Hizma, and Salfeet, Al Thahiriyyeh, Beit Sahour, Beit Jala, Doura, Halhul, Hebron, Yatta, and Bethlehem).

The deficits in the availability of reconstruction materials and assets in Gaza, due to the blockade and introduction of the dual use list, is a major constraint and is causing delays in the reconstruction of the Neonatal Intensive care units. Another major challenge in addressing the humanitarian needs of most vulnerable families with children is the decreasing funding of the Health sector due to the competing priorities in the region.



EAPPI volunteer monitoring children's access to school in Hebron's Old City. - UNICEF SoP / Loulou d'Aki



A two-day PEARs training in Bethlehem. UNICEF SoP / Ahed Izhiman

Communications for Development (C4D)

UNICEF, in partnership with the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility, finalized the implementation of a campaign supporting the launch of the EU-funded, USD \$10 million seawater desalination plant in the Gaza Strip. Social workers who had been specifically trained visited beneficiaries at home, while pre-tested materials were distributed or broadcasted (e.g. billboards, leaflets, messages on the back of electricity bills, video, radio show) and media briefed. The campaign will briefly resume when the water from the plant reaches additional families. The C4D Regional Adviser came on mission to the SoP to support the integration of C4D in the next APD, and the development of the implementation plan of the cross-sectoral C4D strategy (focus on ECD-ECE and on VAC). A C4D consultant was recruited to help kick-start the implementation of the strategy.



A social worker at a family home in Gaza.
UNICEF SoP / Eyad El Baba

Supply and Logistics

As part of the emergency preparedness, UNICEF procured 13,292 stationery kits for primary school pupils as well as 100 adolescent kits that were received into the inventory for pre-positioning. Furthermore, six water tankering trucks for humanitarian assistance that were not able to get into Gaza in the last reporting period due to coordination delays at Erez border crossing finally entered into Gaza. They were handed over to the appropriate WASH implementing partners. Additionally, the supply and logistics’ unit emergency preparedness plan was updated in this reporting period.

Media and External Communication

The advocacy strategy and the advocacy sub-strategy for the Gaza Strip were shared with the Regional office for finalization. Advocacy initiatives focused on access to safe drinking water (including the opening of the USD \$10 million seawater desalination plant in Gaza in presence of the European Commission’s Director for South Neighbourhood, and World Water Day); access to education and education-related violations (in particular the “protective presence” which helps students reach schools safely past checkpoints); adolescent engagement (initiative on non-violence); ECD (launch of the global campaign) and children with disabilities.



World Water Day in Gaza City.
UNICEF SoP / Eyad El Baba

The ‘Gaza Young Reporters’ webpage was launched; it started featuring content produced with / by 110 girls and boys enrolled in 11 UNICEF social media clubs in schools across the Gaza Strip, as part of a UNICEF campaign highlighting children’s rights and humanitarian needs in Gaza.

Gaza Young Reporters.
UNICEF SoP / Eyad El Baba



Security

During the reporting period the security level remained low in Jerusalem and Israel, moderate in the West Bank and substantial in Gaza. Nationalistic violence by Palestinian and Israeli civilians continued; there were 277 clashes between Palestinian and Israeli security forces (ISF) resulting in the death of five Palestinians and 2 Israelis with injuries of 177 Palestinians and 14 ISF personnel. Isolated nationalistic attacks included eight cases of stabbing, 10 of vehicular attacks, 22 of armed attacks (fire arms or explosive throwing), 70 of Molotov cocktail throwing and a large number of stone throwing, causing deaths of four ISF personnel and eight Palestinians (mainly reported attackers) and injuries to 71 Israelis (including 32 ISF personnel) and 27 Palestinians (including 13 reported attackers) in Jerusalem and the West Bank during the first quarter 2017.

Furthermore, localized less intense military hostilities increased, as Palestinian militants in Gaza fired 10 rockets at Israel, of which five impacted in Israel. Palestinian militants also shot at ISF patrols in five cases. IDF responded by conducting a total of 18 air strikes and 11 tank or artillery shelling in Gaza. Two Palestinians were killed as results of IDF actions in Gaza.

Violence among Palestinians remained a concern, with 13 cases of clashes between Palestinians and Palestinian security forces (PSF) in the West Bank, including exchange of fire in three cases in usual hotspots of Nablus city/Balata Refugee Camp and Jenin City/Jenin Refugee Camp.

Funding as of 10 April 2017

Appeal Sector	SoP - UNICEF HAC 2017 Funding Requirements			
	Requirements (USD)	Funds Available * (USD)	Funding Gap	
			USD	%
WASH	12,913,574	2,783,206	10,130,368	78%
Education	3,985,578	1,656,510	2,329,068	58%
Child Protection	3,987,067	915,816	3,071,251	77%
Health and Nutrition	2,804,490	1,689,922	1,114,568	40%
Cluster Coordination	855,198	271,205	583,993	68%
Sub-Total	24,545,907	7,316,659	17,229,248	70%

**Funds available includes funding received for the current appeal year as well as the carry-forward from the previous year.*

Next SitRep: 15/07/2017

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 2016: http://www.unicef.org/appeals/state_of_palestine.html

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SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS MARCH 2017

		Cluster Response			UNICEF Response		
	Overall needs ⁴	2017 Target	Total Results	Change ⁵ since last report ▲ ▼	2017 Target	Total Results	Change since last report ▲ ▼
WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE	1,461,800						
# of people in humanitarian situation benefited from improved access to water	535,000	209,000	25,682	25,682	85,644	15,942	15,942
# of people in humanitarian situation benefited from improved access to sanitation services	215,000	121,000	27,342	27,342	20,486	1,350	1,350
# of people attending sessions on positive hygiene behaviors	1,240,000	163,000	18,169	18,169	23,147	0	0
# of students and teachers with access to improved WASH facilities in schools	106,000	25,431	0	0	25,431	0	0
CHILD PROTECTION	543,160						
# of children benefiting from structured child protection interventions including life skills programs	284,869	170,000	27,020	27,020	53,696	1,794	1,794
# of women and men who receive information on their rights and access legal services.	3,989	1,500	113	113	1,500	113	113
# of incidents of grave violations against children monitored and documented	2,500	2,467	1,305	1,305	2,467	1,305	1,305
# of people (children and caregivers) receive ERW risk education, including children	251,802	175,000	6,583	6,583	46,596	661	661
EDUCATION	521,569						
# of children benefited from provision of supplies and materials	472,319	292,852	0	0	40,000	0	0
# of children and teachers benefiting from protective presence / accompaniment to school	6,900	4,700	4,010	4,010	4,700	4,010	4,010
# of adolescents participating in life-skills building and community based activities	13,000	3,000	0	0	3,000	0	0
# of children in grades 3 to 6 benefitting from catch up classes	80,104	66,984	0	0	2,000	0	0
HEALTH and NUTRITION	998,443						
# of children and women benefiting from emergency health care services / supplies	998,443	535,443	27,300	27,300	95,000	27,300	27,300
# of vulnerable children and their mothers who benefit from targeted outreach health care interventions	998,443	535,443	1,175	1,175	1,000	1,175	1,175
# of children provided with life – saving neonatal care services	7,253	500	510	510	500	510	510

⁴ The overall need per sector is aligned to the needs reflected in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2017 published by UNOCHA and is not the sum of indicators under that section to avoid double counting.

⁵ The progress is same as the change, since the HPM data reflects the first reported figures for 2017,