

2018-2020

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE STRATEGY

JANUARY-DECEMBER 2018 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN

DEC 2017

OCCUPIED
PALESTINIAN
TERRITORY

A Palestinian woman fills a bucket with water in Halava Community in South Hebron Hills, October 23, 2017.
Photo: GVC, Fadi Aroui

TOTAL POPULATION

PEOPLE IN NEED

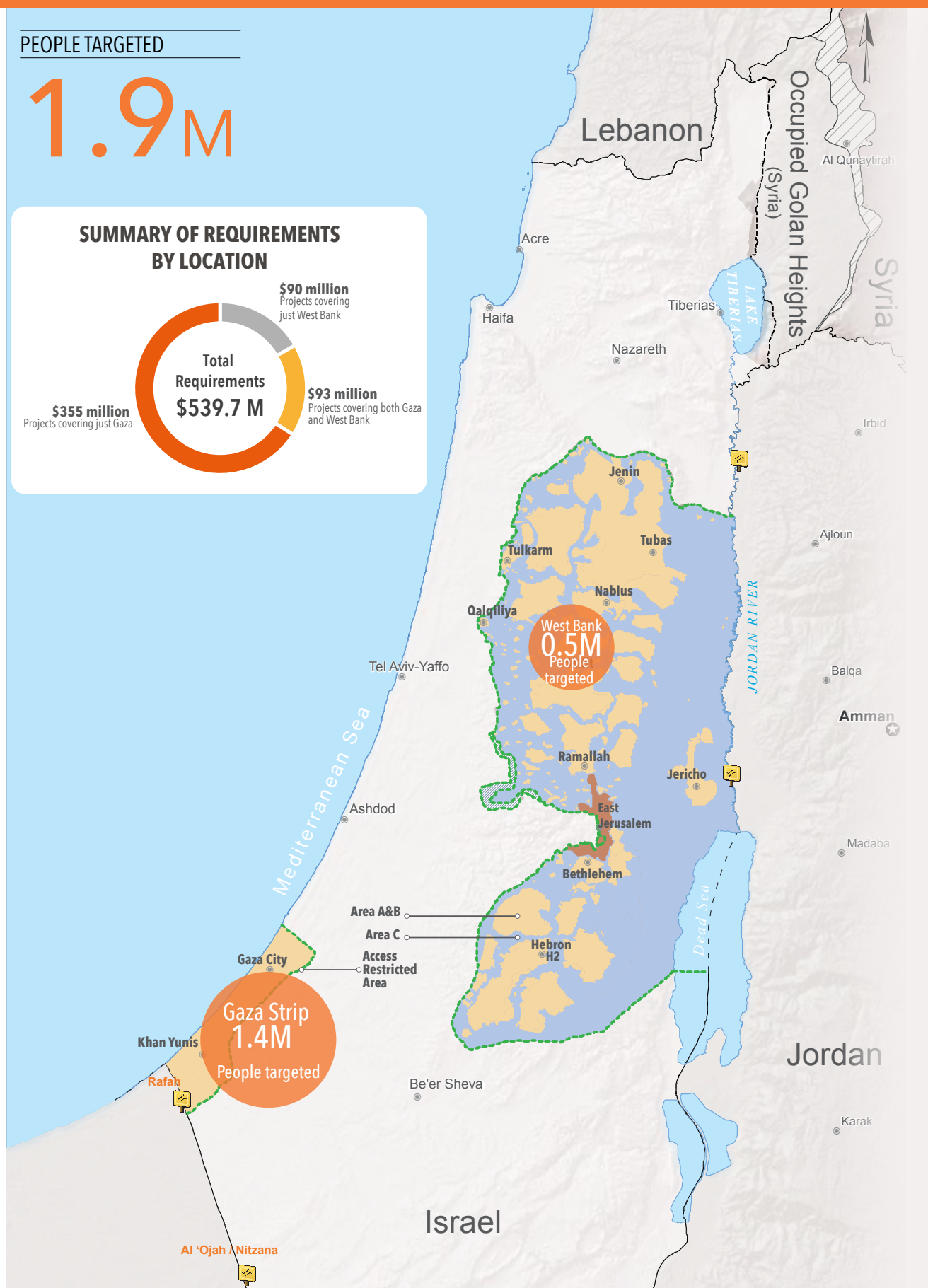
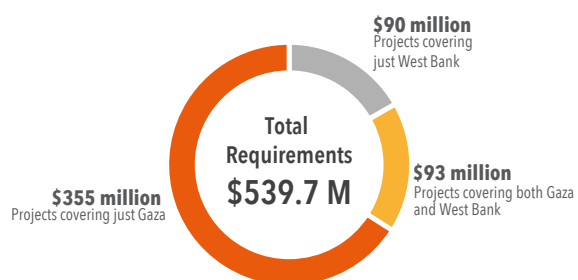
PEOPLE TARGETED

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

HUMANITARIAN
PARTNERS4.95_M2.5_M1.9_M539.7_M

99

PEOPLE TARGETED

1.9_MSUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS
BY LOCATION

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FOREWORD BY

THE HUMANITARIAN COORDINATOR

The humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) is among the world's most long-standing protection crises and remains largely attributable to Israel's ongoing occupation, which marked its 50th year in June 2017.

However conditions deteriorated in the Gaza Strip in 2017 as a consequence of the further deepening of the internal Palestinian political divide. Measures taken by the Palestinian Authority triggered a further deterioration in Gaza's chronic energy crisis, exacerbating an already-fragile humanitarian situation caused by 10 years of Israeli blockade and periodic escalations of hostilities. We remain concerned that living conditions in Gaza call into question the very 'livability' of Gaza by the year 2020. As this HRP goes to publication, tentative 'reconciliation' negotiations between the main Palestinian factions have been underway for several months generating great hope on the streets of Gaza that relief may come, but tangible changes in living conditions have yet to materialize.

In the West Bank, a coercive environment continued to grow around many Palestinian communities in Area C, East Jerusalem and the H2-part of Hebron city, generating ongoing risk of forcible transfers in the months ahead. Demolitions of residential and livelihood structures, restrictions on movement, limited access to natural resources and other deliberate policy measures, continued to maintain pressure on Palestinian households.

The primary focus of the humanitarian community in the oPt remains on protecting the rights of Palestinians living under occupation and to providing a principled humanitarian response, too-often as a consequence of violations of international humanitarian law or international human rights law. Ensuring access to basic services and building the resilience of increasingly vulnerable people, are other key components of our humanitarian strategy, aimed at mitigating the impact of this prolonged crisis on civilians across the oPt.

For the first time, this Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) offers a three-year rather than one-year humanitarian planning-horizon. In such a chronic environment, the switch to a medium-term time-frame is probably well overdue. Such a shift enables the humanitarian team to increase its ambition to go beyond short-term responses in a number of important ways. First, in identifying and then addressing the underlying drivers of vulnerability ourselves, or where necessary, encouraging other actors operating outside the scope of humanitarian assistance to do so, this HRP introduces a preventive-approach that seeks to systematically reduce humanitarian needs over the life of the plan. Second, in seeking linkages with development actors and/or the Palestinian Authority to reduce structural vulnerabilities in select sectors, this HRP aims to promote greater burden-sharing amongst the many ongoing efforts to support some of the most vulnerable households in the oPt. Third, in testing new ways of working and delivering aid, this HRP aims to deliver a 'smarter' humanitarian response that will help sustain our humanitarian effort in a chronic environment. Substantially increasing local actors' participation in implementation of this multi-year strategy is intrinsic to this goal.

We hope that our efforts to develop a well-rounded, inclusive, multi-year humanitarian strategy will be matched by multi-year donor engagements and investments. And that such support will be accompanied by the advancement of political and policy-based solutions to address the impact of the occupation and secure greater respect for international legal obligations, the violation of which lie at the heart of this protection crisis.

Robert Piper
Humanitarian Coordinator

THE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN

AT A GLANCE

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

The rights of Palestinians living under occupation, including those living under the blockade and other restrictions, are protected, respected and promoted in accordance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights Law (IHRL), while duty-bearers are increasingly held to account.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

The basic needs of vulnerable Palestinians living under occupation are met through the provision of quality basic services and improved access to resources, in accordance with the rights of protected persons under IHL.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

The capacity of vulnerable Palestinians to cope with and overcome protracted crisis, including from environmental threats, is supported, while solutions to violations and other root causes of threats and shocks are pursued.

PEOPLE IN NEED



2.5M

PEOPLE TARGETED



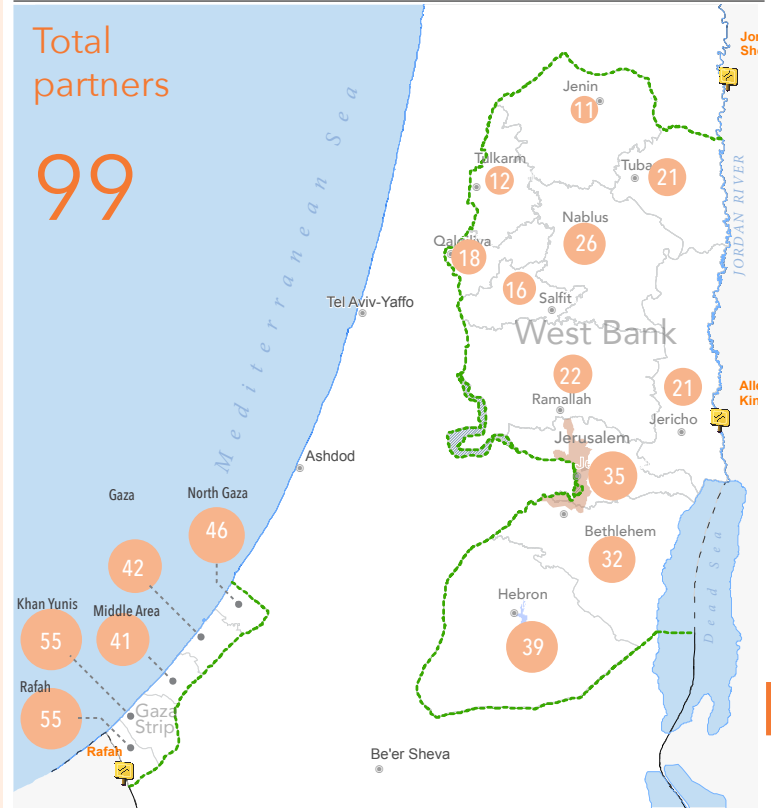
1.9M

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)



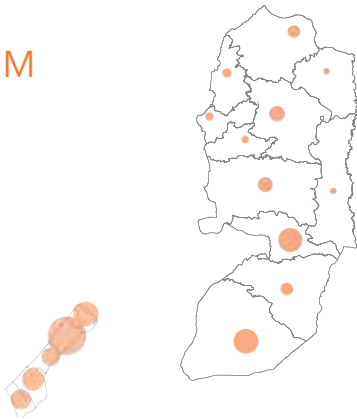
539.7M

OPERATIONAL PRESENCE: NUMBER OF PARTNERS



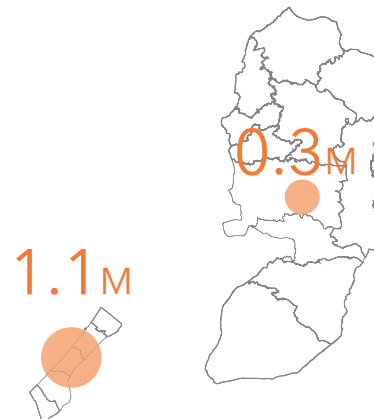
PEOPLE WHO NEED HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

2.5M



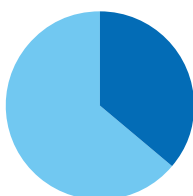
PALESTINE REFUGEES IN NEED

1.4M



FOOD-INSECURE PEOPLE

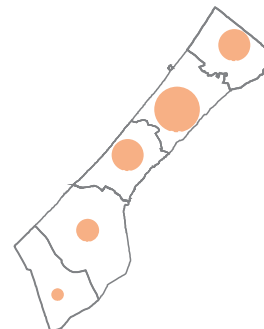
1.6M



■ West Bank
■ Gaza

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE

23.5K
(over 4,500 families)



OVERVIEW OF

THE CRISIS

The major drivers of humanitarian vulnerability in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) remain unchanged. The protracted occupation of the oPt, which marked its fiftieth year in June 2017, is accompanied by the systematic denial of Palestinian rights and continuing conflict. An estimated 2.5 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance throughout the oPt.

In the Gaza Strip, ten years of blockade, imposed by Israel after the violent takeover of Gaza by Hamas, and recurrent outbreaks of hostilities have eroded basic infrastructure, service delivery, livelihoods and coping mechanisms. An intra-Palestinian political divide between authorities in Ramallah and Gaza has exacerbated the dire humanitarian conditions in Gaza, with a deepening of the ten-year crisis in 2017, as measures affecting civil service allowances, electricity supply and medical payments were imposed by the Palestinian Authority (PA). While intra-Palestinian reconciliation discussions in late 2017 have accelerated and show promise, talks have yet to translate into any improvement in the humanitarian situation, at the time of publication.

In the West Bank, the prolonged occupation, continuing settlement expansion, and the destruction of homes and livelihoods, remain major sources of frustration and conflict, and have led to a heightened risk of forcible transfer for many Palestinians. A pervasive crisis of accountability continues, with no effective remedy for the vast majority of alleged violations of international law. In the context of the protracted oPt crisis, the drivers of vulnerability are linked to a stunted economy, fragmentation, and limited opportunities for growth and development across the oPt and, in the case of Gaza, causing de-development. Ultimately, the drivers of vulnerability have political root causes, which directly result in humanitarian needs and require engagement from actors outside humanitarian action to resolve.

GAZA STRIP

Although the August 2014 ceasefire between Israel and Palestinian armed groups continues to hold, the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip deteriorated significantly in the first part of 2017 due to an escalation in the internal Palestinian political divide. This was mainly felt in a further deterioration in Gaza's chronic electricity deficit,¹ with longer power outages severely impacting the manufacturing and agriculture sectors, undermining already depleted basic services and further reducing water supply and the operation of critical WASH facilities. Health services were also impeded by delays in the shipment of essential drugs and disposables from the PA Ministry of Health, and by the delay or suspension of payments for the referral of patients for medical treatment outside Gaza. Following Egyptian mediation, the two sides reached an agreement in Cairo in October 2017, which envisages the resumption of authority in Gaza by the Government of National Consensus. In late 2017, the PA regained control over the Gaza side of the crossing points and the transfer of responsibility at Gaza-based public institutions is proceeding.

Genuine intra-Palestinian reconciliation and a significant relaxation of current movement and access restrictions is needed to repair degraded infrastructure, restore essential services and revive economic life in Gaza. Power outages of 18 to 20 hours a day continue, most of the population has access to piped water for only three to five hours every five days and only the most critical health, water and sanitation facilities are functioning, thanks largely to a United Nations-facilitated, donor-funded emergency fuel distribution. Real GDP growth

in Gaza slowed to 0.4 per cent in the first quarter of 2017, while the unemployment rate for the second quarter rose to 44 per cent, and to 62 per cent among those aged between 15 and 29.² As of November 2017, approximately 23,500 people still remain displaced from the 2014 conflict, with a gap of over 3,800 of the 11,000 totally destroyed housing units still awaiting reconstruction due to lack of funds.

Conflict and the protracted humanitarian crisis have also resulted in high levels of psychosocial distress, particularly among children, and in gender-based violence (GBV) in all its forms. Although the number of Palestinians allowed to leave Gaza through the Israeli-controlled Erez crossing increased after the 2014 hostilities, the figures have declined significantly again since the second half of 2016, with the figure for November 2017 some 47 per cent below the 2016 average. In addition, while the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism (GRM) has played a key role in facilitating increased imports of construction materials, it has however been less successful in facilitating the import of dual use³ materials beyond cement and re-bar, also critical for public works projects. The scale of the challenges facing Gaza is underlined in a recent United Nations report which, updating some key indicators for Gaza in the year 2020, concluded "that most of the projections for 2020 have in fact deteriorated even further and faster than anticipated." The condition of the aquifer, Gaza's sole source of natural water, is of particular concern as it will be "unusable" by end-2017, with damage "irreversible" by 2020, "unless immediate remedial action is taken."⁴

WEST BANK

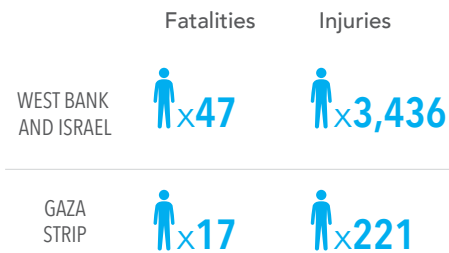
Violence in the West Bank continued, if at a reduced level compared to recent years, with a major escalation in July centering around the Haram Al Sharif/Temple Mount in East Jerusalem. As of end-November 2017, 46 Palestinians had been killed by Israeli forces and settlers in the West Bank, compared to 96 in all of 2016, in the context of attacks or alleged attacks, demonstrations and clashes. Of these, 23 were perpetrators or alleged perpetrators of attacks or attempted attacks against Israelis. During the same period, 15 Israelis, including four civilians, were killed by Palestinians. After a decline in recent years, incidents of settler attacks rose in 2017, with 155 incidents resulting in Palestinian casualties or in damage to Palestinian property as of end-October, compared to 107 in all of 2016; this increase coincides with a major rise in Palestinian attacks against Israelis during this period. Concerns persist regarding holding settlers accountable for such actions, and over possible excessive use of force and extra-judicial killings by Israeli forces in their response to Palestinian attacks or suspected attacks.

Overall, there has been a significant decline year-on-year in the number of demolitions and seizures of Palestinian structures in Area C (265) to end-November 2017, compared to all of 2016 (876).⁵ However, obtaining construction permits remains nearly impossible as a result of a restrictive and discriminatory planning regime.⁶ Of the demolished structures, 102 were provided by donors as humanitarian assistance. In East Jerusalem, the rate of demolitions of homes and other structures to end-November 2017 is 138, compared to 190 in all of 2016. Demolitions are one element of a coercive environment affecting many Palestinians throughout the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, generated by Israeli policies and practices and creating a risk of forcible transfer. Other elements include the promotion of plans to relocate communities to urban townships; restrictions on access to natural resources; the denial of basic service infrastructure; and the lack of secure residency, often implemented against a backdrop of the establishment and expansion of Israeli settlements.

The expansion of settlements, which are illegal under international law, continued in 2017, with the number of housing units advanced, approved or tendered since the beginning of 2017 reaching more than 10,000, or more than double the total during all of 2016.⁷ Settlements and settler violence remain key drivers of protection needs of Palestinians, including loss of access to and use of land and resources, and threats to life and security. Many of the physical and administrative restrictions on Palestinian movement, which undermine access to basic services and livelihoods, are also imposed to protect Israeli settlements and facilitate their daily life, at the expense of Palestinians who are still restricted from entering East Jerusalem, areas isolated by the Barrier, “firing zones”, the Israeli-controlled area of Hebron city (H2), and land around or within Israeli settlements.⁸ Ultimately, the humanitarian need and the lack of development opportunities in the West Bank results from the protracted occupation, with much of Area C off-limits for Palestinian use, although this area contains some of the West Bank’s most fertile land and natural resources, including the bulk of agricultural and grazing land.

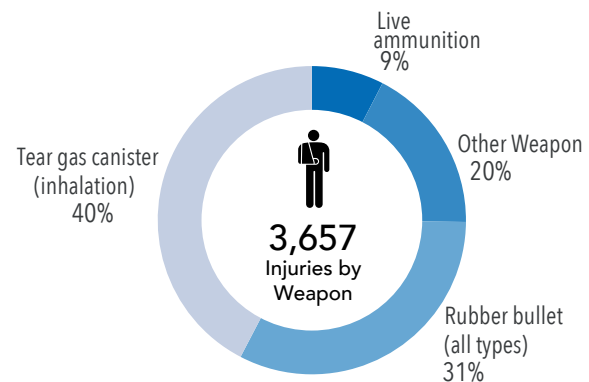
PALESTINIAN CASUALTIES IN THE OPT AND ISRAEL

JANUARY TILL END NOVEMBER 2017



PALESTINIAN INJURIES IN THE OPT AND ISRAEL

JANUARY TILL END NOVEMBER 2017



UNDERLYING ROOT CAUSES, DRIVERS OF VULNERABILITY AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

The Israeli military occupation of the oPt and a stalled Middle East Peace Process are the most significant underlying root causes of vulnerability amongst Palestinians. As such, any significant reduction in the need for humanitarian assistance is dependent on a commensurate improvement in the political and security situation.

The 2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) identified that the key factors affecting vulnerability in the oPt include: the risk of and/or exposure to violence; the policies and restrictions imposed on geographic locations and the specific contextual vulnerabilities that arise as a result; and overarching institutional and political drivers, including a lack of effective PA access and jurisdiction (in Area C, the “Seam Zone”, Hebron H2 and East Jerusalem), restrictions on movement of people and goods, a restrictive permit system, and a lack of economic opportunities and access to natural resources across the oPt. Significantly, these drivers of vulnerability are common to both the humanitarian and development community.

In addition, the joint analysis conducted for the 2018 HNO identified many of the same vulnerable groups that had been identified in development⁹ analysis of the oPt, including: Palestinians in Gaza without access to safe water or sanitation; Bedouins and herder communities living in Area C; Hebron H2 residents; people living in the “Seam Zone”; Palestine refugees living in camps and/or in abject poverty; small-scale farmers, non-Bedouin herders and fisherfolk; individuals in need of urgent medical referrals; children subject to various obstacles and violence, including adolescent girls; food-insecure households headed by women; persons with disabilities; the elderly; women exposed to GBV; the working poor; and the youth.

MULTI-YEAR

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The objective of humanitarian assistance in the oPt over the coming three-year period is to address the needs jointly identified by the humanitarian community in the 2018 HNO, by protecting the rights of Palestinians living under occupation, providing access to basic services for those who are vulnerable, and supporting the ability of Palestinians to cope with and overcome protracted crisis, while more sustainable solutions are sought.

Taking advantage of a multi-year timeframe for implementation of interventions, the humanitarian community will seek to more effectively address the root causes and drivers of vulnerability, including through advocacy with actors operating outside the scope of humanitarian assistance. The humanitarian community will furthermore expand local action, ownership and partnership, and will seek to improve efficiencies and impact.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1:

The rights of Palestinians living under occupation, including those living under the blockade and other restrictions, are protected, respected and promoted in accordance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights Law (IHRL), while duty-bearers are increasingly held to account.

As identified in the 2018 HNO, violations of IHL and IHRL are at the heart of the oPt crisis and are the main driver of the humanitarian needs in oPt. The aim of this strategic objective is to enhance protection by promoting and advocating for the respect for IHL and IHRL, demanding accountability, and mitigating the impact of violations.

All Palestinians in the oPt are affected by the protection crisis in some way, however direct interventions will focus on those identified as especially vulnerable and in need of specific protection measures. Accordingly, protection and humanitarian assistance interventions will be focused on populations most affected, particularly those residing in Area C, East Jerusalem, and the H2 area of Hebron in the West Bank, and in the Gaza Strip.

While the primary responsibility for respect of IHL lies with Israel as the occupying power, this objective also addresses duty-bearers under IHRL which includes Israel, Palestinian authorities, third states and non-state actors. Mainstreaming protection through the work of all the clusters is also a key component of this objective, ensuring

that assistance is targeted and delivered to the acutely vulnerable, with respect for their safety and dignity.

Taking advantage of the three-year approach, humanitarian partners will invest in strengthening advocacy for the rights of Palestinians under IHL and IHRL to be respected, including by improving longer-term monitoring of trends and data collection to support advocacy, and by enhancing coordination within and amongst the Clusters and with national counterparts, including government actors. Strengthening legal frameworks to bring them in line with international treaty obligations is also better addressed through a multi-year approach.

Interventions under this objective will include, for example, monitoring and documentation of IHL and IHRL violations and conflict-related violence; protective presence and accompaniment of individuals (including children) in communities exposed to settler violence and ISF presence, and at risk of forcible transfer; training of education staff in collecting data, documenting and reporting of education-related violations; and advocacy on the right to health.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2:

The basic needs of vulnerable Palestinians living under occupation are met through the provision of quality basic services and improved access to resources, in accordance with the rights of protected persons under IHL.

Where the occupying power and other duty bearers fail to provide for the basic needs of the population in the occupied territory, and such failures create vulnerabilities that surpass minimum standards, threatening life and dignity, it is incumbent on humanitarian actors to provide assistance to meet basic needs. The 2018 HNO findings demonstrated that many Palestinians are highly vulnerable and need improved access to basic services, including education, health, WASH and adequate shelter. In Gaza, the blockade, recurrent outbreaks of hostilities and the internal Palestinian political divide have continued to contribute to a serious deterioration in the access of the population to basic services. In the West Bank, strict movement and access restrictions, coupled with extreme limitations on planning and development, have prevented people living in affected areas, particularly Area C, East Jerusalem and Hebron H2, from accessing essential services. To mitigate the impact, humanitarian actors provide essential services, such as health care, water and sanitation, and education support, where necessary to ensure threats to life and

dignity are minimized.

Taking advantage of the three-year approach, humanitarian partners will utilize interventions that address both immediate needs, as well as the underlying drivers of those needs. For example, partners in WASH and health will provide assistance to meet the immediate needs of vulnerable people for clean water, appropriate sanitation and adequate health care. However, they will also be able to place greater emphasis on programmes that work to change negative sanitation and health behaviours that increase vulnerability, which take a multi-year period to address.

Interventions under this objective will include, for example, provision of adequate lifesaving neonatal care services in Gaza; provision of emergency education supplies to vulnerable, unserved or underserved students and teachers; and provision of shelter repairs and shelter assistance to people internally displaced by the 2014 conflict in Gaza and by demolitions in the West Bank.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3:

The capacity of vulnerable Palestinians to cope with and overcome protracted crisis, including from environmental threats, is supported, while solutions to violations and other root causes of threats and shocks are pursued.

As a result of the prolonged nature of the occupation, including the blockade on Gaza now in its tenth year, and three outbreaks of hostilities in Gaza, the resilience of Palestinians living under occupation is threatened. The 2018 HNO identified the multiple ways in which the erosion of resilience of Palestinians takes place. People vulnerable to rights violations struggle to cope with prolonged stresses to their livelihoods. These prolonged stresses have also left Palestinians less able to cope with sudden shocks such as spikes in conflict in Gaza, demolitions in the West Bank, and natural or environmental hazards, such as winter storms, the longer-term effects of climate change, and the environmental impacts of inadequate water and sanitation services and electricity. Over the next three years, humanitarian partners will prioritize programming that addresses these long-term stresses more effectively.

Taking advantage of the multi-year approach, humanitarian partners will be able to promote humanitarian projects that improve coping abilities and reduce shocks and environmental hazards. For example,

increasing support to communities' livelihoods is expected to improve the general food security situation and have a positive impact on their overall nutrition and health status, while investing in solar energy sources to support humanitarian projects in WASH and health could improve the sustainability of the impact of those humanitarian interventions. In parallel, humanitarian actors will continue to leverage opportunities for enhanced coordination and advocacy with national and development actors on projects that could address some of the root causes of vulnerability, for example, desalination projects in Gaza.

Interventions under this objective will thus include, for example, provision and rehabilitation of productive assets for farmers, herders, breeders, and fisherfolk; provision of winterization assistance to vulnerable households at risk of exposure or affected by natural or manmade hazards; developing the capacity of emergency response at primary and secondary healthcare in Gaza; and supporting schools in emergency preparedness and contingency-planning exercises.

MULTI-YEAR

RESPONSE STRATEGY

In the context of a protracted protection crisis in the oPt, the humanitarian response strategy for the period 2018-2020 will aim to move beyond single year operational planning, and to adopt a longer term planning lens. The multi-year strategy strives to enhance synergies with other strategies for assistance to the Palestinian people, including development assistance and peace negotiations, where appropriate within the framework of humanitarian principles, with the aim to progressively address the underlying vulnerabilities and root causes of humanitarian need in oPt. The geographical scope of the strategy is Area C, Hebron H2 and East Jerusalem in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

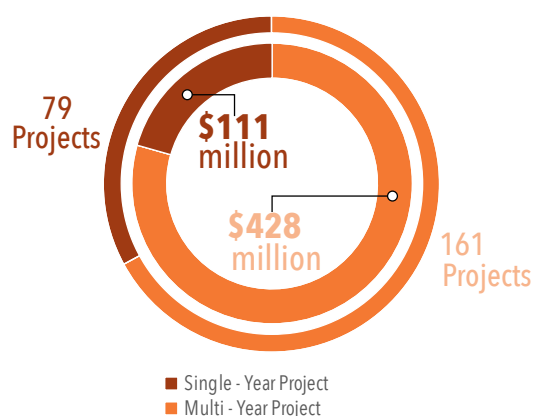
A MULTI-YEAR HUMANITARIAN APPROACH

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) in oPt decided in 2017 to embark on a multi-year Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC) for the period 2018-2020. The HCT recognized that in the unique and protracted context of the oPt, there lies both an opportunity and an interest to develop a longer-term strategy to address the protracted and chronic humanitarian impact of the occupation and the intra-Palestinian political divide. Behind the multi-year humanitarian strategy lies the planning assumption that the root causes and drivers of vulnerability, as identified in the 2018 HNO and summarised in the Overview of the Crisis chapter above, will continue throughout the multi-year period and beyond, barring any significant change in the political context. The decision to adopt a multi-year HPC was taken following several months of consultations and considerations amongst stakeholders of the different options for multi-year planning, and their applicability to the oPt context.

The particular nature of the crisis in the oPt requires the strict preservation of humanitarian space within which humanitarian action can take place, finely balanced against ongoing mutually influencing streams of action in the development and political spheres. The multi-year humanitarian strategy for 2018-2020 adopts a medium-term planning lens and seeks to enhance engagements with the spheres of influence outside the scope of humanitarian action, in order to result in deeper positive impact for people in need. Nevertheless, the strategy remains first and foremost a humanitarian strategy, one that maintains the humanitarian integrity of all programmatic interventions and is underpinned by adherence to and promotion of IHL and the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence.

The multi-year strategy continues to build on the extensive experience and work done in the area of protection in the oPt context. It maintains the centrality of protection¹⁰ at all levels of humanitarian action as a shared system-wide responsibility, including through the prioritization of robust and continuous documentation and analysis of protection risks, violations and vulnerabilities that is used to orient and mobilize the overall humanitarian response. Protection lies at the heart of the strategies and activities that are implemented by the

MULTI/SINGLE-YEAR PROJECTS IN THE 2018 HRP



oPt humanitarian community, encompassing responsive action (such as protective presence, monitoring, reporting and advocacy), remedial action (such as providing direct services to victims of violence, coercion and deprivation), and environment building (such as promoting knowledge and respect for human rights and humanitarian principles).¹¹ The multi-year strategy will continue to incorporate the centrality of protection as an integral part of all strategies and activities implemented in the oPt.

The multi-year approach in the oPt will consist of a multi-year strategy for 2018-2020, encompassing multi-year strategic objectives, strategic approach, and cluster objectives, accompanied by single-year Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs) that include both multi- and single-year cluster projects, single year financial requirements, and single-year target population figures, which will be revalidated or updated on an annual basis.

In recognition of the global advances in multi-year humanitarian planning, and the ongoing development of a collective body of practice in this area, there is a strong commitment from the oPt humanitarian community to review, collectively learn and share best practices in the process of transitioning from annual to multi-year planning in the oPt.

PILLARS OF THE 2018-2020 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE STRATEGY

The humanitarian community in oPt will change its approach over the next three years in order to take advantage of the opportunities associated with a multi-year timeframe. The following three pillars will form the foundation for how the humanitarian response in the oPt will be implemented towards achieving the Strategic Objectives:

1

Address the core vulnerabilities of people in need by mobilizing actors operating outside the scope of humanitarian interventions, in strict adherence to humanitarian principles.

The oPt humanitarian community will contribute towards improved coordination, engagement and advocacy with stakeholders operating beyond the scope of the humanitarian response, including development and political actors, by promoting the establishment of a broad platform of engagement that seeks increased collaboration across institutional boundaries and the capitalization on comparative advantages, as appropriate and possible.¹²

This platform will identify opportunities where underlying vulnerabilities can more effectively be addressed by, for instance, development programming. Humanitarian partners will also undertake strengthened advocacy and private diplomacy to mobilize action on issues where the root causes of vulnerabilities cannot be solved by either humanitarian or development interventions, but instead require political action, such as ending the blockade on Gaza. These lines of effort – if met by effective response by counterparts – are expected ultimately to contribute to a reduction in the overall levels of vulnerability and need for humanitarian interventions.

This effort, which began with the development of the 2018 HNO, seeks to translate the commitments of the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit and Grand Bargain regarding the Humanitarian-Development Nexus (HDN) into local action. The humanitarian community will thus continue to explore the appropriate linkages with the Palestinian National Policy Agenda and United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2018-2022 in order for these to better inform – and be informed by – humanitarian action. The experience developed in further implementing this engagement over the multi-year period will contribute towards better defining the appropriate scope and limitations for HDN action in the unique context of the oPt; they will also be offered to inform global discussions.

2

Expand local action, ownership and partnerships.

The oPt humanitarian community recognizes that national and local responders – comprising governments, communities, local and national NGOs, and local civil society – play a critical role in the implementation of humanitarian assistance in Gaza and the West Bank. They are among the closest to people in need and will remain in the communities they serve. In line with global commitments on localization, as defined in the Grand Bargain,¹³ efforts will be maximized to increase the engagement of local partners in designing intervention strategies and providing assistance. Donors will be called upon to increase funding to frontline partners through direct or partnership agreements or through the HC-led, OCHA-managed Country Based Pooled Fund, the oPt Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF). In 2017, the oPt HF provided 34 per cent of its total funding disbursement directly to national NGOs, and an additional 33 per cent of its funding to projects implemented by UN agencies or international NGOs in partnership with national NGOs. UN agencies and international NGOs will be encouraged to continue to establish meaningful partnerships with local and national actors, wherever possible and appropriate.

Localization efforts within the humanitarian coordination system will continue, building on the strong achievements made to date. The multi-year humanitarian strategy provides a vehicle to support and complement national coordination mechanisms where they exist, as appropriate and in keeping with humanitarian principles. To this end, clusters in the oPt will continue to work in close collaboration with their Palestinian line ministry counterparts, sharing coordination responsibilities for strategy development, intervention planning and operations wherever possible.¹⁴ The HCT, cluster coordinators and OCHA – as facilitators of the system – will seek to identify the barriers to participation in coordination and to better include local and national responders in international coordination mechanisms.

3

Improve the impact and efficiency of humanitarian action.

Through the cluster system, humanitarian partners will leverage the opportunity of operating within a multi-year planning cycle to improve the impact and efficiency of humanitarian action. To achieve this, coordination at all levels will be improved, partnerships will be encouraged, and the duplication of interventions by humanitarian and development actors will be eliminated.

Clusters will maximise opportunities for multi-sector and inter-cluster linkages, ensuring a holistic and effective delivery of humanitarian assistance through partner implementation of project activities that may span more than one cluster area of responsibility.¹⁵ At the inter-cluster level, the evidence-base for humanitarian needs and interventions will be improved, including by advancing and supporting inter-sectoral and cluster-specific data collection and needs assessments and by strengthening joint results-based monitoring. New methodologies to facilitate inter-sector vulnerability analysis and response planning will be piloted. Efforts will continue at the cluster and inter-cluster levels to strengthen the quality of sex and age-disaggregated data, and to systematically collect information on the impact of gender-based vulnerability using participatory and inclusive needs assessment tools. The sustainability, impact and cost-effectiveness of interventions will be improved through the fulfilment of the localization commitments outlined above. Partners will work to change beneficiary behaviours that increase vulnerability. Finally, the increased effectiveness of humanitarian advocacy and diplomacy will be pursued, including vis-à-vis the donor community and multi-year funding.

11

| | 2017 HRP NGO leading projects | Per cent of total | 2018 HRP NGO leading projects | Per cent of total | 2017 HRP Projects with NGO partnership | Per cent of total | 2018 HRP Projects with NGO partnership | Per cent of total |
|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--|-------------------|--|----------------------|--|----------------------|
| Number of projects | 77 | 32% | 74 | 31% | 100 | 40% | 113 | 47% |
| Funding Requirements (US\$ million) | 32.6 | 5.9% | 39.3 | 6.9% | 145.7 | 26.3% | 181.9 | 33.7% |

CROSS-CUTTING

ISSUES

The humanitarian strategy will integrate cross-cutting issues throughout the humanitarian response. Critical cross-cutting issues in the oPt context are protection, gender, community engagement and accountability to affected populations, and emergency response preparedness (ERP).

PROTECTION MAINSTREAMING

Protection mainstreaming¹⁶ will remain a priority for humanitarian operations in the oPt throughout the 2018-2020 response. With the support of the Protection Cluster, clusters will be responsible for the incorporation of the principles of “do no harm”, non-discrimination, and the application of a human rights based approach (HRBA) into all interventions. Protection mainstreaming in the oPt will include consideration of protection risks and potential violations when conducting programming, the consequences of partner actions or inactions, and the effective establishment and use of referral pathways for specialist support, in areas related to gender-based violence (GBV), child protection and psychosocial support. Protection mainstreaming also includes advocacy to prevent violations and promote accountability. Maintaining the centrality of protection, including protection mainstreaming, throughout the humanitarian response will be complemented by the specific approaches on gender, community engagement and accountability to affected populations, as outlined below.

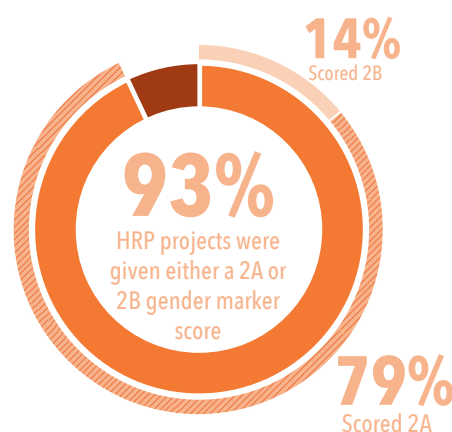
GENDER MAINSTREAMING

The 2018 HNO defines specific gender-differentiated needs that affect the lives of men, women, boys and girls in oPt. Continued efforts will be made by the oPt humanitarian community to adopt a gender sensitive approach, based on understanding the structural and contextual drivers of vulnerability, which have consequences for the affected population in terms of their humanitarian needs, their access to services and resources, their exposure to violence, discrimination and denial of their rights.

Humanitarian response in the oPt seeks to ensure that humanitarian assistance is delivered without bias, and with a view to alleviating existing inequalities and vulnerabilities. Mainstreaming gender throughout the 2018-2020 HPC will be reflected in the way in which humanitarian assistance to households is delivered, including through responses that specifically address gender based vulnerabilities (e.g. interventions dealing with GBV, women's property rights, family reunification and residency rights); assistance eligibility criteria that do not discriminate against women who may not otherwise have access (e.g. women victims of GBV, divorced and widowed women, people with disabilities, and adolescents); and monitoring beneficiaries of humanitarian assistance by sex, when applicable.

In 2017, the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) established the Humanitarian Gender Group (HGG), co-chaired by UN Women and OCHA. The HGG comprises gender focal points identified for each cluster, working with

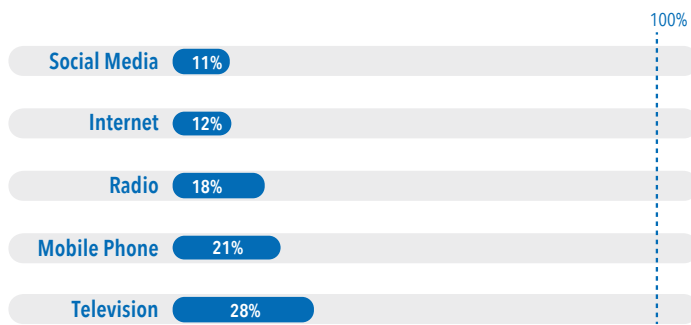
2018 HRP PROJECTS GENDER MARKER SCORES



cluster partners to ensure mainstreaming of gender in the cluster-specific needs analysis, response planning and implementation. The establishment and formalization of the HGG in the West Bank and Gaza has been important to open space for gender focal points to influence the humanitarian architecture and processes towards gender responsiveness in addressing the humanitarian needs of Palestinian men, women, boys and girls. While much has been achieved in establishing the systems, training focal points and informing the 2018-2020 HPC process, there is a need to continue to build on the foundations that have been set up. Targeted investment will be made to build the capacities of the gender focal points on gender analysis and the use of gender-sensitive methods (i.e. ensuring that needs assessments collect sex-disaggregated data to capture gender-related needs in a participatory and inclusive manner, and ensuring the participation of women as key informants and as data collectors). Efforts will continue on strengthening the gender focal points' role in mainstreaming gender in the cluster work throughout the year on preparedness, planning, monitoring and reporting.

For 2018, a total of 93 per cent of HRP projects were given either a 2A or 2B gender marker score¹⁷ during the cluster vetting process, indicating a high level of commitment by partners to contribute significantly to gender equality through their humanitarian interventions. The scoring was supported during cluster vetting by the cluster gender focal points (HGG members). The humanitarian community will continue to strive for a high percentage of 2A and 2B gender marker scoring for the 2019 and 2020 projects.

TOP FIVE CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION FOR GAZA IDPS



Results of a 2017 Gaza IDP working group survey

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In support of the Grand Bargain commitment “A participation revolution: include people receiving aid in making the decisions which affect their lives”, the HCT in the oPt introduced a requirement into the 2018 response planning that each project identify how it will promote community engagement and accountability to affected populations, at the project design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation phases.

A wide range of methodologies for community engagement are already in use by oPt humanitarian partners to provide communities with information, to collect their feedback, and to ensure their participation in decision-making processes. This includes regular face to face interactions, consultations with civil society actors, and information sharing through local media. In Gaza, the clusters have established a Communication with Communities (CwC) network, with work ongoing to finalise and roll out the local strategy. Work on systematising community engagement at the country-wide inter-cluster level also continues.

The integration of structured community engagement components at the project development stage has shown that 48 per cent of the 2018 HRP projects have planned at least five focus group discussions with the affected population (girls, women, boys and men) to be held in the course of the project implementation, while 43 per cent have planned between one and five such focus group discussions. Further, 43 per cent of 2018 projects have planned to issue at least five information products, such as leaflets, newspaper adverts and radio announcements, while 45 per cent have planned to issue between one and five such information products. In terms of a built-in feedback and complaints mechanism, 89 per cent of projects in 2018 will incorporate this element of community engagement, while 91 per cent of the projects plan to include community engagement activities in their monitoring and evaluation of the project.

Considering the high levels of community engagement activities that were indicated by cluster partners at the project development stage for 2018, a structured analysis and discussion at the ICCG and HCT will be undertaken in 2018 to explore how to build systems that link between community feedback and adjustments to humanitarian programming.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS (ERP) AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT (DRM)

While the main focus of this multi-year strategy is to address humanitarian needs, there is also a continued need to incorporate efforts to enhance the ability of Palestinian individuals, communities and institutions to anticipate,

respond to, and recover from the impacts of likely, imminent or current shocks. To be effective, these efforts must be coordinated and encompass a number of different activities, approaches, and actors, including the humanitarian community.

Access restrictions and the lack of one unified central government authority for humanitarian assistance in the oPt necessitate a continued need for close cooperation and coordination with local partners and communities on ERP and DRM, so that localized emergency response and humanitarian assistance effectively reaches people and communities. Formal and informal systems at local and community levels are supported by the humanitarian community through activities to enhance community awareness and preparedness, including by training volunteers, awareness raising activities, and supporting women, youth groups and/or local responders.

Throughout the three years of this strategy, the humanitarian community will maintain high-levels of preparedness in Gaza and will reinvigorate readiness activities in the West Bank. Inter-agency and inter-cluster contingency planning for Gaza will be maintained and refreshed regularly; inter-agency and inter-cluster contingency planning for the West Bank will be updated. Key determinants of operational readiness include, among others, joined-up IDP registration databases for Gaza, the development of concepts of operations and 4Ws (Who is doing What, Where and When) for the West Bank, and logistical, operational and administrative preparedness among individual operational partners. The emergency coordination structures identified within the humanitarian community and with key external actors, including regional networks, will be regularly reconfirmed and tested to ensure the understanding of roles and responsibilities.

The humanitarian community work in the area of DRM is furthermore part of ongoing efforts to build and fortify a seamless bridge between humanitarian operational readiness activities and development actors’ policy development and institution-building activities, with the common goal being to improve the resilience of the Palestinian people to deal with recurrent shocks. Humanitarian ERP and DRM efforts will link to the UNDAF 2018-2022 outcome 4.3 “Vulnerable Palestinian communities and institutions are better equipped to cope with protracted threats and shocks”, and the National Policy Agenda priority number 10 “Resilient communities” and its related policy intervention: “Strengthening capacities for disaster response and crisis management”.

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT



RESPONSE

MONITORING

The oPt 2018-2020 monitoring framework consists of multi-year strategic objectives and related outcome indicators, to which are linked the multi-year cluster objectives and related outcome indicators, and finally the single-year cluster activities and output indicators. The monitoring framework includes the “in need”, a baseline (as available) and target figures to measure progress over time.*

Response monitoring is recognized as an integral part of the delivery of humanitarian assistance. The main goals of response monitoring in the oPt, in particular in the context of a multi-year response timeframe, are to make adjustments in the delivery of humanitarian assistance as required, and to improve accountability for the response, both to affected populations as well as to other stakeholders, including donors.

The adoption of a multi-year strategy presents the HCT with a new opportunity to monitor humanitarian response and needs in the oPt over a three-year period. As the strategy aims to achieve deeper results, resulting in more durable and transformative change for people in need, there is a commensurate need and opportunity to establish a framework to collectively measure the actual outcomes of multi-year humanitarian planning, funding and implementation in oPt.

The development of multi-year humanitarian planning is an emerging field globally, gaining in momentum following the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit and the Grand Bargain commitments. There is however a lack of proven methodology or best practices available regarding multi-year response monitoring at the strategic level. In this context, the oPt experience for 2018-2020 will be part of nascent efforts to pilot multi-year strategic response monitoring and impact evaluation.

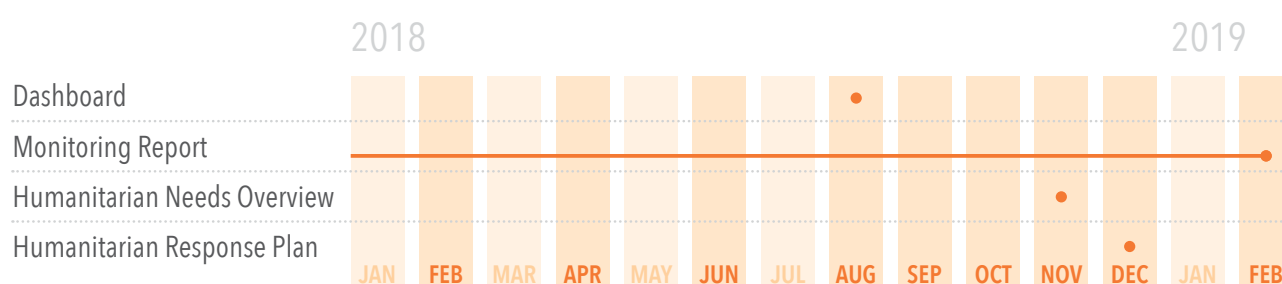
The multi-year response monitoring will be implemented as per established HRP response monitoring processes already in place in the oPt, with project-level monitoring conducted by partners and collective analysis done by all partners at the cluster and inter-cluster levels. The results will inform the development of a set of regular joint monitoring products that will be published throughout the calendar year.

Twice a year (at the interim point after Q2, in order to inform planning for the next year, and at Q1 to evaluate the previous calendar year) the HCT will conduct a monitoring exercise to track progress against the strategic objectives, reassess the strategic objective outcome indicators, and assess the humanitarian response and needs in light of updated situation analysis. The monitoring and evaluation is expected to result in targeted HCT advocacy and communications regarding the HRP results.

Despite the longstanding experience of partners and clusters in the oPt, it is expected that multi-year monitoring of the 2018-2020 oPt strategy will present new challenges. Therefore, continued liaison with the donor community and operational agencies at the local, regional and global levels will be pursued to identify resources and capabilities for monitoring and impact evaluation, and to share and learn from other countries’ emerging experiences regarding monitoring and evaluation of multi-year strategies.

In line with the Grand Bargain commitment to “Harmonise and simplify reporting requirements”, the delivery of humanitarian assistance in oPt will be tracked through the Response Planning Module (RPM), designed by OCHA and rolled out in the oPt as a pilot country exercise in 2016-2017. The innovative tool presents data (disaggregated by sex, age and/or geographical area), and is available to the public.¹⁸

HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMME CYCLE TIMELINE



* The 2018-2020 monitoring framework (Annex III) will be completed by the HCT in early 2018. The present document will be updated to include it.

RESOURCE

MOBILISATION

Mobilisation of sufficient resources and enhancement of the predictability of humanitarian financing for the oPt will be of critical importance and remain a priority of the HCT throughout the multi-year cycle. An HCT resource mobilisation strategy for the multi-year humanitarian strategy will be developed to enable the implementation of the humanitarian interventions contained in the plan. In addition, implementation at the country level of the commitments made in the framework of the Grand Bargain agreement of the World Humanitarian Summit will be sought over the three-year period, including the commitment made to increase the proportion of HRP funding through the Country Based Pooled Fund (CBPF).

In recognition of the Grand Bargain commitment “Increase collaborative humanitarian multi-year planning and funding”, a resource mobilisation strategy for oPt at this juncture will encourage donors to commit to multi-year funding of the multi-year projects included in the HRP, whenever possible and appropriate. It is expected that multi-year planning and funding can lower administrative costs, and better identify the linkages between humanitarian, development, stabilization and conflict management initiatives that are fundamental to decreasing humanitarian needs, and strengthen the resilience of the Palestinian people.¹⁹ The oPt resource mobilisation strategy will therefore also include enhanced dialogue with donors to strengthen the synergies between humanitarian and development funding for oPt, while striving to ensure that humanitarian funding is not adversely impacted by such efforts.

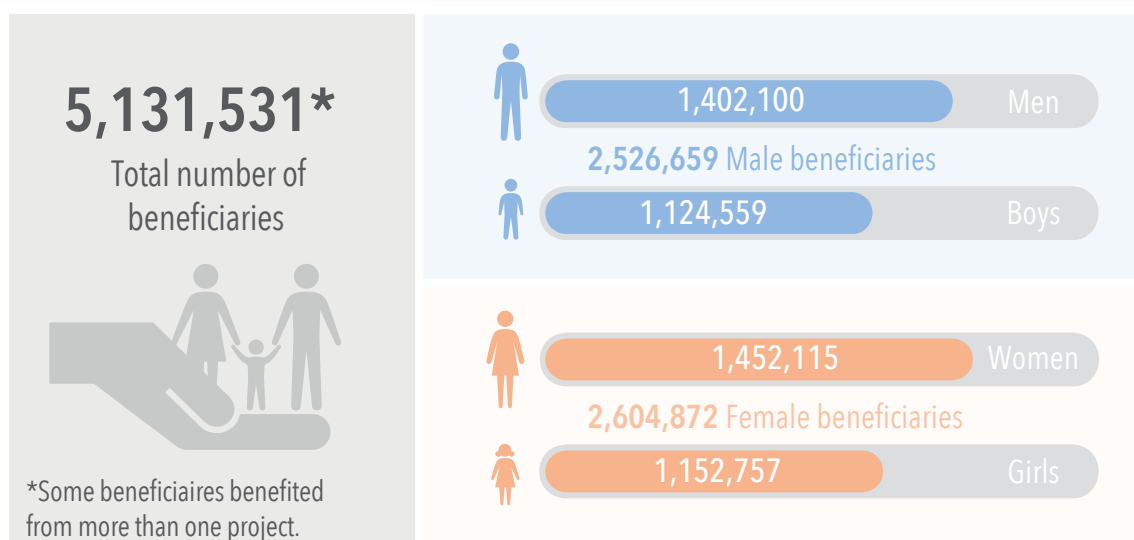
An annual update of the financial requirements for the humanitarian response will be produced in 2019 and 2020, as the HRP projects will be updated on a yearly basis. Inter-cluster achievement monitoring products are issued on a regular basis, as described in the previous section, to document the status of response implementation and to support system-wide donor engagement and resource mobilisation.

The oPt Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF) marked 10 years of operations in 2017. The oPt HF supports the delivery of strategic humanitarian response in accordance with humanitarian principles and in line with the response priorities outlined in the HRP, while retaining the flexibility to allocate funds to unforeseen needs. In 2017, USD 11.7 million was allocated through the oPt HF, amounting to 2 per cent of the total financial requirements of the 2017 HRP. With the recognition that CBPFs play a crucial role in delivering the Grand Bargain commitments, the oPt HF has subscribed to the global goal of reaching 15 per cent of the funding requirements of the HRP. In this spirit, the oPt HF Advisory Board decided at the end of 2017 to strive towards doubling the oPt HF value in the coming year.

Financial contributions to humanitarian activities in the oPt will be monitored through the online Financial Tracking Service (FTS) platform, to which all partners participating in the HRP are obliged to report, and which is made available to the public.²⁰

15

TOTAL NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES OF OPT HF PROJECTS IN 2017



PART II

2018 OPERATIONS



2018 Humanitarian Response Plan

Operational Capacity

Humanitarian Access

Cluster Response Plans



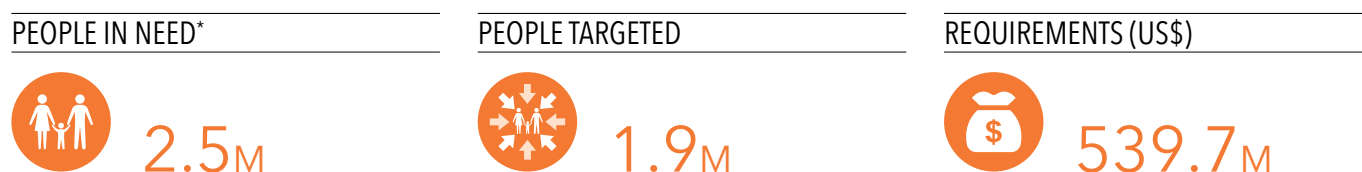
2018

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN

In line with the multi-year humanitarian strategy for 2018-2020, humanitarian assistance and protection in 2018 will be provided to 1.9 million people out of the 2.5 million people – including 1.4 million Palestine refugees – identified as in need of humanitarian assistance in the oPt. Of the 1.9 million Palestinians targeted in 2018, 1.4 million people are in Gaza and 0.5 million people are in the West Bank. The geographical scope of interventions will be primarily Gaza, Area C, Hebron H2 and East Jerusalem.

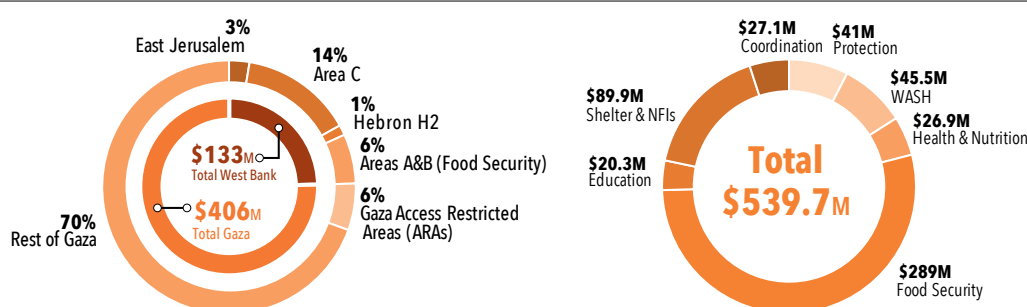
The identification of people to be targeted with assistance is the result of a rigorous prioritization and project vetting process. Only those projects that target the most vulnerable Palestinians, as identified through cluster-specific criteria have been included. At a more general level, all projects have also met all of the following generic criteria: are implemented in the priority geographical locations of Gaza, Area C, East Jerusalem and/or Hebron H2; mainstream protection in programme design and delivery; and focus on sector-specific priority activities. Of the 330 projects submitted for inclusion in the 2018 HRP, only 240 met all of these criteria. Full funding and access are pre-requisites to meeting the target of providing 1.9 million people with assistance and protection. Response modalities in 2018 will include both in-kind and cash-based assistance.

SUMMARY OF NEEDS, TARGETS & REQUIREMENTS









* Overall number of people in need was calculated by aggregating the highest cluster caseload by governorate in order to provide a conservative estimate while minimizing the margin of error by using estimates provided by several clusters. Clusters estimate of people in need are based on a variety of sources including cluster partner data.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS (US\$) BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREA AND BY CLUSTER



The funding requirements by geographical area are based on partner estimates rounded to the nearest tenth per cent.

| | TOTAL | | BREAKDOWN OF PEOPLE TARGETED | | | | | | BY SEX & AGE | |
|---|----------------|-----------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| | People in need | People targeted | People targeted Gaza | People targeted West Bank | UNRWA* target | UNRWA % of total target | UNRWA target/Gaza | UNRWA target/West Bank | % female | % children, adult, elderly** |
|  Protection | 1,953,000 | 1,953,000 | 1,072,000 | 881,000 | 970,650 | 50% | 750,400 | 220,250 | 49% | 45% 50% 6% |
|  WASH | 1,836,114 | 1,104,000 | 1,000,000 | 104,000 | | | | | 48% | 52% 47% 1% |
|  Health/ Nutrition | 1,605,932 | 1,257,038 | 908,654 | 348,384 | 527,667 | 42% | 424,000 | 103,595 | 58% | 48% 45% 7% |
|  Food Security | 1,608,000 | 1,450,000 | 1,200,000 | 250,000 | 1,024,000 | 71% | 930,000 | 94,000 | 49% | 45% 50% 6% |
|  Education | 490,145 | 433,401 | 402,671 | 30,730 | 220,521 | 51% | 220,521 | - | 49% | 94% 6% 0% |
|  Shelter and NFIs | 262,241 | 172,500 | 159,988 | 12,512 | 55,640 | 32% | 55,640 | - | 49% | 45% 50% 5% |

* Target shown is for UNRWA beneficiaries in HRP projects only. UNRWA targets additional beneficiaries through other channels.

**Children (<18 years old), adult (18-59 years), elderly (>59 years)

OPERATIONAL

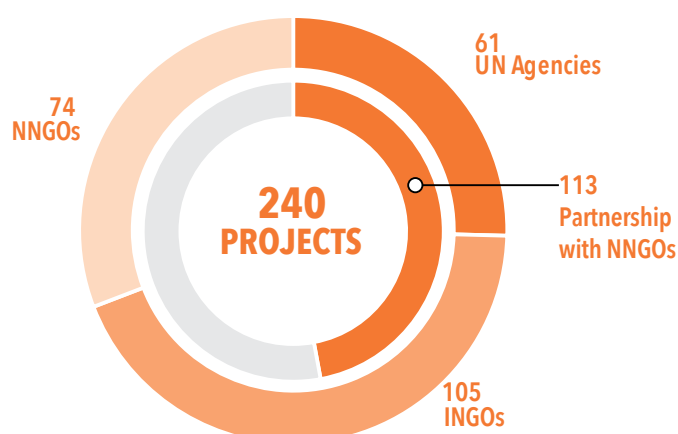
CAPACITY

Humanitarian partners have a well-established operational and protection presence across the oPt. In 2018, a total of 99 partners – international and national – have projects included in the HRP.








Humanitarian partners have a well-established operational and protection presence across the oPt. The HCT involves 26 members engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance and protection at the country level. Six clusters/sectors are active in the oPt, coordinating the activities of international and national partners: Education Cluster, Food Security Sector, Health and Nutrition Cluster, Protection Cluster, and Shelter and NFI Cluster, and WASH Cluster. Three globally-recognized sub-clusters operate under the auspices of the Protection Cluster, including Child Protection, Gender-Based Violence and Mine Action. A number of working groups, established to meet the specific operational requirements of the oPt, also operate under the leadership of the six clusters.

In 2018, a total of 99 partners – international and national – have projects included in the HRP. The largest number of partners is in the Protection Cluster, followed by Health and Food Security. A higher number of partners are active in Gaza than in the West Bank. OCHA convenes and facilitates the work of the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) at national and sub-national levels. As an integral part of humanitarian response coordination and emergency preparedness, the strengthening of cluster reporting on 4Ws will be prioritized over the 2018-2020 multi-year period.

NATIONAL NGO PARTICIPATION INCREASED IN 2018 HRP



NUMBER OF PARTNERS BY AREA*

| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Total by area |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------|
| | Protection | WASH | Health | FSS | Education | Shelter | Coordination | |
| East Jerusalem | 18 | 0 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 34 |
| Area C | 20 | 8 | 11 | 17 | 4 | 9 | 10 | 53 |
| Hebron H2 | 10 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 23 |
| Total WB | 23 | 8 | 14 | 17 | 4 | 9 | 10 | 56 |
| ARA** | 25 | 10 | 14 | 12 | 10 | 7 | 10 | 61 |
| Rest of Gaza | 28 | 14 | 17 | 20 | 14 | 16 | 10 | 75 |
| Total Gaza | 31 | 15 | 21 | 22 | 14 | 16 | 10 | 82 |
| Total oPt | 40 | 19 | 26 | 26 | 15 | 21 | 10 | 99 |

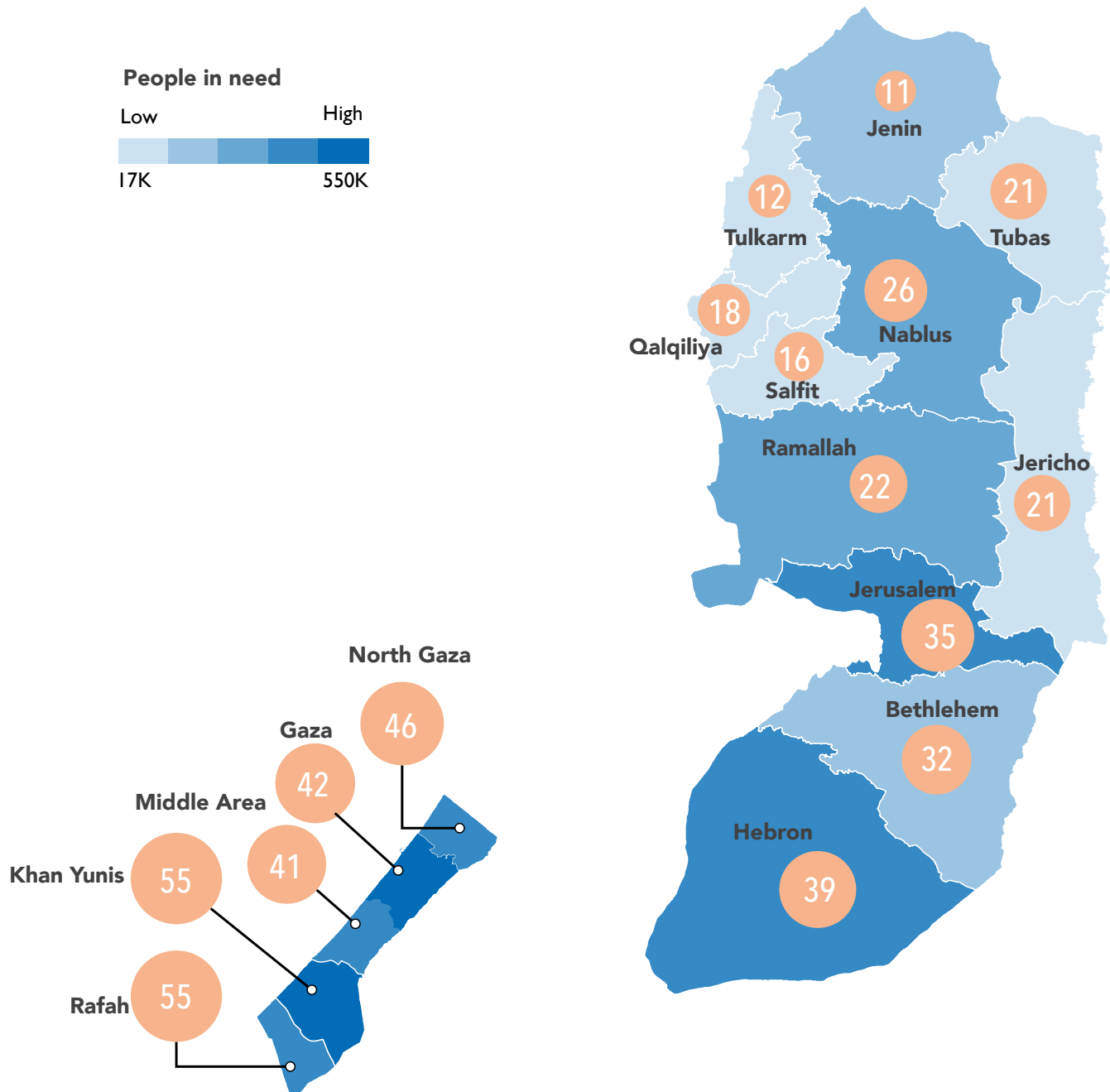
* The numbers presented in this table overlap, as partners may be active in more than one geographical area, and more than one cluster. The total number of 2018 participating organizations is 99.

** The activities of the total 61 partners in the ARA amount to 8 per cent of the total requirements for Gaza.

The number of National NGOs (NNGOs) participating in the HRP through direct project proposals increased by five per cent in 2018, compared to 2017, as did the number of projects in which NNGOs participate through partnerships with UN agencies or INGOs, by seven per cent. In line with the Grand Bargain commitments,²¹ these positive statistics will continue

to be pursued for the HRP project portfolios in 2019 and 2020, including through the clusters' engagements with partners, as well as with system-wide strategies for inclusion, such as the targeted use of the oPt HF, as well as platforms for information sharing and cooperation.

PEOPLE IN NEED VS PARTNER PRESENCE BY GOVERNORATE



HUMANITARIAN

ACCESS

Operational capacity is closely linked to humanitarian access in oPt. During the course of 2017, humanitarian organizations faced a range of obstacles to the movement and access of affected people, humanitarian personnel and humanitarian goods as a result of political, security and administrative measures implemented by Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian, and Egyptian authorities. Impediments to the movement and access of humanitarian personnel included restrictions on obtaining permits, in particular for national employees of the United Nations and national and international NGOs. Intermittent closures and security procedures at border crossings and checkpoints often resulted in the delay or denial of passage. Access restrictions hampered the delivery of materials needed for the implementation of humanitarian projects, including projects that involve building, expanding or rehabilitating infrastructure in the Gaza Strip and Area C of the West Bank, and responding to demolitions of housing or essential infrastructure.

OPT WIDE ACCESS ISSUES AFFECTING INGOS

For INGOs working in the oPt, applying for staff working visas (B1) in country has been a continuous challenge. B1 visa issuance was suspended by the Israeli authorities for new incoming staff for several months during 2017. Even though visa issuance has since been resumed, Israeli policies are expected to be reviewed again in 2018 with potential disruptions. For the INGOs not able to register in Israel, some are also facing challenges on getting working visas (B2) for the West Bank and Gaza.

Several INGOs with offices and operations in East Jerusalem have faced problems with their bank accounts in Israeli banks, with the freezing and closing of their bank accounts. The reasons given reference banking policies and risk management with regard to operations in the West Bank and Gaza. Using Palestinian banks is therefore the only option for some of the services.

GAZA STRIP

Access impediments are characterized by continuing restrictions imposed by Israel and the Hamas authorities in Gaza on Gaza-based UN and INGO personnel with regard to obtaining permits to exit the Gaza Strip. Permit approval rate remained low while the ratio of unprocessed permits and average processing time remained high. The average rate of permit approval has decreased by 34 per cent since 2014, from 79 per cent to 45 per cent in 2017. National personnel seeking to exit Gaza witnessed unprecedented rates of “permits left pending”. Between January and October 2017, 45 per cent of Gaza-based personnel had received no response to their

UN Permits for Gaza Personnel, 2014 - 2017

| Year | Approved | Pending | Denied |
|------|----------|---------|--------|
| 2014 | 79% | 14% | 4% |
| 2015 | 78% | 17% | 3% |
| 2016 | 54% | 9% | 34% |
| 2017 | 45% | 45% | 8% |

permit request by the date of travel. High rates of pending permits coincided with a lengthening in processing time, recently extended by Israeli authorities to 55 working days.

During the course of 2017, Israeli authorities implemented a series of restrictions on items permitted to be carried across the Erez Crossing, including a prohibition on national staff from bringing toiletries, food and computers out of Gaza. These restrictions hamper the ability of staff to conduct their work, but also undermine basic dignity. These limitations are further intensified by access incidents faced by UN and INGO staff while entering and exiting Gaza, resulting in delayed and denied access to duty stations and operations. Particularly severe incidents include permit confiscation, prolonged interrogation and detainment.

The Hamas authorities in Gaza also enforce access restrictions on humanitarian actors, including on the movement of staff and access to certain areas, and a permit regime applicable to national and international INGO personnel to exit and re-enter Gaza. The Rafah Crossing between Gaza and Egypt opened on an exceptional basis by Egyptian authorities for a total of

30 days during 2017, primarily for pre-registered individuals, humanitarian cases and pilgrims.

Restrictions on the movement of goods, including imports to the Gaza Strip, continue to impact the fragile humanitarian situation, particularly with respect to the provision of basic services, including health and WASH services, civil defence, preparedness and emergency responders, as well as reconstruction and recovery efforts, given the presence of basic construction materials on the list of restricted items identified by Israeli authorities as “dual use” items.

WEST BANK

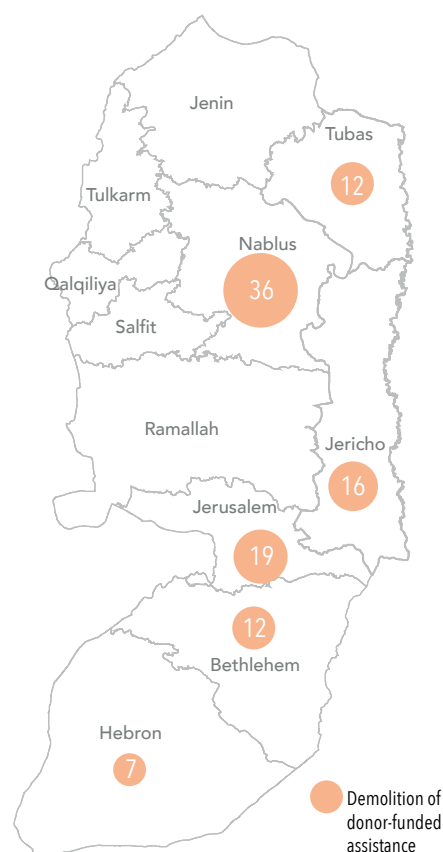
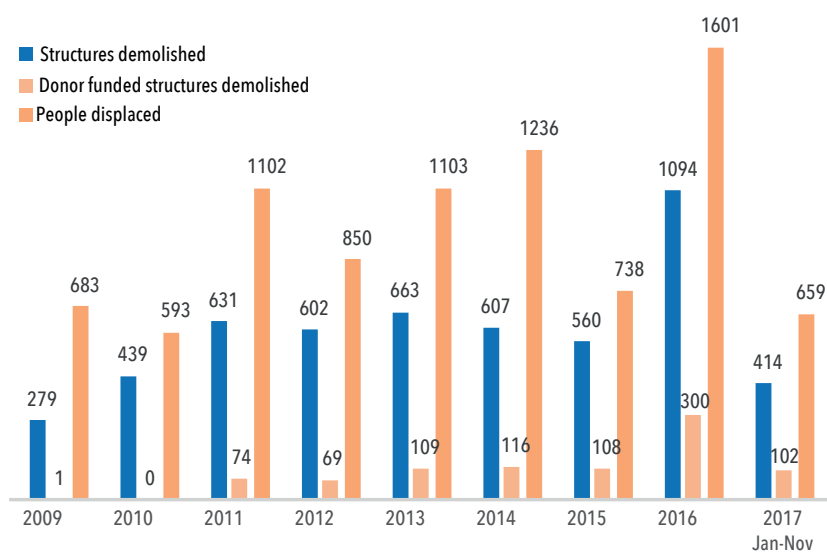
In the West Bank, physical obstacles such as the Barrier, checkpoints and administrative requirements, particularly permits, continue to restrict Palestinian access and movement within the West Bank, including into East Jerusalem, areas isolated by the Barrier (the “Seam Zone”), “firing zones” and land around or within Israeli settlements. A number of restrictions faced by organizations remain in place including physical barriers, occasional and unannounced closures and confiscation of aid. In particular, UN movement continues to be impeded at Barrier checkpoints manned by Israel’s Crossing Points Authority (CPA), whereby UN privileges and immunities continue to be breached due to demands for vehicle search. Over half of the access incidents affecting UN staff during the course of 2017 occurred as a result of vehicle search

requests by Israeli Border Police, primarily at checkpoints in the Bethlehem District, forcing personnel to use an alternative route or cancel the mission.

DESTRUCTION/CONFISCATION OF DONOR-FUNDED ASSISTANCE

The implementation of humanitarian projects that involve the construction or rehabilitation of housing or essential infrastructure in Area C and East Jerusalem continued to be hampered by the permit regime applied by the Israeli authorities in these areas, as well as by the destruction or seizure of donor-funded assistance. As of end-November 2017, the Israeli authorities have demolished or seized 102 structures provided as humanitarian assistance. This is a decline from the figure recorded in the equivalent period of 2016 (274 structures), which marked a historical record. It is nevertheless of great concern that humanitarian assistance delivered under humanitarian principles, continues to be seized or destroyed. As the occupying power, Israel is required under international humanitarian law to meet the basic needs of the population. It is also required to facilitate and protect the rapid, unimpeded and impartial delivery of relief to civilians in need, and to assist personnel to the fullest extent practicable in carrying out their relief mission; relief items should not be requisitioned, confiscated, expropriated or interfered with in any way.

DEMOLITIONS IN WEST BANK



CLUSTER RESPONSE PLANS

-  Protection
-  Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
-  Health and Nutrition
-  Food Security
-  Education
-  Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)
-  Coordination and Support Services (CSS)



PROTECTION

PEOPLE IN NEED



PEOPLE TARGETED



REQUIREMENTS (US\$)



OF PARTNERS



CLUSTER OBJECTIVES

1 Increased respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights Law (IHRL) and accountability for violations

2 Protection response mechanisms are in place to prevent and mitigate the effects of the occupation and conflict related violence

MULTI-YEAR STRATEGY

The aim of the Protection Cluster is to foster increased respect for IHL and IHRL and accountability for possible violations, while ensuring that vulnerable Palestinians in the most affected areas have access to protection and other multi-sectoral services that prevent and mitigate the effects of the Occupation and conflict-related violence.

Response Approach

The Protection Cluster will achieve this aim through the monitoring and documentation of violations, particularly aimed at increasing accountability; rights-based advocacy with duty bearers, including third states; protective presence of communities at risk of settler violence and displacement; legal aid services; inclusive and high quality multi-sectoral responses to GBV survivors including livelihood stabilization; child protection services, including individual case management; mental health and psychosocial services (MHPSS) for adults and youth; and explosive remnant of war (ERW) risk mitigation and education responses.

Greater efficiencies over a multi-year period

The Protection Cluster is committed to improving efficiencies over the multi-year period in all protection response delivery, including through measures aimed at avoiding duplication of responses,

encouraging partnerships between actors, and increased involvement of local NGOs, so as to further ensure coordinated joint needs and response assessments and broader geographical coverage. Stronger monitoring will be prioritized in order to highlight possible information gaps and the reach and limitations of activities and to improve the mapping of service providers and referral systems.

2018 OPERATIONS

Priority Response Activities

Priority protection activities for 2018 include interventions providing an immediate response to a protection threat or risk, or which have an immediate protective impact by preventing, averting or mitigating a protection risk, including interventions that provide emergency response and access to services for victims of abuses and violations, including legal, protective and psycho-social responses. In addition, the Protection Cluster has prioritized resilience building multi-sectoral responses in coordination with other clusters/sectors, with the aim of breaking the cycle of humanitarian dependency. Finally, interventions carried out by organizations with experience in the substantive area of responsibility and access to the geographical area or target population; interventions that expand geographical coverage; and interventions that address continuity of service delivery, in line with the principle of “do no harm”, are also given priority.

CONTACT

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BREAKDOWN OF PEOPLE IN NEED AND TARGETED BY STATUS, SEX AND AGE

| | BY STATUS | | | | | BY SEX & AGE | |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|------------|-----------------|---|-----------------------------|
| | Gaza | West Bank | UNRWA Total | UNRWA Gaza | UNRWA West Bank | % female | % children, adult, elderly* |
| PEOPLE IN NEED | 1,072,000 | 881,000 | | | | 49% | 45% 50% 5% |
| PEOPLE TARGETED | 1,072,000 | 881,000 | 970,650 | 750,400 | 220,250 | 49% | 45% 50% 5% |
| FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS | \$41M | | | | | *Children (<18 years old), adult (18-59 years), elderly (>59 years) | |

People Targeted and Geographical Scope

In 2018, the Protection Cluster will target 1.9 million Palestinians identified as most vulnerable and in need of specific protection measures. In the Gaza Strip, these are individuals and families who live or work in the ARAs; those affected by freedom of movement restrictions, including medical patients; vulnerable widows and divorced women in need of legal support and court representation to obtain their entitlements; IDPs living on transitional shelter cash assistance (TSCA), at risk of eviction or lacking security of tenure; women, children and persons with disabilities at risk of GBV who lack information and access to appropriate services; adults, adolescents and children in need of case management and protection services; children in disadvantaged communities requiring psychosocial support and specialized mental health services; children and adolescents facing ERW risks; and vulnerable refugees from the region, who lack documentation and face challenges in accessing humanitarian assistance.

In the West Bank, these are people living in Area C, Hebron (H2) and East Jerusalem. In particular, this includes Palestinians at risk of forcible transfer, particularly in communities vulnerable to a coercive environment, including those at risk of forced eviction, demolition and destruction of property, and those targeted for relocation or for revocation of residency rights by the Israeli authorities; communities affected by settler violence and harassment and settlement-related restrictions on movement and access to land; people, particularly children, at risk of violence and violations by Israeli Security Forces; and refugee camps most affected by Israeli security operations.

Inter-cluster / sector linkages

To enhance protection outcomes and impact, the Protection Cluster will provide technical support and guidance to other clusters/sectors to mainstream protection in their interventions. It will contribute to inter-cluster operations that address policies and practices that cause protection violations and other key vulnerabilities, such as gender, food insecurity, displacement, and disabilities. Examples of inter-cluster/sector support that is envisioned for 2018 include: support to the Education Cluster on child protection mechanisms in schools, including ERW risk education; referrals to child protection/structured psychosocial support and the provision of child protection training for teachers, parents and counselors; collaboration and joint programming with the Education Cluster to systematically address child drop-out and child labour; support to the Shelter and NFI Cluster via the provision of legal counseling and representation and ensuring security of tenure for vulnerable groups; linkages with the Health and Nutrition Cluster to strengthen gender sensitivity and support to GBV survivors.

The Protection Cluster will support the HCT to strengthen the centrality of protection and the integration of human rights and accountability in all aspects of the HCT's policies and operations.

Mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues

In 2018, Protection Cluster projects will contribute towards gender equality and gender sensitive programming by identifying and analyzing the different needs and circumstances of women, girls, boys and men, the elderly, and persons with disabilities (PwD) within affected groups and sub-groups

through participatory methods for sex, age and geographical disaggregated data collection. On this foundation, priority responses and target indicators will be then built, with the direct involvement of beneficiaries through effective community engagement. All Protection Cluster projects will involve affected communities in the needs assessment, design of activities and feedback mechanisms. To ensure accountability, beneficiaries will be also actively engaged in the regular monitoring of results to assess the reach and satisfaction/quality of the responses, and identify any potential unintended negative impact for review. "Do no harm" will be a cross-cutting guiding principle in the cluster's humanitarian response.

LINKAGES AND SYNERGIES WITH INTERVENTIONS OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE HUMANITARIAN PLAN

The Protection Cluster recognizes that the humanitarian crisis in the oPt is first and foremost the result of decades of Occupation, closures and other related policies and measures affecting Palestinian civilians' human rights, including access to livelihoods. A consistent gap in accountability for violations has perpetuated a protection crisis in the oPt. The Palestinian internal divide has also increased exposure of Palestinians to drivers of vulnerabilities. Hence, to reduce the humanitarian caseload, political progress is fundamentally required. The end of the Occupation, including the lifting of closure policies, such as the Gaza blockade, and other measures detrimental of human rights are no longer deferrable. Palestinian authorities are also urged to fulfill their responsibilities in their areas of competence in both Gaza and the West Bank, scaling up their responses on child protection, MHPSS and GBV needs.

In this regard, progress on the National Policy Agenda 2017-2022, particularly its chapter 7 on "Social Justice and Rule of Law", is critical. Strengthening social protection systems of extremely poor households will help them mitigate the effects of risks and avoid them slipping into acute insecurity and further erosion of household resilience.

Chronic protection problems require structural solutions. The Protection Cluster recognizes the central role of national duty bearers as well as development actors in efforts to reduce humanitarian needs over time. In this context, the Protection Cluster will seek to engage, partner with, and influence development actors in a more systematic manner to target the needs of the affected population. While continuing to address immediate protection needs, the Protection Cluster will seek to develop a shared understanding of the structural drivers of need with development actors in the fields of rule of law, good governance and gender equality. An emphasis will be placed on identifying key institutional and legal frameworks for potential reform and ensuring alignment and complementarity of responses. In this regard, intensified advocacy with Palestinian authorities to ensure a unified and functional legal and justice system, compliant with international human rights standards, is critical. Enacting the Family Protection Act and reviewing enforcement and accountability mechanisms can also bring about meaningful protection of women and children from violence. Continuous engagement with line ministries, including capacity-building, will allow the integration of a gender sensitive perspective in development programmes and protect women from different forms of violence and discrimination.

PEOPLE IN NEED



PEOPLE TARGETED



REQUIREMENTS (US\$)



OF PARTNERS



CLUSTER OBJECTIVES

1 Ensure equitable, affordable and sustainable access to safe and sufficient WASH services with dignity for the unserved, underserved and most vulnerable Palestinians living under occupation in Gaza and the West Bank

2 Strengthen WASH preparedness and response capacity to the unserved, underserved and most vulnerable Palestinians living under occupation in Gaza and the West Bank, to reduce threats and to cope with emergencies and shocks

3 Strengthen national WASH governance system in accountability, advocacy, evidence-based planning, and inter/intra sectoral coordination

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)



MULTI-YEAR STRATEGY

The following WASH activities have been prioritized for 2018: providing durable solutions to targeted communities, such as the establishment, extension or rehabilitation of water distribution and sanitation systems and infrastructures, or the improvement of WASH facilities in key service institutions; ensuring households without sanitation facilities end the harmful practice of open defecation and gain access at least to basic sanitation; and providing WASH facilities with emergency power requirements (fuel and/or renewable energy), equipment, and maintenance in Gaza and West Bank to enable life-saving operations to continue.

Response Approach

The WASH Cluster will achieve this through a three-pronged approach. First, it will provide targeted communities and key institutions such as schools, Early Childhood Development centers and healthcare facilities with access to safe drinking water services and domestic water services, promoting more sustainable solutions for safe water and sanitation services wherever possible to reduce aid dependency. The Cluster will also provide adequate sanitation services jointly with hygiene promotion by, inter alia, providing and/or rehabilitating sanitation facilities for households, as well as in key education and social service institutions, such as schools, Early Childhood Development centers and healthcare facilities.

Second, the WASH Cluster will provide the needed capacity enhancement for WASH service providers to maintain existing levels of essential services in areas where they are able to operate by providing traditional or alternative energy sources to run critical WASH facilities; supplying essential items for ongoing maintenance and operation; and supporting their ability to respond to arising emergencies and identify solutions to mitigate them.

Third, the WASH Cluster will continue to build capacity for humanitarian WASH coordination at national and sub-national levels through providing dedicated information management and coordination support staff. Capacities will be further strengthened by exploring the creation of a platform for communication, learning and knowledge exchange between partners and to establish linkages between emergency and development through interventions that build resilience in affected communities.

Greater efficiencies over a multi-year period

The WASH Cluster is committed to improving efficiencies over the multi-year period in its response delivery, including through the following measures:

- Support the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) and other relevant line ministries to extend WASH interventions and services in locations such as Area C (under PWA's new WASH Master Plan for Area C), where there is little or no access and control.

BREAKDOWN OF PEOPLE IN NEED AND TARGETED BY STATUS, SEX AND AGE

| | BY STATUS | | | | | BY SEX & AGE | |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| | Gaza | West Bank | UNRWA Total | UNRWA Gaza | UNRWA West Bank | % female | % children, adult, elderly* |
| PEOPLE IN NEED | 1,463,000 | 373,114 | | | | 48% | 52% 47% 1% |
| PEOPLE TARGETED | 1,000,000 | 104,000 | NA | 1,463,000** | NA | 48% | 52% 47% 1% |
| FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS | \$45.5M | | | | | | |

*Children (<18 years old), adult (18-59 years), elderly (>59 years)

** UNRWA will provide fuel for solid waste removal and water and sanitation facilities in Gaza and the total number of people who will benefit from this service includes direct and indirect beneficiaries. However, it was decided not to include this number into the WASH calculation for their total people targeted since this would over-inflate the overall number of people targeted for the WASH cluster.

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- Provide policy, regulatory and sector strategy support, in line with the 2014 Water Law, to strengthen national and sub-national WASH related institutions and systems.
- Support advocacy efforts to ensure equitable, affordable and sustainable access to safe and sufficient WASH services in accordance with and promotion of IHL and IHRL.
- Strengthen the capacity, involvement, and leadership of key stakeholders, especially local NGO partners, to increase national and local capacity, ownership and sustainability, as well as to increase cost-effectiveness.
- Establish common standards, definitions, assessment/survey tools and questionnaires, as well as accounting systems, in line with global definitions and standards, including of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and SPHERE Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response.
- Ensure that the HRP is included in PWA's National WASH budget, strategy and action plans.
- Strengthen alignment and advocacy between Cluster partners, PWA and the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU) to ensure that partners are aware of the PWA long-term strategies and that humanitarian efforts inform these.
- Increase the efficiency of WASH programming by pooling inter-sectoral resources and conducting joint inter-cluster coordination, assessments and interventions and implementing joint activities at the community level and in key institutions, such as schools (with the Education Cluster), Early Childhood Development centers (with the Health and Nutrition Cluster), healthcare facilities (with the Health and Nutrition Cluster); Family Centers in Gaza (with the Protection and Shelter and NFIs clusters).
- Ensure a stronger alignment with other clusters and UNRWA (cross-sectoral especially with WASH/Health/Education), on interventions such as winterization and flood management (in schools, Designated Emergency Shelters), and water scarcity.
- Reduce the reliability on fuel by considering the use of solar and other renewable energy sources, as well as improvements in the electricity sector and systems, including through advocacy with key stakeholders to alleviate the WASH-energy nexus.

2018 OPERATIONS

Priority response activities

The following WASH activities have been prioritized for 2018: providing durable solutions to targeted communities, such as the establishment, extension or rehabilitation of water distribution and sanitation systems and infrastructures, or the improvement of WASH facilities in key service institutions; ensuring households without sanitation facilities end the harmful practice of open defecation and gain access at least to basic sanitation; and providing WASH facilities with emergency power requirements (fuel and/or renewable energy), equipment, and maintenance in Gaza and West Bank to enable life-saving operations to continue.

The Cluster has also prioritized support to increase the capacity of the national water system, and strengthen national emergency response and DRM capacity in WASH. To ground all these efforts on a firm evidence base, the Cluster will conduct assessments and data collection to close gaps in information, including on water quality, wastewater treatment, WASH in key institutions, and solid waste and hygiene behaviors, especially handwashing with soap, open defecation and household water treatment and safe storage, and to inform humanitarian WASH advocacy and programmes.

People Targeted and Geographical Scope

In 2018, the WASH Cluster will target 1.1 million Palestinians. This includes 1 million people in Gaza and 104,000 people in the West Bank who are vulnerable and are exposed to one or more of the following: affected by the blockade and energy crisis in Gaza; lack access to safe drinking water; at risk of winter flooding; exposed to environmental health risks; in communities with the least access to services (unserved and underserved communities); in communities in Area C affected by poor service provision; affected by demolitions and settler violence; and/or vulnerable populations with disabilities, the elderly, widows, children, and female-headed households.

In the Gaza Strip, the WASH Cluster will focus its interventions on the Access Restricted Areas (ARAs) and flood-prone areas, as well as areas exposed to environmental health risks i.e. the Gaza shoreline. In the West Bank, the WASH Cluster will focus its interventions in Area C (including areas affected by the Barrier; areas affected by Israeli restrictions; areas affected

by settlements; communities with demolition orders; areas of Areas A and B that serve Area C), East Jerusalem, and H2 in Hebron.

Inter-cluster / sector linkages

The WASH Cluster will prioritize the collection of information about WASH in key institutions such as schools, Early Childhood Development centers, healthcare facilities, and family centers. This gap will be addressed by involving the Health, Education and Protection Clusters in a coordinated effort. In addition, the WASH Cluster will continue working with the Food Security Sector and the Shelter and NFI Cluster to jointly provide comprehensive packages of humanitarian assistance.

Mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues

In 2018, the WASH Cluster will facilitate the recovery of targeted beneficiaries and increase their own capacity for protection. This will be achieved by enhancing community resilience through increased access to natural resources and livelihood opportunities. The highest priority will be given to communities most affected by the Gaza blockade, Israeli restrictions in Area C, the Barrier, Israeli military zones, Israeli settlements, and conflict. All WASH activities will include advocacy components that promote IHL and IHRL.

WASH partners will contribute to gender equality and gender-sensitive programming by collecting sex and age-disaggregated data, conducting a gendered analysis, and designing interventions that address gender needs, integrate gender considerations and include meaningful participation of different vulnerable populations (e.g. widows, persons with disabilities, adolescent girls, farmers, etc.). The Cluster will continue to promote knowledge and use of the new WASH gender toolkit.

Community engagement with affected communities will be enhanced by working closely with area focal points associated with community and service providers in Gaza; involving affected communities in the identification of needs and the design and implementation of interventions; and using participatory approaches to evaluation.

LINKAGES AND SYNERGIES WITH INTERVENTIONS OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE HUMANITARIAN PLAN

The following development projects, if realized, will assist in decreasing the humanitarian caseload and the total number of people in need of humanitarian assistance:

In the West Bank:

- Implementing large WASH infrastructure (funded by donors such as World Bank, EU, etc.);
- Development and implementation of the PWA WASH master plan in Area C;
- Purchasing water quantities through the Red-Dead agreement (an expected 22 MCM per year to the West Bank).

In the Gaza Strip:

- Completion of further short-term low volume seawater desalination plants and the Gaza Central Desalination Plant;
- Increasing the water supply from Israel through the Red-Dead agreement (an expected 10 MCM per year to Gaza);
- Implementing projects related to the reuse of treated wastewater and rainwater harvesting. This will improve groundwater conditions as a result of reducing water abstraction from the aquifer and recharging the aquifer. In addition, strengthening the governance system for local authorities has a positive impact for sustaining the service.

PEOPLE IN NEED



PEOPLE TARGETED



REQUIREMENTS (US\$)



OF PARTNERS



CLUSTER OBJECTIVES

1 Ensure access of vulnerable communities in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank to quality and affordable health services ensured, referral of victims of violence to protection organizations.

2 Vulnerable communities in the West Bank and Gaza are better prepared to cope with the impact of current and potential man-made and natural disasters.

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HEALTH AND NUTRITION



MULTI-YEAR STRATEGY

The aim of the Health Cluster is to respond to immediate health needs in the oPt by ensuring access to critical and lifesaving health services by acutely vulnerable people, through health service delivery and health advocacy, whilst also strengthening the health preparedness and resilience of the health system and vulnerable communities more broadly.

Response Approach

The Health Cluster will achieve this aim through a three-pronged approach. First, by ensuring that approximately 850,000 vulnerable Palestinians in the oPt have access to quality and affordable, essential and life-saving health services, including nutrition, maternal and child health, reproductive health, healthcare for the elderly and rehabilitation services for people with disabilities.

Second, the Health Cluster will ensure that vulnerable communities and health facilities in the oPt are better prepared to respond to emergencies, particularly during conflict. Priority is given to particular geographical areas, including communities living within two kilometres from the Israeli security fence in Gaza, communities living behind the Barrier in East Jerusalem such as Shufat Refugee Camp

and Kufr Aqab, communities in Area C, and to the East Jerusalem hospitals.

Third, the Cluster will ensure that over 27,000 vulnerable Palestinians have access to health services as a result of strengthened health coordination, information and health advocacy. Priority is given to people who face access challenges, such as patients referred outside Gaza and the West Bank for treatment. Particular attention is being paid to the safety and protection of health workers and health facilities providing healthcare.

Greater efficiencies over a multi-year period

The Health Cluster strategy is aligned with the Ministry of Health's National Health Strategy 2017-2022. In order to work more efficiently and to take advantage of the multi-year approach, the strategy will be implemented at national and local levels. On a local level, the primary aim will be to respond to the immediate gaps in health service provision by ensuring that critical and life-saving health services are delivered to the most vulnerable people, for example, by ensuring equitable coverage and accessibility of primary healthcare in Area C, H2 and the "Seam Zone" in the West Bank, and the ARA in Gaza.

BREAKDOWN OF PEOPLE IN NEED AND TARGETED BY STATUS, SEX AND AGE

| | BY STATUS | | | | | BY SEX & AGE | |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|------------|-----------------|---|-----------------------------|
| | Gaza | West Bank | UNRWA Total | UNRWA Gaza | UNRWA West Bank | % female | % children, adult, elderly* |
| PEOPLE IN NEED | 1,226,500 | 379,998 | | | | 58% | 48% 45% 7% |
| PEOPLE TARGETED | 908,654 | 348,384 | 527,667 | 424,000 | 103,595 | 58% | 48% 45% 7% |
| FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS | \$26.9M | | | | | *Children (<18 years old), adult (18-59 years), elderly (>59 years) | |

Alongside the provision of direct service delivery at the local level, the Cluster strategy aims at strengthening national institutional partners as well. In particular, this would target some of the key drivers of vulnerability by improving life-saving health response, enhancing the capacity of health workers, establishing a sustainable supply of lifesaving health resources and improving the resilience of health facilities and communities. With the support of the Health Cluster, the role of national institutional partners should increase over the second and third years of this multi-year strategy, as these actors increase their capacity to meet critical health needs. Meanwhile, the need for the Health Cluster partners to provide direct delivery for life-saving healthcare should decrease in years two and three.

2018 OPERATIONS

Priority response activities

The following health activities have been prioritized for 2018: evidence-based, cost-effective interventions that incorporate resilience-building programmes, including primary to secondary healthcare services; provision of essential supplies, equipment, diagnostic tools and life-saving training to doctors, nurses and health professionals working in hospitals and primary healthcare clinics in Gaza; development of capacities for emergency response; and strengthened advocacy for improved access of emergency services, for the protection and access of health staff and patients at health facilities and for access to essential life-saving treatment by patients in Gaza.

People Targeted and Geographical Scope

In 2018, the Health Cluster will target 1.25 million Palestinians identified as most vulnerable and at high risk of morbidity and mortality, including women of reproductive age; children, including neonates; the elderly; people with disabilities (PwD); and non-communicable disease (NCD) patients (including mental health patients) that face the risk of death or a severe deterioration in their health status. Over 600,000 of these are children and approximately 730,000 are women. The Cluster target has been set by taking into consideration the existing capacity, accessibility and resource availability of the Ministry of Health, UNRWA and health partners.

Interventions will be focused on key geographical areas, including: the whole of Gaza (particularly the ARA) and within the West Bank, Area C, H2 of Hebron, the “Seam Zone”, communities living behind the Barrier in East Jerusalem, and the acutely vulnerable people living within East Jerusalem who cannot access health services.

PEOPLE TARGETED



607,000 Children



8,000 Neonates



730,000 Women, particularly of reproductive age



200,000 NCD patients



96,000 Mental health



64,000 Elderly



8,500 People with disability



359,000 People in need of life-saving emergency healthcare services



27,800 People in need for right to health advocacy initiatives

Inter-cluster / sector linkages

The Health cluster will collaborate with other clusters at different levels and on different scales. For example, the Health Cluster will collaborate with the Protection Cluster to ensure effective implementation of projects with activities spanning both clusters, addressing both mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS). In addition, an integrated response to gender based violence (GBV) will be coordinated with the Protection Cluster, as GBV encompasses protection, psychosocial and medical elements; here, the Health Cluster will focus more on the medical aspects at the facility level in coordination with the Protection Cluster. Finally, in collaboration with the WASH Cluster, the Health Cluster will ensure a WASH component in the assessment and rehabilitation of health facilities. In addition, joint information, education and communication interventions related to hygiene behaviours will be coordination between the two Clusters.

Mainstreaming of cross cutting issues

In 2018, the Health Cluster will promote the protection of patients, health staff and health facilities in accordance with IHL and IHRL. This will be achieved by developing improved tools for monitoring violations of health-related rights and promoting joint advocacy initiatives. The Health Cluster will furthermore prioritize disability mainstreaming, which will be tracked through field monitoring and disaggregation of data on the number of people with disability served through each project, and promotion of the safety and dignity of affected people during service delivery.

Partners will contribute to gender equality and gender-sensitive programming by promoting programming that addresses gender-specific vulnerabilities faced by men, women, girls and boys. Rapid and standard assessments will collect, analyse, and disaggregate data by gender and whenever possible by age group. Gender will also be mainstreamed by working with other clusters to ensure that clinical management of GBV is improved, and that sanitation facilities within health facilities meet the specific needs of women and people with disability.

Community engagement and accountability to affected populations will be enhanced by involving communities and their representatives at all stages of project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Target beneficiaries will be consulted during assessment and will be actively involved in formulating projects. Channels of communication for feedback, complaints and information sharing will be established so that assistance is delivered in

adherence to the principles of “do no harm”. Moreover, the Health Cluster will prioritize the capacity development of local institutional and national partners.

To reduce its environmental footprint and better manage scarce resources, health partners will use solar panels, where possible, in order to overcome the severe electricity shortages in essential health facilities. Environmental concerns will also be addressed with health providers including proper disposal of biological waste and environmental health control in health facilities.

LINKAGES AND SYNERGIES WITH INTERVENTIONS OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE HUMANITARIAN PLAN

The lack of access to essential health services for vulnerable groups in the oPt is the result of multi-dimensional challenges affecting the availability, accessibility, affordability, acceptability and quality of the health system available to Palestinians. Such a complex environment requires a multi-faceted approach over the immediate, medium and long term. Humanitarian and development interventions need to occur simultaneously in order to be effective. Where opportunities exist, the Health Cluster will aim to ensure that humanitarian and development programming is coherently aligned to provide more durable and sustainable assistance to vulnerable groups, in order to more effectively reduce needs and vulnerability and build resilience.

The three areas for improved synergies and increased development assistance include: enhancing the capacity of health workers; establishing a sustainable supply of lifesaving health resources; and improving the resilience of health facilities and communities. Ultimately, the chronic and political nature of the protection crisis in the oPt is the main driver of humanitarian needs and requires action outside the scope of humanitarian interventions, such as health systems development and political solutions, in order to reduce the underlying vulnerabilities that result in such a large humanitarian caseload. The Health Cluster will continue to advocate for such solutions.



PEOPLE IN NEED



PEOPLE TARGETED



REQUIREMENTS (US\$)



OF PARTNERS



CLUSTER OBJECTIVES

1 The resilience, food security and productive capacity of vulnerable households are restored/enhanced and livelihoods protected

2 Households suffering from limited access to food and to income opportunities are able to meet their basic food needs

3 FSS activities, including advocacy and awareness, are planned and implemented in a coordinated manner, and partnership with key national ministries is strengthened

FOOD SECURITY

MULTI-YEAR STRATEGY

The aim of the Food Security Sector (FSS) is to improve the food security of needy and vulnerable Palestinian households by ensuring basic access to food and restoring/enhancing their resilience.

Response Approach

The FSS will achieve this aim through the following multi-pronged approach. First, partners will contribute to restoring and enhancing the productive capacity of vulnerable and affected households by protecting and promoting their livelihoods and assets. This includes the rehabilitation and provision of basic assets, facilitation of access to essential services for improving the quality and increasing the sustainability of local production, as well as the promotion of income generating activities, and the introduction of new and more efficient and sustainable technologies (e.g.: renewable energy). Second, the FSS will address basic food needs of households that are suffering from limited access to food, while reinforcing Palestine's economy and food production by sourcing food locally, and by adopting other ad-hoc cash transfer mechanisms.

Third, partners will assist households with limited access to income opportunities through cash transfers modalities, such as cash for work and unconditional cash support. Finally, the FSS

will improve coordination among FSS partners, including line ministries at central and local level, and enhance information gathering and sharing for preparedness, advocacy, and increased synergies in implementation.

Greater efficiencies over a multi-year period

The FSS is committed to improving efficiency and impact in its response delivery over the multi-year period. It is expected that beneficiaries served by multi-year projects will be assisted through more comprehensive and phased actions, which will enable implementing partners to achieve a broader scope of results, including more durable and sustainable changes in the living conditions of the targeted population. FSS partners are committed to providing direct access to food (through both food in-kind and vouchers), support to low income households, as well as focusing on protection and the promotion of vulnerable agriculture-based livelihoods.

There is an opportunity – and challenge – available over the next three years to shift the emphasis of the FSS response from immediate access to food (i.e. food aid) towards livelihoods, agriculture, or other similar activities that would provide more sustainable access to food. This approach would require more funding and commitment from donors, as agriculture-based livelihoods projects in

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BREAKDOWN OF PEOPLE IN NEED AND TARGETED BY STATUS, SEX AND AGE

| | BY STATUS | | | | | BY SEX & AGE | |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|------------|-----------------|--|------------------------------|
| | Gaza | West Bank | UNRWA Total | UNRWA Gaza | UNRWA West Bank | % female | % children, adult, elderly** |
| PEOPLE IN NEED | 1,186,000 | 424,000 | | | | 49% | 45% 50% 5% |
| PEOPLE TARGETED | 1,150,000 | 300,000 | 1,024,000 | 930,000 | 94,000 | 49% | 45% 50% 5% |
| FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS | \$289M | | | | | **Children (<18 years old), adult (18-59 years), elderly (>59 years) | |

The FSS has identified 1.45 million people targeted as an estimation from targets of major projects. Target per governorate is also an estimation based on the same rationale, as FSS partners respond to food insecurity using a variety of modalities throughout the country.

the HRP in 2016 and 2017 have only been 20 per cent funded and as the per-household cost of this approach – especially for those households in deepest need – would be proportionally greater.

However, these efforts are likely to yield only a minimum impact on the broader levels of food insecurity for the 1.6 million Palestinians in need of food security assistance. To reduce this in a significant and durable way, the root causes of food insecurity – which are political – must be addressed. For example, for food security to improve in Gaza or in the Palestine refugee camps in the West Bank, economic access to food must be improved. For this to take place, the drivers of unemployment and poverty must be addressed, including the easing of access and movement restrictions across Gaza and the West Bank, which have been imposed for political and security reasons. This would assist in paving the way for economic and livelihood recovery and an end to the de-development of Gaza. A significant reduction of the FSS humanitarian caseload is therefore beyond the capacity of humanitarian response plans.

2018 OPERATIONS

Priority response activities

The following food security activities have been prioritized for 2018: provision of support to food insecure households that mitigates poverty and food deprivation, and increases resilience; provision of support to female-headed households, who experience higher levels of food insecurity than male-headed households, including interventions that support women's role in the agricultural sector; provision of support to Palestine refugee households, who also have higher levels of food insecurity than non-refugee households.

People Targeted and Geographical Scope

In 2018, the FSS will target 1.45 million Palestinians of the 1.6 million identified as food insecure and in need of assistance. The FSS need figure has been set by taking into consideration the level of food insecurity in oPt, as studied and determined by the expert agencies. This FSS targeted figure has been estimated on the basis of partners' planned programme interventions, and includes 930,000 Palestine refugees in Gaza and 94,000 Palestine refugees in West Bank in need of aid; 426,000 non-refugee Palestinians across oPt; and 234,000 people are targeted for humanitarian agriculture-based livelihoods assistance. Households in the West Bank affected by the demolition or confiscation of productive assets as a result of both the occupation and settler violence are also targeted. WFP and the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD), which provides assistance to food insecure people through its social safety net programme, target those under the Deep Poverty line, using a Proxy Means Test Formula (PMTF). UNRWA also utilizes a PMTF as a targeting tool, with a slightly adjusted formula. WFP, UNRWA, and MoSD coordinate to avoid duplications.

In terms of geographical scope, support for direct access to food has no specific focus. In the West Bank, agricultural-livelihood activities have a focus on Area C and East Jerusalem,

particularly where agricultural-dependent communities present a high risk of losing their livelihoods as a result of settler violence, demolitions and confiscation of productive assets, and Israeli relocation plans for Palestinian communities. In Gaza, agricultural-livelihood activities have a focus on the ARA, both land and sea.

Inter-cluster / sector linkages

On issues related to water provision and infrastructure, opportunities for coordination and linkages with the WASH Cluster are explored whenever relevant and possible. The strengthening of information-sharing with the Health and Nutrition Cluster is planned regarding nutrition. The FSS furthermore cooperates and coordinates with the Protection Cluster on demolitions response in the West Bank and on livelihoods projects in the Gaza ARA.

Mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues

In 2018 food security interventions will focus on the following protection mainstreaming issues, aimed at decreasing threats, reducing vulnerability and enhancing the capacities of the affected people. Partners will improve food security status at the household level, thereby reducing the use of negative and often irreversible coping strategies, such as school drop-out and child labour. Particularly vulnerable communities in Area C struggling to access basic services such as education, water and sanitation, and health, as a consequence of violations of IHL and IHRL, will be supported with livelihoods interventions, income opportunities and direct access to food. FSS partners will support farmers and fisherfolk in the Gaza ARAs, in response to the coercion and deprivation to which they are exposed. Partners will advocate on issues that drive food insecurity, such as settler violence against farmers in the West Bank and the dual-use restrictions for importing materials into the Gaza Strip, in order to promote increased accountability of respective duty bearers and assist them in fulfilling their obligations.

FSS partners will contribute to gender equality and gender-sensitive programming by prioritizing identification of and response to gender-based vulnerabilities, in order to support the eroded coping capacities of female-headed households in particular. Rural male and female farmers, herders, breeders, fishers and urban and peri-urban producers will be supported to decrease their aid dependence and promote resilience, increasing their capacity to cope and adapt to human-made and natural shocks.

Community engagement will be maintained and further enhanced through continuous consultations at community and household levels. This includes assessments, focus group discussions, monitoring tools, complaints mechanisms, and offering concrete linkages with and involvement of the beneficiaries, who become active actors in planning tailored activities. The active participation of local NGOs is a key element to keeping strong linkages with affected people, which requires increased financial support.

LINKAGES AND SYNERGIES WITH INTERVENTIONS OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE HUMANITARIAN PLAN

Through engagement on needs analysis and the development of the FSS multi-year strategy, FSS partners have identified certain issues where development engagement, rather than humanitarian response, would have a greater impact. These activities are considered key to the achievement of longer term results and to the reduction of the humanitarian caseload. They include, but are not limited to:

- Support to the development of medium-large scale producers and manufacturers, as well as to small and micro-enterprises in all sectors
- Introduction of new and more efficient technologies at large-scale
- Development of water infrastructures and transportation infrastructures
- Creation of fodder banks for supporting the reduction of production costs
- Construction of sea farms
- Establishment of small-medium-scale nurseries
- Provision of large-scale solar systems/renewable energy sources
- Construction of breeding facilities and demonstration farms
- Establishment of livestock market facilities/services
- Improvement of agricultural extension services, including veterinary services

- Development of large-scale water resource systems, including water recycling, and related management techniques
- Long-term training on farm management
- Technical support to government (MoSD) for the implementation of the Social Development Sector Strategy.

The FSS registers a strong consensus among its partners that the inability of developmental actors to address most of the above-mentioned issues will continue to result in protracted and repeated need for humanitarian intervention.

All the above considerations contribute to the recommendation that humanitarian interventions in the oPt should promote activities that go beyond the shorter term horizon of humanitarian assistance. The integration of humanitarian projects focused on immediate relief with projects that aim at reducing the cycle of humanitarian assistance over time, should be promoted and properly funded. Humanitarian interventions remain critically urgent, although it is equally important that additional resources are simultaneously and in parallel directed to implement a more transformative agenda that can promote longer-term dignity and equality for the Palestinian people, and lessen need for humanitarian assistance.



PEOPLE IN NEED



PEOPLE TARGETED



REQUIREMENTS (US\$)



OF PARTNERS



CLUSTER OBJECTIVES

1 Strengthen reporting, documentation and advocacy on education-related violations in support of children's right to safe education

2 Increase equitable and safe access to inclusive, quality educational services for vulnerable children

3 All education stakeholders are better able to cope with and respond to emergencies through DRR preparedness, catch-up classes and school-based psychosocial services

EDUCATION

MULTI-YEAR STRATEGY

The aim of the Education Cluster is to ensure that vulnerable students and teachers have safe access to inclusive, quality education, while also strengthening the emergency preparedness and the resilience of the education system and vulnerable communities more broadly.

Response Approach

The Education Cluster will achieve this aim by working in close partnership with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) and UNRWA to prepare for and respond to crises and shocks, such as school demolitions, natural disasters, attacks on schools and other threats to education and protection.

Greater efficiencies over a multi-year period

Taking advantage of the multi-year HPC, the Education Cluster strategy is designed to enable partners to work smarter, more sustainably and more efficiently. A multi-year approach will help partners integrate their resilience-building strategies within their wider development education programming. Planning over three years has enabled education partners, including the MoEHE, to spend more time assessing the context and develop longer-term relationships with the targeted population groups, leading to more participatory approaches and a community-driven programme design.

Multi-year planning enables partners to blend short-term and long-term activities, with the aim of delivering and measuring improvements in student achievement and quality of learning. If multi-year funding is also made available, partners can make their emergency education interventions more cost-efficient and effective. They can support with more predictable investment in national NGOs and the MoEHE and retain skilled personnel with a holistic knowledge of the context.

The Education Cluster aims to reduce humanitarian needs over the next three years by better supporting humanitarian interventions that improve preparedness for, and mitigation of, the effects of emergency shocks. This will leverage longer-term planning by improving the coordination between the MoEHE, Education in Emergency humanitarian agencies, development organisations and donors. Additionally, by working closely with development actors to promote the construction of more schools and classrooms, class sizes will reduce, which will improve learning outcomes and reduce the likelihood of student dropouts. Lastly, by institutionalising the psychosocial interventions into school systems, there will be less pressure for ad-hoc, reactive psychosocial services, as teachers and schools will already be equipped.

BREAKDOWN OF PEOPLE IN NEED AND TARGETED BY STATUS, SEX AND AGE

| | BY STATUS | | | | | BY SEX & AGE | |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| | Gaza | West Bank | UNRWA Total | UNRWA Gaza | UNRWA West Bank | % female | % children, adult, elderly* |
| PEOPLE IN NEED | 450,192 | 39,953 | | | | 49% | 94% 6% |
| PEOPLE TARGETED | 402,671 | 30,730 | 220,521 | 220,521 | NA | 49% | 94% 6% |
| FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS | \$20.3M | | | | | | |

*Children (<18 years old), adult (18-59 years), elderly (>59 years)

CONTACTS

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2018 OPERATIONS

Priority response activities

The following education activities have been prioritized for 2018: ensuring safe access of children and teachers to schools; providing schools with relevant resources to collect data, document and report education-related violations; supporting legal action to protect schools and access to education; providing emergency education supplies and emergency rehabilitation and renovation of schools/learning spaces; providing catch-up and remedial classes; providing psychosocial support to students and teachers; and strengthening MoEHE's capacity to coordinate emergency education response through contingency planning.

People Targeted and Geographical Scope

In 2018, the Education Cluster will target 433,000 people out of around 490,000 identified as in need of education assistance. Specific focus will be given to students and teachers who are targets of education related violations, such as school demolitions, confiscation of school equipment and harassment, threats or violence on their way to school, resulting in double or triple school shift systems; schools which have no protection from extreme heat or cold; and students who are under house arrest, injured or ex-detainees. In addition, families who are forced to adopt negative coping mechanisms which impact education, such as school withdrawal due to child labour, and early marriage, will be targeted.

In Gaza, the Cluster's focus is on the most vulnerable schools, including but not limited to the Access Restricted Area. In the West Bank, the focus is primarily on Area C, Hebron H2, and East Jerusalem. In particular, priority locations include areas where students have to travel long distances to school; where students and teachers have to cross checkpoints, military areas or firing zones; areas where there are significant shortages of education staff; areas with movement barriers (such as Hebron H2); areas where schools are at risk of being used as shelter for displaced people during emergencies (such as Gaza); or locations where there is a shortage of school infrastructure (such as Bedouin areas and Area C).

Inter-cluster / sector linkages

The 2018 Education response is built around many inter-sectoral linkages. Schools act as hubs for multi-cluster interventions, so that partners can support children with a more holistic response. The inter-cluster linkage with the Protection Cluster includes working within schools to provide child protection referrals, school-based psychosocial support to students, teachers and counselors and training on ERW. In addition, training on monitoring and reporting of education-related violations and the associated legal aid and protection advocacy are also done through inter-cluster coordination.

Cross-cutting activities with WASH include the construction of gender-segregated school toilets, hygiene promotion sessions to students, rehabilitation of water and sanitation infrastructure in schools, and provision of Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) products to female students. Activities with Shelter and NFI partners foresee collaboration during the writing of "Schools as Shelter" guidance and the seasonalization of vulnerable schools. With the Health Cluster, collaboration ensures the provision of assistive devices for students with disabilities and other appropriate support. To

ensure effective coordination with other clusters, it has been agreed that all school-based interventions will fall under the lead responsibility of the Education Cluster.

Mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues

The emergency education strategy in oPt is driven by protection-sensitive activities, which underpin the 2018 EiE response. In addition to school-based psychosocial support, a protective presence for students and teachers, training on Children Affected by Armed Conflict (CAAC) reporting, legal aid and advocacy, schools will develop their own protection-focused interventions.

Gender equality and gender-sensitive programming is promoted through conducting gender analysis that informs partner interventions and MoEHE strategy. Projects will address gender discrimination in terms of access to education, as well as the different risks that boys and girls face on their way to, from and inside, school. Partners will ensure equal participation of boys and girls in student clubs, such as Youth Parliaments, and ensure that school WASH facilities are gender segregated. The Cluster will continue to support the MoEHE in promoting education policies that protect against gender discrimination in schools, such as teacher Codes of Conducts and female mentors.

Community engagement will be enhanced as partners support the establishment of school-based safety committees, which include parents and other community members. The committees identify priorities, map existing resources within the community, prepare school-based contingency plans, and coordinate DRM activities in the school. They work through existing community structures to raise awareness of, and garner commitment to, education interventions. Parent Teacher Associations will also be involved in key education advocacy, in addition to collecting feedback from community members to enhance accountability to affected populations. Student groups, such as Youth Parliaments, will also ensure that students' voices are integral to the design and implementation of emergency education activities.

LINKAGES AND SYNERGIES WITH INTERVENTIONS OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE HUMANITARIAN PLAN

The protracted nature of this crisis, and the shift to multi-year planning, will enable the Education Cluster to strengthen linkages between humanitarian response and development programming in education. In line with this, the MoEHE is gradually assuming some functions of the Cluster. This transition will enable a sustainable common coordination platform for both humanitarian and development education actors. This was evidenced in 2017 through the MoEHE's Joint Protection and Advocacy Strategy (JPAS), which set out the Government's priorities in humanitarian interventions, to which the HRP 2017 closely aligned itself. Greater clarity is now being provided to donors on the synergies between humanitarian and development needs, allowing for more coherent funding streams.

Advocacy for policy changes, including around issues such as attacks on education, access to education in East Jerusalem and Bedouin communities in Area C, will be key to removing underlying drivers of education inequality and fragility.

PEOPLE IN NEED



PEOPLE TARGETED



REQUIREMENTS (US\$)



OF PARTNERS



CLUSTER OBJECTIVES

1 Displaced populations are provided support that mitigates immediate harm and ensures adequate and safe temporary shelter solutions

2 Vulnerable households exposed to harsh weather and protection concerns are supported to meet basic needs and enhance their coping capacity

3 Capacity to respond to natural or manmade hazards in a timely, efficient and effective manner is increased

SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFIs)



MULTI-YEAR STRATEGY

The aim of the Shelter and NFIs cluster is to ensure that displaced Palestinians, and vulnerable households at risk of displacement or exposed to harsh weather and protection concerns, obtain timely and adequate shelter and NFI solutions.

Response Approach

The Shelter and NFIs Cluster will achieve this aim through a multi-pronged approach. First, partners will support displaced populations, particularly those affected by demolitions in the West Bank, to access adequate and safe temporary shelter, including through the provision of cash, tents, prefab units or shelter materials. Second, in Gaza, partners will provide rental assistance to families still displaced after the 2014 conflict. Third, cash or material assistance will be provided to Palestine and other (non-Palestine) refugees from the region. Finally, partners will support the most vulnerable households across the oPt exposed to harsh weather or protection concerns with repair and upgrading assistance, through cash or materials and technical support and oversight. Where possible, they will prioritize durable climate protection that reduces the need for recurrent winterization assistance over emergency winterization NFIs.

Across the West Bank and Gaza, the cluster will also work to increase capacity to respond to natural or manmade hazards in a timely, efficient and effective manner, through the stockpiling and prepositioning of NFIs; community capacity-building to empower affected people to cope with sudden and

protracted shocks and stresses; and the preparedness of Designated Emergency Shelters (DES) and for urban displacement in Gaza.

Greater efficiencies over a multi-year period

Shelter and NFIs partners will utilize interventions that address both immediate needs, as well as the underlying conditions that give rise to those needs. For example, by carrying out upgrading projects on dilapidated or exposed shelters using durable materials to address substandard conditions and reach agreed minimum standards, this will reduce the needs for recurrent temporary weather protection and improve coping capacity. A contiguuum rather than continuum approach will be pursued that recognizes that in addition to immediate concerns, different opportunities, capacities and needs exist that warrant the combined or simultaneous delivery of humanitarian, rehabilitation and development aid, that can increase resilience and coping capacity in the context of a protracted crisis.

Over the three-year period, partners will seek to increase linkages with livelihoods assistance in order to provide a more holistic support that increases resilience and sustainability. The cluster will continue to coordinate with and assist local government to effectively plan, prioritize and oversee provision of assistance and consolidate data management, as well as strengthen monitoring and evaluation to review achievements and gaps. Cluster partners will also work to strengthen relationships with community level organizations to increase accountability, information dissemination and transparency.

BREAKDOWN OF PEOPLE IN NEED AND TARGETED BY STATUS, SEX AND AGE

| | BY STATUS | | | | | BY SEX & AGE | |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|------------|-----------------|---|-----------------------------|
| | Gaza | West Bank | UNRWA Total | UNRWA Gaza | UNRWA West Bank | % female | % children, adult, elderly* |
| PEOPLE IN NEED | 228,916 | 33,325 | | | | 49% | 45% 50% 5% |
| PEOPLE TARGETED | 159,988 | 12,500 | 55,640 | 55,640 | NA | 49% | 45% 50% 5% |
| FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS | \$89.9M | | | | | *Children (<18 years old), adult (18-59 years), elderly (>59 years) | |

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2018 OPERATIONS

Priority response activities

The following shelter and NFI activities have been prioritized for 2018: those that target particularly vulnerable groups, such as herding and marginalized communities located entirely in Area C; vulnerable households in areas prone to flooding; IDPs; PWDs; and widowed, separated or abandoned female-headed households. In addition, the cluster prioritizes activities that aim to reduce the number of people in need over time and decrease recurrent assistance by providing more durable and sustainable materials.

People Targeted and Geographical Scope

In 2018, the Shelter and NFIs Cluster will target 172,500 people, including support to 3,200 IDP families (approximately 16,500 displaced people) in Gaza, and 100 per cent of eligible cases affected by demolitions or settler violence in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. In total, 7,000 households (40,000 people) will be targeted with durable climate protection or upgrading across the oPt to reduce the humanitarian caseload. Some 8,700 families (approximately 50,000 people) are targeted for urgent winterization assistance with emergency NFIs. Stockpiles or prepositioning targets aim to have NFIs in place for up to 120,000 people at risk of flooding, winter storms or conflict in Gaza, while partners in the West Bank will target emergency response to harsh weather or protection threats for up to 2,000 people. A total of 82 schools are also targeted with either full or partial upgrades as DES.

In Gaza, specific focus is given to areas potentially at risk of flooding, the ARA, and potential host communities in the case of new hostilities. In the West Bank, interventions are focused on areas affected by demolition, Bedouin communities in Area C, communities at high risk of forcible transfer, and in East Jerusalem and H2.

Inter-cluster / sector linkages

Collaboration with the Protection Cluster, in particular its Legal Task Force, is essential in the implementation of shelter projects in Area C and East Jerusalem. Legal advice, overview of trends and context analysis will be sought in order to ensure the “do no harm” principle is upheld and to increase protection of provided assistance. The Shelter and NFI Cluster also works closely with the WASH cluster regarding the upgrading of WASH facilities at the household level, both in terms of standards and monitoring, and with the DES Working Group to coordinate the upgrading of schools as emergency shelters. In potential cases of overcrowding, the inputs of WASH and Health will be particularly pertinent to hygiene protection and disease control, and as well as to overall standards in the DES.

Mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues

Shelter and NFIs Cluster activities adopt an integrated protection approach in order to ensure adequate climate protection, safety and security, privacy and dignity and improved wellbeing for occupants. Protection is measured at the outcome level by ensuring accordance with minimum standards and reported improvement in living conditions. In addition, the cluster has developed protection mainstreaming guidance in order to ensure a “do no harm” approach, non-discrimination and the inclusion of vulnerable populations.

Gender equality and gender-sensitive programming will be advanced through gender analysis; partners will address the gender needs of men, women, boys and girls through active beneficiary engagement with all affected groups (not only community leaders) and disaggregated beneficiary data and monitoring indicators and analysis. In Gaza, social hardship cases target at least 25 per cent of female-headed households, as well as PWD and the elderly. In 2016-2017, the cluster carried out a gender analysis in order to review gaps and provide recommendations to the cluster team and partners to strengthen gender integration in shelter projects.

All shelter projects require community engagement at all stages of the project cycle, starting from needs identification, beneficiary selection, project design and implementation, and evaluation. In the West Bank in particular, where vulnerable groups are found in high risk areas, community engagement is vital in identifying risks and ensuring collaborative decision making and informed consent as to the appropriate actions. Communities are increasingly involved in the planning and implementation of projects, enabling selection of the right materials and timing.

LINKAGES AND SYNERGIES WITH INTERVENTIONS OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE HUMANITARIAN PLAN

The Shelter and NFI Cluster observes a unique causal relationship between reconstruction, development and political investment and humanitarian need. Greater funding towards the reconstruction and development budgets – including fulfillment of pledges made at the “Cairo Conference on Palestine - Reconstructing Gaza” held in October 2014 – would lead to a substantial decrease in the humanitarian caseload. If the remaining reconstruction funds were to be made available immediately, the Temporary Shelter Cash Assistance (TSCA) caseload covered under this humanitarian plan would be cleared within a year. If the outstanding USD 148 million in reconstruction funding is not provided, the needs for TSCA will extend across the entire three-year period.

Development funding for programmes from UNRWA or the Ministry of Public Works and Housing or MoSD would help to alleviate serious overcrowding and sub-standard housing prevalent across Gaza and in pockets of the West Bank. Investments in infrastructure and flood prevention can reduce the need for emergency humanitarian shelter response. Engagement with research institutions could also encourage the exploration of alternative or more sustainable materials that would lead to more suitable, liveable housing conditions. Ultimately, economic stimulation and access to affordable construction materials is required to meaningfully alleviate poor housing conditions and the resulting humanitarian needs and protection concerns.

In the West Bank, a change in Israeli practices related to demolitions and confiscations is required to reduce shelter and NFI needs there. In areas where development actors face difficulties in implementing projects, particularly in Area C, thwarted development interventions result in higher demands for humanitarian assistance. To address this in a more sustainable way, cluster partners are working to remain informed of new master plans granted for any community in Area C, which might facilitate development interventions and reduce, or eliminate, the need for humanitarian assistance.

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)



27.1M

OF PARTNERS



10

CLUSTER OBJECTIVES

1 Humanitarian response is implemented through effective coordination mechanisms and supported by the timely allocation of humanitarian pooled funds

2 Provision of humanitarian assistance is enabled through the promotion of humanitarian principles and the rights of Palestinians living under occupation

COORDINATION
AND SUPPORT SERVICES

MULTI-YEAR STRATEGY

The aim of the Coordination and Support Services (CSS) sector is to provide coordination for the implementation of a principled, timely, effective and efficient multi-year humanitarian strategy and operational response in the oPt, within the geographical scope identified as the area of operations for the 2018-2020 HRP.

Response Approach

The CSS sector will achieve this aim through a multi-pronged approach, capitalizing on the roles of each of the partners and their responsibilities within the humanitarian architecture in the oPt. First, CSS partners will ensure an effective coordination system is in place, in compliance with Inter-Agency Standing Committee policies and guidance, that is responsive and effective in meeting the needs of humanitarian partners. Second, partners will ensure improved, inter-sectoral and inter-agency vulnerability and needs analysis, response planning and monitoring, that is adapted to the multi-year humanitarian response strategy. Third, CSS partners will ensure the promotion of humanitarian principles, as well as the neutrality of staff, installations and premises. Finally, the coordination architecture will continue to prioritise the centrality of protection throughout all its areas of work, and will seek to enhance local NGO participation, gender mainstreaming and community engagement.

Greater efficiencies over a multi-year period

The CSS partners will leverage their roles and responsibilities to ensure that every opportunity is maximized to improve the impact and efficiency of coordination and support services for humanitarian action over the multi-year timeframe. Greater efficiencies will be sought by, inter alia, improving the evidence-base for humanitarian needs and interventions, at the ICCG and cluster levels, including by piloting new methodologies to facilitate inter-sector vulnerability analysis and response planning. Humanitarian assistance will furthermore continue to be delivered through partner implementation of project activities that may span more than

one cluster area of responsibility, enhancing the coordination between clusters and partners, and strengthening the response in a holistic way through multi-sector and inter-cluster linkages. Enhancing local NGO participation in the humanitarian response will aim to improve the sustainability, impact and cost-effectiveness of interventions. The effectiveness of the multi-year humanitarian strategy will be sought through targeted advocacy and diplomacy, including for multi-year resource mobilisation. Finally, enhancing the linkages and synergies with interventions outside the scope of the humanitarian plan (see below) is expected – if met by effective response by counterparts – to also achieve greater efficiencies and impact and to a reduction in the overall levels of vulnerability and need for humanitarian coordination and support services in the oPt.

2018 OPERATIONS

Priority response activities

The following CSS activities have been prioritized for 2018: facilitation of timely and effective humanitarian response through the system-wide leadership, coordination and advocacy of the HCT, the ICCG and individual clusters; strengthened joint and cluster-specific needs assessments; improved joint data collection, joint analysis and information management; joint periodic monitoring of the response and impact evaluation over a multi-year timeframe; preparedness activities; targeted advocacy, including through the HCT Advocacy Working Group (AWG); targeted briefings for a variety of stakeholders on the humanitarian situation in the oPt; neutrality activities for staff, installations and premises of UNRWA; and the effective and timely allocation of pooled humanitarian financial resources in accordance with HCT priorities.

Target Population and Geographical Scope

In 2018, the CSS sector will directly target the 99 humanitarian organizations operational in the oPt, as well as the more than 20,000 humanitarian staff employed by these agencies who will benefit from coordination, pooled funding and intra-organizational

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support, learning on humanitarian principles, and other key tenets of humanitarian response. The indirect beneficiaries of coordination are the 1.9 million Palestinians targeted for humanitarian assistance in 2018, who will benefit from the coordinated and effective implementation of activities.

The geographical area of focus for the CSS sector is the same as that for this HRP: all of Gaza, including the ARA, and the West Bank priority areas of East Jerusalem, Area C, and the H2 area of Hebron.

LINKAGES AND SYNERGIES WITH INTERVENTIONS OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE HUMANITARIAN PLAN

With a three-year timeframe for the HRP, the CSS sector, will continue to support the development of linkages and synergies with actors outside the scope of the humanitarian sector, leveraging comparative advantages of different stakeholders. Interventions outside the scope of humanitarian action will be explored, promoted and advocated wherever possible and appropriate, in order to tackle the root causes of vulnerability. Coordination will be improved, engagement and advocacy strengthened, and partnerships with key stakeholders encouraged, avoiding the duplication of interventions by humanitarian and development actors.

While efforts continue globally to translate the commitments of the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit and Grand Bargain into action, the CSS sector in the oPt will seek to play its role in defining the scope of application of the Humanitarian-Development Nexus (HDN) in the oPt, including through establishing linkages with the Palestinian National Policy Agenda and United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2018-2022, wherever possible and appropriate, while safeguarding the humanitarian character of response in the oPt, underpinned by strict adherence to and promotion of IHL and the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. The experience developed through the multi-year commitment to develop these engagements will be offered to inform global discussions.

GUIDE TO GIVING

CONTRIBUTING TO THE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN



To consult the oPt Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and monitoring reports, and to link up with organizations participating to the plan through the clusters, please visit:

<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/occupied-palestinian-territory>

DONATING THROUGH THE CENTRAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND (CERF)



CERF provides rapid initial funding for life-saving actions at the onset of emergencies and for poorly funded, essential humanitarian operations in protracted crises around the world. The OCHA managed CERF receives voluntary contributions from various donors – mainly governments, but also private companies, foundations, charities and individuals – which are combined into a single fund.

CERF also provides funding to the world's most neglected crises. When a disaster fades from the headlines, or never makes the headlines, it is much harder to raise funds. The need for help, however, is no less significant.

Find out more about the CERF and how to donate by visiting the CERF website:

www.unocha.org/cerf/our-donors/how-donate

DONATING THROUGH THE COUNTRY HUMANITARIAN FUND



The Humanitarian Fund (HF) in the oPt is a country-based pooled fund (CBPF). CBPFs are multi-donor humanitarian financing instruments established by the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) and managed by OCHA at the country level under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC), with the support of the Review Board. In addition, an Advisory Board provides general policy and strategy guidance on the overall oPt HF process and priorities. Members of the oPt HF Advisory Board include the donors to the fund and representatives of national and international NGOs and UN agencies.

Find out more about the HF in the oPt by visiting the oPt HF website:

<http://www.ochaopt.org/content/opt-humanitarian-fund>

For information on how to make a contribution, please contact Saad Abdel-Haq, HPF manager:

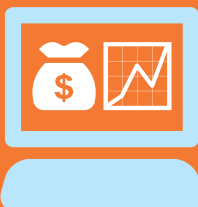
abdel-haq@un.org

IN-KIND RELIEF AID

The United Nations urges donors to make cash rather than in-kind donations, for maximum speed and flexibility, and to ensure the aid materials that are most needed are the ones delivered. If you can make only in-kind contributions in response to disasters and emergencies, please contact: logik@un.org



REGISTERING AND RECOGNIZING YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS



OCHA manages the Financial Tracking Service (FTS), which records all reported humanitarian contributions (cash, in-kind, multilateral and bilateral) to emergencies. Its purpose is to give credit and visibility to donors for their generosity and to show the total amount of funding and expose gaps in humanitarian plans. Please report yours to FTS, either by email to fts@un.org or through the online contribution report form at <http://fts.unocha.org>

PART III: ANNEXES



Objectives, indicators & targets

Participating organizations & funding requirements

Endnotes

What if? ... we fail to respond

OBJECTIVES, INDICATORS & TARGETS

The 2018-2020 monitoring framework will be completed by the HCT in early 2018. The present document will be updated to include it.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS AND FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

| ORGANIZATIONS | REQUIREMENTS (US\$) |
|--|---------------------|
| United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East | 286,543,607 |
| World Food Programme | 44,198,114 |
| Norwegian Refugee Council | 27,148,622 |
| United Nations Children's Fund | 23,035,574 |
| Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations | 14,343,639 |
| ACF - Spain | 11,271,807 |
| OXFAM Netherlands (NOVIB) | 8,266,653 |
| Save the Children | 7,622,663 |
| Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs | 6,541,195 |
| Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development | 6,339,634 |
| Gruppo Volontariato Civile | 5,274,891 |
| Première Urgence Internationale | 5,082,646 |
| MA'AN Development Center | 4,851,353 |
| Mercy Corps | 4,634,718 |
| NGO Development Center | 4,622,397 |
| World Health Organization | 4,555,653 |
| CARE International | 4,528,619 |
| United Nations Population Fund | 4,227,660 |
| Handicap International | 3,464,242 |
| Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees | 2,928,340 |
| Qatar Red Crescent Society | 2,794,560 |
| World Vision Jerusalem West Bank Gaza | 2,723,827 |
| We Effect | 2,593,951 |
| ACT Alliance / Dan Church Aid - Norwegian Church Aid Joint office in Palestine | 2,500,893 |
| United Nations Development Programme | 2,491,810 |
| Union of Agricultural Work Committees | 2,125,955 |
| Economic & Social Development Centre of Palestine | 2,042,769 |
| Save Youth Future Society | 1,925,680 |
| Islamic Relief Worldwide | 1,836,000 |
| Norwegian People's Aid | 1,811,755 |
| Rural Centre for Sustainable Development | 1,653,200 |
| United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women | 1,616,766 |
| Development and Peace | 1,500,000 |
| Médecins du Monde France | 1,461,205 |
| Rebuilding Alliance | 1,442,280 |
| United Nations Mine Action Service | 1,400,000 |
| Palestinian Hydrology Group | 1,312,943 |
| Medico International | 1,200,000 |
| Mabarret Phalastine for Caring Society | 1,158,312 |
| Al Najd Developmental Forum | 1,126,754 |
| Palestinian Youth Union | 1,038,502 |
| Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli | 981,190 |
| Medicos del Mundo | 979,744 |
| Medical Aid for Palestinians | 882,068 |
| Alianza por la Solidaridad | 870,000 |
| United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization | 855,506 |
| Secours Islamique France | 782,607 |
| International Orthodox Christian Charities | 759,000 |
| Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights | 751,553 |
| Arab Center for Agricultural Development | 710,797 |
| Arab Agronomist Association | 694,147 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| National Center for Community Rehabilitation | 693,350 |
| St. John Eye Hospital | 683,400 |
| Palestinian Housing Council | 598,806 |
| Bait Almostuqbul Association | 588,380 |
| War Child Holland | 514,900 |
| Ahli Arab Hospital | 500,000 |
| Central Blood Bank Society | 499,564 |
| National Society for Rehabilitation | 477,770 |
| Palestinian Center for Democracy and Conflict Resolution | 475,498 |
| Terre des Hommes - Lausanne | 435,000 |
| Thalassemia Patients' Friends Society | 429,821 |
| Community Action Center - Al Quds University | 427,321 |
| Juzoor Foundation for Health & Social Development (Juzoor) | 419,611 |
| EducAid Onlus | 416,230 |
| Teacher Creativity Centre | 390,195 |
| Tomoooh Association for Skills Development | 374,610 |
| El-Wafa Rehabilitation Hospital | 362,832 |
| Center for Mind Body Medicine | 353,892 |
| Palestinian Environmental Friends | 347,355 |
| Rural Women's Development Society | 317,652 |
| Gaza Community Mental Health Programme | 292,556 |
| Union of Health Work Committees | 271,791 |
| Physicians for Human Rights | 270,580 |
| Yesh Din - Volunteers for Human Rights | 250,000 |
| B'Tselem - the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories | 236,178 |
| The Society of Women Graduates in Gaza strip | 235,940 |
| Culture and Free Thought Association | 224,600 |
| Center for Women's Legal Research and Consulting | 217,610 |
| AISHA Association for Woman and Child Protection | 216,396 |
| Center for the Defence of the Individual | 214,000 |
| Red Crescent Society for Gaza Strip (NNGO) | 205,440 |
| Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children | 200,260 |
| Palestinian Center for Human Rights | 200,130 |
| Basmet Amal for Cancer Care | 186,100 |
| Al Mezan Center for Human Rights | 173,480 |
| Women's Affairs Center | 171,580 |
| Wefaq Society for Women and Child Care | 164,580 |
| Palestine Save the Children Foundation | 155,567 |
| Health Work Committees | 152,150 |
| United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) | 151,046 |
| Psycho Social Counselling Center for Women | 129,196 |
| Theatre Day Productions | 123,527 |
| Baitona for Community Development | 122,040 |
| Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre | 110,620 |
| Sawa Organization | 100,000 |
| Public Committee Against Torture in Israel | 69,400 |
| ACT Alliance / Diakonia, Sweden | 65,000 |
| World Council of Churches (project requirements submitted by ACT Alliance / Dan Church Aid - Norwegian Church Aid Joint office in Palestine) | 1,511,676 |

ENDNOTES

1. In Gaza, “An 11 year-old child has not experienced more than 12 hours of electricity in a single day in his/her lifetime.” Gaza Ten Years Later, UNCT, July 2017, p. 2.
2. World Bank, Economic Monitoring Report to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, 18 September 2017, paras, 14-16.
3. Israel restricts the entry of goods into Gaza, considered as having a “dual” military-civilian use, including civilian items “liable to be used, side by side with their civilian purposes, for the development, production, installation or enhancement of military capabilities and terrorist capacities.” http://www.mfa.gov.il/mfa/foreignpolicy/peace/humanitarian/pages/lists_controlled_entry_items_4-jul-2010.aspx.
4. Gaza Ten Years Later, UNCT, July 2017, p. 3.
5. According to the Israeli authorities, such demolitions are a means of enforcing existing laws and regulations.
6. The average approval rate for applications for building permits for Palestinians in Area C in 2007-2016 was less than four per cent. There are over 12,500 demolition orders pending against Palestinian property in Area C.
7. UNSCO, Report to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, 18 September 2017, p. 6.
8. Report of the Secretary General, Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan, A/HRC/34/39, 16 March 2017.
9. Overlaps were revealed with the vulnerable groups identified by the UN Country Team (UNCT) in the 2016 Common Country Analysis (CCA).
10. As defined by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) in 1999: “...all activities aimed at obtaining full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the relevant bodies of law (i.e. International Human Rights Law (IHRL), International Humanitarian Law (IHL), International Refugee Law (IRL)); Protection of Internally Displaced Persons, Inter-Agency Standing Committee Policy Paper, page 4, December 1999.
11. Inter-Agency Standing Committee Policy on Protection in Humanitarian Action, Annex IV, 2016.
12. Grand Bargain commitment 10: “Enhance engagement between humanitarian and development actors”, https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Grand_Bargain_final_22_May_FINAL-2.pdf.
13. Grand Bargain commitment 2: “More support and funding tools for local and national responders”.
14. Nevertheless, the protracted and unique context of the oPt renders the full transition of clusters to Palestinian government leadership or the deactivation of clusters unlikely in the foreseeable period. The continuation of access restrictions to Area C, East Jerusalem, Hebron H2, and Gaza; potential for renewed cycles of conflict; and the centrality of protection as a system-wide responsibility of the humanitarian community necessitates that the cluster system remains operational in those areas and be ready to scale up as required.
15. Inter-cluster / sectoral linkages have been defined in more detail by each cluster in Part II of this document.
16. The Global Protection Cluster Protection Mainstreaming Task Team defines protection mainstreaming as the process of incorporating protection principles and promoting meaningful access, safety and dignity in humanitarian aid (GPC Protection Mainstreaming Training Package).
17. More information on the IASC Gender Marker can be found at: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/topics/gender/page/iasc-gender-marker>.
18. Response Planning Module (RPM) website: <https://plan.hpc.tools/#/plan/633>.
19. Grand Bargain commitment 7: “Increase collaborative humanitarian multi-year planning and funding”.
20. Financial Tracking Service (FTS) website: <https://fts.unocha.org/>.
21. Grand Bargain commitment 2: “More support and funding tools for local and national responders”.

WHAT IF?

...WE FAIL TO RESPOND

CHILDREN IN GAZA AND WEST BANK WILL NOT RECEIVE NEEDED CHILD PROTECTION AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Palestinian children are growing up with a deep sense of hopelessness and insecurity about their future. Family and community-based support and psychosocial interventions are urgently needed to prevent the progression of psychosocial distress to mental health disorders, and to strengthen the ability of families to support over 320,000 children. With one in four children in Gaza needing psychosocial support, the lack of support for child protection interventions will mean that families with complex problems will not receive the support and referrals they need.

THE PLIGHT OF 1.6 MILLION FOOD INSECURE PALESTINIANS WILL FURTHER DETERIORATE

1.6 million Palestinians in the oPt are currently considered food insecure. If we are not able to deliver food and livelihoods assistance to these people, food insecurity could increase, livelihoods could be irreversibly lost, and families will turn to negative coping mechanisms, such as reducing their food intake, selling productive assets or reducing expenditure on basics like education and health, in order to try to keep their heads above water.

EDUCATION WILL CONTINUE TO BE AFFECTED BY CONFLICT AND OCCUPATION WITHOUT MITIGATION

Without adequate protective measures and protective presence activities, material support, as well as advocacy, reporting and legal and psychosocial support, approximately 40,000 Palestinian school children and teachers will continue to risk unacceptable attacks on their access to education. In the West Bank children's education is affected for example by military activities, including military incursions onto school grounds. In Gaza, school children suffer from a range of humanitarian challenges, including continuous power outages, overcrowded schooling conditions and limited hours of instruction.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPS) IN GAZA WILL CONTINUE TO LIVE IN PRECARIOUS HOUSING CONDITIONS

Without funding for transitional solutions such as cash to rent homes or repair their damaged houses, around 23,500 IDPs in Gaza will continue to live in precarious and risky conditions including unrepaired damaged houses, caravans, tents and makeshift shelters. In the absence of durable solutions, the effects of winter weather will increase the vulnerability of these people, affecting their physical and mental health and wellbeing.

ONE MILLION PEOPLE COULD BE EXPOSED TO PUBLIC HEALTH RISKS DUE TO UNSAFE WATER

Without funding for interventions to provide clean and safe water, up to one million people in Gaza could be exposed to severe public health risks, including an outbreak of waterborne diseases. In the West Bank, the destruction of essential WASH infrastructure has led to displacement, increased poverty, and also an increased risk of disease and illness.

VULNERABLE PEOPLE WILL BE DENIED BASIC HEALTHCARE

If we fail to respond, essential services in Gaza hospitals such as neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) will face life-threatening shortages, with impacts on an estimated 8,000 newborns requiring transfer to NICUs every year. In the West Bank, lack of funding could lead to the discontinuation of primary health mobile services for over 260,000 people, including Palestine refugees, in Area C due to the physical barriers they face on a daily basis.

This document is produced on behalf of the Humanitarian Country Team and partners.

This document provides the Humanitarian Country Team's shared understanding of the crisis, including the most pressing humanitarian needs, and reflects its joint humanitarian response planning.

The designation employed and the presentation of material on this report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Humanitarian Country Team and partners concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.



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