



Vulnerable children in Gaza receiving UNICEF schoolbags and essential stationary.

# State of Palestine

## Humanitarian Situation Report



January – December 2017

### State of Palestine

#### Highlights

- In 2017, a chronic humanitarian and protection crisis continued to affect Palestinian children and families, as tensions escalated in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The energy situation in Gaza continued to deteriorate, with regular rolling blackouts of 12-17 hours per day, and up to 19 hours a day at the end of the year. This had a direct impact on the delivery of services, including health, water and sanitation, and education.
- UNICEF supported the rehabilitation of water and sewage systems, and improved access to safe drinking water in the most vulnerable communities of the Gaza Strip and of the West Bank. In total, more than 32,685 people benefited from improved access to water as a result of UNICEF's interventions in the West Bank and Gaza.
- A total of 85,384 children and 42,055 pregnant and lactating mothers living in vulnerable communities in the West Bank and Gaza benefited from emergency pediatric, neonatal and maternal medical supplies.
- UNICEF continued to work with its partners to ensure that children who must cross checkpoints on the way to school in the West Bank have safe access, and supported the provision of a protective accompaniment and presence to 8,123 children and 414 teachers on their way to and from schools. UNICEF also ensured that students affected by the conflict benefit from educational supplies and remedial learning.
- At least 769 Palestinian children were arrested / detained in East Jerusalem in 2017; UNICEF provided legal support to 650 of them through its local partners.
- Funding constraints continue to hamper UNICEF's ability to meet the needs of up to 221,396 children in need of humanitarian assistance, and to impact UNICEF's response in the areas of child protection and education, with a funding gap of 69 per cent and 49 per cent respectively.

**800,000**

# of children affected out of total population  
(UN OCHA Humanitarian HRP 2017)

**2,000,000**

# of people affected  
(UN OCHA Humanitarian HRP 2017)

**221,396**

# of children targeted out of total population

**327,483**

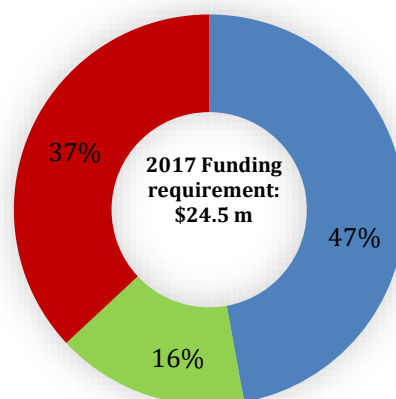
# of people targeted  
(UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children 2017)

#### UNICEF Appeal 2017

**US\$ 24.5 million**

#### Funding Status\*

**US\$ 15.5 million**



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

#### UNICEF's Response with Partners

	UNICEF		Sector/Cluster	
	UNICEF Target	Total Results*	Cluster Target	Total Results*
WASH: # of people in humanitarian situation benefited from improved access to water	85,644	32,685	209,000	84,317
Child Protection: # of children benefitted from child protection interventions	53,696	14,637	176,000	83,706
Education: # of children & teachers benefitted from protective presence	4,700	8,537	4,700	8,537
Health: # of children and women benefitted from emergency health care services / supplies	95,000	127,439	535,443	127,439

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

In 2017, a chronic humanitarian and protection crisis continued to affect Palestinian children and their families. Tensions were especially high in December, with clashes between Palestinians and Israeli Security Forces resulting in child deaths, injuries and arrest. At least 120 Palestinian children were arrested in December in Jerusalem; 99 of them were provided with legal aid by UNICEF and its partners. In 2017, a total of 265,000 Palestinian children were in need of structured psychosocial support and child protection interventions.

In the Gaza Strip, the loss of development gains resulting from restrictions on movement of people and goods continued, and the energy and electricity situation deteriorated significantly from April 2017, with families receiving less than five hours of electricity daily in December. Added to a reduction in the salaries of civil servants and further cuts in services, it negatively affected the entire population of two million – half of them children – and deepened the humanitarian needs in terms of access to safe drinking water, sanitation and health. Hospitals were left mainly running on generators and emergency fuel funded by humanitarian pooled funds.

Palestinian children in the West Bank continued to be affected by restrictions on movement, in particular when trying to access hospitals in East Jerusalem, and schools. They were also affected by stop-work and demolition orders issued against schools, residential structures and WASH infrastructure in Area C of the West Bank.

The total number of people in need of access to WASH was 1.45 million in 2017 -- of which 90 per cent live in the Gaza Strip. At least 85 per cent of people in need of WASH services suffer from poor water quality due to poor infrastructure, restrictions on fuel supplies and acute power cuts.

Estimated Population in Need of Humanitarian Assistance (Estimates calculated based on initial figures from Humanitarian Response Plan 2017)			
Start of humanitarian response: Jan, 2017			
	Total	Male	Female
Total Population in Need	2,000,000	1,018,000	982,000 <sup>1</sup>
Children (Under 18)	800,000	408,000	392,000
Children Under Five in need of WASH services	214,866	109,582	105,285
Pregnant and lactating women	156,504	NA	156,504

## Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

UNICEF, as part of the UN Country Team and Humanitarian Country Team, coordinates its humanitarian response, early recovery and reconstruction activities with the Palestinian Authority (PA). UNICEF leads the WASH cluster in close cooperation with the Palestinian Water Authority and continues to transition cluster coordination functions to the national authorities. UNICEF co-leads the Education Cluster with Save the Children in Gaza and the Education in Emergencies Sector Working Group in the West Bank. UNICEF also leads the Child Protection Working Group and the Mental Health and Psychosocial Services (MHPSS) group within the Protection cluster led by OHCHR. UNICEF co-leads the Nutrition Working Group under the Health Cluster in Gaza and at the national level, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Health and WHO.

## Humanitarian Strategy

UNICEF ensures complementarity of its humanitarian programmes with national efforts reaching the most vulnerable communities. UNICEF promotes 'resilient development', by bridging the divide between development and humanitarian assistance, integrating risk factors into programming, and strengthening national systems that can anticipate and absorb shocks in the event of conflict, violence or disasters. This requires addressing the underlying drivers of inequity and fragility that fuel socio-economic deprivation and stresses. UNICEF provides technical expertise and support in strengthening child protection systems and services, including case management and referrals. It monitors and reports on child rights violations to inform evidence-based advocacy for improved protection of children, as well as programming. UNICEF promotes supports the provision of essential and life-saving paediatric medicines and medical consumables, including micronutrient supplementation and infant and young child feeding. UNICEF also supports the rehabilitation of water and sewage systems, and improved access to safe drinking water in affected communities in Gaza and the West Bank. Lastly, UNICEF ensures that children have safe access to schools and benefit from education supplies and remedial learning.

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<sup>1</sup> Disaggregated based on 2016 PCBS population figures (50.9% male and 49.1% female)

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

In 2017, more than 32,685 people benefited from improved access to water as a result of UNICEF's interventions in the West Bank and Gaza. During the reporting period, UNICEF in collaboration with Gruppo di Volontariato Civile (GVC) completed the rehabilitation of WASH facilities for 300 households in different areas in Gaza including Rafah, Khan Yunis, Middle area, North Gaza and Gaza city.

In collaboration with Action Against Hunger (ACF), UNICEF distributed 1,400 water storage tanks to 1,400 households in Khan Yunis, Rafah and Gaza City to increase the household storage capacity when water supply hours decrease. In the West Bank, WASH activities provided 7,904 people with access to drinking water at a subsidized price.

In collaboration with WFP, UNICEF distributed e-vouchers for family hygiene kits to 7,608 households (3804 females) in Gaza city, Khan Yunis and Rafah. Overall in 2017, a total of 15,297 people attended sessions on positive hygiene behaviours in cooperation with WFP and GVC.

UNICEF continued its support to the water disinfection program that carried out by Costal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU) through chlorine distribution for 70 water wells in Khan Yunis and Rafah, benefitting more than 500,000 residents connected to the municipal networks. Responding to current electricity crisis in Gaza, and in collaboration with CMWU, UNICEF carried out critical electromechanical repairs of malfunctioning and/or damaged WASH facilities in all Gaza Governorates, including all associated procurement of materials and service contracts to repair 14 water desalination plants, 93 water production wells, and 10 booster stations, 50 wastewater lifting stations and 5 wastewater treatment plants, 10 Emergency Municipal Heavy Machineries and 250 generators. These repairs have benefitted around 1,000,000 people in Gaza.

UNICEF in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), rehabilitated two public schools to serve as designated emergency shelters for 1,000 people during emergencies in Gaza Strip.

WASH activities encountered several challenges, especially delays in the entry of materials for repair work and rehabilitation of water networks into Gaza. Other challenges included the shrinking of resources, capacity building needs for WASH stakeholders, and the destruction and uprooting of water networks that were installed in Area C. According to the Humanitarian Needs Overview HNO for 2017 which informs WASH HRP 2018, approximately 1.8 million persons are in need for humanitarian WASH assistance, out of which 52 per cent are children. The WASH Cluster coordinated the supply of emergency fuel to more than 130 critical WASH installations in Gaza and developed an analysis of winterization preparedness and response where over half a million of persons are at the risk of being exposed to floods.



*Water distribution to respond to acute water scarcity needs in Area C in Hebron.*



*Child-Parent interaction activities inside Kindergarten, Al Maghazi camp, Gaza*

### Child Protection

In Gaza, UNICEF, the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) and other partners reached a total of 14,365 children (7,330 girls and 7,035 boys) in 2017 with structured child protection services in 20 family centres in the Gaza Strip. An annual cumulative total of 1,983 children (829 girls and 1,154 boys) received individual case management support, in addition to 6,154 caregivers (5,022 females and 1,132 males) caregivers benefited from awareness raising sessions on the protection of their children. The Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) risk education sessions were delivered to a total of 12,729 (7,969 females and 4,760 males) reached for 2017.

UNICEF and Terre des Hommes organised a Child Protection Minimum Standards (CPMS) training for protection focal points who will work in the governmental designated emergency shelters during emergencies. The purpose of the training was to increase their knowledge and skills and to strengthen the quality of child protection support provided during an escalation of hostilities. To gauge the impact of the energy crises on the protection of children in Gaza, UNICEF supported the CPWG to conduct a rapid assessment. The study highlighted the impact of the fuel crisis on children, including increased distress, tiredness from lack of sleep, increased risk

of protection violations due to playing on streets and absence of caregivers, increased incidences of child labour, violence and health problems associated with poor hygiene and swimming in the sewage polluted sea.

The arrest and/or detention of 769 children in East Jerusalem was documented in 2017. UNICEF through its local partners provided legal support to 650 children who required legal assistance out of the 769 documented cases. Additionally, 272 previously detained children participated in psychosocial support sessions to help them to overcome the stress of being in contact with security forces.

UNICEF completed a mapping of Civil Society Organisations providing protection services to vulnerable children in hot spot areas of East Jerusalem. The study results show that 38 per cent of participant organisations deliver Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS) services, 27 per cent deliver legal services and 35 per cent deliver education services. The Old City was found to have the highest number of service providers. However, results indicated that there are service delivery gaps in Jabal al Mukabber, Essawiya and Shufat Refugee Camp.

During the year of 2017, the UNICEF-led CP and MHPSS Working Groups in Gaza reached 60,664 children (31,130 girls and 29,534 boys) with child protection, mental health and psychosocial services including case management, counselling and life skills.

## Education and Adolescents

In 2017, UNICEF supported the provision of protective presence to 8,123 children and 414 teachers on their way to and from schools in the West Bank. The coverage of this service was expanded in the last quarter of 2017 after tensions escalated in the hot spot areas of West Bank. On 7 December, all government schools in the West Bank and Gaza were closed for a day due to general strike and on 9 December two schools in Gaza were closed as they sustained minor damage in the previous night's airstrike by Israeli Forces.

In Gaza, 3,296 vulnerable children, grades 4 to 6, who were experiencing difficulties in learning, managed to improve their skills in numeracy and literacy through UNICEF-supported remedial education classes. The programme focuses on Arabic and mathematics to enable students to achieve their potential, particularly those failing to meet minimal normative standards in these subjects.



*Remedial catch-up classes for children at risk of falling behind in school, Gaza.*

To ensure the provision of basic school supplies to the most marginalized children, UNICEF delivered school bags and basic stationery for 13,000 school children in Gaza in October 2017. Due to increasing poverty in the Gaza strip, many children had to start the new school year without the most essential supplies needed for their education. Furthermore, construction of the first child-friendly school in Gaza, Jamal Abdel Nasser School, was concluded in collaboration with UNDP. The school is expected to be inaugurated in early-February in time for the second school semester.

In partnership with Al Nayzak organisation, UNICEF empowered 5,919 disadvantaged adolescents (56 per cent girls) in Gaza and the West Bank with life skills relevant to foster entrepreneurship, such as communication, planning and organisation, to improve their work readiness and to enable them to meaningfully contribute towards their community development. National capacity to deliver life skills was strengthened, through the training of 270 teachers and facilitators (55 per cent female). Following the training stage, adolescents are now applying and practicing their newly acquired knowledge through designing and leading entrepreneurial initiatives in their communities.

## Child Health & Nutrition

In 2017, work on the construction and rehabilitation of neonatal intensive care units (NICU) in Rafah and Khan Yunis Hospitals in Gaza was completed with UNICEF's support and new additional floors were built. The units were handed over to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in October 2017, and so far, 2,500 neonates benefited from the improved quality of neonatal health care. UNICEF has started the rehabilitation of the neonatal unit in Beit Jala hospital in West Bank. This work will double the existing capacity of the neonatal unit, and will ensure lifesaving services for 1,000 neonates on a yearly basis. A total of 4,850 vulnerable new-borns benefited from quality early new-born life-saving and effective interventions.

UNICEF coordinated with the Israeli authorities to facilitate the evacuation of conjoined newborns from Gaza for lifesaving medical intervention.

In 2017, UNICEF continued to support the NGO Neo East Council of Churches to deliver outreach health care interventions for the most vulnerable and high risk pregnancies and babies. A total of 5,411 (100 per cent of the annual target) mother and new-born babies at high risk have benefited from targeted postnatal home visit services within 24-hours after delivery. In total, 56,473 vulnerable children and their mothers benefitted from home based and community counselling on early child health, nutrition and development including early detection of children with disabilities and intervention.



*Evacuation of conjoined twins, Queen Alya Airport in*

under age of five. In the West Bank, outreach health care activities continued where about 700 children and 300 mothers benefited from the mobile clinics in Yatta and Dura remote communities.

During the reporting period, a total of 85,384 children and 42,055 pregnant and lactating mothers in vulnerable communities benefited from emergency paediatric, neonatal and maternal medical supplies at the National level reaching more than 135,039 children and pregnant women in 2017.

## Media and External Communication

In celebration of the World Children's Day (WCD) in November, several initiatives were organised and multimedia products were released to promote adolescents' empowerment, including a video showing children "taking over" the EU-funded Southern Gaza Desalination Plant, adolescents meeting with the Palestinian Prime Minister in his office in Ramallah to express their concerns and share their views, and adolescents taking over a national radio programme in Ramallah.

Various communication initiatives were carried out in support of the international conference on early childhood development (ECD) organised jointly with the World Bank, to increase awareness on the importance of ECD and advance support to children with disabilities. This included the development of advocacy materials, local media coverage and amplification on social media. Marking the World Water Day, events and multimedia products were released highlighting the contribution of WASH in school. Briefings for diplomats and donors were organised on the situation of children in the Gaza Strip, in particular on the impact of the WASH and electricity crises on their daily lives, and access to specialized health care. Blogs were produced showing the potential of adolescents in Gaza, the importance of supporting adolescent development and UNICEF's contribution to it.

Public and private advocacy was undertaken to help increase children's safe access to school in the West Bank, and also to increase the protection of children and ensure they stay in school even during heightened tensions across the State of Palestine in December.



*Palestinian students meet with Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah on World Children's Day*



*A Palestinian adolescent "taking over" Nisaa FM radio for World Children's Day*

## Supply and Logistics

As part of the emergency preparedness, UNICEF continues to follow up with the Israeli authorities on pending customs approvals, which include supplies for the prepositioning of emergency Health and Nutrition medical drugs and equipment. The latter are for

critical lifesaving Health and Nutrition interventions. UNICEF also handed over to the MoH in the West Bank two Mobile Clinics. Other essential medical consumables were delivered to the MoH in Gaza and other essential goods for WASH (water tanks/ Sodium Hypochlorite).

In 2017, UNICEF signed several construction contracts including the construction and rehabilitation of the paediatric and neonatal wards at Beit Jala Hospital, construction of WASH installations in designated Emergency Shelters in Gaza and the design and construction of emergency renewable energy (RE) system for Southern Gaza Desalination Plant.

## Funding

The 2017 UNICEF Humanitarian appeal was for US\$ 24.5 million. Around US\$ 15.5 million or 63 per cent of the requirements was available as of 31 December, 2017.

Appeal Sector	SoP - UNICEF HRP 2017 Funding Requirements				
	Requirements (USD)	Funds Available *		Funding Gap	
		Funds Received Current Year	Carry-Over	USD	%
WASH	12,913,574	6,639,104	2,175,505	4,098,965	32%
Education	3,985,578	1,385,660	636,353	1,963,565	49%
Child Protection	3,987,067	926,871	288,026	2,772,170	70%
Health and Nutrition	2,804,490	2,345,266	811,016	-351,792	0%
Cluster Coordination	855,198	271,205	0	583,993	68%
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>24,545,907</b>	<b>11,568,106</b>	<b>3,910,900</b>	<b>9,066,901</b>	<b>37%</b>

In line with the country's inter-agency 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan, UNICEF is requesting US\$25,805,400 to meet the humanitarian needs of children in the State of Palestine in 2018. Without this funding, UNICEF will be unable to support affected communities with critical health and WASH services. Funding is also urgently needed to ensure that children and caregivers in highly vulnerable areas have access to education and protection services. To date, US\$ 4,822,577 is available.

Appeal Sector	SoP - UNICEF HRP 2018 Funding Requirements				
	Requirements (USD)	Funds Available *		Funding Gap	
		Funds Received Current Year	Carry-Over	USD	%
WASH	15,919,500	0	3,344,726	12,574,774	79%
Education	3,798,100	0	448,946	3,349,154	88%
Child Protection	2,338,700	2,295	75,042	2,261,363	97%
Health and Nutrition	2,769,900	519,507	432,061	1,818,332	66%
Cluster Coordination	979,200	0	0	979,200	100%
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>25,805,400</b>	<b>521,802</b>	<b>4,300,775</b>	<b>20,982,823</b>	<b>81%</b>

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

## Next SitRep: 15/04/2018

**UNICEF State of Palestine:** <http://www.unicef.org/oPt>

**UNICEF State of Palestine on Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/unicefstateofpalestine>

**UNICEF State of Palestine on Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/UNICEFpalestine>

**UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children 2017:** [http://www.unicef.org/appeals/state\\_of\\_palestine.html](http://www.unicef.org/appeals/state_of_palestine.html)

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## SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS

		UNICEF and IPs			Cluster Response		
	Overall needs <sup>2</sup>	2017 Target	Total Results	Change since last report (September 2017) <sup>3</sup> ▲ ▼	2017 Target	Total Results	Change since last report ▲ ▼
<b>WATER, SANITATION &amp; HYGIENE</b>	<b>1,461,800</b>						
# of people in humanitarian situation benefited from improved access to water	<b>535,000</b>	85,644	32,685	17,854 ▲	209,000	84,317	25,482 ▲
# of people in humanitarian situation benefited from improved access to sanitation services	<b>215,000</b>	20,486	3,150 <sup>4</sup>	1,200 ▲	121,000	34,172	1,800 ▲
# of people attending sessions on positive hygiene behaviors	<b>1,240,000</b>	23,147	15,297	12,897 ▲	163,000	50,903	21,583 ▲
# of students and teachers with access to improved WASH facilities in schools	<b>106,000</b>	25,826	0	0 <sup>5</sup>	25,826	1,000	1,000 ▲
<b>CHILD PROTECTION</b>	<b>543,160</b>						
# of children benefiting from structured child protection interventions including life skills programs	<b>284,869</b>	53,696	14,637	4,607 ▲	176,000	83,706	9,939 ▲
# of children, women and men who receive information on their rights and access legal services.	<b>3,989</b>	1,500	650	215 ▲	1,500	650	155 ▲
# of incidents of grave violations against children monitored and documented	<b>2,500</b>	2,467	2,800	915 ▲	2,467	2,800	0
# of people (children and caregivers) receive ERW risk education, including children	<b>251,802</b>	46,596	12,729	4,509 ▲	175,000	78,887	16,250 ▲
<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>521,569</b>						
# of children benefited from provision of supplies and materials	<b>472,319</b>	40,000	13,000	13,000 ▲	292,852	328,140	30,411 ▲

<sup>2</sup> The overall need per sector is aligned to the needs reflected in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2017 published by UNOCHA and is not the sum of indicators under that section to avoid double counting.

<sup>3</sup> The progress reflects the change since the last SitRep (September 2017).

<sup>4</sup> Provision of sanitation services was hampered by funding constraints.

<sup>5</sup> All WASH in-schools' projects were funded from non-humanitarian fund in 2017.

# of children and teachers benefiting from protective presence / accompaniment to school	6,900	4,700	8,537 <sup>6</sup>	0 <sup>7</sup>	4,700	8,537	0
# of adolescents participating in life-skills building and community based activities	13,000	3,000	5,919	5,919 ▲	3,000	5,919	5,919 ▲
# of children in grades 3 to 6 benefitting from catch up classes	80,104	2,000	3,296 <sup>8</sup>	3,296 ▲	66,984	3,596	3,596 ▲
HEALTH and NUTRITION	998,443						
# of children and women benefiting from emergency health care services / supplies	998,443	95,000	127,439 <sup>9</sup>	49,200 ▲	535,443	127,439	49,200 ▲
# of vulnerable children and their mothers who benefit from targeted outreach health care interventions	998,443	16,625	18,263	3,930 ▲	535,443	18,263	3,930 ▲
# of children provided with life – saving neonate care services	7,253	500	4,850 <sup>10</sup>	1,515 ▲	500	4,850	1,515 ▲

<sup>6</sup> The coverage for this activity was expanded in the last quarter of 2017 after tensions escalated in hot-spot areas of the West Bank.

<sup>7</sup> The provision of protective presence / accompaniment is normally reaching same children/teachers every school day, thus no change from the last reporting period.

<sup>8</sup> The coverage of this activity was hindered due to funding constraints.

<sup>9, 13</sup> The coverage was expanded after additional funding was made available for this activity.