



Sport activity, Forsan Al-Ghad Family Center, Gaza Strip

State of Palestine

Humanitarian Situation Report

unicef

State of Palestine

January – March 2018

Highlights

- During the first quarter of 2018, the deteriorating socio-economic situation in the Gaza Strip, characterized by shortages in the electricity and fuel supply, uncertainty in the funding of key services and renewed clashes has deepened the severe humanitarian situation for Palestinian children and their families.
- Ongoing demonstrations in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have so far resulted in the death of 33 Palestinians, including three children (source: UN).
- In addition to 3,193 children reached with child protection and MHPSS services, psychosocial support was provided to 40 children directly affected.
- Two stocks of prepositioned essential drugs and medical consumables were released to cover emergency medical care for 111,532 children and their families.
- UNICEF supported the rehabilitation of water systems to improve access to safe drinking water in the most vulnerable communities of the Gaza Strip and of the West Bank. More than 24,640 people benefited from improved access to water as a result of UNICEF's interventions in Gaza.
- UNICEF is currently supporting the training 180 pre-schools and 600 school teachers on positive discipline, in view of activating 60 school mediation teams as part of its non-violence programming.
- UNICEF and its partners provided protective accompaniment and presence to 5,400 children and 144 teachers crossing military checkpoints to and from schools in the West Bank.
- The current deterioration of the situation in Gaza and rising tensions in the West Bank require urgent funding for child protection, health and education interventions to address the growing humanitarian needs and funding gap of 72 percent.

1,300,000

of children affected out of total 2.5m people in need (UN OCHA Humanitarian HRP 2018)

2,500,000

of people in need (UN OCHA Humanitarian HRP 2018)

652,000

of children to be reached (UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children 2018)

729,000

of people to be reached (UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children 2018)

UNICEF Appeal 2018

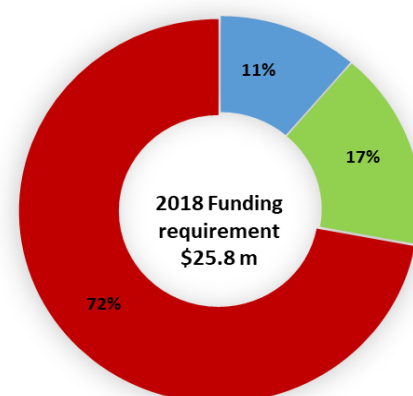
US\$ 25.8 million

Funding Status*

US\$ 7.7 million

UNICEF's Response with Partners

	UNICEF Response		Cluster Response	
	2018 Target	Total Results	2018 Target	Total Results
WASH: # of people in humanitarian situation benefited from improved access to water	155,521	24,640	539,000	27,033
Child Protection: # of children benefiting from structured child protection interventions including life skills programs	51,386	1,428	155,246	3,534
Education: # of children and teachers benefiting from protective presence / accompaniment to school	8,500	5,544	8,500	5,544
Health: # of children <5 and women benefiting from improved health and nutritional services from hospitals, clinics and outreach teams	200,000	10,190	200,000	10,190



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

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Tensions have been running high in the State of Palestine following the announcement of the move of the United States Embassy to Jerusalem at the end of December 2017, planned for 14 May 2018. This comes at a time when Gaza’s economy continues to deteriorate as the intra-Palestinian reconciliation process appears stalled, having brought no real improvement in the lives of children so far. On 13 March, the Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority’s convoy was hit by a roadside Improvised Explosive Device as he visited Gaza to inaugurate the new Northern Gaza Emergency Sanitation Treatment Plant.

In Gaza, families have access to less than five hours of electricity a day and continue to face difficulties to access safe drinking water. Added to a reduction in the salaries of civil servants, further cuts in services and strict movement restrictions, the situation has 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 and child protection services.

Every Friday since March 30, over 40,000 Palestinians in Gaza have participated in demonstrations along the fence with Israel to protest the ten-year-old blockade and support the “right of return” for Palestinian refugees. While the protests were overall peaceful and most demonstrators did not approach the fence, 33 Palestinians have been killed, including three children (source: UN). According to the Gaza Ministry of Health, more than 2,835 Palestinian have been injured, of which 277 are children. This is the highest number of casualties since the 2014 hostilities. In the West Bank, tensions have been running high since December, with clashes sporadically erupting in various parts of the territory. UNICEF has appealed to all actors to put the protection of children first.



Clashes near the Gaza perimeter fence, east of Al Bureij camp, 30 March 2018. OCHA.opt.org

The total number of people in need in 2018 is 2. 5 million, of which 90 per cent live in the Gaza Strip. 1.8 million people are in need of WASH services suffer from poor water quality due to poor infrastructure, restrictions on fuel supplies and acute power cuts. With the escalation in violence, injuries and deaths, more children are in need of mental health and psychosocial support.

Estimated Population in Need of Humanitarian Assistance (Estimates calculated based on initial figures from Humanitarian Response Strategy 2018) ¹			
Start of humanitarian response: Jan, 2018 ²			
	Total	Male	Female
Total Population in Need	2,500,000	1,272,500	1,227,500
Children (Under 18)	1,100,000	559,900	540,100
Total people to be reached	729,000	371,061	357,939
Total children to be reached	652,000	331,868	320,132

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

UNICEF, as part of the UN Country Team and Humanitarian Country Team, coordinates its action 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 collaboration with the Ministry of Health and WHO.

Humanitarian Strategy

UNICEF and partners will continue to foster synergies between humanitarian and development assistance in the State of Palestine, while emphasizing emergency preparedness. UNICEF supports neonatal emergency health care, postnatal care, and early childhood development, focusing on children with developmental delays and disabilities. The recent downturn in the security situation implies that a strengthening of child protection systems remains a top priority in UNICEF’s action, including case management and referrals, psychosocial support, legal aid and counselling, focusing on adolescents and addressing negative coping mechanisms. With the

¹ OCHA Humanitarian Response Strategy 2018
² Disaggregated based on 2016 PCBS population figures (50.9% male and 49.1% female)

deterioration of the water and sanitation situation and the ongoing energy crisis, UNICEF provides safe drinking water through solar power, water tank rehabilitation and network upgrades. Households will be supported with drinking water taps, toilets, sewage connections and hygiene promotion activities. UNICEF also supports flood mitigation activities in high-risk areas. Monitoring and reporting on grave child rights violations will inform evidence-based advocacy for improved child protection. UNICEF supports children crossing checkpoints in the West Bank with protective accompaniment to ensure safer access to schools. Children will also benefit from educational supplies and remedial learning, as well as emergency preparedness activities targeting adolescents. UNICEF will continue its coordination role in the areas of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education and child protection.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

UNICEF is working in close collaboration with key partners and stakeholders – including through the clusters - in the following areas to protect the rights of children and provide the needed services for children and their families impacted by serious deterioration in the humanitarian situation in East Jerusalem, Gaza and West Bank.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

The Humanitarian and Needs Overview (HNO) 2017 report (which informs WASH Humanitarian Response Plan 2018), indicated that approximately 1.8 million persons are in need for humanitarian WASH assistance, out of which 52 per cent are children. To respond to this crisis, the WASH Cluster coordinated the supply of emergency fuel to more than 130 critical WASH installations in Gaza benefiting all residents of Gaza Strip and carried out the winter preparedness and response which revealed that over half a million persons are at the risk of floods.

Approximately 24,640 people, including 12,320 children, benefited from improved access to water as a result of UNICEF's interventions in Gaza during the reporting period. New interventions launched in early 2018 in the West Bank include: i) provision of safe drinking water through trucking to around 15,000 vulnerable people living in remote communities in Area C, unconnected to a water network, especially during the upcoming summer water scarce season, ii) support to increased household water treatment and storage capacity and improve hygiene behaviours for several of those unconnected communities in South Hebron Hills and iii) connecting over 400 households (amounting to nearly 2,000 people) to a water network.

UNICEF leveraged the presence and strength of its long-standing partners to reach more people with WASH interventions. In this regard, in partnership with Action Against Hunger (ACF), UNICEF reached 2,120 households, including 1,060 children, with water storage tanks in Gaza to increase the household storage capacity when water supply is low. In the West Bank, 7,904 persons, including 3,952 children, have improved and increased access to drinking water at a subsidized price through a voucher system distributing trucked water through an equitable costing mechanism.



Rafah storm water detention basin has collected storm water and prevented flooding for 20,000 people. UNICEF 2018

In partnership with WFP, UNICEF distributed e-vouchers to 15,000 households (7,500 children) for family hygiene kits in Gaza. In addition, close to 15,000 women attended sessions aimed at creating awareness and enhancing positive hygiene behaviours.

UNICEF continued supporting the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU) in distributing chlorine and chemicals for 110 water wells in Khan Yunis, Middle and Rafah, reaching more than 500,000 residents, including 250,000 children, connected to the municipal networks. In addition, UNICEF through the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU) constructed a storm water retention basin to collect storm water in Rafah protecting 20,000 people, including 10,000 children, from the floods. The smooth implementation of the WASH activities was hampered by several challenges including delay in delivery of rehabilitation materials in Gaza as well as scarcity of construction materials and capacity gaps in WASH stakeholders.

Child Protection

Through structured child protection interventions, during the first quarter of 2018, UNICEF and partners (Ministry of Social Development, Ma'an and Tamer) reached approximately 1,107 children (of which 60 per cent are girls and 18 children with disabilities) in 20 family centers and 5 Child Protection Networks in Gaza. Additionally, 813 caregivers attended awareness raising sessions on child protection and 2,277 children and caregivers received explosive remnants of war (ERW) risk education messages. As a result of these sessions, 303 children (148 girls and 155 boys) received individual case management support.

UNICEF supported an independent evaluation of the family centers to examine their effectiveness in meeting the needs of children and their families towards better child protection. The study examined the importance of the family centers in preventing and protecting children from the absence or inadequacies of other services, especially over-stretched and under-resourced governmental child protection counselors. The study recommended the need to develop a sustainability strategy for the family centers, through strengthening ownership and capacity building of the community-based organizations (CBOs) managing the family centers and the Child Protection Community Committees. Adjustments are being made to programme interventions as a result.

In West Bank, including East Jerusalem, the legal support service for children in contact with the Israel security forces ensures these affected children have access to legal representation. In this quarter, 141 children were reached with legal support in Issawiya and Silwan. A draft Psychological First Aid (PFA) Manual which is planned to be printed in April/May 2018, was developed for service providers in the West Bank to help them provide PFA to affected children and families.

UNICEF through the child protection working group (CPWG) mapped actors providing protection related interventions in five hot spot areas in East Jerusalem for coordination, leverage, support and synergy. As a result, 49 organizations that provide Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), legal assistance and education support were mapped. The mapping of the actors was followed with a workshop in March to present the findings of the mapping exercise and launch the report.

In the first quarter, UNICEF-led CP and MHPSS Working Groups in Gaza reached 3,193 children with child protection and MHPSS services. Further, 341 children (144 girls and 197 boys) benefited from individual case management services and an additional 2,187 people (1,391 children and 796 caregivers) received ERW messages.

Terre des Hommes (TdH) in partnership with the CPWG launched the Child Protection Rapid Assessment (CPRA) in Gaza. The study revealed that children are exposed to violence in schools and as well as homes. The 96 per cent of key informants agreed that there were some manifestations of psychosocial distress in children. Overall, the study emphasized the need to strengthen systems to support vulnerable children. The protracted conflict in Gaza in general, the recent tensions near the fence and delays in the reconciliation efforts between the de-facto authority in Gaza and the Palestinian Authority continue to adversely impact improvements to lives of children and their families. Inadequate funding and short term planning cycles has constrained the project implementation and the achievement to 2 per cent of planned target.

Education and Adolescents

UNICEF supported 5,400 children and 144 teachers who face severe challenges in accessing their right to education as they must cross military check points and go through closed military zones on their daily commute to school with protective presence measures on their way to and from schools in the West Bank.

288 teachers received training on emergency preparedness including first aid, fire safety and school evacuation procedures. As part of the project, 48,895 of children (50 per cent females) benefited from provision of emergency supplies and materials at 58 participating schools across the Gaza strip, the emergency supplies included fire extinguishers, information banners and signs indicating evacuation routes to students.

In this reporting period, the primary challenges among others was inadequate funding which negatively affect the implementation of planned activities, such as providing material support to the most vulnerable children and life-skills and emergency preparedness trainings for adolescent girls and boys.

As of March 2018, the education projects funding for 2018 HRP has not been disbursed to the education Cluster (Source: OCHA FTS).



Marathon Activity, "let's gather flowers" community initiative in Al- Zanna Family Center, Khanyounis, Gaza Strip. UNICEF 2018



Protective Presence volunteers working for EAPPI walking children to school in Hebron. EAPPI 2018



Fire safety training for teachers in Rafah as part of emergency preparedness activities in Gaza. GUCC 2018.

Child Health & Nutrition

In this quarter, a total of 10,190 children and women in Gaza benefited from improved health and nutritional services across the project areas. In West Bank, almost 3,500 persons of which 23 per cent are children were reached with mobile clinic services operated by Ministry of Health in Yatta, Dura and Tubas. The services provided in the clinics include vaccination, treatment of acute illnesses and medical health care services. Additionally, plans are underway in the next quarters to support a newly established Primary Health Care facility in H2 Hebron (area under Israeli military control in Hebron) which will serve approximately 40,000 (persons 17,500 are women and children U5).

UNICEF has completed the first phase of the rehabilitation of the neonatal unit in Beit Jala hospital in West Bank to double the existing capacity of the neonate unit (NICU) anticipated to benefit more than 1,000 neonates yearly. In Gaza, 1,453 vulnerable newborns benefited from quality early newborn life-saving services and effective interventions at the newly constructed NICU units in Rafah and Khan Younis.



Postnatal home visit in Rafah. UNICEF 2018

During the reporting period, UNICEF and its partner Near East Council of Churches (NECC) delivered planned health care interventions for the most vulnerable and high risk pregnancies and babies. A total of 1,700 vulnerable children and mothers were reached with post-natal home visiting care interventions delivered 24-hours after delivery. Further, UNICEF supported three successive training courses for 73 doctors and nurses to enhance their skills on provision of maternal and early childhood development, nutrition, life-saving interventions and counselling services. The first training was conducted for 27 midwives and nurses on postnatal home visits in January. This was later followed by two trainings on early childhood development and early childhood intervention for 46 doctors and nurses.

In Gaza, a total of 20,000 ampules of Oxytocin drug which is expected to serve the medical needs of 13,000 mothers over three months were delivered to Ministry of Health (MOH). UNICEF responded to the urgent needs of MOH hospitals in Gaza Strip by releasing two stocks of prepositioned 27 essential drugs and 16 medical consumables to cover the urgent medical attention for over 100,000 affected people and cover the chronic deficiencies and zero balance items in the essential drug and consumable lists.

UNICEF organized a Nutrition Working Group (NWG) meeting as part of the continuous efforts to strengthen the coordination and cooperation amongst nutrition partners and agree on the National Nutrition Strategy (2017 – 2022).

Media and External Communication

On 23 March, UNICEF participated in the Palestine Marathon in Bethlehem to promote healthy lifestyles and child rights. A new song was written with two famous Lebanese composers for 2017 Arab Idol Winner Yacoub Shaheen, a Bethlehem native who had already participated in a number of UNICEF initiatives in support of Palestinian children. UNICEF selected 19 children living in vulnerable communities across the State of Palestine who contributed to the lyrics and recorded a song, “Dreams alone are not enough”. Shaheen and 13 of the children performed the song in front of the crowd minutes before the marathon started, after which they joined UNICEF staff in the race. The six children living in Gaza were not able to attend the event as they were not given permits to go through Erez Crossing. Stories and posts were shared on social media posts and a video clip of the event will soon be released.



Shaheen and the adolescents performing the song in Bethlehem. UNICEF SoP/ Catherine Weibel

During the first quarter, videos, stories and social media posts were produced to highlight the opening of a “child-friendly” school rebuilt in Gaza as part of the joint UNICEF-UNDP project; the challenges of children’s daily lives in the Gaza Strip (lack of access to WASH and electricity, child labour, early marriage); UNICEF’s work to improve sanitation in Gaza and mitigate the annual risk of flooding; and UNICEF’s work to provide safe drinking water through the seawater desalination plant and through innovative ground water desalination techniques.

Public and private advocacy was undertaken to help increase the protection of children by all stakeholders.

Supply and Logistics

As part of the emergency preparedness and response, UNICEF continued 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. These have now nearly all been approved and the first shipment have started and are scheduled to arrive this quarter. UNICEF SoP received and dispatched to the MOH 74,226 kg of various drugs of which 51,000 doses of vaccines, for a total value of US\$410,000 to serve 25,500 children.



*A girl recording the song in a studio in Gaza City.
UNICEF SoP/ Wissam Nassar*

Funding

The 2018 UNICEF Humanitarian appeal was for US\$ 25.8 million. Around US\$ 7.7 million or 27 per cent of the requirements was available as of 31 March 2018. The funding gap affected UNICEF’s capacity to improve local communities and frontline responders’ emergency preparedness; 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.

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	798,649	3,344,726	11,776,125	74%
Education	3,798,100	201,601	448,946	3,147,553	83%
Child Protection	2,338,700	845,114	75,042	1,418,544	61%
Health and Nutrition	2,769,900	901,678	432,061	1,436,161	52%
Cluster Coordination	979,200	160,499	0	818,701	84%
Sub-Total	25,805,400	2,907,542	4,300,775	18,597,083	72%

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

Next SitRep: 15/07/2018

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

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SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS First Quarter 2018

		UNICEF			Cluster Response		
	Overall needs ³	2018 Target	Total Results	Change since last report ⁴ ▲▼	2018Target	Total Results	Change since last report ▲▼
WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE	1,461,800						
# of people in humanitarian situation benefited from improved access to water	1,045,000	155,521	24,640	24,640	539,000	27,033	27,033
# of people in humanitarian situation benefited from improved access to sanitation services	660,000	46,889	0 ⁵	0	224,000	1,312	1,312
# of people attending sessions on positive hygiene behaviors	1,000,000	96,175	16,400	16,400	189,000	17,003	17,003
# of students and teachers with access to improved WASH facilities in schools	229,000	39,360	0 ⁶	0	172,000	0	0
CHILD PROTECTION	110,300						
# of children benefiting from structured child protection interventions including life skills programs	321,159	51,386	1,428	1,428	155,246	3,534	3,534
# of women and men who receive information on their rights and access legal services.	3,989	2,490	141	141	1,300	141	141
# of people (children and caregivers) receive ERW risk education, including children	106,311	56,596	2,277	2,277	25,000	2,277	2,277
EDUCATION	490,145						
# of children benefited from provision of supplies and materials	490,145	39,000	48,895	48,895	329,000	48,895	48,895
# of children and teachers benefiting from protective presence / accompaniment to school	8,537	8,500	5,544	5,544	8,500	5,544	5,544

³ The overall need per sector is aligned to the needs reflected in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2018 published by UNOCHA and is not the sum of indicators under that section to avoid double counting.

⁴ The change reflected same reported data as this is the first SitRep for 2018.

⁵ Reporting under this indicator will be made available in the second quarter of 2018.

⁶ All WASH in-schools' projects are not funded yet as of end of first quarter of 2018.

# of adolescents participating in life-skills building and community based activities	12,646	5,000	0 ⁷	0	12,529	0 ⁸	0
# of children in grades i3 to 6 benefitting from catch up classes	65,392	5,000	0 ⁹	0	63,997	0	0
HEALTH and NUTRITION	1,606,498						
# of children <5 and women benefiting from improved health and nutritional services from hospitals, clinics and outreach teams	388,453	200,000	10,190	10,190	200,000	10,190	10,190
# Number of high risk pregnancies and lactating mothers receiving post-natal home visiting	150,000	6,500	1,700	1,700	150,000	1,700	1,700
# of neonates receiving quality lifesaving services	13,000	3,000	1,453	1,453	10,000	1,453	1,453

^{7,10, 11} All projects related to life-skills and remedial education are not funded yet as of end of first quarter of 2018.