



A student at Ein Al-Beida primary school in a vulnerable community of the West Bank receives a school bag and educational kit.

© UNICEF-SoP/2019/Ahed Izhinan

State of Palestine Humanitarian Situation Report End of Year 2019

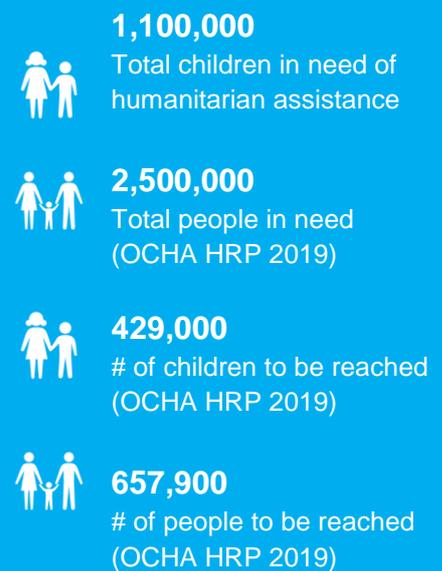


Reporting Period: 01 January to 31 December 2019

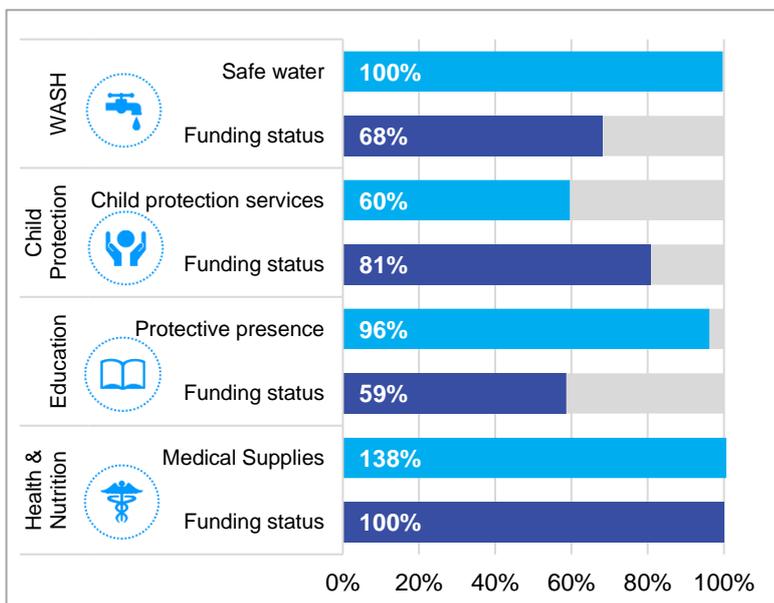
Highlights

- In 2019, over 382,000 people were supported with improved access to safe drinking water in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank following the rehabilitation of water systems. Around 17,400 people had improved access to safe sanitation services and around 162,000 people increased access to WASH services in health centers in the Gaza Strip.
- UNICEF, in collaboration with local partners, reached over 2,600 children in Gaza and the West Bank with structured psychosocial support and individual case management including 900 children that were injured in the context of the GMR demonstrations.
- Around 94,000 children under 14 and 1,600 vulnerable adolescents participated in summer activities in Gaza through which they received protection, access to psycho social counselling, and exercised their rights to play and recreation.
- Nearly 10,000 children (39% girls) at risk of dropping-out of school in Gaza, benefitted from a UNICEF-funded remedial education program for improved literacy and numeracy.
- By December 2019, UNICEF through partners provided safe accompaniment to over 6,400 children (32% girls) on their way to and from schools in Area C and the H2 area of Hebron.
- Around 162,800 high-risk pregnant and lactating women and under-five children, including 14,650 newborns, benefitted from the provision of medical supplies.
- In September 2019, around 2,000 children from local schools, accompanied by UN agencies, the European Union, child rights organizations, and the public participated in the 30-day walk to raise awareness of child rights and the UN CRC along the Masar Ibrahim Al Khalil trail.
- UNICEF had US\$ 15.4 million available for humanitarian action in 2019, with 73% of humanitarian funding needs covered in the calendar year allowing UNICEF to undertake humanitarian programming in both Gaza and the West Bank.

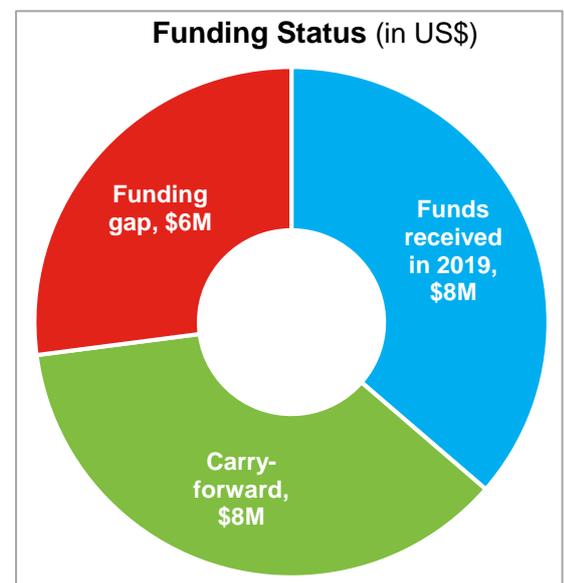
Situation in Numbers



UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



UNICEF Appeal 2019 US\$ 21 million



* This is a summary table of response, with selected indicators only, with funding for the year. For full results see Annex A.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

In 2019 UNICEF received significant emergency funding from the Belgium Development Agency, DFID, ECHO, France, Japan, OCHA, SIDA-Sweden, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the UNICEF Global Thematic Humanitarian. The [2019 UNICEF Humanitarian Appeal](#) funding requirement was for US\$ 21.1 million and US\$ 15.4 million (73 percent) of the requirement was available. Over 50 percent of the funding available in 2019 was carried forward from 2018 to 2019, with funding carried forward particularly significant in the WASH, Child Protection and Health and Nutrition programs. Only 36 percent of the annual funding requirement was received in the 2019 calendar year.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

2019 was dominated by two short but major escalations between Israel and Palestinian armed factions in Gaza, the continuation of the Great March of Return demonstrations, fiscal revenue challenges, demolitions of property and humanitarian infrastructure, rising unemployment and numerous incidents of violence and grave violations against children. These factors have deepened the fragility of the context in Palestine and led to an increased need for humanitarian support to one million children in need of protection and basic services like water, education and health.

The humanitarian situation in Gaza has been exacerbated by the fragile security situation, including serious escalations between Israeli forces and militant groups in May and November which resulted in the death of 11 Palestinian children. Also in Gaza, the 12-year blockade, the Great March of Return (GMR) weekly demonstrations at the perimeter fence and the overstretched and deteriorating health system have made the humanitarian situation particularly acute. The reactions to the GMR demonstrations resulted in the injury of 35,450 Palestinians, including 8,588 children (93 percent boys)¹, of whom 4,328² were hospitalized.

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, access to education is heavily compromised by education-related violations facing students and teachers. Children are exposed to conflict-related violence and movement restrictions, which can lead to increased school dropout rates. In East Jerusalem, the increase in security operations in the city and particularly the almost daily clashes in the Isawiya neighbourhood have led to several arrests including of children.

The deterioration in the humanitarian situation has pushed more families into poverty, with 54 percent of the population in Gaza considered poor, undermining their ability to afford basic education supplies and transportation costs and increasing the risk of school dropout.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

In the Gaza Strip, only 10 percent of the population have direct access to clean and safe drinking water. At least 20,000 people in Area C in the West Bank are not connected to a water network. To respond, UNICEF and partners supported over 382,000 people with improved access to water in Gaza and Area C. Examples of interventions included all public water facilities in Gaza receiving monthly distributions of chlorine to ensure that water is safe to drink and to reduce the risk of water-borne diseases. UNICEF also supported over 6,200 vulnerable households in Gaza through distribution of potable water tanks and domestic water tanks. In total 1,685 households benefitted from the rehabilitation of sanitary facilities in addition to 800 households in Gaza who were connected to sewerage networks.

In Gaza, 135,000 people benefitted from the supply of clean water after urgent rehabilitation works were completed on the old water network in Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza. In addition, 27,000 women, men, girls and boys, benefitted from the rehabilitation of sanitation facilities in Al Zaitoon and Bani Suhaila health centers as well as the provision of a water-well and small-scale desalination units.

UNICEF, with the Ministries of Education and Health and a partner in the West Bank, supported the installation of household water-treatment and safe storage units for 50 households (370 people) and hand-washing

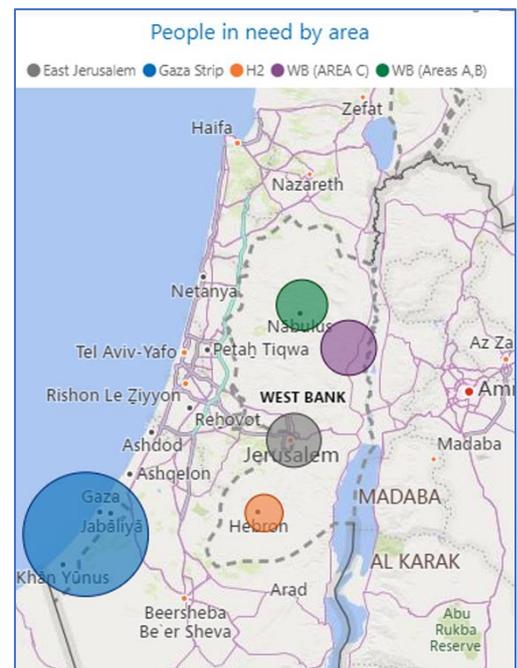


Figure 1: Humanitarian Needs Overview Map - 2020



A child receives care in a newly rehabilitated clinic in Gaza

¹ MoH/ OCHA Snapshot

² MoH/WHO/ Health cluster Situations report

units in 20 health clinics in Area C, South Hebron. The communities were selected based on their levels of vulnerability. In many cases these families are not connected to water and sanitation networks. These interventions have improved the quality of water consumed and enhanced the capacity of households to treat and safely store water.

The pace of implementation of some WASH interventions was affected by delays in delivery of rehabilitation materials to Gaza and/or lack of construction materials in Gaza as well as occupation-related restrictions on movement in Area C and H2.

Child Protection

In response to the deteriorating security situation and heightened protection needs, UNICEF accelerated its support to the strengthening of child protection systems. UNICEF focussed on the realization of children's rights to be free from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect, as well as to promote children's access to justice. UNICEF worked with partners in Gaza and the West Bank to strengthen structured psychosocial support and individual case management for affected children. Direct support was provided to 904 children injured in the context of the GMR demonstrations. Around 5,000 caregivers from vulnerable families also benefited from awareness-raising sessions on the protection of their children. In the West Bank over 10,000 children and their caregivers (54 percent males) were reached with risk education sessions on explosive remnants of war due to the risks that children face in their communities.

As part of a wider focus on juvenile justice and alternatives to detention, 451 children who were arrested benefited from legal aid services. While 910 people benefited from legal awareness raising in vulnerable areas, including at schools.

As a lead in the Child Protection Area of Responsibility and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) working groups, UNICEF coordinated the provision of child protection services in Gaza and the West Bank. This included the review of the interagency contingency plan, capacity building support to 11 governorate level protection focal points coordinating cross-sectoral referral pathways in Gaza. In Gaza, 60 government and NGO staff received training on Child Protection and Psychological First Aid, emergency preparedness and other protection topics. A MHPSS study was conducted in SoP to identify gaps in MHPSS service delivery in worst affected areas. The CP Working Group also facilitated the finalisation of the rapid appraisal on vulnerabilities, resilience, coping mechanisms and service delivery gaps for children in Hebron governorate.



Girls participating in a life skills session at a UNICEF supported family center in Gaza

In Gaza, the increasing need for case management services including vocational training for school drop-outs is compounded by the limited resources for affected families and limited spaces in the vocational training centres. The overwhelming needs inundated the capacities of partners thereby limiting their ability to adequately respond to the spikes in child protection needs. Timely case management support, including MHPSS, is needed to prevent later manifestation of mental health illnesses and other protection issues.

Education and Adolescents

In 2019, access to education continued to be compromised due to the protracted crisis and recurrent conflict. In the West Bank, children and teachers experienced violent and armed search operations in schools; harassments while crossing checkpoints; severe shortage of classrooms; demolitions or stop-work orders on school buildings, and continuous Israeli military presence around schools. More than one-third of Area C communities lack primary schools and children travel long distances and sometimes on foot to reach the nearest school. In the H2 area of Hebron, the withdrawal of the Temporary International Presence monitors increased the gap in human rights monitoring and protection especially for school children.



Girls on their way to a UNICEF supported pre-school in Hebron

By December 2019, 6,447 children (32 percent girls) had benefitted from safe accompaniment on their way to and from schools in Area C and the H2 area of Hebron. These children faced delays as they crossed military check points and to go through closed military zones on their daily commute to school.

In Gaza a total of 9,914 children (39 percent girls) at risk of dropping-out of school, benefitted from the UNICEF-funded remedial education program for improved literacy and numeracy. In total 7,400 (50 percent girls) children received school supplies from UNICEF.

In order to keep the adolescents active and protect them from engaging themselves in negative coping behaviours, over 94,000 children (58 percent girls) in Gaza benefited from summer camps organised in partnership with UNRWA, to build their physical and mental health.

As Education Cluster co-lead, UNICEF supported the review of the Gaza Emergency Education Response Plan and was assigned to support students affected during the disruptions due to escalations. UNICEF also supported the development of the Education Cluster Strategy and the Education Cluster incident reporting and response system which will help coordinate partners' response to these incidents.

Health & Nutrition

In 2019, dual-use restrictions on medical equipment and a shortage of medicines and disposables have been major contributors to the evolving health crisis in Gaza. Medical consumables and supplies are also depleted, and hospitals have limited capacity to deal with the caseload of injuries that require complex treatment resulting from the demonstrations at the fence, this affects health services for women and children.

UNICEF continued to support the fragile health system in Gaza. As of November 2019, UNICEF delivered essential and lifesaving drugs to six maternal and seven Neonatal Intensive Care Units and paediatric hospitals in Gaza. 162,000 high-risk pregnant and lactating women and children under five in Gaza, beneficiaries included 14,650 new-borns benefitted from these supplies. The health facilities received furniture and medical equipment including incubators and phototherapy units.

The UNICEF-supported post-natal home visiting programme reached 6,579 women and their new-borns leading to reduced cases of deaths and medical complications among high-risk women and children including new-borns.



A post-natal home visit to a new mother and her baby in Gaza

A Nutrition Barrier Analysis of six nutritional behaviours was jointly conducted by WFP and UNICEF in the West Bank and Gaza and helped to identify the most significant barriers to nutrition behaviour change of mothers and young children. In response to the identified nutrition challenges and barriers, UNICEF supported the assessment of 10,602 young children (49 percent female) for malnutrition and developmental delays, and 3,340 children (32 percent) were treated for malnutrition. A total of 4,514 high-risk pregnant and lactating mothers benefited from 211 educational sessions, and 9,306 pregnant and lactating women benefited from individual counselling sessions on child health, nutrition, hygiene, and development.

Supply and Logistics



UNICEF delivers urgently needed vaccines, drugs and medical supplies to Gaza

Expenditures on supply of goods and services for 2019 amounted to US\$ 7.4 million. In 2019, UNICEF facilitated the procurement of items for the West Bank and Gaza projects, such as essential drugs, medical consumables, chlorine, pipes and fittings. Construction works remained a key procurement activity for UNICEF in 2019, with construction commitments worth \$3.1million (79 percent) of service contracts in 2019.

Following several months of discussions with Israeli Authorities (MoH Israel, MoFA, COGAT) on the clearing of vaccines imported on behalf of the Palestinian Authority (PA), approval was made for the PA to receive UNICEF supplies from any WHO certified manufacturers, regardless of the status of registration of the vaccines by the Israeli authorities.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF is part of the UN and Humanitarian Country Teams and regularly coordinates its action with other organizations and local stakeholders. Within this partnership, UNICEF leads the WASH Cluster and with Save the Children co-leads the Education cluster. Within the Protection Cluster, UNICEF leads the Child Protection Working Group and the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Group. UNICEF co-leads the Nutrition Working Group under the Health Cluster in Gaza and at the national level in close collaboration with the World Health Organization.

UNICEF and partners continued to foster synergies between humanitarian and development assistance in the State of Palestine, while investing in emergency preparedness. In health and nutrition, UNICEF supports neonatal emergency health care, postnatal care, and early childhood development, focusing on children with developmental delays and disabilities. UNICEF provides safe drinking water through solar power, water tank rehabilitation and network upgrades. Vulnerable households are supported with drinking water taps, latrines, sewage connections and hygiene promotion activities. UNICEF also supports flood preparedness and mitigation activities in high-risk areas. UNICEF regularly

delivers critical health and other supplies to the Gaza Strip in response to humanitarian needs. In education, the humanitarian strategy focusses on preventing drop outs, assisting affected children with remedial education, and providing safe access to schools in insecure areas. Child protection is a major area of humanitarian intervention, with a heavy focus on providing psycho-social support to children affected by the crisis as part of broader systems-strengthening efforts.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

In cooperation with the United Nations Country Team, UNICEF implemented a year-long series of advocacy and public awareness activities to mark the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and to advocate for children's rights in the State of Palestine. Activities included UNICEF publication of photo stories covering UNICEF interventions like [ECD](#), and [children with disability](#).

UNICEF produced and distributed Arabic CRC copies and child-friendly versions. The UN and European Union (EU) launched a 30-day awareness-raising [walk for child-rights](#) along the Masar Ibrahim Al Khalil trail. Around 2,000 children from local schools participated, accompanied by UN agencies, the EU, child-rights organisations, and the public. A different article of the CRC was highlighted during each segment of the walk. As part of the campaign, a [video](#) was produced containing messages from the head of UN agencies in SoP explaining the importance of the CRC.

UNICEF, UN Women, UNMAS and Paces jointly celebrated the [International Day of the girl](#), by organising a sports day for over 250 girls and boys from marginalized areas in the West Bank. As part of awareness activities to celebrate CRC anniversary and the International Day for People with Disabilities, UNICEF produced the first [CRC in Arabic – Braille language](#) to ensure all children read and know their rights. In addition, UNICEF participated in different joint activities under the CRC@30 campaign; like [International Youth Day](#), [World Humanitarian Day](#), and [World Food Day](#).

Also, in the summer period, summertime activities were organized for 1,600 [adolescents](#) in the Gaza Strip.

Next SitRep: 20 April 2020

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 2019: https://www.unicef.org/appeals/state_of_palestine.html

Who to contact for Genevieve Boutin
further information: Special Representative,
UNICEF State of Palestine
Tel: +972 (0)2 584 0400
Email: gboutin@unicef.org

Etona Ekole
Deputy Special Representative
UNICEF State of Palestine
Tel: +972 (0)2 584 0400
Email: EEKOLE@unicef.org

Iain Murray
Chief of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
UNICEF State of Palestine
Tel: +972 (0)2 584 0419
Email: imurray@unicef.org

Annex A - Summary of Programme Results

Sector	Overall needs 2019 ³	UNICEF and IPs			Cluster/Sector Response		
		2019 Target ⁴	Total Results	Change since last report ▲▼	2019 Target	Total Results	Change since last report ▲▼
WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE							
# of people in humanitarian situation benefited from improved access to water	1,900,635	320,226	382,417 ⁵	61,212	732,165 ⁶	619,549	134,197
# of people in humanitarian situation benefited from improved access to sanitation services	1,197,400	14,295	17,422	5,062	116,848	95,452	11,227
# of people with increased access to WASH services in health institutions	NA	284,490	162,000 ⁷	0	1,408,769 ⁸	415,875	75,250
# of people will benefit from preparedness activities against the risks of floods	NA	360,000	0 ⁹	0	360,000	13,802	0
# of people received hygiene materials/kits	380,127	19,699	57,438 ¹⁰	2,457	142,099	84,218	7,023
CHILD PROTECTION							
# of children, including the injured, who receive interventions including life skills, group and individual counselling and child-parent interaction programs	339,075	13,250 ¹¹	11,821	3,936	35,472	48,917	16,899
# of children, women and men who receive information on their rights and access legal services. ¹²	70,878	1,400	1,361	115	4,061	1,361	115
# of people (children and caregivers) receive ERW risk education, including children	106,311	15,606	10,233	3,566	43,606	10,233	3,566
# of children who benefited from structured psychosocial activities in Gaza during the summer months to build their physical and mental health ¹³	NA	80,000	94,096	0	NA	NA	NA
EDUCATION							
# of children benefited from provision of supplies and materials	496,485	33,300	7,400 ¹⁴	400	316,813	69,592	0
# of children benefiting from protective presence / accompaniment to school	8,226	6,700	6,447	0	6,900	6,447	0
# of children benefitting from catch up classes	24,789	5,000	9,914 ¹⁵	5,319	24,100	9,914	5,319
HEALTH and NUTRITION							
# of women and children under the age of five (boys and girls) benefited from medical supplies	398,453	94,295	119,934 ¹⁶	-10,227 ¹⁷	NA	NA	NA

³ The overall need per sector is aligned to the needs reflected in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2019 published by UNOCHA

⁴ The relevant targets reflected in HAC were rounded down.

⁵ The coverage was expanded after additional funding was made available for this activity.

⁶ All WASH Cluster targets have been revised based upon a full review of the WASH planned HRP projects 2019-2020.

⁷ The coverage of this activity was hindered due funding constraints.

⁸ WASH Cluster has recently considered a target for people with increased access to WASH services in health institutions as per HRP projects 2019-2020.

⁹ Activity has been partially funded and the project started recently. Results will be available by end of February 2020.

¹⁰ The coverage was expanded after additional funding was made available for this activity.

¹¹ The target has been revised to include children who will be benefiting from structured child protection.

¹² This indicator has been revised because the results are inclusive of children (# of children, women and men who receive information on their rights and access legal services).

¹³ This indicator has been included in the HAC under Education.

¹⁴ Only 22% of the planned number of children was reached due to funding constraints.

¹⁵ The coverage was expanded after additional funding was made available for this activity.

¹⁶ The coverage was expanded after additional funding was made available for this activity.

¹⁷ The result for this indicator has been revised based upon a full IM review.

# of pregnant and lactating women and lactating mothers receiving health service	213,957	20,390	28,214 ¹⁸	19,586	NA	NA	NA
# of neonates receiving quality lifesaving services	12,271	10,420	14,650 ¹⁹	8,857	NA	NA	NA

Annex B

Funding Status*

Sector	Requirements	Funds Available		Funding Gap	
		Received Current Year	Carry-Over	\$	%
WASH	11,278,451	2,663,383	5,029,539	3,585,529	32%
Education	3,402,803	1,327,496	668,204	1,407,102	41%
Child Protection	2,857,931	1,251,112	1,060,332	546,487	19%
Health and Nutrition	2,810,736	1,948,018	944,569	0	0
Cluster Coordination	707,301	465,982	0	241,319	34%
Total	21,057,222	7,655,992	7,702,645	5,698,585	27%

* As defined in Humanitarian Appeal of 2019 for a period of 12 months

¹⁸ The coverage was expanded after additional funding was made available for this activity.

¹⁹ The coverage was expanded after additional funding was made available for this activity.