

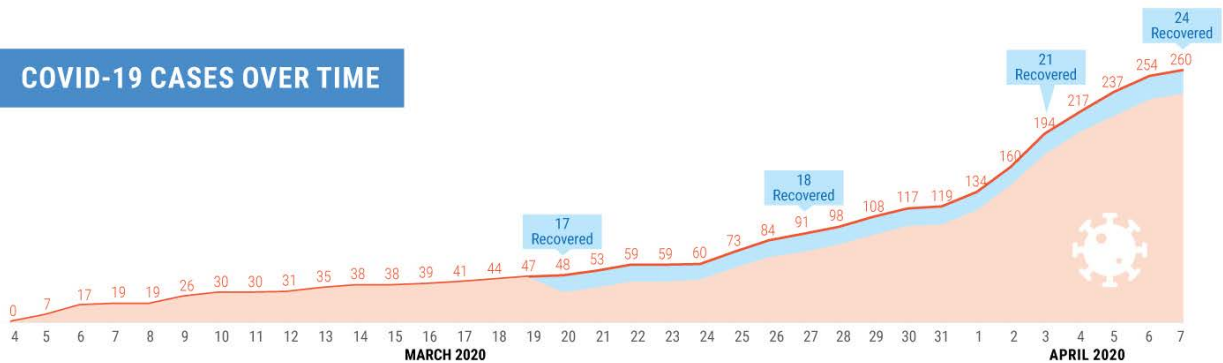
HIGHLIGHTS

- State of Emergency across the oPt extended through early May 2020.
- Increasing shortages in personal protective equipment (PPE) kits and supplies to conduct COVID-19 tests.
- The Inter-agency Response Plan for the COVID-19 crisis is 86 per cent funded.

COVID-19 CONFIRMED CASES IN OPT



COVID-19 CASES OVER TIME



260

People with COVID-19 (confirmed cases)

11,500

People tested for COVID-19

58

Quarantine and treatment centers

US\$ 34 million

request for Interagency Response Plan

Contact

Ofir Feuerstein (Mr)
Communications
feuerstein@un.org

SITUATION OVERVIEW

As of 7 April, a total of 260 Palestinians have been confirmed to have COVID-19 in the oPt, 247 in the West Bank (excluding East Jerusalem Palestinians), and 13 in the Gaza Strip. Of these, one died on 25 March, 23 people have recovered, and the majority of the remainder are asymptomatic. While the current number of people detected positive for COVID-19 in the oPt, especially in Gaza, remains low relative to other countries, this may reflect the limited testing capacity.

During the reporting period, over 100 new COVID-19 cases were detected in the West Bank, many of them reportedly contracting the disease in a factory located in a settlement industrial area in East Jerusalem. The exact number of cases in East Jerusalem remains unconfirmed, as these are not covered by the Palestinian Ministry of Health (MoH) and are not disaggregated in the overall figures by the Israeli authorities.

On 3 April, the Government of Palestine (GoP) extended the State of Emergency declared on 5 March across the oPt for another month. The Emergency Command Centre at the Prime Minister's Office continued leading the efforts to contain the outbreak, amid close coordination with the Israeli authorities and international actors, primarily the World Health Organization (WHO). Nevertheless, the capacity of the Palestinian health system to cope with the expected increase in caseload remains severely impaired by longstanding challenges and critical shortages, particularly in the Gaza Strip.

In its Response Plan released on 26 March, the GoP requested US\$137 million to support its direct public health response to COVID-19 across the oPt, as well as budget support and economic recovery. The health response component (\$120 million) covers short-term critical gaps that could undermine its ability to contain and manage the epidemic.

The most needed items are currently in short supply due to the unprecedented global demand, including personal protective equipment (PPE) kits and supplies to conduct COVID-19 tests. Hospitals across the oPt also face shortages of specialized staff in intensive care units.

Across the oPt, and especially in Gaza, mental health and psychosocial service (MHPSS) providers have reported a sharp increase in phone consultations related to domestic violence, attributed to the longstanding closure of schools, increased unemployment and severe movement restrictions.

West Bank

Movement restrictions and social distancing measures, previously imposed by the GoP, have been further tightened since the extension State of Emergency. Currently, there are over 30 quarantine and medical facilities across the West Bank where people who have COVID-19 are hosted, with preparations underway to open more centres. The authorities have reported an acute shortage of medical equipment and supplies, including testing kits, as well as trained personnel.

Concerns have been raised regarding the possible return of thousands of Palestinian workers employed in Israel, in advance of the Jewish Passover holiday, which starts on the evening of 8 April. This is because of a potential spread of the virus from Israel, as well as due to the limited capacity of medical and quarantine facilities in the West Bank. Arrangements have been made by the Palestinian authorities to test the temperature of returning workers, provide them with disinfectants and encourage them to undergo a 14-day home quarantine. Nonetheless, according to the Israeli authorities, the work permits of over 36,000 Palestinians will remain valid during Passover and joint cooperation efforts between the two parties continue to address the issue.

A rapid community assessment conducted by the Shelter Cluster in mid-March found that of 165 vulnerable communities surveyed in Area C, more than half (3,500 households) were not yet supported by COVID-19 response or protection assistance, and lacked the financial and logistic capacities to purchase the required hygiene and protection materials.

The access of patients from the remainder of the West Bank referred to hospitals in East Jerusalem and Israel remained limited to emergency cases and cancer patients. The East Jerusalem Hospital Network has announced that all of their six facilities are preparing to deal with cases of COVID-19 that require clinical care, whilst continuing to suffer from chronic underfunding, which hinders the provision of medical drugs and treatment.

Pre-existing protection concerns related to Israel's occupation have been exacerbated during the reporting period in the context of the COVID-19 crisis. In Area C and East Jerusalem, while the Israeli authorities have largely frozen the demolition of inhabited homes, the demolition and seizure of livelihood and service-related structures continued, adding strain to already vulnerable communities. Additionally, since the start of the crisis there has been a surge in attacks by Israeli settlers resulting in Palestinian injuries and extensive property damage. Concerns about excessive use of force by Israeli soldiers remain, with several incidents since the start of the crisis ending in the killing and serious injury of Palestinians.

Gaza Strip

As of 6 April, only 1,495 people have been tested for COVID-19 in Gaza. Much of this testing has been conducted in the West Bank or in Israel due to lack of capacity in Gaza, and the health authorities there have urgently appealed for more support to procure testing kits. Less than 1,100 people are currently quarantined in 25 designated sites, including the Rafah Crossing quarantine centre, health facilities, schools and hotels. The majority of these are expected to be released in the coming week, on the conclusion of their 21-day mandatory quarantine period. All non-emergency surgeries have been suspended and primary healthcare is restricted to 14 centres, which provide essential services only.

Access for Palestinians from Gaza to the outside world through the two passenger crossings with Israel and Egypt remains severely constrained. The Israeli-controlled Erez crossing has been largely shut down since 12 March for most permit holders and will function on a further reduced scale for the upcoming Passover holiday. As in the West Bank, the exit of patients has been limited to emergency cases and cancer patients. Exit to Egypt via the Rafah crossing has been halted by the Egyptian authorities, as of 15 March; and opening times for entry into Gaza remain irregular and unpredictable. An estimated 400 Palestinians from Gaza are currently waiting in Egypt to return.

The movement of goods from Israel and Egypt has continued as previously, including the entry of restricted ("dual use") items via the Israeli-controlled Kerem Shalom Crossing. The latter is expected to continue operating over the Passover holiday at a reduced capacity. The Government of Israel has offered to expedite approvals for items needed in relation to the COVID-19 response

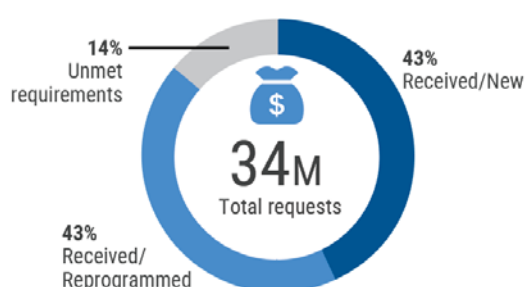
INTER-AGENCY RESPONSE PLAN – FUNDING STATUS

A number of significant financial contributions to the [oPt Inter-agency Response Plan](#) for COVID-19 were announced during the reporting period. Some of these contributions entailed the reprogramming of funds previously allocated or pledged for other interventions, including nearly \$7.76 million by the European Union (ECHO) and \$5.16 million by the oPt Humanitarian Fund (HF). Other contributions are entirely new, including \$9 million from Kuwait and \$2.8 million from Canada.

Overall, since its launch on 27 March, \$29.3 million have been raised for the implementation of the Inter-agency Response Plan, covering 86 per cent of the amount requested (\$34 million).

The Plan intended to be rolled out over 90 days and, as needed, will be revised as the situation evolves. Its key objectives are to prevent further transmission of the virus in the oPt; provide adequate care for patients and their families; and mitigate the worst effects of the pandemic. It expands the initial plan launched on 14 March by the Health Cluster and is fully aligned with the GoP Response Plan.

INTER-AGENCY COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN



Donor	Amount in US\$	Type of contribution	Recipient
Kuwait	9,000,000	New	WHO
Canada	2,810,000	New	WHO, UNICEF, UNRWA
Education Cannot Wait	850,000	New	UNICEF, Save the Children
OPT Humanitarian Fund	1,000,000	New	WHO
DFID	500,000	New	UNICEF
Ireland	138,000	New	Oxfam
WHO HQ	120,000	New	WHO
CERF	300,000	New	UNFPA
ECHO	7,760,000	Reprogrammed	
OPT Humanitarian Fund	5,160,000	Reprogrammed	UNICEF, UNRWA, UNFPA, WHO UNDP, MAP UK, CESVI, AAH, MAAN, ACTED
Education Cannot Wait	771,000	Reprogrammed	UNICEF, UNRWA
DFID	500,000	Reprogrammed	WHO
UNICEF	367,000	Reprogrammed	UNICEF
Oxfam	60,000	Reprogrammed	Oxfam

COORDINATION

The Inter-agency Covid-19 Task Force led by the Humanitarian/Resident Coordinator (HC/RC), as well as Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG), continue regularly meetings to follow up on the implementation of the Inter-agency Response Plan. The HC/RC also informs the Palestinian authorities about essential movements required by humanitarian and development staff during this period of enhanced movement restrictions, while following the previously adopted Standard Operation Procedures. Where necessary, coordination with the Israeli authorities is also conducted to ensure the safe movement of staff.

As part of the Inter-agency Response Plan, UNICEF and WHO, with the support of the HCT's Advocacy Working Group and UN Communications Group, are implementing a Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) plan. With the support of over 20 Health Cluster partners, NGOs and INGOs messages have been disseminated across various channels and via social media for the third week in a row, reaching tens of thousands of people and vulnerable communities across the oPt.

UNICEF are also taking the lead in coordinating and centralizing the procurement of medical supplies and equipment. Additionally, the World Food Programme (WFP) has set up a logistics working group to support humanitarian partners in providing key supply chains, reducing duplication and increasing cost efficiency. Logistics services will be provided by air and sea, through Ben-Gurion airport and Ashdod Port.

Strong cooperation efforts between the GoP and Israel in response COVID-19 continue. In this regard, Israeli authorities delivered to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip 2,850 testing kits, 2,000 gloves, 1,000 masks, 100 litres of sanitizer and 200 protective suits, as well as coordinated entry of 10,000 testing kits through Ben Gurion airport.

PRIORITY NEEDS AND ACTIVITIES BY CLUSTER

Health

The main objectives of the Health Cluster response are to stop further transmission of COVID-19 in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), mitigate its impact, and provide adequate care for patients affected. During the reporting period, partners implemented the following activities:

Objective	Partner	Activity	Beneficiary/recipient	Geographical area
Case Finding, contact tracing, prevention and surveillance	WHO, UNRWA and various NGOs	Technical guidance on contact tracing	MoH (Ministry of Health)	West Bank and Gaza Strip
	WHO	Preparedness measures towards expected return of Palestinian workers from Israel	MoH	West Bank
Laboratory testing	WHO	Delivery of essential items for the laboratory testing of COVID-19	MoH	Gaza Strip
Case Management.	WHO	Completed an assessment of the European Hospital, the main treatment centre for COVID-19 in Gaza	MoH	Gaza Strip
	WHO	Delivery of 7 types of infection prevention and control supplies (inc. 510,000 gloves and 100,000 face masks), and 20 types of disposables (inc. 8,000 nebulizers and 2,100 breathing tube systems).	MoH	Gaza Strip
	Union of Health Work Committees (HWC)	Establishment of medical triage areas for suspected cases of COVID-19 next to HWC clinics. Staff trained on the provision of basic emotional and practical support to affected people.	Patients served by HWC clinics	West Bank: Halhoul (Hebron), Tubas and Qalqiliya
	HWC	Equipment of an intensive care unit room	Ahmad Al-Maslamani Hospital	West Bank: Beit Sahour (Bethlehem)
	UNRWA	7,834 medical consultations of patients with respiratory complaints	Primary healthcare centres	Gaza Strip
Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)	UNICEF	Delivery of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits, inc. 60,000 gowns and 13,000 medical masks	MoH warehouses in Ramallah and Nablus	West Bank
	Weworld-GVC Onlus	Provision of 430 level three PPE kits, 2,000 holders for hand rub alcohol and 700 waterproof covers for hospital beds mattresses	MoH	Gaza Strip
	MAP-UK	Delivery of 250 hygiene kits, 65 eye protection glasses, 2,000 PPE kits	Quarantine centers, Al Wafa Rehabilitation hospital, MoH.	Gaza Strip
	MAP-UK	Delivery of 8 types of drugs and 7 types of disposables	MoH	Gaza Strip
	World Vision	Provision of PPE items, inc. 4,508 packs of gloves, 410 disposable gowns, and 107 waterproof gowns.	MoH	West Bank and Gaza Strip
	MDM-France	Provision of supplies and training on sexual and reproductive health in the context of COVID-19.	Emergency department at Al Aqsa Hospital	Gaza Strip
	Palestine Children's Relief Fund, in partnership with PRCS	Provided 25 people with sanitation supplies, hygiene kits and infection control materials	Retirement home	Nablus, West Bank

	Care International, with the PRCS and HWC.	Provision of supplies and disposables to facilities and training to 24 medical teams. Re-printing health education and awareness materials and utilizing social media and radio stations for raising awareness on COVID-19.	12 health care facilities	West Bank and Gaza Strip
	CARE International	Provided 500 health kits, including sanitizers, gloves, masks, cotton, feminine products and sanitary napkins	Quarantine centres and households	
Risk Communication and Community Engagement	WHO and UNICEF	Developed and distributed over 27,800 brochures and posters on protection measures for COVID-19.	Quarantine centers, health workers and the general public	Gaza Strip
	Juzoor Center, with Jerusalem Media and Communication Center	Conducted a poll on public awareness and perceptions regarding COVID-19, as well as related changes in behaviors and trust in the government	General public	West Bank and Gaza Strip
	MDM-Switzerland, with YMCA and PCC and community organizations	Conducted 22 mental health and psychosocial support phone sessions, and delivered weekly awareness messages to 145 households	General public	West Bank: East Jerusalem and Bethlehem
	MDM-Spain	Awareness raising and preventative approaches to COVID-19	Bedouin communities and community mental health centres	West Bank and Gaza Strip
	World Vision	Provided promotional material about COVID-19: 50,000 brochures, 50,000 fliers, 5,000 posters, and 150 roll ups.	General public	West Bank and Gaza Strip
Non-medical services to quarantine centres	Palestine Children's Relief Fund	Provided 210 meals and fruit to quarantine centers.	Quarantine centres	Gaza Strip: Rafah
	The Relief Association (Ighatha 48)	Delivered 300 food parcels to the families of the quarantine persons	Families with people in quarantine	Gaza Strip

Protection

The main objectives of the Protection Cluster response are to prevent and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on new and existing protection concerns, and protection mainstreaming across the Plan. During the reporting period, partners implemented the following activities:

Objective	Partner	Activity	Beneficiary/recipient	Geographical area
Ensure the inclusion of vulnerable populations into COVID-19 preparedness, prevention and response activities	Various Protection cluster partners	Scaled up remote psychological consultations, organized social media and radio and TV awareness campaigns	General public	West Bank and Gaza Strip
	Palestinian Working Women Society for Development (PWWSD)	Delivered 510 phone consultations, 125 individual phone counseling sessions, mostly related to GBV	General public	West Bank and Gaza Strip
	GBV Sub-Cluster	Disseminated COVID-19 GBV messages through multiple channels	Communities and families in quarantine/isolation	West Bank and Gaza Strip
	Aisha	Developed a tool to collect gender/age disaggregated vulnerability information from arrivals via Gaza crossings, to design appropriate interventions for persons entering quarantine.	Service providers	Gaza Strip
	War Child Holland	Completed an assessment to re-programme interventions to include dissemination of MHPSS/child safety guidance, family entertainment materials and messages	Vulnerable communities	West Bank: Jordan Valley and Israeli-controlled area of Hebron city (H2)

	PWWSO	Conducted social awareness activities for dealing with stress, fear and anxiety for over 155,000 individuals	General public	West Bank and Gaza Strip
	ActionAid Palestine, with the Palestinian Family Planning and Protection Association	Delivered electronic awareness workshops on dealing with stress.	80 women	West Bank: the Israeli-controlled area of Hebron city (H2)
	ActionAid Palestine	Provided 55 families with protective equipment and hygiene kits	Vulnerable households	West Bank: Khallet Sakaria (Bethlehem)
	Palestinian Union of Social Workers and Psychologists	Set up emergency teams to provide psychosocial services	Medical teams, security forces, and military medical personnel working in quarantine centres	West Bank: northern governorates
	Terre des Hommes	Provided food electronic vouchers, remedial classes and educational materials through a Facebook page and hygiene materials.	Households with working and out-of-school children, probation officers and the juvenile courts staff	Gaza Strip
	Child protection partners	Psychosocial support, case management support, remote remedial education and remote recreational activities	Nearly 500 children	West Bank, including East Jerusalem
Ensure that the right to health is available to all without discrimination	UNICEF	Utilized radio and mosque loudspeakers to broadcast about risks and means to prevent spread of COVID-19.	Bedouin and herding communities	West Bank: Area C
	Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)	Reached out to discharged patients and increased media outreach.	Discharged patients and general public	West Bank: Hebron and Tuqu (Bethlehem)
	Hamoked	Wrote to the Israel Police about access denial incidents	Six affected individuals	West Bank: East Jerusalem
Scale up efforts to mitigate human rights violations related to COVID-19	Partners working on prisoners' issues	Filed a petition demanding the release of Palestinian prisoners at risk in Israeli prisons	1,000 Palestinian prisoners at risk, including 700 with health conditions and administrative detainees	Israel and West Bank
	Hamoked	Ensured automatic extensions by the Israeli authorities of stay permits	Israeli residents or citizens in Gaza with their spouses under the "divided family" procedure	Gaza Strip
	Yesh Din	Wrote to the Israeli authorities demanding immediate and increased protection from settler violence	Communities at risk of settler violence	West Bank
	Six Israeli and Palestinian human rights organizations	Issued a joint statement expressing concern for the health and life of prisoners in Israel	Prisoners in Israeli facilities	Israel and West Bank
	Legal aid partners	Following a petition to the Israeli High Court of Justice, the Israel Prison Service ensured Palestinian minors in detention pre-approved first-degree relative phone calls, once a fortnight for ten minutes	Child prisoners in Israeli facilities	Israel and West Bank

Education

The main objectives of the Education Cluster response are to map out and disseminate relevant Arabic materials on hygiene awareness and preventive measures related to COVID-19; use social media platforms to raise awareness of the importance of home-based learning; prepare and disseminate media messages to caregivers, teachers and children; and clean and disinfect all schools and public kindergartens prior to their re-opening. These objectives are aligned with the Ministry of Education's (MoE) Response Plan to COVID-19. The cluster's main activities during the reporting period include:

Objective	Partner	Activity	Beneficiary/recipient	Geographical area
Ensuring adequate information and resources to prevent the spread of the pandemic	Ministry of Education (MoE) and UNICEF	Continues to disseminate hygiene awareness videos and materials through its social media platforms	General public	West Bank and Gaza Strip
	Save the Children and MAAN News	Disseminated child friendly, awareness-raising materials on prevention and hygiene	Children	West Bank and Gaza Strip
	UNICEF and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Procured 350 school cleaning and disinfecting kits	Schools	West Bank and Gaza Strip
Ensuring the continuation of learning	UNESCO and UNICEF	Continued to provide technical support to the MoE to activate its online platform	Over 94,000 students this week	West Bank
	UNRWA	Developed and disseminated self-learning material worksheets for school children	Children in refugee camps	West Bank
	Save the Children	Continued supporting the MoE in developing an application to help manage communication between the Ministry and its staff in the field	MoE	West Bank
Supporting the mental health and psychosocial well-being of students, parents and educators	UNRWA	Operate 3 hotlines to support the mental health and psychosocial well-being of refugee children.	Children in refugee camps	West Bank: Nablus, Hebron and Jerusalem governorates
	Teachers Creativity Center (TCC)	Continued awareness campaign on psychosocial support for children and their parents during home quarantine	Quarantined households	West Bank and Gaza Strip

Shelter

The Shelter Cluster response seeks to improve vulnerable households' capacities and resilience to reduce the spread of the pandemic, and to reduce overcrowding in shelters to mitigate its spread. During the reporting period, partners implemented the following activities:

Objective	Partner	Activity	Beneficiary/recipient	Geographic area
Assessment of Vulnerable Communities	Action Against Hunger	Conducted a rapid assessment about COVID-19 preparedness in vulnerable communities	165 vulnerable communities	West Bank: Area C
Assistance to quarantine facilities and households	ACTED	Provision of 700 lady slippers, 240 child dignity kits, and 900 male adult dignity kits	1,840 individuals at 20 quarantine centres	Gaza Strip
	MAAN	Provision of 400 gender-sensitive dignity kits	400 women and girls at 20 quarantine centres	Gaza Strip
	Union of Agricultural Workers Committee	Provided essential hygiene and disinfectant items, as well as awareness brochures about COVID-19	170 families in 9 herding communities	West Bank: Area C

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

The WASH Cluster seeks to ensure continuous access to WASH services in Health Centres, key institutions and communities, to minimize the impact of the COVID-19. During the reporting period, partners implemented the following activities:

Objective	Partner	Activity	Beneficiary/recipient	Geographical area
Support quarantine centers	WASH Cluster partners	Carried out assessments of quarantine centers to identify WASH-related.	Quarantine centres	Gaza Strip
	Action Against Hunger	Started the distribution of 12,200 bottles of water	Quarantine centres	Gaza Strip: Gaza city, Middle Area and Rafah
	UNDP	Carried out a solid waste disposal assessment	European hospital	Gaza Strip
Support vulnerable families and communities	ICRC and Oxfam	Distributed hygiene kits through the e-voucher modality	930 families	West Bank and Gaza Strip
Support the provision of disinfectants at key WASH facilities	Human Appeal UK	Distributed about 87,000 litres of sodium hypochlorite for the water distribution system.	284 water wells, 55 water reservoirs, and 48 desalination plants	Gaza Strip

Food Security

As set out in the Inter-agency Response Plan, the main objective of the Food Security Cluster is to support households whose food insecurity is directly affected by the virus outbreak with in-kind and cash assistance, including e-vouchers; and to adopt a new door-to-door delivery modality in Gaza, through the following activities:

Objective	Partner	Activity	Beneficiary/recipient	Geographical area
Reducing the food security impact of the crisis on vulnerable households	Union of Agricultural Workers Committee	Delivery of 30 tonnes of vegetables	3,000 households	West Bank: Bethlehem
	WFP, UNRWA	Continued the distribution of 4,000 in-kind food parcels	1,113 families in Bedouin and herding communities	West Bank: Area C
	UNRWA	Support to MoSD food assistance plan in the context of COVID-19 crisis	Poorest refugee households	West Bank
	UNRWA	Implementation of new door-to-door modality for direct delivery of in kind food assistance	80,000 refugee households	Gaza Strip
	WFP	Continued implementing and monitoring e-voucher system at 275 designated shops	Food insecure households	Gaza Strip and West Bank