



# Humanitarian Response Plan

**UNFPA State of Palestine 2023**





# SITUATION OVERVIEW

The occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) remains in a deeply protracted political crisis characterized by 55 years of Israeli military occupation, a lack of adherence to international humanitarian and human rights law, economic crisis, falling aid inflows and recurrent hostilities. 2022 has witnessed continued deterioration in the humanitarian situation in the oPt with the August 2022 escalation in Gaza and a volatile security environment causing 2022 to be the deadliest year for West Bank Palestinians since the United Nations started systematically counting fatalities in 2005. The results are chronic protection concerns and humanitarian needs. In 2023, an estimated 2.1 million Palestinians across the oPt require humanitarian assistance, representing 58% of Gaza residents and one quarter of West Bank residents.

Vulnerabilities have been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and related mobility restrictions, which overburdened an already-stretched healthcare system and aggravated socioeconomic conditions. In Gaza, the blockade, the severe funding crisis, political division, and electricity, fuel, drug, and equipment shortages have led to a near collapse of the health system including stock-outs of 43% of essential maternal and child health drugs.

In the West Bank, the journey to the nearest permanent health care clinic has lengthened significantly because of lockdowns, unpredictable checkpoint delays and the need to travel circuitous ways around settlements and barriers. This has caused entire communities to be cut off from reasonable access to life-saving primary health care services, especially when it comes to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) care services to which women and girls are particularly vulnerable including pregnant and lactating women, those with high-risk pregnancies, and breast cancer patients. This reality impacts heavily on SRH concerns including maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality, family planning as well as detection of gender-based violence (GBV) and interventions targeting GBV survivors.

Women and girls face increased risks in times of crisis, including discrimination and various forms of GBV such as child marriage, family violence, sexual harassment, psychological abuse, and sexual exploitation. In 2019, 59% of women and girls reported suffering at least one form of GBV by their husband. 31% of households in the West Bank including East Jerusalem and 19% in Gaza are concerned about the safety and security of girls.



Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) needs continue to rise among adults, adolescents, and children due to conflict-related violence, COVID-19 long-term effects and particularly for Gaza, mental health has been significantly affected by recent major

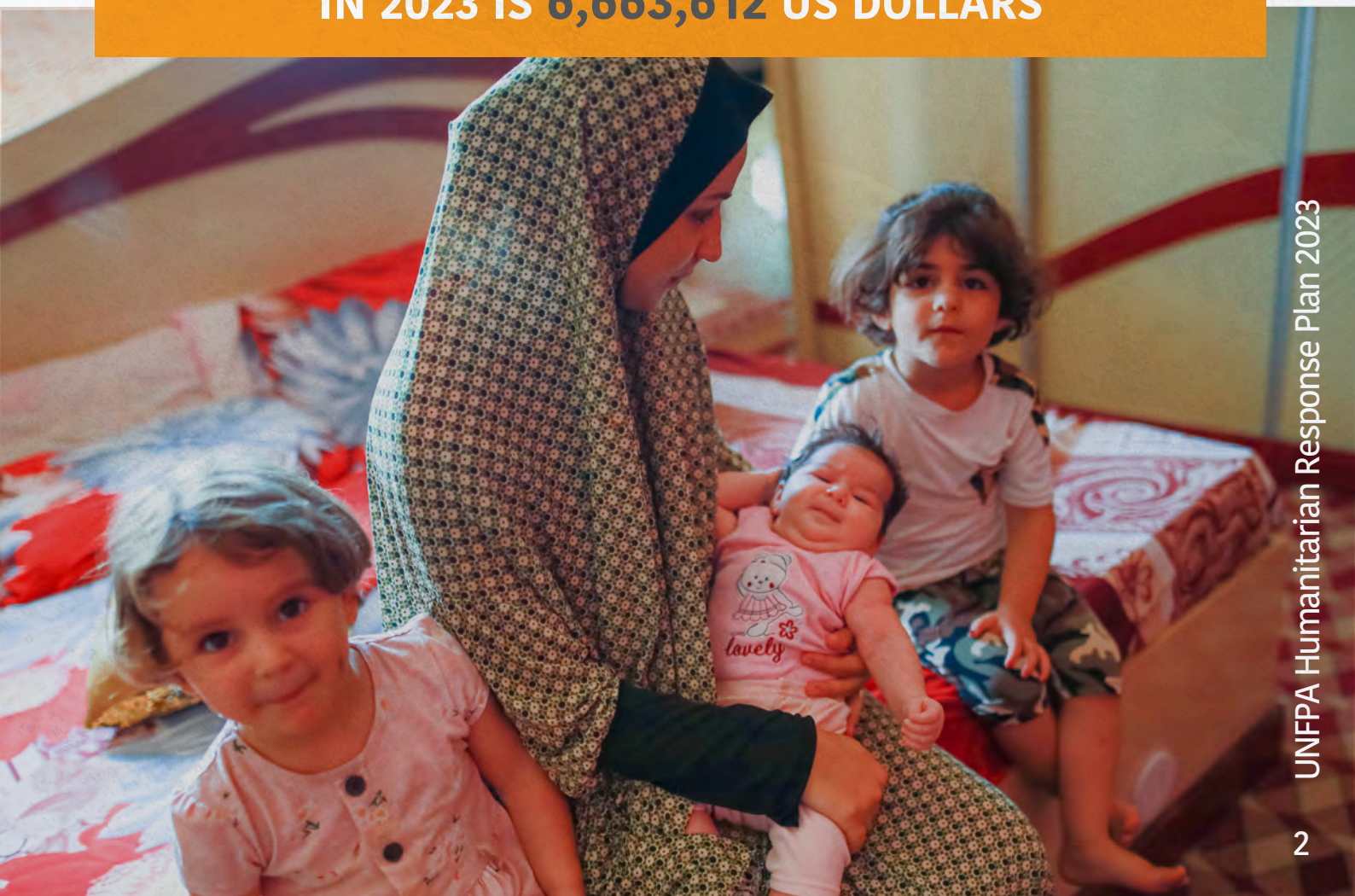
escalations worsening the existing mental health crisis. Lack of hope for the future coupled with limited economic opportunities and availability of livelihood activities also increase the use of negative coping mechanisms which as well increase the risk of GBV.

## HOW UNFPA IS RESPONDING

UNFPA is the lead UN agency for delivering a world, and a Palestine, where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled and has been supporting Palestinian men, women and girls since its first operations in Palestine in 1986.

To respond to the 2023 unmet SRH and protection needs, UNFPA has identified 8 humanitarian projects which combined form a multifaceted and integrated response targeting the needs within SRH, GBV and for adolescents and youth.

**THE TOTAL REQUIRED FUNDING FOR  
UNFPA'S HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTIONS  
IN 2023 IS 6,663,612 US DOLLARS**







## Sexual and Reproductive Health

**Project One:** Enhancing Response, Preparedness and Resilience of the Gaza Health System and Supporting Continuation of Lifesaving Sexual and Reproductive Health Services



Gaza Strip



12 months



1,872,000  
US Dollars

Humanitarian funding in Gaza will contribute to preventing excessive maternal morbidity and mortality, which have deteriorated during 2022. The project will increase access to SRH care and nutrition services and information, including family planning, female reproductive cancers, and ensure that safe delivery and emergency obstetric and newborn care services are available. Through this project, UNFPA will among other interventions build the capacity of health providers in lifesaving SRH issues, strengthen the preparedness and response of the health facilities, replenish lifesaving SRH equipment, drugs, commodities, and supplies including contraceptives and engage communities through outreach and awareness raising including counselling through door-to-door home visits by teams of midwives and psychosocial workers addressing SRH concerns with vulnerable women and girls.



**20,000** women in reproductive age, pregnant & lactating women receiving maternal & nutrition services

**1,500** female adolescents benefitting from nutritional supplements & hygienic kits



**30,000** people benefitting from outreach & awareness sessions on Sexual Reproductive & Maternal Child Health & Nutrition

**600** people benefitting from cash & voucher assistance for the improvement of health condition



**12,600** home visits by midwives delivering counseling services & psychosocial support

**200** healthcare workers through training on SRMCHN





## Sexual and Reproductive Health

### Project Two: Supporting Ministry of Health Safe Motherhood and Emergency Delivery Centers to Provide Integrated, High-Quality SRHR Services



West Bank



12 months



724,000  
US Dollars

The project will support three centers in the West Bank (in Hebron and Ramallah districts) with needed equipment, supplies and training to be able to provide emergency obstetric care. By scaling up the MOH emergency and safe motherhood centers in these areas, women and adolescents' girls and other vulnerable groups in Area C will have better access to quality integrated sexual and reproductive health and rights and GBV services. A central component of the project is to build the capacity of MOH emergency staff to be able to deal with emergency pregnancies and provide basic life support techniques. Community outreach raising awareness on essential SRHR issues will also be conducted e.g. danger signs during pregnancy, family planning, etc. All these interventions are aimed at improving maternal health and lead to decreased morbidity and mortality.



**5,000** women in reproductive age, pregnant & lactating women receiving maternal & nutrition services

**500** female adolescents benefitting from nutritional supplements & hygienic kits



**1,000** people benefitting from outreach & awareness sessions on Sexual Reproductive & Maternal Child Health & Nutrition

**200** community members and healthcare workers reached with MHPSS services and training



**3** health facilities adapted to increase accessibility of People with disabilities

**400** healthcare workers trained on SRMCHN & inclusive healthcare services





## Sexual and Reproductive Health

**Project Three:** Sustaining the Continuation of Essential Lifesaving Sexual and Reproductive Health Services for Women, Girls, Boys and Men in Area C and H2 Area of the West Bank.



West Bank



12 months



904,150  
US Dollars

This project aims to ensure lifesaving access to primary health care and SRH services in area C of the West Bank for the most remote and vulnerable communities in Palestine left without sufficient availability of health care facilities. To reach these marginalized communities, UNFPA and its partners will run four Mobile Clinics staffed with doctors, nurses, midwives, and psychosocial workers serving as a vital lifeline by bringing services to the doorsteps of the vulnerable communities. Along with SRH services, the project also strengthens service providers' capacity to detect and refer cases of GBV. Special attention will be paid to enhance accessibility of services to people with disabilities incl. through small-scale physical and information accessibility adaptations for a number of facilities used by the Mobile Clinic.



**20,000** people through  
PHC mobile activities incl.  
SRHR services



**10,000** people through  
awareness sessions on  
health, nutrition and  
psychosocial concerns



**10** health facilities  
adapted to increase  
accessibility of People  
with disabilities

**3,000** people reached with  
MHPSS services

**300** people through referral of  
SGBV/MHPSS cases to specialized  
health facilities

**80** mobile clinics health  
workers & volunteers  
trained on SRMCHN &  
inclusive healthcare  
services





## Gender-based Violence

### Project Four: Strengthening GBV Services Through Enhanced GBV Sub-Cluster Lead and Coordination



East Jerusalem  
West Bank  
Gaza Strip



12 months



223,202  
US Dollars

The project responds to the protection concerns of the prolonged humanitarian crisis and recurrent military escalations in Palestine by strengthening the protection mechanisms for the most vulnerable groups related to Gender-Based Violence. In 2019, 59.3% of married or previously married women between the age of 15 to 64 reported having experienced at least one form of GBV during the year preceding the survey. To tackle such high rate of GBV, this project aims to strengthen UNFPA's coordination role of the GBV Sub-Cluster in the oPt through effective leadership of GBV prevention, mitigation and response interventions, identification and response to GBV gaps, trends and concerns, capacity building and technical support for both GBV and non-GBV specialists, GBV data collection and management and GBV mainstreaming in other clusters.



**60+** members of the GBV Sub-Cluster

**40+** National and International NGOs

**8** Line Ministries

**11** UN Agencies







## Gender-based Violence

### Project Five: Enhanced Resilience and Protection Measures among Women and Girls at Risk of GBV Including Survivors with Disabilities through High-Quality Multi-Sectoral Services and Community Involvement in the Gaza Strip and West Bank



Gaza Strip  
West Bank



12 months

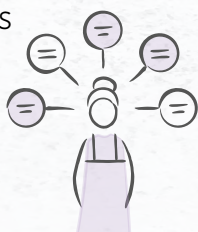


1,203,750  
US Dollars

This project aims at supporting women and girls survivors of GBV or those at high risk, including women and girls with disabilities, through the provision of quality, accessible and acceptable GBV multi-sectoral services in 6 safe spaces, 2 women hubs, and 14 community women-led organizations across Gaza Strip and West Bank governorates. Also, the project focuses on promoting the role of grassroots community organizations in GBV protection by supporting their solidarity and community outreach in combating GBV issues and promoting women's rights and adherence to PSEA.



**5,000** women, girls, men and boys with improved accessibility, availability and quality of GBV services



**10,000** local community members with increased awareness about available GBV services, human rights, cyber-crimes and violence



**300** GBV governmental and non-governmental specialized and non-specialized service providers through capacity building on GBV case management, GBV detection and referral, CVA in case management, and PSEA





## Gender-based Violence

**Project Six: Enhanced Mental and Psychosocial Health (MHPSS) among Women, Men, Boys and Girls at Risk of GBV Including People with Disabilities, and the Well-Being of Service Providers through Provision of Specialized MHPSS Services in Gaza Strip and West Bank**



Gaza Strip  
West Bank



12 months



995,100  
US Dollars

This project in partnership with WHO aims to both support the well-being of social and health service providers, and to provide MHPSS specialized services for women, girls, boys, men and people with disabilities at risk of GBV and referral of cases. The care for carers and service providers, being social and health workers in shelters, safe spaces, clinics and hospitals, will include capacity building and life-skills training through provision of group sessions both out of the workplace and on the job support. The provision of MHPSS specialized services for people in need will focus on referred cases for individual therapy and therapy sessions for couples across the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Additionally, a squad of youth volunteers will receive capacity building on self-care techniques for them to disseminate these skills wider to children in schools and community summer camps.



**540** girls, boys, men & women benefitting from MHPSS services including individual & group support



**800** community members receiving life skill support & vocational training

**960** people benefitting from mental health awareness & destigmatization sessions



**250** protection service providers trained on self-care and stress management

**450** healthcare providers & community workers trained on MHPSS, including mhGAP & GBV





## Gender-based Violence

### Project Seven: Responding to Humanitarian Needs of GBV Survivors in East Jerusalem



East Jerusalem



12 months



359,000  
US Dollars

The project aims to strengthen and empower women and girls in East Jerusalem especially the vulnerable and girls and women with disabilities who are exposed to GBV and enable them to live in dignity and peace within their families and communities through provision of MHPSS services, legal assistance, vocational and life skills training, economic assistance etc. Through awareness and outreach activities, the project will ensure that all targeted communities have a better knowledge of available GBV services and where and when to access services in the complex context of East Jerusalem. Furthermore, the project will target and train social and health service providers to enhance their knowledge and awareness of vulnerable groups of women, girls, men and boys on gender and GBV issues.



**540** women supported with case management & multi-sectoral services provided by 3 safe spaces



**300** women, girls, boys, & men reached with life skills, recreational & vocational training

**2,250** women & girls at high risk of GBV received awareness-raising sessions

**200** GBV survivors received unrestricted cash assistance to cover basic needs







## Adolescents and Youth

### Project Eight: Ensuring Access to Quality and Inclusive Mental, Psychosocial and Menstrual Health Support to Vulnerable Students



West Bank  
East Jerusalem



12 months



382,410  
US Dollars

People in oPt are exposed to high levels of traumatic experiences and violence due to the recurrent escalations, harassment, movement restrictions, house demolitions, etc. leading to high levels of mental, behavioral, and emotional issues among young people, especially adolescents. UNFPA works to address the growing needs for MHPSS support among adolescents with an integrated focus of menstrual hygiene management which continues to be an unaddressed cultural taboo. This project will include provision of physical and virtual adolescent and youth-sensitive mental health and psychosocial support services in schools. The project will also target educational personnel and parents of students with training sessions to increase skills in managing and providing adolescent and youth-sensitive MHPSS and MHM services.



**1,200** female adolescents benefitting from nutritional supplements, hygiene kits, and awareness sessions within 12 targeted schools

**60** school personnel in MHM education techniques



**3,000** people reached with mental health awareness & destigmatization sessions

**250** adolescents with MHPSS extra-curricular activities to enhance psychosocial well-being





# UNFPA

**DELIVERING A WORLD WHERE EVERY  
PREGNANCY IS WANTED, EVERY  
CHILDBIRTH IS SAFE, AND EVERY YOUNG  
PERSON'S POTENTIAL IS FULFILLED.**

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