

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN

OPT

HUMANITARIAN
PROGRAMME CYCLE
2023

ISSUED MAY 2023

Critical Needs and Funding Requirements

The most recent round of hostilities between Israeli forces and Palestinian armed groups in Gaza took place between 9 and 13 May. While the situation is currently one of relative calm with a fragile ceasefire in place, the effects continue to be felt.

The escalation in Gaza has exacerbated an already difficult humanitarian situation, with a disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable people, including children. The situation in the occupied Palestinian territory (OPT) is dire, with political instability and increasingly levels of violence throughout 2022 and 2023. Beyond meeting urgent needs, humanitarian assistance serves as a critical stabilizing support and, while geographically non-contiguous, stability within each of the regions is intimately linked.

The [2023 Humanitarian Response Plan \(HRP\)](#) cited that prior to the recent escalation, 1.3 million or 58 per cent of Gaza residents needed humanitarian assistance, with 29 per cent of households categorized as in 'catastrophic' or 'extreme' conditions, compared with 10 per cent in 2022. Yet, as of mid-May, the **2023 HRP is only 15 per cent funded**, meaning vulnerable populations are not receiving the assistance they require.

Humanitarian organizations are faced with an impossible situation in Gaza. In June, unless immediate funding is received, WFP will suspend food aid to more than 200,000 Palestinians in Gaza. However, if the funding challenge continues, there are strong fears that WFP will have to stop food and cash assistance entirely by August. UNRWA, the largest provider of assistance and employer in Gaza, cannot pay staff in the coming months and sustain programming. If the two main food assistance providers in Gaza are unable to secure their funding, they will not be able to address the most critical needs creating an increase in vulnerable and food-insecure people.

Cluster Coordinators at the national level and in Gaza undertook a **rapid review of the 2023 HRP, to identify priority activities and funding requirements** which reflect immediate response needs as well as select preparedness activities to ensure the humanitarian community's ability to respond to anticipated future escalations. A mid-term review of the HRP is scheduled to be done in July which will afford a more comprehensive look at coverage and the implications of the lack of funding on provision of services and Palestinian daily life.

Priorities identified include:

- US\$51 million for WFP to continue providing critical monthly food assistance until the end of the year. Without this, WFP will be forced to suspend assistance to about 200,000 Palestinians and e-voucher assistance to 140,000 beneficiaries in Gaza as of the 1 June if without funding.
- \$57 million for UNRWA to continue providing vital quarterly food assistance in 2023. Without funding, UNRWA will be forced to suspend food assistance in September 2023 to about 1.1 million Palestinian Refugees.
- \$8 million to address shortages of medicines and disposables. As of April 2023, 43 per cent of medicines were at zero-stock levels.
- Mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS) needs in Gaza were exacerbated by the escalation and require a scale up of programmes through structured and specialized services for different target groups, namely women and gender-based violence (GBV) survivors and children through academic year and summer school-based programmes, case management, remote services, and survivor shelter assistance.

- Temporary shelter assistance, shelter repair and non-food items (NFIs).
- Repair and rehabilitation of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) structures damaged during recent escalation.
- Rehabilitation of 49 schools and kindergartens affected by recent escalation.
- Monitoring and documenting violations of international humanitarian and human rights law (IHL/IHRL) and Legal Aid.
- Emergency multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA).
- Preparedness for the next escalation.

Donors and Member States are asked to:

- Allocate the required resources to ensure the ability of humanitarian organizations to 'stay and deliver,' working closely with relevant clusters and agencies to ensure funding is targeted towards the most vulnerable groups.
- Funding, however, is not enough to reduce the needs over time. We look to Members States to help us ensure our ability to operate and access the people we seek to assist.
- The depth and breadth of needs will only continue to increase in the absence of political engagement to address the root causes of this crisis. Violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by all duty bearers must stop; the closure regime and other movement restrictions lifted; the Palestinians must reconcile; and repeated escalations must end to arrive at a sustainable political solution.

Immediate funding requirements to address critical needs by cluster and MPCA

Cluster	Immediate funding requirements
Education	\$3,500,000
Food Security	\$112,292,000
Health	\$8,000,000
MPCA	\$1,100,000
Protection	\$994,250
Shelter	\$7,910,500
WASH	\$1,700,000
Total	\$135,496,750

2023 HRP Overall Funding Requirements and Coverage

Cluster/MPCA	Required (US\$)	Funding Received (US\$)	Per cent Funded
Education	\$35.0 million	\$2.1 million	6%
Food Security	\$279.7 million	\$32.6 million	12%
Health	\$46.2 million	\$7.1 million	15%
MPCA	\$19.0 million	\$2.4 million	12%
Protection	\$40.2 million	\$11.1 million	28%
Shelter	\$35 million	\$6.8 million	16%
WASH	\$34.7 million	\$5.8 million	17%
Total	\$502.3 million	\$75.5 million*	15%

* Including \$7.6 million funds not specified

Source: Clusters Data, 19 May 2023

The [oPt Humanitarian Fund](#) is supporting 40 ongoing projects in Gaza with a total budget of \$15 million. These projects cover various areas, including emergency food security support, shelter rehabilitation

and repair, protection and mental health support, access to education, and provision of essential supplies.

May 2023 Priority Activities and Urgent Funding Requirements by Cluster

Education

Immediate Needs	Priority Activities	Estimated Urgent Funding Required
<p>49 education facilities affected by the recent escalation as verified by a recent escalation cluster rapid assessment.</p> <p>Lack of school based MHPSS for children and caregivers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency rehabilitation for 49 damaged schools and kindergartens. Provision of school-based psychosocial support and recreational activities, including summer programmes targeting students, caregivers, and teachers. Provision of remedial education programmes and catch-up classes. 	\$3,500,000
Total		\$3,500,000

Food Security

Immediate Needs	Priority Activities	Estimated Urgent Funding Required
Reduced profitability and sustainability of agricultural activities for farmers and fishermen.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for increased livelihoods lost or affected due to poor access to lands. Support of livelihoods for loss of income in daily activities. 	\$3,277,000
Increased numbers of vulnerable people in need of assistance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of basic food assistance to the most vulnerable people in need. Support for loss of income in daily activities. E-voucher assistance 	\$109,014,000
Total		\$112,292,000

Health

Immediate Needs	Priority Activities	Estimated Urgent Funding Required
<p>Shortage of essential drugs and consumables. There is a protracted shortage of essential items and the magnitude of the problem worsened in 2023. The impact was felt during the recent escalation and continues to affect patients. As of April 2023, 43 per cent of essential medicines were at zero-stock levels. Annually, Ramallah supplies an estimated 14 per cent of the medications and consumables needed in Gaza. However, for 2023, only a small part of this shipment has been sent. Pre-COVID-19, partners provided about 35 per cent of essential supplies; however, since COVID-19 there has been less investment exacerbating the shortages impacting access of vulnerable people to essential services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement of urgently needed essential drugs, medical disposables, and equipment.¹ 	\$8,000,000
Total		\$8,000,000

¹ These priority activities are not currently identified in the 2023 HRP.

Multi-Purpose Cash

Immediate Needs	Priority Activities	Estimated Urgent Funding Required
Provision of immediate emergency MPCA to affected families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of MPCA for highly vulnerable families depending socio-economic vulnerability, affected by the crisis to meet their multiple basic needs and to enhance safety nets and protect assets. 	\$1,100,000
Total		\$1,100,000

Protection

Immediate Needs	Priority Activities	Estimated Urgent Funding Required
The gathered information highlights critical needs faced by women, burdened with childcare and domestic duties, while grappling with depression, fear, and anxiety. Alarming surge in domestic violence, with increased risks due to inadequate safe shelter options. Intensification in psychological distress in female cancer patients. Urgent need of restocking dignity kits, extending hotline availability, providing comprehensive support for victims of violence, including MHPSS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of case management services for women and girls affected by the escalation, including individual structured psycho-social support (PSS), cash and voucher assistance (CVA) for protection. Provision of PSS sessions on dealing with stress and depression. Increase capacity of remote services, including online and hotlines. Increase hosting capacity of sheltering service providers for GBV survivors. Distribution of dignity kits. Self-care services for staff of service providers, including PSS sessions, supervision services, recreational activities. 	\$641,250
Lack of structured and specialized Child Protection, Mental Health and Psychosocial support Services for children and caregivers. Lack of individual comprehensive child protection case management, for children who lost a family member, or were directly injured/affected during the escalation. Need of scaling up awareness raising on explosive remnants of war (ERW) lifesaving messages and protection needs of children including psychosocial wellbeing to caregivers for an additional 3,000 people. Provision of self-care and supervision for counselors and case managers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of structured and specialized Child Protection, Mental Health and Psychosocial support Services for 1,000 people (50 per cent). Provision of individual case management support for 200 children. Scaling up awareness raising on ERW lifesaving messages and protection needs of children including psychosocial wellbeing to caregivers for an additional 3,000 people. Provision of self-care and supervision for counselors and case managers. 	\$300,000
Lack of documentation of casualties and destruction of property. Legal aid to referral patients who could not access medical care outside Gaza due to closure of Erez crossing during the escalation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and documentation of IHL/IHRL violations and Legal Aid (counseling and intervention) to referral patients and companions 	\$53,000
Total		\$994,250

Shelter

Immediate Needs	Priority Activities	Estimated Urgent Funding Required
Temporary shelter assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of transitional shelter cash assistance (TSCA) to IDPs due to destroyed and otherwise unlivable shelters² 	\$640,500
Rehabilitation of damaged and/or substandard shelters (destroyed or otherwise damaged) to meet shelter basic needs and minimum standards, including adaptation of shelters to meet the needs of PWDs, upgrade/separate shared toilet and kitchen facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shelter repair 	\$6,520,000
Seasonal assistance and shelter/NFIs to vulnerable HHs at risk of explore to or affected by natural and manmade hazards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of essential NFIs to 2,943 affected families 	\$750,000
Ensure ability to provide emergency NFIs through stockpiles at agency warehouses or secured procurement arrangements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replenishment of NFI stocks 	\$750,000
Total		\$7,910,500

WASH

Immediate Needs	Priority Activities	Estimated Urgent Funding Required
WASH structures were damaged during the escalation, including water wells, water and sewer networks. Water and sanitation services for vulnerable communities in Gaza City, Beit Hanoun, Jabalia, Deir al Balah and Khan Younis were affected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation and rehabilitation of water transmission pipelines, networks and household connections. Installation, extension and rehabilitation of sewer collection network and household connections. 	\$1,000,000
The limited resilience, preparedness and emergency response capacities of the WASH service providers including the lack of spare parts and consumables for the operation of the WASH facilities have affected their capacity to maintain sufficient water and sanitation services in the Gaza Strip.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of chlorine and chemicals for water wells and desalination plants. Provision of maintenance material and tools for critical rehabilitation of water facilities. 	\$700,000
Total		\$1,700,000

² This project is not currently included within the 2023 HRP.