



Overview- Key Issues

Government Workers' Strikes Escalate

During April further strikes, including amongst PA doctors, nurses, teachers and local municipal workers, continue to impact the provision of essential services. The strikes have continued in response to the non-regular payment of salaries.

Health sector strike:

The PA health sector remains on strike for the third month in the West Bank (a previous strike lasted for more than three months in 2006/07). The striking unions also announced an escalation in the strike from 28 April as no agreement was reached with the PA. The escalation calls for the closure of all Primary Healthcare Clinics (PHC), including for the limited immunisation services that until now had been provided every two weeks. Life saving treatment is only provided at hospitals.

Local municipalities strike:

In early April, local municipal employees in the Gaza Strip announced a reduction in services and two weeks later conducted a three-day strike (between 16 and 18 April) to protest the non-payment of their salaries. Strike action was suspended after the Palestinian (PM) Prime Minister agreed to provide USD 1 million in immediate cash assistance (however, staff salaries alone are estimated at USD 2 million per month). Striking workers demand payment of their salaries and for the PA to establish an emergency fund for municipalities.

The situation remains very volatile. A renewal of the strike could result in the accumulation of garbage and other hazardous waste on Gazan streets as well as impacting the functioning of the sewage and water networks. Over the course of the short strike in April thousands of tonnes of solid waste built up on Gaza city streets.

Threats of and rolling strikes in other sectors:

All PA employees held a one-day warning strike in the first week of April. In addition, PA teachers and Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) staff conducted full and partial strikes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip throughout the month.

Table of Contents

Key Issues	1 - 2
Regional Focus	3
Protection of Civilians	4 - 5
Child Protection	6
Violence & Private Property	7-8
Access	9 - 10
Socio-economic Conditions	11 - 12
Health	13 - 14
Food Security & Agriculture	15 - 18
Water & Sanitation	19 - 20
Education	21
The Response	22 - 23
Sources & End Notes	24 - 27

Rising poverty and declining access to services in the wake of the PA institutional crisis.

A recent survey commissioned by Oxfam has found that 80% of the 667 households interviewed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip reported that their household income had been reduced in the year following the PA institutional crisis.¹ More than half of the households surveyed said they had received allowances through the TIM. In Gaza, 53% said that their household income had fallen by more than half and 21% said their household income had stopped altogether (results were slightly less dramatic in the West Bank at 42% and 14% respectively).

The survey also found that households were resorting to negative coping mechanisms such as borrowing money, selling possessions, reducing healthcare and food consumption and taking children out of school. 88% of people interviewed also reported that their access to services had been affected, 52% stating that it had reduced by more than half. The survey also found that Palestinians are very pessimistic about their immediate future with 40% predicating that their situation would get worse.



Severe agricultural losses in Hebron Governorate

An unusual late frost this month in the Hebron governorate caused massive losses in the agricultural sector, particularly in the areas of Beit Ummar, Halhul, Hebron City, Sa'air and Wad Al Aroub, according to the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)². Grape vines were the worst hit, impacting approximately 4,000 hectares of vineyards (or 70% of the total cultivated area for grapes). At least 30% of almond groves (covering an area of 2,700 hectares) were impacted. In addition, an estimated 2,000 hectares of crops including wheat grains and legumes were affected while losses in irrigated vegetables have reached 100% in some areas, especially in Al Beqa' region, east of Hebron City.³ An estimated 6,000 of the poorest farmers have been impacted by the losses, with their situation exacerbated with the limited response of the PA due to the ongoing institutional crisis. FAO and the MoA are currently conducting a comprehensive assessment on the losses, to determine the appropriate response.

Continuous closures in and around Nablus city: expansion of Huwwara checkpoint

Palestinian residents of Nablus city continue to face severe closures as Nablus is encircled by eight IDF checkpoints, six Israeli settlements, two IDF military bases and a network of roads reserved primarily for Israeli use.

During April, only 10% of Nablus buses (22 out of 220) and 7% of Nablus taxis (150 out of 2,250) had permits to access and use the checkpoints. Only 50 private Palestinian cars were permitted to go in and out of the city. Consequently, most Palestinians go through the checkpoints on foot, and depend on two different vehicles – one at each side of the checkpoint – for their transportation. The IDF state that the closures are necessary to protect Israeli civilians.

The two main checkpoints, Huwwara and Beit Iba face long queues and delays. The IDF have recently started extensive construction work to expand Huwwara checkpoint into a terminal that will handle 700 people per hour according

to the Israeli DCL in Nablus. The project is scheduled to finish in late summer 2007 and will cost approximately USD 2.3 million.

According to the IDF plan, there will be four lanes – three exit lanes and one entry lane – and a large parking lot on each side. Beit Iba checkpoint is also planned to be expanded although not to the same extent as Huwwara. According to the IDF, the upgrade to the checkpoints will reduce queues and delays. The UN remains concerned that IDF construction will make these internal checkpoints in the West Bank permanent.

The following UN Agencies, local and international NGOs and organisations participate in sector working groups/provide information to the Humanitarian Monitor: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Office for the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), Al Haq, Badil, Save the Children (UK), Defence of Children International – Palestine Section (DCI-PS), Oxfam GB, Palestine Hydrology Group (PHG) and members of the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM).



Overview- Regional Focus

West Bank including East Jerusalem

Al Hadidiya community⁴:

The Palestinian residents of Al Hadidiya community in the northern Jordan Valley have faced imminent eviction when the Israeli High Court ruled in November 2006 that the 80-90 residents constituted a threat to the safety of the nearby Israeli settlers in Roi settlement.

The Court issued a final ruling to evict the entire community. No alternative place for relocation was offered to the residents who have lived in the area for more than 40 years.

On 22 April the community was evicted by the IDF and moved their structures and animals to a nearby location in 'Area C' (as defined by the Oslo Accords).

The community remains vulnerable to further eviction since it remains under Israeli civil control. Residents must apply for permits from the Israeli authorities to build a house, erect a tent or put in place any type of infrastructure. Obtaining a permit is extremely time-consuming and the bureaucracy involved is complex. It is often impossible to obtain a permit – forcing many people to build without a permit.

Gaza Strip

Continued fishing restrictions during high season

According to the Palestinian Department of Fisheries, the high season for sardine fishing began during the last week of April. Sardines account for 70% of the total annual fishing catch and are typically found around 10 nautical miles (nm) from the coast; currently four nm further than the fishermen are currently permitted to drop their nets by the IDF. The IDF has limited the movement of fishermen due to concerns over the smuggling of weapons and other contraband items.⁵

Update on the Beit Lahia sewage crisis

In the wake of flooding at the Beit Lahia waste water treatment plant on 27 March that killed five people and injured 25 others in the nearby Bedouin village of Um Al Nasser, UNRWA established a camp for the displaced. By the end of April a total of 139 families, whose homes had been destroyed, damaged and soiled, remained in the camp along with a further 128 families whose homes had been unaffected. The threat of further flooding has receded as two additional emergency filtration basins have been dug in Beit Lahia, and work also continues at the site of the new proposed treatment plant in eastern Jabalia with the IDF permitting 24 hour operations from 20 April.

Case Study: Huwwara village in Nablus - An Area of Continuous Friction

Huwwara village (population 5,800), located south of Nablus, has repeatedly been an area of friction between Israelis and Palestinians and consequently the local Palestinian population has been subject to frequent curfews. A section of Road 60 that goes through the village connects Nablus city with Ramallah and Jerusalem as well as the Israeli settlements of Elon Moreh, Itamar, Bracha and Yizhar with Zaatara (Tappuah) junction through different roads reserved primarily for Israeli use. The predominant reason for curfews has been stone throwing at Israeli settlers and IDF vehicles on this road by Palestinians.

In 2006, six Israeli settlers were reported injured by stone throwing while driving through the village. In the same period, four Palestinians were injured (three of them by gunfire from Israeli settlers and another after being physically assaulted by the IDF). The village was subject to on average 12 hours of curfew each month during 2006. During the first three months of 2007, Huwwara has been subject to an average 15 hours of curfew per month, a 25% increase. In April the figure rose to 18 hours of curfew, an additional 20% increase. During the first four months of 2007, one Israeli settler has been injured by Palestinian stone throwing and one Palestinian child has been beaten by the IDF/ Border Police.

On 25 April, The IDF strengthened their presence in the area by occupying the third floor of an uninhabited four-storey building in the village and establishing a new observation post in the area. The IDF have maintained their presence in the building to date.



Protection of Civilians

Protection of civilians analysis

The number of Palestinians killed in direct conflict related incidents in the oPt increased by more than 50% in April (19) compared to March (nine). For the first time this year the majority of the casualties occurred in the Gaza Strip indicating an increase in hostilities. On 24 April, Hamas announced the end of a five month truce with Israel. There was an increase in Qassam fire from the Gaza Strip during the last days of the month. The number of Palestinian fatalities in the first four months of 2007 remains lower than during the same period in 2006 (53 in 2007 compared to 96 in 2006).

In the northern West Bank, four Palestinians were killed: On 17 April, a 24 year-old taxi driver was shot dead by an undercover IDF Unit that stopped the car he was driving. On 21 April, three men were shot dead in Jenin City when an IDF undercover unit opened fire at the car they were travelling in.

During April, the number of Palestinians injured declined compared to the previous month (115 in April compared to 153 in March). The vast majority were reported in Ramallah governorate during Barrier demonstrations, followed by Hebron, mainly resulting from settler violence and in Nablus during IDF search and arrest campaigns.

Palestinian internal violence in the form of inter-factional fighting, family feuds and honour-related crimes continued in the Gaza Strip. Most Palestinians were killed in armed family feuds. However, internal violence in April remains lower than the average monthly figure for the first four months of 2007 (average of 33 deaths).

Accountability

Palestinian injuries caused by Israeli settler violence in the West Bank have increased in 2007, particularly in Hebron governorate (see Violence section on p.8). Israel is obligated under international humanitarian law to protect the life, property and rights of the occupied Palestinian population. It is also responsible for maintaining law and order. However, the Israeli authorities often do not investigate incidents of reported settler violence nor take a proactive approach to protecting local Palestinian populations near Israeli settlements or outposts. Few investigations are carried out following complaints of violence and files are often closed under the pretext that there is no evidence. Professor Dugard, UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian Territories occupied since 1967, in his most recent report concluded that "Despite rulings of the High Court of Justice that it is the duty of the IDF to protect

Palestinian farmers from settlers, there is still evidence that the IDF turns a blind eye to settler violence and, on occasion, collaborates with the settlers in harassing and humiliating Palestinians".⁶



Protection of Civilians

“All activities aimed at ensuring full respect for the rights of the individuals in accordance with international human rights law, international humanitarian law and refugee law.”⁹

	Total 2005 (monthly average)	Total 2006 (monthly average)	May-06	Jun-06	Jul-06	Aug-06	Sep-06	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06	Jan-07	Feb-07	Mar-07	Apr-07
Number of Palestinian deaths - direct conflict¹														
West Bank	215 (18)	678 (57)	21	4	17	16	7	12	17	12	8	11	7	9
Gaza Strip			17	35	164	61	24	48	121	3	3	2	2	10
Israel			0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Number of Palestinian injuries - direct conflict														
West Bank	1261 (104)	3194 (267)	225	114	207	120	111	86	159	51	89	251	141	109
Gaza Strip			30	84	590	146	84	94	332	22	15	5	12	6
Number of Israeli deaths - direct conflict														
oPt	48 (4)	25 (2)	0	1	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Israel			1	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0
Number of Israeli injuries - direct conflict														
oPt	484 (40)	377 (31)	14	11	31	9	19	16	19	10	10	35	15	22
Israel			0	15	10	1	5	3	11	2	2	0	0	0
Number of Palestinian deaths - internal violence²														
West Bank	12 (>1)	146 (12)	2	2	0	1	0	5	1	4	2	0	0	1
Gaza Strip			13	8	13	11	13	27	14	25	54	48	16	16
Number of Palestinian injuries - internal violence														
West Bank	130 (11)	871 (76)	0	0	0	0	0	29	1	45	12	5	2	10
Gaza Strip			53	72	43	55	73	257	35	130	249	285	102	88
Average weekly IDF searches, arrests and detentions in the West Bank³:														
Search Campaigns	Ave Weekly (61)	Ave Weekly (109)	90	116	120	119	124	118	145	122	108	135	127	126
Arrests and Detentions	Ave Weekly (74)	Ave Weekly (101)	100	102	110	87	72	81	133	101	121	155	121	88
Number of administrative detentions – Being investigated by Protection Sector.														

For more information please contact OHCHR, (02) 2965534 or OCHA, (02) 582 9962 (Cate Osborn or Mai Yassin)



Child Protection

“Child protection includes strategies and activities aimed at the protection of children under 18 against abuse, exploitation and violence”¹⁰

This section's indicators are used to monitor the UN Security Council Resolution 1612, adopted on 26 July 2005 and referring to the protection of children in armed conflicts. Children are defined as less than 18 years of age.

	Total 2005 (monthly average)	Total 2006 (monthly average)	May-06	Jun-06	Jul-06	Aug-06	Sep-06	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06	Jan-07	Feb-07	Mar-07	Apr-07
Number of Palestinian children killed - direct conflict⁴														
West Bank	33 (3)	127 (11)	0	0	4	1	1	1	5	2	3	0	1	1
Gaza Strip			1	5	38	12	9	5	23	1	1	1	0	2
Number of Palestinian children injured - direct conflict⁵														
West Bank	130 (11)	470 (31)	21	26	77	48	26	20	58	18	12	30	11	31
Gaza Strip			5	19	20	15	1	2	8	2	1	0	2	2
Number of Israeli children killed - direct conflict⁶														
oPt	3 (<1)	1 (<1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Israel	2 (<1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Israeli children injured - direct conflict⁷														
oPt	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Israel	0	7 (<1)	0	0	2	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
Number of Palestinian children killed - indirect conflict⁸														
West Bank	5 (<1)	2 (<1)	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Gaza Strip	2 (<1)	6 (<1)	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Palestinian children killed in Palestinian internal violence⁹														
West Bank	0	2 (<1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Gaza Strip	0	10 (<1)	0	0	2	1	0	3	1	3	10	4	3	1
Number of Palestinian children held in detention by Israeli authorities¹⁰														
West Bank	n/a	n/a	377	359	335	391	389	348	340	380	382	398	384	381

For more information, please contact UNICEF, (02) 583 0013 (Anne Grandjean).

In April, four Palestinian children were killed, among whom three were killed as a result of the ongoing conflict with Israel and one in inter-Palestinian fighting. In addition, six children were injured in three separate incidents by unexploded ordnance (UXOs).

A total of 21 children were injured by rubber-coated metal bullets, during stone throwing confrontations against the IDF. Among these, three Palestinian boys aged six, 11 and 16 years were injured by both live and rubber-coated metal bullets when Israeli soldiers in a nine-jeep convoy opened fire. No Israeli child was killed or injured during April.

Numerous episodes of Israeli settler violence were reported throughout the West Bank. In Hebron a nine year-old Palestinian boy was injured when he was beaten and pushed off a small hill by two Israeli settlers. In Twani, two Palestinian girls aged 11 and 12 years, and a ten-year-old boy were beaten by a group of Israeli settlers while the children were on way to their school. This happened despite the presence of IDF and Israeli Police.

According to Defence for Children International, 381 Palestinian children are held in Israeli detention.

A total of 63 people, among them a majority of children, were displaced due to the demolition or serious damage of their houses by the IDF.



Violence and Private Property

Increasing Israeli settler violence against Palestinian civilians in Hebron

Incidents involving Israeli settlers are a frequent occurrence in the West Bank with the vast majority of incidents related to violence and harassment perpetrated by Israeli settlers towards the local Palestinian population. Almost half of the more than 300 recorded incidents since the beginning of 2006 occurred in Hebron governorate resulting in 106 injuries (82 Palestinians, 20 international citizens, two members of the IDF, one Israeli activist and one Israeli settler).

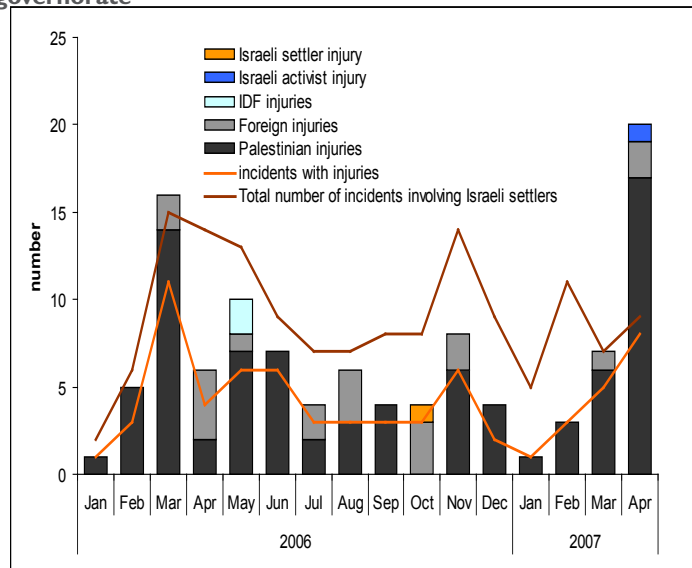
The majority of Palestinian injuries in Hebron occurred as a result of being beaten or attacked with stones by Israeli settlers. Often the injuries were serious and the targets were children, the elderly or otherwise vulnerable Palestinians. There have also been four hit-and-run incidents involving Israeli settlers driving in Hebron governorate which injured, five Palestinians, four of whom were children.

Injuries to Internationals, members of the IDF and Israeli activists all occurred when they were attacked by Israeli settlers while accompanying Palestinians in order to safeguard their passage to their land or schools near to settlements. One Israeli settler was shot and injured by Palestinians while travelling in his vehicle.

However, a large number of incidents involving settlers did not lead to injuries but related to property damage, harassment and other forms of intimidation. Approximately 24% of all incidents reported in Hebron involved deliberate damage to Palestinian property, including trees, crops, vehicles, water pipes and houses. Fifteen percent of all incidents involved preventing access, including to agricultural land or school.

A peak in the number of incidents was seen over the olive harvest period (October to December 2006), where there were increased incidents of settlers preventing access to or damaging land or property. However, in March and April 2007 there has been an increase in the number of Palestinian injuries caused by settler violence (during these months there were a number of Jewish/Israeli holidays such as Purim, Pessah and Independence day where non-local Israelis join the settlers in celebrations). The increased presence of Palestinian farmers and shepherds during spring time on their lands located near settlements appears to provoke settlers into aggressive acts.

Figure 1: Incidents involving Israeli settlers in Hebron governorate





Violence and Private Property

“The civilian population and individual civilians shall enjoy general protection against dangers arising from military operations...The civilian population as such, as well as individual civilians, shall not be the object of attacks. Acts or threats of violence, the primary purpose of which is to spread terror among the civilian population are prohibited.”¹¹

	Total 2005 (monthly average)	Total 2006 (monthly average)	May-06	Jun-06	Jul-06	Aug-06	Sept-06	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06	Jan-07	Feb-07	Mar-07	Apr-07
Incidents involving Israeli settlers¹¹														
Total number of incidents	n/a	235 (20)	21	22	19	14	13	19	30	17	10	20	15	21
Leading to Palestinian casualties	n/a	63 (5)	6	7	7	4	5	1	6	2	2	4	7	11
Leading to Israeli Settler casualties	n/a	28 (2)	2	2	4	3	1	3	2	2	1	3	2	3
Leading to international casualties	n/a	11 (<1)	1	0	1	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	1
Number of Palestinian Qassam rockets fired into/towards Israel¹²														
From the Gaza Strip	1 194 (100)	1 786 (149)	132	230	309	70	73	72	283	73	46	79	73	60
Number of IDF artillery shells														
Into the Gaza Strip	509 (42)	14 111 (1175)	2 435	645	3 986	842	561	113	248	0	0	0	0	0
Number of IAF air strikes														
In the Gaza Strip	n/a	573 (48)	14	34	235	42	26	38	93	0	2	0	1	3
Physical structures demolished - West Bank¹³														
Structures demolished	n/a	201	32	19	3	7	4	0	35	4	18	54	8	11
Of which residential (occupied)	n/a	56 (5)	1	7	1	4	1	0	14	3	14	17	2	7
Physical structures demolished - Gaza Strip														
Structures demolished	n/a	246 (21)	0	9	36	94	41	24	38	0	0	0	0	0
Of which homes demolished	n/a	127 (11)	0	0	20	29	27	18	32	0	0	0	0	0

For more information, please contact OCHA, (02) 582 9962 (Cate Osborn or Mai Yassin)



Access

“Everyone has the right of freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.”¹²

	Monthly average 2005	Monthly average 2006	May-06	Jun-06	Jul-06	Aug-06	Sep-06	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06	Jan-07	Feb-07	Mar-07	Apr-07
IDF Physical obstacles in the West Bank¹⁴														
Manned	62	74	71	76	77	79	83	83	84	82	82	84	84	86
Unmanned	410	445	448	450	463	468	435	459	456	445	446	466	465	453
Total	472	518	519	526	540	547	518	542	540	527	528	550	549	539
Average weekly Random or 'Flying' checkpoints	73	136	127	142	182	162	121	111	143	138	114	156	163	175
Curfews imposed by IDF¹⁵														
No. Incidents - West Bank	9	4	9	3	6	2	1	1	2	2	2	3	4	4
Total hours under curfew - West Bank	126	40	119	26	30	6	14	3	12	26	28	91	21	20
No. Incidents - Gaza Strip	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total hours under curfew - Gaza Strip	0	18	0	0	72	0	0	0	144	0	0	0	0	0
Access incidents reported by humanitarian organisations¹⁶														
Access incidents reported in the West Bank	n/a	79	150	51	63	101	66	62	79	38	38	n/a	28	n/a
Average reported time to exit the Gaza Strip via Erez, in minutes.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	53	47	81	44	n/a
Ambulances incidents in the West Bank and access for medical referrals from the Gaza Strip to West Bank and Israel¹⁷														
Ambulance access delays reported at West Bank checkpoints	n/a	10	9	14	20	10	11	7	2	n/a	15	26	11	25
Ambulance access denial reported at West Bank checkpoints	n/a	9	44	21	10	2	5	9	4	n/a	16	25	9	14
MoH medical referral requests (via Erez)	n/a	459	453	474	185	292	438	379	509	434	508	595	n/a	515
Actual no. of medical referrals crossing (via Erez)	n/a	416	404	400	171	266	402	344	455	399	452	540	n/a	460
Access for Palestinians to East Jerusalem and Israel from oPt¹⁸														
West Bank (total closure days)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	7	20	4	11	4	0	0	5	13
Gaza Strip (total closure days)	n/a	17	31	30	31	31	11	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Movement of people from/to Gaza Strip - daily average¹⁹														
Workers to Israel - Erez	1029	378	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Traders to Israel - Erez	107	42	0	0	0	0	4	28	93	172	243	290	352	157
Rafah - daily crossing out	n/a	423	578	608	0	396	117	250	140	289	138	240	410	383
Rafah daily crossing in	n/a	424	553	630	167	149	151	220	155	199	270	139	309	345

For more information, please contact OCHA, (02) 582 9962 (Ray Dolphin)



0 km
source: OCHA, April 2007

The West Bank Barrier

712km



Access

“Everyone lawfully within the territory of a State shall, within that territory, have the right to liberty of movement and freedom to choose his residence.”¹³

	Monthly average 2005	Monthly average 2006	May-06	Jun-06	Jul-06	Aug-06	Sep-06	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06	Jan-07	Feb-07	Mar-07	Apr-07
Functioning of the Gaza Strips crossing points - percentage of days open/scheduled days open²⁰														
Rafah crossing	n/a	57%	100%	77%	6%	16%	10%	23%	20%	32%	26%	25%	48%	37%
Karni crossing	n/a	71%	96%	73%	58%	41%	96%	96%	92%	96%	100%	92%	92%	96%
Sufa crossing	n/a	60%	74%	54%	0%	30%	71%	87%	77%	92%	100%	96%	29%	16%
Nahal Oz energy pipelines	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	81%	77%	100%	88%	100%	88%	100%	100%	96%	100%
Movement of goods through Karni crossing - daily average²¹														
Karni import - commercial truckloads incl. humanitarian supplies	n/a	156	236	165	90	79	197	189	191	196	220	232	218	253
Karni export - commercial truckloads incl. humanitarian supplies	n/a	17	9	13	0	1	15	19	31	40	46	52	44	51
Other imports into the Gaza Strip - total²²														
Sufa import - aggregates (construction materials) truckloads	3 527	1 598	2803	1720	0	0	1374	2178	1652	2422	3455	3257	1034	n/a
Nahal Oz import - Fuel truckloads	n/a	583	482	644	628	620	557	493	548	532	539	714	601	n/a
Economic/access data for the West Bank are being investigated by OCHA														

For more information, please contact OCHA, (02) 582 9962 (Ray Dolphin).

West Bank

Jordan Valley-Improvement in access: restrictions on private vehicles remain

On 28 April, Palestinian access to the Jordan Valley improved dramatically. Movement from the West Bank continues to be controlled through four main checkpoints- Tayasir, Hamra, Ma'ale Efraim and Yitav - however a permit is no longer required to enter the Jordan Valley for West Bank residents. Access is only possible with public transportation as West Bank private vehicles continue to be prohibited from entering the Jordan Valley.

The easing of closures has positive implications for Palestinian access to their agricultural land. Previously, non-residents of the Jordan Valley found it difficult to access their land, so that it often was neglected and vulnerable to being declared 'State Land' and therefore confiscated. Alternatively, they were forced to rent it out to other farmers.

Despite the formal lifting of restrictions, access remains difficult. Numerous long delays through Tayasir checkpoint are reported frequently. The IDF soldiers operating the checkpoint reportedly do not man the checkpoint at all times, forcing Palestinians to wait. Restrictions at Yitav and Ma'ali Efrayim checkpoints are also in place; only Palestinians residents of Jordan Valley, staff of humanitarian organisations and Palestinian merchants holding Business and Merchants cards (BMC) continue to access these two checkpoints.

Violations against PCRS ambulances during April:

During April, there was an increase in the delay and denial of access incidents for PCRS ambulances at the West Bank checkpoints (39 incidents reported in April compared to 18 in March). According to a PCRS report in April, the majority of incidents (13) took place at Al Alami Gate (Jericho checkpoint) to access Allenby crossing point. The report also mentions that four PCRS emergency medical teams were verbally and physically abused by the IDF in the Nablus, Jenin and Jerusalem governorates, and one ambulance was attacked.

Gaza Strip

Since 12 April, Karni crossing has officially extended its hours until 11 pm, an improvement in the scheduled hours compared to the previous months. The daily average number of truckloads of exported and imported goods increased compared to the previous month (51 in April compared to 44 in March for exports and 253 in April compared to 218 in March for imports).

Sufa was closed for most of the month due to IDF security concerns about explosives being planted near the crossing. Rafah continues to open less than half of its scheduled days.



Socio-economic Conditions

Anecdotal evidence of deteriorating socio-economic conditions in the West Bank provided by UNRWA

UNRWA social workers in the Nablus area have reported that there are increasing numbers of wives being sent back to their parents house, on a temporary basis and until their husband finds the means to provide for the family. At the same time, some cases of unregistered/secret marriages have been noticed among youth, in order to avoid wedding expenses.

Refugees residing in remote areas are increasingly reliant on UNRWA mobile clinics as their only health care provider. Despite the presence of a PA/Medical Aid clinic at Kufr Ni'meh (Ramallah area), great pressure is recorded on UNRWA mobile team, which offers treatment free of charge (143 patients were recorded at last visit in April). Any disease is reported to the UNRWA staff, although mosque loudspeakers specify that treatment is mainly intended for NCDs (Non-Communicable Diseases) patients.

UNRWA health staff report that patients tend to delay laboratory tests, as they cannot afford paying for such examinations. Also if a medicine is prescribed, which is not available through the UNRWA pharmacy, some patients ignore the prescription and leave it on the doctor's desk. Others ask for some alternative medicines, even if it is less effective for their case.

The continuation of the financial crisis is preventing completion of house building projects. It has been observed that some people now live in unfinished structures, often without any network services. In addition, construction labourers outline that their opportunities to find some work are strongly decreasing.

Erratic operation of PA schools, due to continuation of the strike, results in carelessness of students. Rather than concentrating on school work, male youth are increasingly engaging in political factions in order to acquire community status and recognition.

Suspension of university education is frequently reported, as children of PA employees cannot afford to pay fees, and university regulations do not allow for more than two consecutive postponements of semester requirements. Refugees are reportedly walking long distances to access services, as transportation costs are no longer affordable.

Some parents in the northern West Bank have reported that they are forced to ignore their children's need for eye glasses or hearing devices, as they cannot afford to purchase or replace them.

Some Bedouins from the Ka'abne tribe reported that owning sheep has now become too costly for them, as price of feed is unaffordable and they have no money to treat any livestock diseases. The sheikh himself is heavily indebted, and medical treatment can be rarely afforded even for children. Traditional community leaders who used to enjoy high status and respect are now found at food distribution sites, receive charity from others and beg social workers for cash assistance.

Some men in the Hebron area reported never to have sought any assistance until mid-2006, when their resources completely exhausted due to the general crisis. Then they found out that they may receive some aid because their wife has refugee status. Wives were then encouraged to request a refugee card in their own name, according to recent UNRWA policy, and on this basis the family can now enjoy some UNRWA aid and services.

UNRWA social workers in the Hebron area noticed different attitudes among PA employees towards assistance, on the basis of their sector of work, education level and place of residence. In particular, they report that most of the workload derives from dealing with security sector employees, with low education background and especially those residing in rural areas. City dwellers are much more reluctant to ask for assistance.

A higher number of youth has been noticed at UNRWA food distribution sites. Part of the reason however is the authorisation to delegate family members to receive entitlements on behalf of the elderly or other difficult cases.



Socio-economic Conditions

“Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment”¹⁴

	Q1 1998	Q1 1999	Q1 2000	Q1 2001	Q1 2002	Q1 2003	Q1 2004	Q1 2005	Q1 2006	Q2 2006	Q3 2006	Q4 2006	Q1 2007
Unemployment rate - relaxed definition - % - PCBS²³													
West Bank	23.5%	22.9%	16.9%	32.5%	35.0%	40.3%	31.0%	28.8%	27.2%	24.2%	25.3%	23.4%	24.3%
Gaza Strip	30.7%	27.9%	21.8%	48.8%	46.4%	37.3%	35.1%	38.0%	39.6%	38.7%	41.8%	39.6%	35.4%
oPt	26.0%	24.7%	20.2%	37.7%	38.7%	39.3%	32.3%	31.7%	31.1%	28.6%	30.3%	28.4%	27.9%
Households in poverty - based on consumption - % - PCBS²⁴													
Poor	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	27.7%	38.8%	29.1%	36.9%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Deep poor	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	16.8%	23.8%	18.1%	25.9%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Number of Palestinians employed in Israel and in the settlements - PCBS²⁵													
West Bank	74213	107067	105501	105501	57000	43281	49750	65255	59846	57683	69478	68100	68100
Gaza Strip	21899	25758	25380	2580	2000	6295	5849	0	852	0	0	0	0
oPt	96112	132825	130881	107630	59000	49576	55,99	65255	60698	57683	69478	68100	68100
Economic dependency ratio - PCBS²⁶													
West Bank	n/a	n/a	n/a	5.7	6	6.6	5.7	5.6	5.4	5	4.9	4.6	5.0
Gaza Strip	n/a	n/a	n/a	9.1	8.8	7.5	7.5	8.2	8.4	8.3	8.7	7.9	7.3
oPt	n/a	n/a	n/a	6.6	6.8	6.9	6.3	6.3	6.2	5.8	5.9	5.5	5.7
Evolution of consumer price index (CPI) - PCBS²⁷													
West Bank	6.4%	10.9%	19.9%	24.8%	26.0%	32.0%	39.7%	44.2%	49.2%	54.3%	54.7%	55.3%	n/a
Gaza Strip	7.5%	12.6%	21.9%	24.7%	22.8%	23.2%	26.4%	32.0%	33.8%	38.1%	40.0%	41.5%	n/a
oPt	11.3%	11.3%	20.7%	23.9%	24.2%	28.4%	36.2%	41.4%	46.1%	51.0%	52.1%	53.1%	53.1
Evolution of daily wages in NIS - PCBS²⁸													
West Bank	50.3	57.9	63.9	61.5	60	57.7	60	62.8	60	70	69.2	69.2	70.0
Gaza Strip	39.25	45	49.9	48.2	60	50	50	50	55.8	65.4	67.3	65.4	66.9
oPt	50	53.9	56.9	54.8	55	53.85	55.6	57.7	57.7	69.2	69.2	69.2	69.2

For more information, please contact UNRWA, (02) 589 0500 (Elena Mancusi)

Dependency on PA employment increased: 152.000 PA employees in oPt

Represents:

22.8% of the employed people in oPt

16% of the employed people in the West Bank

41.5% of the employed people in the Gaza Strip

8.3% of the oPt labour force in the Gaza Strip

(PCBS Labour Force Survey 2006)

PCBS Poverty Consumption-based Yearly Figures

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	oPt
1998	14.5%	33%	20.3%
2001	16.2%	41.9%	23.6%
2003	30.9%	44.7%	35.5%
2004	19.8%	37.2%	25.6%
2005	22.3%	43.7%	29.5%
2006 (Q2)	n/a	n/a	36.9%

Poverty has increased among PA employees in the last year. According to the University of Geneva Public Perceptions Polls, poverty increased among PA employees from 37% in July 2005 to 46% in May 2006.



Health

“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”¹⁵

Jordan Valley Initiative: Needs assessment of the Healthcare Clinics (WHO)

WHO conducted an assessment of the healthcare service provision in eight clinics (Al-Nu'meh Al Gharbiyeh, 'Oja, Fasayal, Jiftlik, Marj Na'ja, Zbeidat, Bardaleh and Ein Beida) in small underserved communities outside Jericho in the Jordan Valley villages along with the Central Primary Healthcare Clinic (PHC) in Jericho. The purpose of the assessment was to:

- Identify areas that need to be improved and determine the exact needs of the clinics covered as part of the Joint Jordan Valley Initiative; and
- Assess the situation of health service provision of those clinics during the strike.

The needs of the clinics varied from one to another, but overall included the following: air conditioning units, scales, refrigerators, audio visual aids, telephones and phone lines, blood pressure machines, portable ultrasound machines, blankets, pillows and infrastructure renovation.

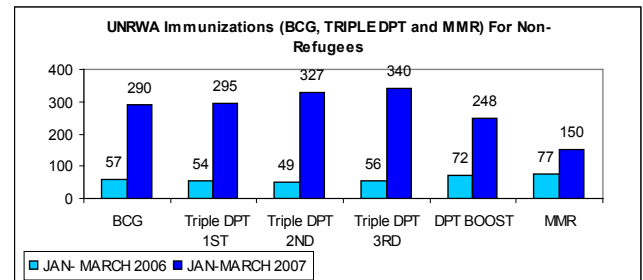
Due to the strike, the clinics visited were all closed. MoH arranged for staff to open the clinics for WHO to do the assessment. No patients were seen in the villages as these clinics were closed since the start of the strike on 17 February 2007. Some patients were seen in the central PHC. Ein Beida clinic was completely closed.

Difficulties in accessing timely reproductive health care due to closures and checkpoints (UNFPA)

Closures, checkpoints and the Barrier have all contributed to difficulties during delivery for pregnant women. In the UNFPA/UNICEF supported Palestinian Family Health Survey (PAPAFAM) results released last month, 11.5 % of women in a 20,000 household nationwide survey reported delays at checkpoints while trying to reach delivery facilities. Moreover, a further 4.3% reported a complete closure of the checkpoint, while 6.6% were delayed by the Barrier, curfew, or other reasons. UNFPA is concerned about the difficulties in accessing timely reproductive health care, especially delivery care, and its impact on pregnancy outcomes as well as its longer term physical and psychological consequences.

Immunisations during March 2007 (UNRWA)

UNRWA witnessed an increase in its immunisations for the Non-Refugee population during the period (Jan-March 2007) as compared with (Jan- March 2006). The following graph reflects an increase in immunisations for BCG, Triple DPT and MMR.



Initiation of a Situation Analysis, Upgrading of Health Centers in Gaza and assessing iodization of salt and fortification of flour with Iron (UNICEF)

UNICEF is initiating a situation analysis of its programmes> responses and needs and services available for the disabled children and their families. This has been initiated in zonal offices of UNICEF and planned to expand to other agencies.

In addition, 17 health centers in Gaza are scheduled for renovations (supported by UNICEF) in order to upgrade their capacity to provide appropriate neo-natal care. The assessment to identify needs in West Bank is pending. UNICEF is also setting a market survey to begin in West Bank and the Gaza Strip to assess iodization of salt and fortification of flour with iron.



Health

“A positive mental health is a state of emotional and social well-being in which the individual realises his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively or fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community.”¹⁶

	May -06	Jun -06	Jul -06	Aug -06	Sept -06	Oct -06	Nov -06	Dec -06	Jan -07	Feb -07	Mar -07	Apr -07
Number of primary health care consultations by service provider²⁹												
MoH - West Bank	211 261	169 464	174 891	130 782	36 441	39 979	39 294	143 242	173 742	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNRWA - West Bank	151 734	132 060	139 061	148 319	160 351	133 568	166 495	168 816	155 727	150 728	168 155	n/a
NGOs - West Bank	66035	62571	61192	63381	74176	68444	75459	87469	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
MoH - Gaza Strip	213 050	212 181	241 321	247 785	221 157	199 119	198 606	198 023	207 953	207215	212 155	n/a
UNRWA - Gaza Strip	308 459	284 446	322 397	317 911	314 370	277 173	307 015	285 569	326 234	304 836	n/a	n/a
NGOs - Gaza Strip	15 458	15 618	17 353	17 390	17 083	14 416	16 397	14 633	17 552	18 592	19 627	n/a
Proportion of deliveries by service provider³⁰												
MoH - West Bank	49.7%	56.6%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
MoH - Gaza Strip	70.54%	71.51%	73.9%	69.5%	69.85%	n/a	73.0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
NGOs - West Bank	16.1%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
NGOs - Gaza Strip	14.0%	13.94%	13.20%	14.20%	16.64%	n/a	16.5%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Private hospitals and clinics - West Bank	31.5%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Private hospitals and clinics - Gaza Strip	15.11%	14.11%	12.60%	15.90%	13.16%	n/a	9.9%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Home - West Bank	2.7%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Home - Gaza Strip	0.18%	0.32%	0.2%	0.25%	0.2%	n/a	0.25%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNRWA - Gaza Strip	0.15%	0.12%	0.1%	0.15%	0.06%	n/a	0.40%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Pharmaceutical items out of stock (416 drugs and 596 consumables)³¹												
Drugs - West Bank	26%	27%	24%	22%	25.7%	24%	19.7%	19.7%	n/a	19.7%	n/a	n/a
Consumables - West Bank	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	23%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Drugs - Gaza Strip	20%	19%	17%	14%	18.9%	21%	16.8%	16.8%	14.7%	17.8%	24%	n/a
Consumables - Gaza Strip (at zero level)	n/a	n/a	n/a	8.7%	9.4%	10.9%	13.6%	n/a	9.7%	25.5%	n/a	n/a
Consumable - Gaza Strip (at less than three months)	n/a	n/a	n/a	33.7%	39.7%	39.4%	17.3%	24.2%	13.4%	23.3%	n/a	n/a
Malnutrition among children 9 - 12 months³²												
Underweight - West Bank	3.7%	4.2%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Anemia - West Bank	51%	49.4%	49.9%	50.6%	45.3%	48.1%	48.1%	44.6%	50.5%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Underweight - Gaza Strip	n/a	4.47%	5.15%	5.64%	4.77%	5.47%	5%	n/a	2.9%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Anemia - Gaza Strip	59.4%	68.9%	67.9%	70.5%	73%	70.6%	66.7%	66.7%	67.8%	67.5%	71.9%	n/a
Number of consultation for diarrhoea in refugee children 0-3 years at UNRWA clinics³³												
West Bank	889	1 246	887	1 119	809	861	966	867	786	793	888	n/a
Gaza Strip	1 390	2 235	1 868	1 667	1 322	1 454	1 389	1 314	1 025	942	991	n/a
Number of new cases (adults) attending UNRWA community and hospital mental health services³⁴												
West Bank	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	134	132	34	n/a	193
Gaza Strip	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	35	27	58	n/a	47
Total oPt	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
MoH - Total oPt	2 356	2 131	2 447	1 754	1 163	750	1 260	169	159	92	n/a	n/a
Number of cases referred to bu specialised therapy - UNRWA³⁵												
West Bank	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7	3	n/a	8
Gaza Strip	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	0	n/a	7

For more information please contact WHO, (08) 282 2033 (Dr. Silvia Pivetta)



Food Security & Agriculture

“Food security exists when all people, at all times, have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and lead an active and healthy life.”¹⁷

Food Security Highlights:

While the food security situation has remained stable overall the first quarter of this year, two additional factors should be considered which are affecting key population groups. In Gaza the deterioration in physical security is threatening the economic and food security situation as people are restricting their movement to avoid being caught in interfactional clashes (this affects sectors such as restaurants, cafes and taxis). Whereas in the West Bank, Area C populations have faced increased movement restrictions during the first quarter of 2007 which are particularly affecting the livelihoods of Bedouin communities and small farmers.

Food Availability and Market Prices in Gaza Strip and West Bank

All basic food commodities were available in the market in the Gaza Strip. Wheat flour prices remain high due to the increase of wheat prices on the international market. There was a slight increase in the price of sugar and milk powder by 2.0%, also primarily linked to the international market. There was no fluctuation in the price of vegetables. The price of chicken remains the same (11NIS/Kg). The price of fresh meat has decreased from 32NIS/kg to at 28-30 NIS/kg due to seasonality and limited purchasing power of customers. The price of animal feed remained stable during the last month.

April's total food imports in Gaza are substantially less compared to March 2007 with a sharp decrease for wheat flour by 26 percent compared to previous month. The total amount of basic food commodities imported decreased by 8% compared to the previous month (March 2007).

The fishing catch in April 2007 was 291.76 tonnes, compared to 226.54 tonnes for the same month last year.

The market survey in West Bank shows that all basic food commodities are available in the market and there was no significant change in the prices.

Field observations

- There is a drop in the sale of basic commodities in both urban and rural areas in April,
- People are purchasing food in smaller quantities and are relying on the most basic items only,
- The number of people purchasing food on credit remains significantly higher than a year ago (April 2006).

- Employees and workers of municipalities in Gaza Strip have been on a strike since Monday, 9 April 07 for more than a week as they have not been paid their salaries and wages regularly since March 06.
- All services provided by the municipalities in Gaza strip have been suspended, including the removal of garbage from the streets, which caused environmental and health dangers.
- People buying seasonal fresh food to save money – no fruit is eaten as import make final prices too expensive
- Food aid is more valued – essential in every household – as buying food with cash is unfeasible



Food Security

	Benchmark	Monthly average 2006	May-06	Jun-06	Jul-06	Aug-06	Sep-06	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06	Jan - 07	Feb-07	Mar-07	Apr-07
Retail price of basic food commodities - West Bank, in NIS⁴⁰														
Wheat flour 50 kg		91.0	90	90	88.9	90	87.9	88.6	95.7	95	96.4	96.4	97.2	97.2
Olive oil 1 Kg		18.6	18	19	19	20	20.4	19	16.3	15	17.5	17.5	16.7	16.7
Rice 1 kg		3.6	3.1	3.1	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	4.	4	3.9	3.9
Veg. oil 1 kg		5.5	5.5	5.7	5.1	5.3	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
Chickpeas 1 kg		4.8	5.4	5.4	4.2	4.2	4.8	4.7	4.3	4.3	4.6	4.6	5.3	5.3
Refined sugar 1 kg		3.7	3.9	4	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.3
Milk powder 1 kg		23.2	23	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	24.2	23.2	23.2	23.7	23.7	24.1	24.1
Basket of 7 items		150.5	148.9	150.7	147.9	150.2	149.4	149.2	152.5	150.5	155.5	155.5	156.3	156.3
Price of basic food commodities - Gaza Strip, in NIS⁴¹														
Wheat flour 50 kg		82.9	81.1	74.8	82.3	79.5	81	83.3	88.5	86.6	86	86.5	83.4	82.9
Olive oil 1 Kg		23.1	21.6	21.4	22.6	23.7	23.2	24.8	24.1	24.1	25	24.4	22.5	22.8
Rice 1 kg		3.3	3.3	3.3	3	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.2
Veg. oil 1 kg		5.5	5.2	5.7	5.2	5.4	5.3	5.8	5.8	5.8	6.1	6.3	5.8	5.9
Chickpeas 1 kg		5.3	5.6	5.8	5.4	5.2	5.2	5	4.6	4.6	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.4
Refined sugar 1 kg		4.2	5.5	3.7	4	3.2	3.7	6.6	3.6	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.3	3.4
Milk powder 1 kg		33.4	30.1	29.7	29.6	47	n/a	33.8	34.5	35.7	34.8	35.8	31.7	32.4
Basket of 7 items		157.1	152.4	144.4	152.1	167.2	n/a	162.5	164.3	163.5	164.5	165.4	155.5	155.7
Availability of basic commodities - Gaza Strip⁴² (against benchmark of quantities needed per day)														
Wheat - mT	450 mt/day/pop	-	n/a	7 502	5 689	n/a	n/a	n/a	7 960	11 870	11 700	10 865	8400	6800
Wheat - days	-	-	n/a	17	13	n/a	n/a	n/a	11	26	26	24	19	15
Sugar - mT	111 mt/day/pop	-	n/a	205	840	n/a	n/a	n/a	1 505	1 560	1 750	1 995	2045	1930
Sugar - days	-	-	n/a	2	8	n/a	n/a	n/a	14	14	16	11	18	17
Rice - mT	72 mt/day/pop	-	n/a	1 350	1 315	n/a	n/a	n/a	1 385	1 495	1 535	1 655	1725	1900
Rice - days	-	-	n/a	19	18	n/a	n/a	n/a	19	21	21	23	24	26
Veg. oil - mT	44 mt/day/pop	-	n/a	800	810	n/a	n/a	n/a	1 065	1 105	1 050	1 240	1220	1220
Veg. oil - days	-	-	n/a	19	19	n/a	n/a	n/a	65	26	24	29	28	28
Quantities of food imported in the Gaza Strip - metric tonnes⁴³														
Wheat - mT	450 mt/day/pop	-	8 321	4 460	9 128	n/a	n/a	5 686	7 517	10 159	3 348	7 244	6208	4622
Rice	72 mt/day/pop	-	1 521	144	1 998	182	n/a	5	450	600	1 474	2 032	757	826
Veg. oil	44 mt/day/pop	-	1 137	661	1 229	323	n/a	n/a	631	618	754	268	1848	1277
Sugar	111 mt/day/pop	-	1 184	1 121	4 996	763	n/a	75	808	1 057	2 669	2 471	2034	3213
Veg. and fruits	-	-	2 663	2 117	3 508	n/a	n/a	438	438	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Commodities	-	-	390	300	274	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	-	-	15 216	8 803	21 133	n/a	n/a	n/a	9 844	12 434	8 263	12 015	10847	9938
Fishing catch in the Gaza Strip⁴⁴														
		Total												
mT	2,323 (in 2005)	1604.2	243.0	291.0	0.0	101.0	203.2	158.6	130.0	0.0	46	120.97	247.8	291.76

For more information please contact FAO, (02) 532 1950 (Rana Hannoun or Azzam Saleh) or WFP, (02) 540 1340 (Salah Lahham)



Agriculture

Use of pesticides and farmers' practices in northern West Bank

A study conducted from January 2006 to February 2007 by researchers from Al-Quds University has shown an alarming trend in the marketing, use and disposal of pesticides in the West Bank (specifically, Jenin, Tubas, Tulkarm and Qalqilia). A total of 414 vegetable farmers were interviewed and 60 fruit soil and water samples were collected and analysed in the laboratory for pesticide residues.

Results depict a lack of organised and institutionalised methods to manage pesticides marketing, use and disposal. Poor control over all aspects of pesticides by governmental and non-governmental organisations as well as the pertinent private sector actors, was evident. The study showed a sharp rise in the number of active ingredients of pesticides used in agriculture, which reached up to 177. Farmers' pesticide-related decisions relied on their own experience or that of neighboring farmers. Such inefficiency resulted in limited improvements.

An estimated 87% of the farmers interviewed indicated low or no trust in pesticide quality, resulting in the use of wide-spectrum pesticides and repeated use of the same compounds for prolonged periods. Approximately, 73% of farmers would spray the whole crop even when the pest incidence was very low. Over two-thirds of the farmers indicated that Hebrew instructions hindered comprehension and appropriate use. While, 44% of the farmers increased the recommended concentration of pesticides in order to compensate for the bad quality or increase efficiency. Moreover, 44% of farmers use highly toxic products for soil sterilisation, increasing risks. The study also revealed an absence of pesticide safety precautions such as contact with the pesticide solution while preparing it, lack of appropriate pesticide storage and eating and drinking while dealing with pesticides. Many farmers shared a perception that pesticides were not harmful to their health.

The results of the laboratory residue analysis showed that all agricultural soil samples, 60% of damping soil samples, 25% of water samples, and 80% of the fresh vegetable samples were polluted with Imidacloprid residues at levels of 0.05 nanogram/milliliter, which are unacceptable based on international standards.

The disempowerment of the PA has led to the absence of control of pesticides as a severe public health hazard for farmers, consumers and the environment by the appropriate line ministries. Within this context, the study recommends implementing awareness campaigns; improving extension services; enforcement of control and monitoring on pesticides marketing, use and disposal by the Ministry of Agriculture in cooperation with other related organizations; adoption and implementation of alternative control measures, specifically Integrated Pest Management; and, carrying out periodical quantitative tests to determine residues of pesticides in crops, soils and waters.



Agriculture

	Total oPt 2006	May-06	Jun-06	Jul-06	Aug-06	Sep-06	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06	Jan-07	Feb-07	Mar-07	Apr-07
Arable land requisitioned, levelled and reclaimed in dunums - West Bank³⁶													
Requisitioned	5 811	12	1 483	25	253	121	0	1 328	385	20	221	152	40
Levelled	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	110	216	105	30
People affected	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	190	497	210	203
Reclaimed	3 654	167	338	265	n/a	846	666	662	620	50	50	200	60
Arable land requisitioned levelled or reclaimed in dunums - Gaza Strip													
Requisitioned	6 516	n/a	n/a	3 666	n/a	900	850	1 100	0	0	0	0	0
Levelled	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0
People affected	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0
Reclaimed	1 635	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	530	500	365	240	105	126	0	20
Greenhouses land destroyed and rehabilitated in dunums - West Bank³⁷													
Destroyed	20	0	0	0	n/a	5	15	0	0	0	0	10	130
People affected	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	56	350
Rehabilitated	453	100	145	24	n/a	46	25	5	108	13	0	0	7
Greenhouses land destroyed and rehabilitated in dunums - Gaza Strip													
Destroyed	614	n/a	n/a	179	n/a	270	130	35	0	0	0	0	2
People affected	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	14
Rehabilitated	40	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	20	20	0	0	0	0	0	8
Number of trees destroyed³⁸													
Trees destroyed in the West Bank	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	340	600	150	100
People affected	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	70	140	35	70
Trees destroyed in the Gaza Strip	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0
People affected	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0
Agricultural produce trading in/out the Gaza Strip - metric tonnes³⁹													
Import	83 884	2 663	2 177	3 509	743	n/a	27 048	23 576	24 168	43 276	15 738	15 501	16 834
Export	3 342	509	481	0	0	n/a	345	2 007	n/a	14 192	5 096	5 188	5 503

For more information please contact FAO, (02) 532 1950 (Rana Hannoun or Azzam Saleh)



Water & Sanitation

During April, an average of 56 litres per capita (average consumption in January 2007: 61 litres per capita) was supplied⁷ in the West Bank and 5 l/c/d in the Gaza Strip (average consumption in January 2007: 76 litres per capita). In the West Bank, the overall reduction in per capita supply from the conventional water resources⁸ (registered wells feeding municipal and village water systems through transfer and distribution systems) is mainly related to the fact that most consumers are using alternative sources such as rainwater harvesting for their domestic needs. Most households in rural areas are equipped with rainwater collection systems, such as underground cisterns. Water supply from the piped system is therefore traditionally only used for drinking purposes during the rain season.

In Gaza Strip, the low level of drinking water supply from the conventional sources (municipal wells) indicates that these wells were only operated at a fraction of their capacity (the average production at the peak of the dry season in 2006 was 84 l/c/d). The reduction is two-fold: i) increased use of drinking water (desalinated) from local water vendors, as this is the only fresh water source available in Gaza (the trend is significant since end of 2006); and ii) production of water from the municipal wells (which is less suitable than desalinated water due to higher levels of chlorides and nitrates) is still affected by the limited power generation in some districts, particularly in the South and the Middle Area.

The price of water tankered to unserved communities remains at a level of 14.0 NIS/cubic meters (cm) (West

Bank) and 35.0 NIS/cm (Gaza Strip), although only a few communities are using water from private vendors at the beginning of the year as most households are using rainwater for their domestic needs (operations of water vendors starts usually around end of April/May when rainwater harvesting and storage practice is no longer possible). In the Gaza Strip, the higher cost is due to the increased costs of consumables, chemicals and fuel required by private operators to produce drinking water through their small seawater or brackish water desalination plants.

Even though data is not available, the fact that cost recovery of water and wastewater services remains a critical issue for the operators (regional utilities such as the Coastal Municipal Water Utility in Gaza) or municipal operators. In the West Bank, the low level of recovery indicates that local, regional or national operators (West Bank Water Department) have increased difficulties in operating their resources (wells) or paying the national bill to the Israeli operator (Mekorot) for those communities hooked to the Israeli system.



Water & Sanitation

“The Human Right to Water entitles everyone to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic uses”¹⁸

	Baseline Pre-Intifada	Average 2006	Sep 06	Oct 06	Nov 06	Dec 06	Jan 07	Feb 07	Mar 07	Apr 07
West Bank per capita use of water per day - in litres⁴⁵										
Minimum	-	20.3	21	18	24	21	16	18	20	24
Maximum	-	207.2	221	172	218	230	241	147	147	152
Average	90	65.3	68	63	66	63	61	50	52	56
Gaza Strip - Per capita use of water per day - in litres⁴⁶										
Minimum	-	37.0	36	36	36	38	36	18	18	22
Maximum	-	116.5	119	118	107	113	107	71	71	76
Average	95	80.5	81	80	77	80	76	51	49	51
Price of tankered water in the West Bank in NIS⁴⁷										
Minimum	-	7.3	8	8	8	8	8	5	5	8
Maximum	-	22.5	21	21	21	21	17	17	21	17
Average	11.4	14.0	14	14	14	14	13	13	13	14
Price of tankered water in the Gaza Strip in NIS⁴⁸										
Minimum	-	35	n/a	n/a	35	n/a	35	35	35	35
Maximum	-	35	n/a	n/a	35	n/a	35	35	35	35
Average	-	35	n/a	n/a	35	n/a	35	35	35	35
Percentage of HH connected to water network paying the bills⁴⁹										
West Bank	-	35.5%	35.0%	35.0%	35.0%	35.0%	36%	35%	37.7	36
Gaza Strip	-	4.2%	4.0%	5.0%	4.0%	4.0%	3%	2%	1.5	2
Percentage of HH monthly income spent on sanitation services⁵⁰										
West Bank	-	2.2%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2%	3%	3.0	3
Gaza Strip	-	4%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4%	4%	4.2	4
Cost recovery of water bills by village councils and Municipalities in the West Bank⁵¹										
Minimum	-	0%	n/a	n/a	0.0%	n/a	0%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Maximum	-	16.7%	n/a	n/a	100.0%	n/a	100%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Average	75.0%	13.5%	n/a	34.0%	47.0%	n/a	47%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cost recovery of water bills by village councils and Municipalities in the Gaza Strip⁵²										
Minimum	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Maximum	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Average	75.0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0%	n/a	n/a	n/a

For more information please contact UNICEF, (02) 583 00 13/14 (Hubert Oribon) or PHG, (02) 296 63 15/6 (Eng. Basema Bashir)



Education

“All children deserve a quality education founded on a rights-based approach and rooted in the concept of gender equality”¹⁹

	# of Schools	May 06	Jun 06	Jul 06	Aug 06	Sep 06	Oct 06	Nov 06	Dec 06	Jan 07	Feb 07	Mar 07	Apr 07
Number of schools with at least one day of disruption - West Bank⁵³													
Bethlehem	100	0	-	-	-	100	100	100	n/a	0	0	0	85
Hebron	207	3	-	-	-	207	207	207	n/a	0	72	0	150
South Hebron	159	-	-	-	-	159	159	159	n/a	0	0	0	112
Jenin	113	12	-	-	-	113	113	113	n/a	0	0	0	92
Jericho	20	2	-	-	-	20	20	20	n/a	2 (curfew)	1	0	12
Jerusalem	37	0	-	-	-	37	37	37	n/a	0	0	0	All
Jerusalem suburb	55	n/a	-	-	-	55	55	55	n/a	0	0	0	16
Nablus	196	1	-	-	-	196	196	196	n/a	0	0	2	149
Qabatya	103	n/a	-	-	-	103	103	103	n/a	0	0	0	61
Qalqilia	67	0	-	-	-	67	67	67	n/a	0	0	0	10
Ramallah	159	0	-	-	-	159	159	159	n/a	0	0	2	113
Salfit	57	0	-	-	-	57	57	57	n/a	0	1	0	19
Tubas	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	0	0	n/a	n/a
Tulkarm	107	3	-	-	-	107	107	107	n/a	0	n/a	0	66
Total West Bank	1,380	1.5%	-	-	-	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	n/a	0.14%	5.4%	-	
Number of schools with at least one day of disruption - Gaza Strip⁵⁴													
Gaza	151	0	-	-	-	151	0	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	80
Gaza North	60	0	-	-	-	60	0	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	44
Khan Younis	64	0	-	-	-	64	0	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	39
Middle Area	37	0	-	-	-	37	0	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	19
Rafah	34	0	-	-	-	34	0	34	n/a	0	n/a	0	29
Total Gaza Strip	346	0.0%	-	-	-	100.0%	0.0%	9.8%	n/a	0.0%	n/a	0.0%	

For more information please contact UNICEF, (02) 583 0013 (Shao Potung) and UNESCO, (02) 295 9740 (Megumi Watanabe).

PA schools are experiencing massive financial constraints. For example, District Educational Directorates and schools have indicated a shortage in resources needed to improve teaching and to arrange for teacher training opportunities which are negatively affecting the quality of education.

In April, a large number of incidents of teaching/learning disruption were reported in PA schools. All PA teachers, including those recently hired, continue to not receive a regular salary and did not receive any portion or allowances in April. The Palestinian Teacher Union and the newly established Teachers Union Society jointly called for limited teacher strikes across the oPt. According to the Union, in addition to the non-payment of salaries in April, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) did not comply with a previous agreement which ended an earlier strike at the start of the new school year in 2006.

In addition to the announced teacher strikes, children in PA schools experienced many irregularities and disruption of their right to education. The irregularities of children school life will certainly influence their school performance in the last month of the scholastic year, which means jeopardising the entire school year not to mention endangering the Tawjihi exams, which to be held in the beginning of June. The MoEHE formed an Education Emergency Committee with the responsibility for defining educational emergency needs, discussing intervention(s) with partners and to implement any emergency intervention in the education sector. The committee is composed of General Directorates and key MoEHE staff.



The Institutional Response to the Crisis

Humanitarian and development assistance to the oPt

FUNDED in \$ million	The UN and the CAP	ICRC	INGOs	PNGOss	ECHO	Other EC Commitment	USAID
2005	193.3	30.6	n/a	n/a	35	241	386
2006	287	34.5	n/a	n/a	104.4	225	176
2007	100.3	57.4 (appeal)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	29.8

Source: Relief web, ICRC, ECHO, USAID websites.

The CAP

Sector	CAP 2006 - revised May 2006			CAP 2007			CAP 07 % Funded
	Requirements in \$ million	Number of Projects	Level of funding as of 30 Dec 06	Requirements in \$ million	Number of Projects	Funding in \$ million	
Agriculture	36.9	11	4%	11.3	14	-	-
Coordination and support services	10.3	5	63%	14.2	7	8.0	57
Job creation and Cash assistance	154.3	14	53%	198.1	17	15.7	8.0
Education	8.3	4	48%	9.1	4	0.1	1.0
Food	96.4	7	100% +	149.7	8	46.5	32.0
Health & Psychosocial	53.8	31	47%	35.7	30	4.1	11.0
Protection	-	-	-	1.7	4	0.2	10.0
Water and Sanitation	23.5	20	27%	33.9	19	-	-
Sector not yet specified	0	-	-	-	-	25.7	-
Total	383.6	92	677%	453.6	103	100.3	22 %

Source: OCHA, Financial Tracking System (FTS).

The PA operating budget

\$ million	2005		2006				
	\$ million	%	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Clearance revenues collected by Gol	757	32	137	1	97	38	274
Domestic revenues	476	20	99	70	55	66	290
External finances	346	15	154	110	305	178	747
Other sources, incl. Palestinian Investment Fund Assets	413	18	70	-22	29	23	100
Net Lending	344	15	68	n/a	154	n/a	222
TOTAL	2 339	100	529	159	486	305	1633

Source: reports from World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Temporary International Mechanism, UN Agencies.



Temporary International Mechanism (TIM)

\$ million	confirmed Pledges	Total disbursed as of 30 April 2007
TIM window I/ ESSP	66	16.4
TIM window 2	100.3	67.7
TIM window 3	251.3	237
Total	417.6	321.1

TIM Window II

1) Emergency Fuel Supply

Sector	Number of facilities	Fuel Received in million litres as of 30 April 2007
Hospitals and Health Centers	45	1.4
Water System	103	2.1
Waste Water System	75	0.8
General Power Generators	6	0.7
Um Nasir Disaster Relief	29	0.01
Total	259	5.01
Total Cost in US\$ million as of 30 April 2007	5.1	

2) Support For Electricity production and distribution

	Cost in US\$ million as of 30 Apr 07	Fuel received in million litres as of 30 April 2007
Gaza Power Plant	37.6	47
Electricity Production Gaza	7.4	
Electricity Distribution Gaza	4.7	
Electricity Distribution West Bank	8.2	
Total Cost in US\$ million as of 30 April 2007	57.9	

3) Access to Quality Healthcare

East Jerusalem hospitals referral costs in US \$million as of 30 April	4.7
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TIM Window III

Type	Num of Beneficiaries	Num of Allowances Received	Total Amount Received in US\$ as of 30 April 2007
Low-income Healthcare provider workers	12000	9	43.3
Low-income public service providers	59000	7	138.6
Pensioners	6600	7	15.0
Social Hardship Cases Scheme for the Poor	36000	3	30.5
Social Hardship Cases Beneficiaries of Food for work/training programme	39000	1	9.6

Source: Temporary International Mechanism, Implementation Progress Update. Based on figures provided by TIM; originally in Euro Currency.



Sources and Rationale

Three factors have contributed to a worsening of the humanitarian situation in the oPt: (1) a lack of protection of civilians and increasing violence; (2) increased restrictions on movement; and (3) the financial and institutional crisis of the PA following the election of the Hamas movement in the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) in January 2006.

OCHA has been monitoring and reporting monthly on protection and access concerns in the oPt since 2002. However, following a sharp deterioration in the humanitarian situation in 2006, UN agencies and NGOs participating in the 2006 Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) have produced this monthly report monitoring developments and key humanitarian indicators in the following sectors: protection, child protection, socio-economic conditions, health including psychosocial support, food security, agriculture, education and water and sanitation. This report also includes information related to movement restrictions and humanitarian access including monitoring the 2002 Bertini Commitments.

The present Humanitarian Monitor uses UN Security Council resolutions, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international humanitarian law (IHL), the Agreement on Movement and Access (AMA) as the standard for monitoring protection and access indicators. Sectors have also set out guiding humanitarian principles as the baseline for monitoring and developed indicators that can capture the humanitarian situation in a protracted crisis like the oPt.

The Humanitarian Monitor uses a combination of measurable humanitarian indicators, verified field observations and reports on the socio-economic and humanitarian situation in the oPt to analyse the humanitarian situation. These methods can provide different accounts of the situation. The humanitarian indicators reveal longer-term changes and trends from one month to another. Field observations illustrate signs of strain that may indicate future changes in the situation more generally. Reports provide information on specific topics or give larger overviews on the situation in the oPt.

The following working sector groups and organisations contribute to the Humanitarian Monitor:

Sector	Sector Lead	Participants
Protection	OHCHR/OCHA	OCHA, WHO, UNRWA, UNIFEM, Badil, Save the Children-UK, Al Haq
Job Creation and Cash Assistance	UNRWA	UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, WFP, CHFI, Mercy Corps
Health	WHO	UNICEF, UNFPA, UNRWA
Psychosocial & Protection Against Violence	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNFPA, WHO, UNRWA, DCI, Save the Children-UK, Save the Children (Sweden), MAP UK
Food	WFP	FAO, UNRWA, ACF-E, CARE, CHFI, CISP, CRS, GVC, ICRC, MC, OXFAM-GB
Agriculture	FAO	ACF-E, PHG, ACP, ACAD, Allod Charitable Society
Education	UNICEF	UNESCO, OCHA, UNRWA, UNIFEM, OHCHR
Water and Sanitation	UNICEF	UNDP, UNRWA, WHO, UN-HABITAT, ICRC, PWA, PHG, OXFAM-GB, ACF-E, CARE, ACP, CMWU, WBWD.
Coordination and Security	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA),	OCHA, United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO), UNDSS
Other sources and contributors		TIM, EUBAM, World Bank, IMF, AIDA, LACS, PNGO



Table Definitions

Protection of Civilians

1. Number of Palestinian and Israeli casualties (fatalities and injuries) - direct conflict. Source: OCHA. Casualties included within this figure relate directly to the conflict with Israel and the occupation of the oPt including in IDF military operations, artillery shelling, search and arrest campaigns, Barrier demonstrations, targeting killings, settler violence etc. The figures do not include events indirectly related to the conflict such as casualties from unexploded ordnance, etc. or events when the circumstances remain unclear or are in dispute. The figures include all reported casualties of all ages and both genders.
2. Number of Palestinian casualties - internal violence. Source: OCHA. Casualties included within this figure are caused by factional violence, family feuding, during internal demonstrations (that are linked to the conflict/occupation) and shooting of alleged collaborators with Israel. These incidents began to be comprehensively reported from May 2006 and earlier figures will be under-reported.
3. Number of search and arrest campaigns and arrests and detentions. Source: OCHA. These indicators refer to operations by the Israeli security forces to search houses or other properties throughout the oPt. Since Israel's unilateral disengagement from the Gaza Strip the vast majority of these operations occur in West Bank towns and villages. During these operations individuals are often detained or arrested. Detentions (without arrest) typically last for a few days but can last be extended up to a period of three months or longer.

Child Protection

4. Number of Palestinian children killed - direct conflict. Source: OCHA. This indicator is used to monitor UN Security Council Resolution 1612, adopted on 26 July 2005 and relative to the protection of children in armed conflict. Children are killed in incidents related directly to the conflict and occupation of the oPt. These include casualties caused in IDF military operations, artillery shelling, search and arrest campaigns, demonstrations, targeted killing and Israeli settler violence.
5. Number of Palestinian children injured - direct conflict. This indicator is used to monitor UN Security Council Resolution 1612. Children are injured in incidents directly related to the conflict and occupation of the oPt. These include injuries caused in IDF military operations, artillery shelling, search and arrest campaigns, demonstrations, targeted killing and Israeli settler violence.
6. Number of Israeli children killed - direct conflict. Source: OCHA. This indicator is used to monitor UN Security Council Resolution 1612.
7. Number of Israeli children injured - direct conflict. Source: OCHA. This indicator is used to monitor UN Security Council Resolution 1612.
8. Number of Palestinian children killed - indirect conflict. These are children killed in incidents indirectly related to the conflict and occupation of the oPt such as in incidents involving unexploded ordnance (UXO), traffic incidents in the oPt with Israeli vehicles, Palestinian homemade rockets (qassams) missing their target, deaths in prison, deaths from probable underlying medical conditions that occurred during military operations or where access to medical care was denied.
9. Number of Palestinian children killed in Palestinian internal violence. Source: OCHA. This indicator is used to monitor UN Security Council Resolution 1612. Children are killed in incidents by factional violence or family feuding, internal demonstrations (that are linked to the conflict/occupation) and shooting of alleged collaborators with Israel. These incidents began to be comprehensively reported from May 2006: earlier figures will be underreported.
10. Number of Palestinian children held in detention by Israeli authorities. Source: Defence for Children International (DCI) from 1 January 2007. This indicator reflects the general level of tension in the West Bank. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child states that deprivation of liberty of children should always be a last resort and for the shortest appropriate period.

Violence & Private Property

11. Incidents involving Israeli settlers. Source: OCHA. This indicator shows the level of tension between Palestinians and Israeli settlers in the West Bank. An incident is any event involving an aggressive action perpetrated by either Israeli settlers or Palestinians towards each other or others in the community (such as international observers) and that may - but not necessarily - lead to a death or an injury. The aggressive action can be an incident involving a car, such as the stoning of a car or driving it in a dangerous manner; any type of harassment such as intimidation and physical threats, stoning people, chasing people etc. that do not cause any casualty; an incident related to property damage to a private house, land, livestock, etc; and any incident involving the entry into a private or prohibited property.
12. Number of Palestinian homemade (qassam) rockets, IDF artillery shells and IAF airstrikes in and from the Gaza Strip. Source: OCHA Gaza Field Office relying on secondary sources from UNRWA reporting and the Palestinian DCL. These indicators show trends and the level of conflict existing in the Gaza Strip.
13. Number of physical structures demolished in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Source: OCHA. A structure is demolished when it is completely destroyed, damaged to such an extent that it will have to be demolished before rebuilding can commence, damaged beyond use and includes structures where the owner chose to demolish his structure which was under a demolition order issued by Israeli authorities. The majority of demolitions in the West Bank occur when the Israeli authorities demolish a structure for reportedly being built without a permit although some demolitions occur in other contexts such as during military incursions or due to the construction of the Barrier. In the Gaza Strip, demolitions usually occur during IAF air strikes or ground incursions. A residential (occupied) structure is any form of inhabited shelter/residence including seasonal shelters, during the time of the olive harvest for example.

Access

14. IDF physical obstacles in the West Bank. Source: OCHA field monitoring. The movement of the Palestinians in the West Bank is restricted by a series of physical obstacles such as checkpoints, roadblocks, trenches, earthmounds, etc. that severely restrict Palestinians' freedom of movement. 'Flying' or random checkpoints further disrupt Palestinian movement as they are often deployed on key transit roads during morning and evening peak travelling times. Delays of more than one hour are regularly reported at flying checkpoints and their unpredictable nature means that Palestinians are unable to make travel plans.
15. Curfews imposed by IDF. Source: OCHA field monitoring. The duration of a curfew is counted once for each curfew incident. A single curfew affecting multiple neighbouring locations is counted as one incident. A curfew that is lifted and re-imposed in the same place on a single day is counted as two incidents. A single curfew incident may last for several days.
16. Access incidents reported by humanitarian organisations. Source: ACIS forms collected by OCHA and UNRWA Operations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The UN Security Council Resolution 1405 adopted in 2002 "emphasizes the urgency of access of medical and humanitarian organisations to the Palestinian civilian population." In addition, the Government of Israel committed to "fully facilitate the assistance activities of international organisations..." (Bertini Commitments, 2002). In discussions between UNSCO and the IDF it was agreed that internationals should not wait any longer than 20 minutes at Erez crossing.
17. Incidents of ambulances delays and denials in the West Bank and medical movement from the Gaza Strip. Source: Palestinian Red Crescent Society and WHO. Incidents reported by PRCS ambulance crews at IDF checkpoints throughout the West Bank. Only delays in excess of 30 minutes are reported. For medical movement, Palestinians from the Gaza Strip referred for medical treatment by the MoH in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Israel must travel through Erez crossing while those seeking medical treatment abroad must cross through Rafah. Referral patients crossing Erez require a permit from the Israeli authorities.
18. External access to/from the oPt - closure days. Source: Ministry of Labour, closure reports, AMA bi-weekly reports and OCHA. These are the days when Palestinians from the West Bank cannot access East Jerusalem or Israel regardless of a valid permit. Normally (1) staff of international organisations, (2) medical staff, (3) humanitarian cases and (4) Palestinians with legal issues (needing to attend a court in Israel etc) are excluded from this comprehensive closure. In the Gaza Strip, these are days when Erez crossing is closed for all Palestinian access as reported in the bi-weekly AMA report.
19. Movement of people from/to the Gaza Strip - daily average. Source: OCHA Gaza Field Office; Palestinian Passport and Border Police; EU Border Assistance Mission (BAM). Erez is the only crossing point for Palestinian workers and traders to enter Israel from the Gaza Strip. The Rafah crossing is the Gaza Strip's only international crossing point with Egypt. It is operated by the PA under the supervision of the EU BAM. The Gol is remotely monitoring Rafah operations and can refuse people's passage. Rafah cannot operate if the EU BAM team are not present and EU BAM staff are dependent on Gol-operated Kerem Shalom crossing opening to access Rafah.
20. Functioning of the Gaza Strips crossing points - percentage of days open/scheduled days open. Source: AMA bi-weekly report. In terms of scheduled days open: (1) Karni is scheduled to be open six days per week; (2) Sufa is scheduled to open five days per week though at times opens on an additional day to allow the import of non-aggregates; and (3) Nahal Oz energy pipelines are scheduled to operate six days per week.
21. Movement of goods through Karni crossing - daily average. Source: AMA bi-weekly report. The daily average number of trucks is calculated on the basis of scheduled days open at Karni crossing point. Karni crossing is the main transit point for imports/exports into/from the Gaza Strip as well as humanitarian supplies. According to the 15 November 2005 Agreement on Access and Movement (AMA) signed between the Gol and PA, a minimum of 150 truckloads should be exported every day throughout 2006, to reach 400 per day by 31 December 2006.
22. Other imports into the Gaza Strip - total. Source: UNSCO. This indicator reflects the total number of truckloads of aggregates (through Sufa) and fuel (through Nahal Oz energy pipelines) into the Gaza Strip each month.



Socio-economic Conditions

23. Unemployment rate – relaxed definition. Source: PCBS labour force surveys. In context of a protracted crisis, the standard unemployment definition might be somehow deficient, as a considerable number of people are simply no longer seeking employment. A “relaxed definition” of unemployment is applied here, by adding to the total number of unemployed people according to International Labour Organization (ILO) standards the number of people currently not engaged in active job search (commonly defined as “inactive”).
24. Households living on poverty – consumption based. Source: PCBS. The poverty line is the level of income below which one cannot afford to purchase all the resources one requires to live. The official Palestinian (relative) poverty line is based on the average consumption of essential goods (food, clothing, housing, housekeeping supplies, utensils and bedding, personal and health care, transportation and education) by a six-member family. For Q2 2006, PCBS estimates it at NIS 2,143 (\$477). The subsistence (absolute or deep) poverty line is calculated to reflect a budget for food, clothing and housing for a six-member family and stands at NIS 1,732 (\$385) in 2005 (PCBS). PCBS sample size does not allow disaggregating data for the Gaza Strip and West Bank.
25. The number of Palestinians employed in Israel and in the settlements. Source: PCBS labour force surveys. In 2000, around 146,000 Palestinians from the oPt were employed in Israel and Israeli settlements. This figure represents roughly 3% of the Palestinian labour force and demonstrates how vital for Palestinians’ livelihoods is the ability to have access to Israel for working opportunities.
26. Economic dependency ratio. Source: PCBS labour force surveys. No. of population divided by No. of employed. The higher the ratio, the more the inactive population is dependent on the active one.
27. Evolution of Consumer Price Index (CPI). Source: PCBS. Measures changes in prices of purchased goods and services at given time intervals, providing a measure of inflation. Source: PCBS, CPI press releases, quarterly and annually, available from 1996.
28. Evolution of daily wages. Source: PCBS labour force survey. Total net wages paid to all employees divided by total workdays in a given period (median value would be considered). To be look at in conjunction with changes in CPI to determine purchasing power.

Health

29. Number of primary health care consultations by service provider. Source: Primary Health Care (PHC) Directorates; Mother and Child Health Department, UNRWA Epidemiology Department. Compiled by WHO. The number of consultations by service provider indicates the availability of the Ministry of Health (MoH) and UNRWA (free) services, the availability of and recourse to alternative private paying services. It also shows how economical constraints may affect people’s choice to health services providers. Each monthly figure should be compared to the previous month and to that of the same month in the previous year(s). NGOs in the Gaza Strip include Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS) and Union of Health Workers Committees (UHWK), which are the main non-governmental providers of health services.
30. Proportion of deliveries by service provider. Source: Birth certificates showed at PHC during BCG immunization, compiled by WHO. This indicator shows the public services’ capacity to provide obstetric services, as well as the burden on these services. It also indicates the availability of and recourse to alternative private paying services. It shows how financial barriers may affect people’s access choice to health services. Each monthly figure should be compared to that of the same month in the previous year(s).
31. Number of pharmaceutical items out of stock. Source: MoH Central Drugstore, compiled by WHO. Out of stock means ‘less than one month’s stock’. There are 416 drug items and 596 consumables that should always be available at central level in stock for more than three months to ensure an adequate response to pharmaceutical needs. This indicator shows the quality of care as well as the donors’ response.
32. Malnutrition among children 9-12 months in the Gaza Strip and 0-24 months in the West Bank. Source: On underweight in the Gaza Strip, data source is MoH newly developed national Nutrition Surveillance system in June 2006, where indicator is - 2SD. On Anemia in the Gaza Strip, the same source has been used since June 2006, whilst MoH PHC directorate has been used as a source for the data on Anemia between January and May 2006. Although data on both sources is for children 9-12 months and collected during measles immunization, trend cannot be defined when using the data from the two systems, as the methodology of data collection substantially differs. However, this new data should be more reliable than the previous ones, showing a more accurate prevalence. In the West Bank, data from the new surveillance system is not available yet, and the 5th percentile has been used as cut off point instead of -2SD for the Underweight. Also, the limit of West Bank data is that they are clinic based and it may not give a representative picture for all the children 0-2 years. Underweight is the weight for age ratio which indicates acute malnutrition. Anemia is deficiency in Iron micronutrient, where the level of hemoglobin is less than 11 mg/l. Indicators of malnutrition are used as early warning for a humanitarian crisis generally linked to food intake, poor living conditions, poor water and sanitation conditions. These indicators allow monitoring the impact of the ongoing economic crisis.
33. Number of consultation for diarrhoea in refugee children between the ages of 0-3 years at UNRWA clinics. Source: UNRWA, Epidemiology Department, West Bank and Gaza Strip Field Offices. This indicator allows to follow up the environmental health status, the quality and effectiveness of environmental programmes. Monthly figures are compared to the corresponding month in the previous year in order to check for seasonal patterns of disease.
34. Number of new cases (adults) attending UNRWA community and hospital mental health services. Source: UNRWA, Epidemiology Department, West Bank and Gaza Strip Field Offices, compiled by UNICEF. This indicator shows how the crisis affects the psychological status of the Palestinians. It also indicates the quality of the Palestinians’ access to psychosocial care.
35. Number of cases referred to specialised therapy – UNRWA. Source: UNRWA, Epidemiology Department, West Bank and Gaza Strip Field Offices, compiled by UNICEF. This figure shows the number of people who need psychiatric treatment. These two indicators reflect the impact of the prolonged conflict on the mental health of the Palestinian population. According to international research, an average of one in four individuals suffers from a mental health problem at one point in their life. In the Palestinian context, this figure is exacerbated by years of continuous conflict. Closures, curfews, sporadic fighting, movement restrictions, targeted killings, arrests, humiliation, military incursions and poverty have a serious psychological impact on every individual, especially children and women. As a result, a majority of the population in the occupied Palestinian territory exhibits a degree of mental distress or illness.

Agriculture

36. Arable land requisitioned, levelled or reclaimed in dunums - West Bank and Gaza Strip. Sources: Ministry of Agriculture, Palestinian Agriculture Relief Committees, compiled by FAO. Requisitioned land is public or private arable land either confiscated or made unavailable to Palestinian farmers by IDF for any reason (Barrier construction, settlements, roads, military areas, etc.). Levelled land is public or private land that have been deforested or devoid of inhabitation by the IDF (most often on the ground of security reasons). It however remains accessible to the farmers and be re-used as a field once the levelling is completed. People affected are those owners whose land has been requisitioned or levelled and therefore loss all or part of their livelihoods. People affected refers strictly to owners in this document although a wider range of people are actually affected such as workers employed and traders. affected: workers, traders, retailers, etc. Reclaimed land is that land which is originally non-productive and is transformed in farming land under a private or NGO/UN-led initiative. This land is most of the time privately owned.
37. Greenhouses land destroyed and rehabilitated in dunums - West Bank and Gaza Strip. Sources: Ministry of Agriculture, Palestinian Agriculture Relief Committees, compiled by FAO. Destroyed refers to the total destruction of a greenhouse, i.e. the greenhouse itself and the land it is installed on. Rehabilitated refers to the reconstruction of greenhouses done by their owners or under NGO/UN financed projects. People affected are those owners whose greenhouse(s) has been destroyed and who therefore see their livelihoods affected.
38. Number of trees destroyed. Source: FAO; Ministry of Agriculture Directorates. Destroyed trees are those trees belonging to Palestinians that are being uprooted, burnt, or cut by Israeli authorities or settlers. Trees are mainly olive trees but can include any type of fruit-trees (orange, almond, advocado, etc), and represent an important source of revenue for their owner. People affected are those directly affected by the loss of land or trees, i.e. the owner and its family although the number of people affected is actually far greater included extended family members and labourers.
39. Agricultural produce trading in/out Gaza Strip - the quantities of plant or animal produce, that are imported to or exported from Gaza (metric tonnes). Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Gaza Strip, Directorates of Agricultural Marketing

Food Security

40. Retailed price of basic food commodities – West Bank, in NIS. Source: WFP, Market Monitoring System. The VAM Market Price Survey is the primary means by which WFP collects commodity prices in the local markets. The prices are collected during the first week of each month from retail shops in all governorates of the oPt.
41. Retailed price of basic food commodities – Gaza Strip, in NIS. Source: WFP, Market Monitoring System. The VAM Market Price Survey is the primary means by which WFP collects commodity prices in the local markets. The prices are collected during the first week of each month from retail shops in all governorates of the oPt.
42. 3) Availability of basic commodities - Gaza Strip. Source : Ministry of National Economy, collected by WFP. Basic commodities refers to commercial food only (humanitarian stocks excluded). The availability of each item is comparable to the estimated daily quantity of each item needed to cover the needs of the total population of the Gaza Strip.
43. 4) Quantities of food imported in the Gaza Strip. Source : Paltrade, collected by WFP. Basic commodities refers to commercial and humanitarian food being imported every month into the Gaza Strip. Each commodity is compared to the estimated need in that specific commodity.
44. 5) Fishing catch in the Gaza Strip. Source: Ministry of Agriculture, collected by WFP. Fish is the cheapest available animal protein source in the Gaza Strip. In addition, it contributes to the livelihoods of fishermen and their families. According to the Oslo Accords, the Palestinians are granted a fish catch area within 20 nautical miles off the Gazan coastline. The Gol agreed under the 2002 Bertini Commitments to a fishing zone of 12 nautical miles. Fisherman are presently able to fish up to 6 nautical miles off the Gaza Strip coastline except at a 1.5 and 1 nautical mile exclusion zone to the north and south respectively.



Water & sanitation

45. Per capita use of water per day – in litres - West Bank. This is the average volume of water used per day per person (including domestic agriculture, domestic livestock and all loss).
46. Per capita use of water per day – in litres – Gaza Strip. This is the average volume of water used per day per person (including domestic agriculture, domestic livestock and all loss).
47. Price of tankered watered in the West Bank- in NIS (1 USD equals approximately 4.2 NIS). Prices are indicated in NIS to limit distortion due to frequent fluctuations of the exchange rate between the shekel and the dollar.
48. Price of tankered watered in the Gaza Strip - in NIS. (1 USD equals approximately 4.2 NIS). Prices are indicated in NIS to limit distortion due to frequent fluctuations of the exchange rate between the shekel and the dollar.
49. Percentage of HH connected to water network paying their bills.
50. Percentage of HH monthly income spent on sanitation services
51. Cost recovery of water bills by village councils and Municipalities in the West Bank
52. Cost recovery of water bills by village councils and Municipalities in the Gaza Strip.

Education

53. Number of schools with at least one day of disruption – West Bank. Source: MoEHE, collected by UNICEF. This indicators shows access to education.
54. Number of schools with at least one day of disruption – Gaza Strip. Source: MoEHE. This indicator shows access to schools for students.

End Notes:

1. Oxfam survey of household heads and other adults in West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and Gaza. Carried out by Palestinian Centre for Public Opinion, 12 – 19 March 2007, Available at www.oxfam.org. See also Oxfam. Poverty in Palestine: the human cost of the financial boycott, 13 April 2007. Donors' meeting held at WHO premises in Jerusalem on 15 March, 2007
2. Information provided by Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture situation report and OCHA.
3. Estimates of economic damage to production are underway by the MoA Technical Assessment Commission.
4. The plight of residents of Al Hadidiya community was previously highlighted in the February Humanitarian Monitor. See www.ochaopt.org
5. See OCHA Special Focus, Gaza Fishing: An Industry in Danger, April 2007. Available at www.ochaopt.org.
6. Professor John Dugard, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, 29 January 2007.
7. Unit per capita means quantity of water supplied by the supplier and used by beneficiaries. The word supply or use can both be used.
8. Water sources providing safe drinking water. Generally, they are registered and legal. Here unconventional wells are agriculture wells (water quality issues) and illegal wells mainly in GS.
9. Protection of Civilians: Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC)
10. Child Protection: UNICEF
11. Violence: Protocol I Addition to the Geneva Conventions, Article 51
12. Access: Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 13
13. Access: International Covenant on Civil Political Rights, Article 12 (1)
14. Socio Economic: Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 23
15. Health: WHO
16. Health: WHO Constitution, 1948
17. Food Security: FAO/WHO/WFP
18. Water and Sanitation: UNited Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Culteral Rights, General comment No. 15 (November 2002)
19. Education: UNICEF