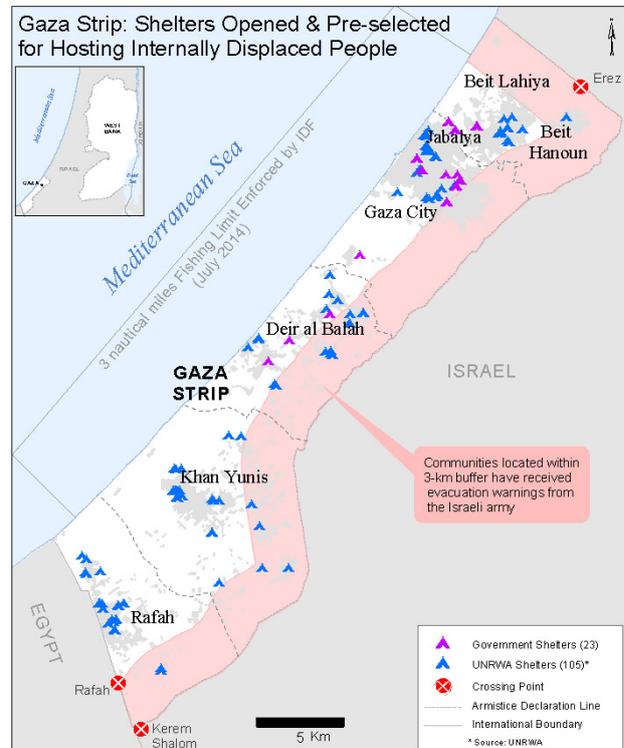




This report is produced by OCHA oPt in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 30 July (1500 hrs) to 31 July (1500 hrs). The next report will be issued on 1 August.

Highlights

- 110 Palestinian fatalities were recorded in the past 24 hours, including 18 killed in the devastated Ash Shuja'iyyeh neighbourhood.
- Up to one quarter of Gaza's population may have been forcibly displaced since the start of the emergency, including 250,000 in UNRWA and government shelters.
- Following an attack hitting Gaza's sole power plant and its subsequent shut down, along with the inability to repair feeder lines from Israel and Egypt, electricity is only supplied for an average of three hours a day.
- Access to food is increasingly affected: bakeries cannot meet the additional demand for bread, triggered by the lack of electricity in households, while the prices of vegetables soar.
- Latest development: a 72 hour ceasefire starting on 1 August at 8:00 has been announced.



1,373

Palestinians killed, including at least 852 civilians, of whom 252 are children and 181 are women.¹

59

Israelis killed, including two civilians and 56 soldiers, in addition to one foreign national

1.8 million

People have reduced or no access to regular water and sanitation.

137

Schools damaged during hostilities, some serving as emergency shelters.

250,000

Displaced people hosted in UNRWA and in government schools and institutions.

Situation Overview

As the Gaza emergency enters its 24th day, relief efforts are reaching a breaking point. Hostilities continued during the reporting period, despite a partial humanitarian pause unilaterally declared by the Israeli army yesterday afternoon. Consequently, no significant humanitarian operations could take place, including urgently needed repairs to damaged water and electricity infrastructure; recovery of bodies from under the rubble; and distribution of food and water to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other people in need.

Of increasing concern is the high frequency of incidents where humanitarian relief personnel and objects have come under attack. Yesterday afternoon, a rescue team that arrived at a house in eastern Gaza city (Ash Shuja'iyyeh) to evacuate people wounded and killed, were reportedly shelled by Israeli forces, killing an ambulance driver, a paramedic and a civil defence staff. The incident took place during the failed humanitarian pause. Since the start of the emergency 136 schools, some of

¹ Excludes individuals whose bodies were recovered during the pause but not yet identified. Data on fatalities and destruction of property is consolidated by the Protection and Shelter clusters based on preliminary information, and is subject to change based on further verifications.

+ For more information, see "background on the crisis" at the end of the report

which were serving as emergency shelters, as well as 24 hospitals and clinics, have been damaged during attacks; 25 ambulances operated by the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) have been hit, including six totally destroyed; eight of UNRWA's local staff and four municipal water and sanitation technicians have been killed. In three cases UNRWA staff have discovered rockets hidden in their installations and in others, armed groups have reportedly launched attacks from the vicinity of humanitarian facilities.

Despite yesterday's attack on an UNRWA shelter in Jabalia that killed 15 IDPs, civilians have continued to flee the most affected areas, adding pressure on already overcrowded shelters. Together with those hosted by relatives and friends, whose precise number is unknown, it is estimated that as many as 457,000 people, or over a quarter of the population, have been forcibly displaced.

Until a longer-term ceasefire is agreed, we need more humanitarian pauses to enable us to reach those in need. Pauses must be daily, predictable, and adequate in length so that humanitarian staff can dispatch relief to those in need, rescue the injured, recover the dead and allow civilians some respite so that they can restock and resupply their homes.

UN Under-Secretary-General Valerie Amos to the Security Council, 31 July

The shelling and bombing of UN schools which have resulted in the killing and maiming of frightened women and children and civilian men, including UN staff, seeking shelter from the conflict are horrific acts and may possibly amount to war crimes. If civilians cannot take refuge in UN schools, where can they be safe?

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay, 31 July

Hostilities and casualties

Since the last situation report, at least 110 people have reportedly been killed or their bodies recovered, including many whose identity or status could not yet be established. These fatalities include 18 people, of whom eight are children, killed in the abovementioned incident in Ash Shuja'iyeh, which started with the targeting and destruction by Israeli forces of a house belonging to the Selek family and the damaging of adjacent homes.

This brings the cumulative death toll among Palestinians to at least 1,373, according to preliminary data collected by the Protection Cluster from various sources, which includes 329 persons (24 per cent), who could not be identified or their status established. This is nearly the same as the number of Palestinian fatalities during the "Cast Lead" offensive (1,383 people) in 2008/9, which was the deadliest escalation of violence since the beginning of Israel's occupation in 1967.

Of the fatalities whose identity and status could be verified (1,044), nearly 83 per cent (852 people) are believed to be civilians, including 252 children and 181 women, and 181 members of armed groups. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, 8,265 Palestinians, including 2,502 children and 1,626 women have been injured.

Indiscriminate firing by Palestinian armed groups in Gaza into southern and central Israel continued, with most falling in open areas or intercepted by the Iron Dome system, resulting in a number of injuries but no additional civilian fatalities. Since 8 July, three civilians in Israel have been killed, including one foreign national, and a few dozen directly injured by rockets or shrapnel. No additional fatalities among Israeli soldiers have been recorded during the reporting period, and their number remains 56.

What we are witnessing is the killing of entire families, and of children in the street either playing or trying to find safety. Waves and waves of ordinary people continue to flee their homes as the already weak infrastructure in Gaza caves in under the relentless bombardment.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay, 31 July

Displacement

Some 16,000 IDPs have fled to UNRWA schools in the past 24 hours. As of this afternoon, UNRWA was providing shelter to 236,375 persons in 88 shelters throughout the Gaza Strip, which represents an average of nearly 2,700 IDPs per shelter, which normally have the capacity to accommodate only 500 people. This is challenging the already stretched capacity of the agency to provide IDPs with basic necessities, maintain hygiene conditions, and prevent the outbreak of epidemics. In the context of the latter, UNRWA has started installing showers in the toilets of some shelters.

Another 13,800 IDPs are residing in 18 government schools and other institutions and 7,000 IDPs are reportedly seeking refuge in public buildings/ informal shelters. The Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) estimates that the number of persons staying with host families throughout the Gaza Strip could be as many as 200,000.

Public infrastructure and services

Three of the ten Israeli electricity feeder lines are currently operational (one in Rafah, one in Khan Younis and one in Beit Lahia), while one of the Egyptian feeder lines has been damaged again and shut down. As Gaza's sole power plant remains

shut down after being shelled by Israeli forces on 29 July, Gaza is receiving a total of 54 megawatts (MWs), including 36 MWs purchased from Israel and 18 MWs purchased from Egypt, which corresponds to only about 10 per cent of the estimated demand. Gaza City receives approximately two hours of electricity per day, while the Middle Area receives zero and the Rafah area between four and five hours a day.

It is estimated that the entire population has reduced or no access to water, due to electricity shortages, lack of fuel and inability of the water network to reach certain streets, areas on higher altitude or upper levels of multi-storey buildings. Many are also exposed to public health risks due to the mixing of sewage with water from damages that occurred in the sanitation system, the lack of chlorination and the lack of solid waste collection.

At the moment, the lack of electricity to operate pumps and equipment of wells, sewage pumping stations, waste water treatment plants and desalination plants can only be replaced by generators, which need fuel. The Islamic Development Bank has been funding 120,000 liters per month to the most critical WASH facilities, already prior to the current emergency. Under the current levels of electricity supply, 600,000 litres of fuel are required to operate the same facilities at the same capacity.

Local Gaza bakeries also report major challenges in meeting the additional demand of bread, triggered by the increased constraints by households in preparing bread due to lack of electricity. Additionally, fewer quantities of fresh crops are available in the market, triggering significant increases in prices, for some vegetables in particular.

Key humanitarian priorities

Protection of civilians: ensuring respect for the IHL principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution in attack.

Humanitarian space: increased access for humanitarian workers to carry out life-saving activities, for example, through regular and meaningful humanitarian pauses or corridors for the evacuation of the injured. This is needed among other reasons, to complete search and rescue operations in several areas, and repair critical water and electricity infrastructure.

Additional fuel supply: needed to operate backup generators at essential facilities, including water, sanitation and health, for longer hours.

Scale up response to IDPs: additional shelters are needed to reduce overcrowding and accommodate new IDPs, alongside the replenishment of food, water and hygiene materials, and NFI stocks. Assistance for IDPs living with host families also needs to be increased, particularly the provision of NFIs and water and hygiene kits.

Update on Gaza Crossings:

Erez: Open for humanitarian cases and pre-coordinated movement only.

Beit Hanoun (Arba-Arba): Closed until further notice but still accessible.

Kerem Shalom: The crossing was open today from 10:00 until 15:00. On 30 July, 65 truckloads of mostly food, water, medicine, blankets and hygiene kits entered Gaza through this crossing

Rafah: Open today from 9:00 to 15:00. A total of 13 injured Palestinians exited Gaza. On 30 July, four truckloads of food supplies entered.

Humanitarian needs and response



Protection

Needs

- At least 303,000 children require direct and specialized psychosocial support (PSS).
- Child protection and psychosocial support is urgently required to address issues of child abuse, exploitation and violence inside shelters and refuges.
- Thousands of explosive remnants of war are left in civilian areas affected by conflict, causing a major threat to children.

303,000

Children in need of psychosocial support

Response

- Protection Cluster members continue monitoring and investigating incidents to identify possible violations of international law, as well as consolidating information on civilian fatalities.
- Since 8 July, emergency PSS teams and PRCS teams have been able to provide initial psychosocial support to 2,213 children across the Gaza Strip.
- Since 20 July, 160,000 child protection and PSS text messages have been sent to Jawal subscribers in Gaza.
- World Vision is providing PSS to children in hospitals and UNRWA shelters.
- Since 18 July, Tamer has been conducting daily activities for children in their libraries.
- UNRWA is providing basic unexploded ordnance (UXO) awareness in shelters.
- Since 13 July, UNMAS has been distributing leaflets including safety messages on UXOs at UNRWA schools.

Gaps and Constraints

- Ongoing hostilities continue to impede movement of child protection staff and emergency PSS teams, as well as access to basic services for children and their families.
- Local organizations face fuel and electricity shortages.
- Quicker coordination is required to allow for fast evacuation of injured children to hospitals in East Jerusalem.
- Sawa Child Protection Help Line needs additional trained counsellors who can answer phone calls.
- Due to the rapidly increasing need, the number of social workers and psychosocial support counsellors at hospitals is insufficient.
- Displaced children and their families hosted with relatives remain largely unreached by child protection interventions.
- Due to the precarious security environment and ongoing military operations, verification of information, in particular in regards to casualties, is difficult.



Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI)

Needs

- Opening of government schools identified as potential shelters is required to accommodate new and expected IDPs.
- 9,765 families (approximately 58,500 individuals) whose homes were totally destroyed or sustained major damage require emergency NFI kits. In the medium term, they will need cash assistance.
- NFI emergency shelter repair interventions are needed for about 4,955 families (29,700 individuals), whose homes sustained damage but are still inhabitable. 28,150 families (168,900 individuals), whose homes sustained minor damage also require basic NFI assistance.

9,765

Families whose homes were totally destroyed or sustained major damage require NFI kits

Response

- 236,375 people are being provided with shelter in 88 designated UNRWA schools across the Gaza Strip and an estimated 13,800 individuals are sheltered in 18 government and private schools, and other facilities.
- UNRWA delivered 29 truckloads of NFIs (including blankets, diapers, toilet paper and cleaning supplies) to IDPs in its emergency shelters.

Gaps and Constraints

- Cash assistance of over US\$ 39 million is needed to allow 9,765 families to cover rental fees and urgent expenses.
- Additional shelters for IDPs are required to reduce overcrowding at UNRWA schools and accommodate the needs of new IDPs displaced from communities who have received evacuation orders in the last 24 hours.
- UNRWA's NFI stock at minimum level. Workers face difficulties accessing some storage warehouses safely.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

This section will be covered in tomorrow's report



Health and Nutrition

This section will be covered in tomorrow's report



Food Security

Needs

- More than 250,000 IDPs are in need of emergency food assistance.
- Additional bread production capacity is required due to lack of electricity at home.
- Immediate emergency funds to cover massively increasing food needs of IDPs are required.
- Animal feed for 4,000 breeders/herders should be provided in order to avoid further loss of livestock and additional erosion of livelihood of herder's communities.
- Humanitarian access to allow for provision of food and other emergency assistance to the civilian population is urgently needed and should be guaranteed throughout the conflict.

> 250,000

IDPs require food assistance and water tankering.

Response

- WFP, in cooperation with UNRWA, is providing ready-to-eat emergency food rations to all IDPs sheltered in UNRWA or government schools on a daily basis.
- WFP provided ready-to-eat emergency food rations to 12,000 IDPs hosted in government schools WFP continues to provide food assistance to patients and hospital staff.
- Food Security Sector partners are delivering complementary food distributions to IDPs at UNRWA and government schools. Other partners are reaching approximately 25,000 displaced persons in private shelters and host families.

Gaps and Constraints

- IDPs residing in public schools and private shelters require food and other assistance. Immediate emergency funding to address the food needs of the increasing IDP population and for fodder provision for 3,000 herders.
- Some food stores are located in areas which require 'prior coordination' due to the Israeli-imposed "buffer zone" impeding the ability to provide much needed food assistance.
- UNRWA's regular food distribution is being put under increased pressure by the closure of UNRWA distribution centres in Tuffah, Beit Hanoun and eastern Khan Younis due to heightened insecurity.
- The Israeli military ground operation is limiting access to food warehouses and putting at risk the provision of food commodities for those in need.
- The ongoing reduction of electricity supply will heavily impact the commercial activities, the milling capacity and the bakeries performance.



Education

Needs

- The total of damaged schools since the start of the emergency now stands at 137, including 49 government schools and 87 UNRWA schools, in need of repair.

137

Schools damaged by shelling

Response

NTR

Gaps & Constraints

- Access restrictions impede the ability to assess impact of hostilities and carry out repairs to damaged school infrastructure.

General Coordination

The Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) continues its daily meetings, focusing primarily on the coordination of the IDP response and challenges related to humanitarian space. OCHA is preparing for the HCT Gaza Crisis Appeal with State of Palestine. The Launching of the humanitarian appeal is scheduled for 1 August, in Ramallah.

OCHA, UNRWA, Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PCRS) and Internal Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) continue the coordination of opening up additional government schools for IDP shelters.

The Logistics Cluster led by the World Food Program (WFP) has been activated and met on 30 July for the first time to discuss gaps such as lack of safe and secure transportation, including loading/offloading and transportation of items from warehouses to consignees and other implementing partners within Gaza.

Funding

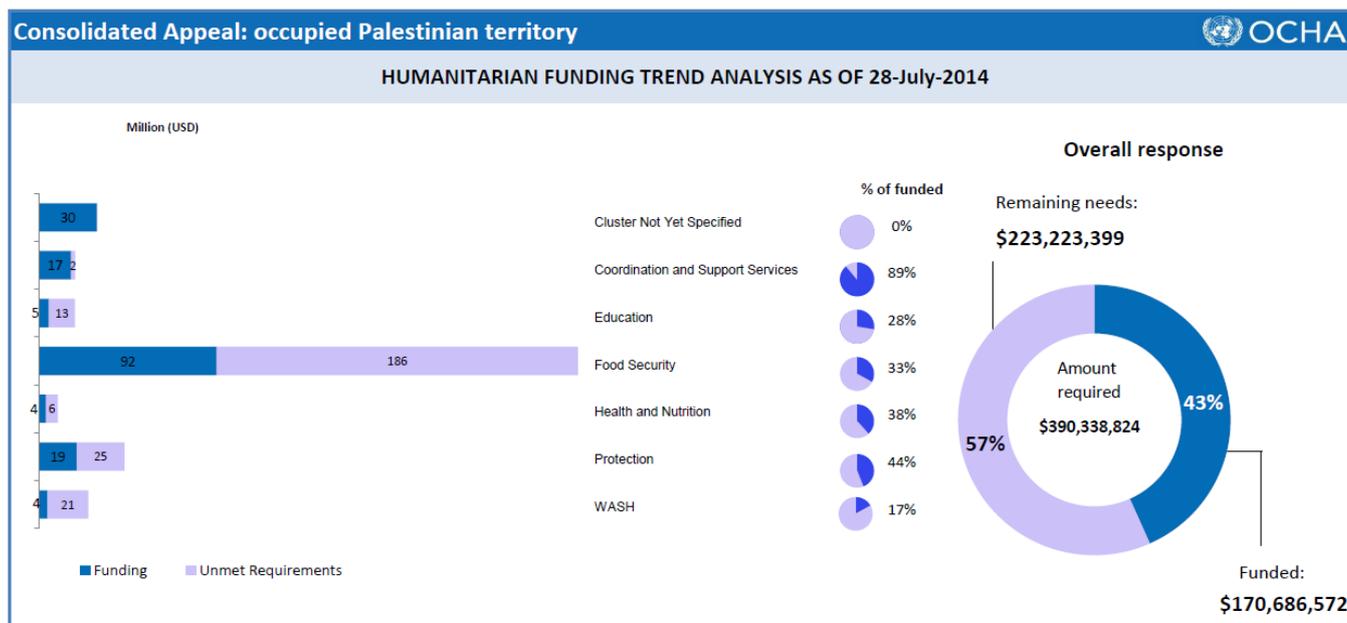
A number of bilateral contributions have already been received from donors who have provided funding for urgent needs in the most critical sectors. Based on latest cluster/sector analysis, after 10 days of hostilities it was estimated that US \$69 million is now needed for immediate assistance in Gaza, excluding UNRWA's requirements. Three weeks later, in view of the dire consequences for the civilian population of the hostilities and the increase of needs clusters have also made a latest estimate so far of more than US \$170 million that will be reflected in the Gaza Crisis Appeal being developed by the Humanitarian Country Team, scheduled for 1 August. The appeal once finalized will supersede earlier HCT estimates.

UNRWA has issued its own emergency flash appeal which was revised up to US \$187.6 million. The amount requested will help UNRWA provide emergency assistance for a revised scenario of up to 250,000 people being displaced during a period of up to eight weeks. A portion of this funding will also be needed to start early recovery activities including shelter and installation repair upon cessation of hostilities.

The 2014 Strategic Response Plan (SRP) for the oPt has received US\$ 170 million (43 per cent) out of a total request of US\$ 390 million. Nearly 90 per cent of 1.9 million vulnerable people targeted in the SRP are in Gaza. Gaza-specific projects have received 32 per cent of their requested funding.

The Emergency Response Fund (ERF) is an additional mechanism available to fund interventions in Gaza through rapid and flexible support to affected civilian populations. The ERF has begun processing project applications in regards to the Gaza emergency. Thus far, a proposal by the Union of Health Work Committees, totaling US\$ 250,000, to guarantee health services in the Northern area of the Gaza Strip, is being processed. To date, five project proposals were approved for a total of USD 1.12 million: ACF's two projects to provide emergency shelter and NFIs and water, sanitation and hygiene to affected families; Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) project to support for the emergency needs of neonatal units in Gaza hospitals by procurement of essential drugs and disposables; Dan Church Aid project to provide food packages and hygiene kits to IDPs hosted in Shelters in Rafah and Khan Yunis; and UNMAS' project for the management of ERW to reduce the risk posed to civilians. A number of donors have come forward with expressions of interest or pledges for the ERF; thus far, Denmark, Sweden, Italy and Ireland have pledged over US\$ 3.3 million. Further funding for the ERF is still being sought.

UN humanitarian agencies, in cooperation with NGO partners are finalizing an application to the CERF Rapid Response window covering urgent needs in food assistance, psychosocial support, WASH, rubble removal and critical drugs.



Background to the crisis

On 7 July 2014, the Israeli army launched a large military operation in the Gaza Strip, codenamed “Protective Edge”, with the stated objective of stopping Palestinian rocket firing at southern Israel and destroying the military infrastructure of Hamas and other armed groups.

This development marked the collapse of the Egyptian-brokered ceasefire understanding reached between Israel and Hamas in November 2012, which has been gradually undermined since December 2013. The latest escalation round started in early June, characterized by an intensification of Israeli airstrikes and rockets launched from Gaza at southern Israel. Tensions further increased following the abduction and killing of three Israeli youths in the southern West Bank, on 12 June, which the Israeli government attributed to Hamas. Overall, in the period leading up to the start of the current operation a total of 15 Palestinians, including one civilian, were killed, and another 58 others, mostly civilians, injured, as a result of Israeli airstrikes in the Gaza Strip; seven Israelis, five of whom were civilians, were injured due to rocket fire.

The current crisis comes against a backdrop of heightened vulnerability and instability. Unemployment increased dramatically since mid-2013, following a halt of the illegal tunnel trade, exacerbating the impact of the Israeli blockade in place since June 2007. Additionally, former de facto government employees, including the security forces, have not been paid salaries regularly since August 2013 and no salaries at all since April 2014. Delivery of basic services has been also undermined due to an ongoing energy crisis, involving power outages of 12 hours per day.

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