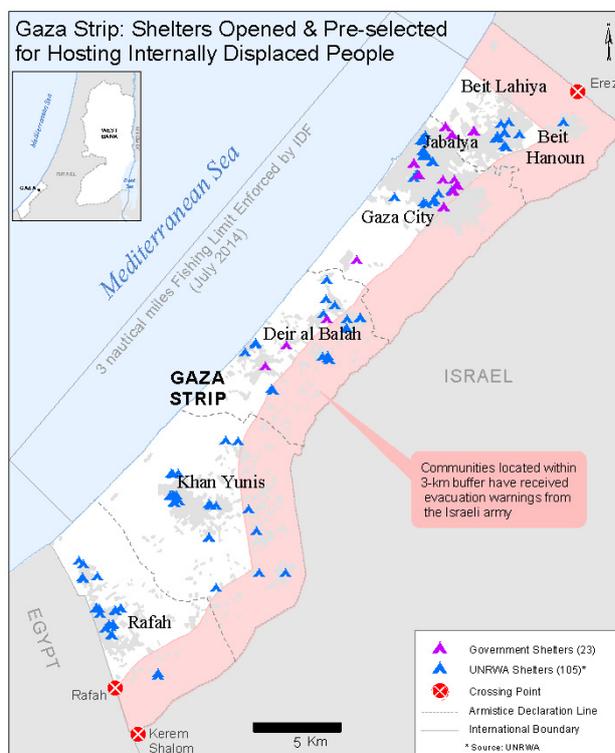




This report is produced by OCHA oPt in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 31 July (1500 hrs) to 1 August (1500 hrs). The next report will be issued on 2 August.

Highlights

- A 72-hour humanitarian ceasefire scheduled to enter into effect at 08:00 this morning collapsed after two hours.
- Following the collapse of the ceasefire, hostilities resumed with reports of large numbers of Palestinian fatalities and injuries in Rafah.
- Incidents of multiple family member fatalities continue: at least 76 families have lost three or more family members in the same incident, totaling over 400 fatalities.
- Up to 25 per cent of Gaza's population may now be forcibly displaced; a quarter of a million people are now seeking refuge in UNRWA shelters alone.
- Lack of electricity and fuel shortages affect access to water for the entire population of the Gaza Strip. The lack of adequate water chlorination may have serious public health consequences.



1,439

Palestinians killed, including at least 926 civilians, of whom 286 are children and 187 are women.¹

66

Israelis killed, including 63 soldiers, two civilians and one foreign national

76

Families have lost three or more family members in the same incident, totaling over 400 fatalities

1.8 million

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

280,000

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

Situation Overview

A 72-hour humanitarian cease-fire came into effect at 08:00 this morning after both Israel and Hamas agreed to a proposal by the United Nations and the United States. The retrieve allowed for shops and markets to open, and residents to leave their homes and shelters to stock up on food and other necessities. Many internally displaced persons (IDPs) planned to return for the first time in weeks to check up on their homes and salvage belongings, especially in those areas which had witnessed heavy conflict. Ambulance and rescue crews continued to search for missing people and to evacuate injured people and dead bodies. As the ceasefire started, fishermen in Gaza City set out to sea for the first time since hostilities began on 8 July.

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

However, the cessation was short-lived. According to Israeli sources, the ceasefire broke down when militants attacked the Israeli military in Rafah, killing two soldiers and capturing another. Hostilities resumed and escalated with reports of large numbers of Palestinians fatalities in Rafah. No significant humanitarian operations could take place during the brief pause, including urgently needed repairs to damaged water and electricity infrastructure; a complete recovery of bodies from under the rubble; and distribution of food and water to IDPs and other people in need. With no location now perceived as safe and immune from attack, the resumption of hostilities is fueling further frustration and hopelessness and despair among the civilian population and placing additional strain on the humanitarian community's capacity to respond.

The Secretary-General urges both sides to show maximum restraint and return to the agreed 72-hour humanitarian ceasefire that tragically lasted such a brief period of time. He also urges those with influence over the parties to do everything to convince them to observe the humanitarian ceasefire.

Statement attributable to the Spokesman for the Secretary-General on the situation in Gaza, 1 August 2014.

Hostilities and casualties

Hostilities continued right up to the start of the short-lived ceasefire. Since the launch of the Israeli military operation, hundreds of homes have reportedly been directly targeted by Israeli airstrikes, and it is estimated that at least 872 houses have been totally destroyed or severely damaged, causing civilian casualties. Human rights organizations have expressed serious concern regarding incidents where civilians or civilian objects have been directly hit by Israeli airstrikes, in circumstances where there was allegedly no rocket fire or armed group activity in the close vicinity. Such cases raise concerns about the targeting of civilians, or the launching of indiscriminate attacks.

In this context, of increasing concern is the number of incidents since the onset of the emergency in which multiple members of the same family have been killed. Up to 30 July, at least 76 families have lost three or more family members in the same incident, for a total of 407 fatalities. During the reporting period, at least one such additional incident occurred (see box).

At 20:30 on 31 July 12 people, including five women and six children, were killed when an Israeli missile struck a house in Nuseirat refugee camp. The dead included four members of the al Bayoumi family; three members of the Al Assar families and three members of the Abu Shouqa family.

Since the last situation update, at least 66 persons, many of whose status still needs to be verified, have reportedly been killed. This brings the cumulative death toll among Palestinians to at least 1,439, according to preliminary data collected by the Protection Cluster from various sources, which includes 322 persons (22.4 per cent), who could not be identified or their status established. Of the fatalities whose identity and status could be verified (1,117), nearly 83 per cent (926 people) are believed to be civilians, including 286 children and 187 women, and 191 members of armed groups. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, as of 19:00 on 31 July, 8,265 Palestinians, including 2,502 children and 1,626 women aged 18 to 60, and 303 elderly have been injured.

However, these figures do not include the large number of Palestinians reported to have been killed and injured in Rafah in air, tank and artillery shelling in Rafah, following the killing of two soldiers and the reported capture of another this morning. Due to ongoing hostilities in the southern Gaza Strip, Protection Cluster partners have not been able to gather detailed information, however according to initial report, over 50 Palestinians have reportedly been killed and hundreds of others injured including people who had just returned to their homes after the ceasefire entered into effect.

Also of concern are continuing incidents where humanitarian relief personnel and objects have come under attack. At 06:15 this morning, IDF troops fired five shells at Omar Bin Al Khatab mosque, northeast of Jabalia, spraying a nearby UNRWA school with shrapnel, and injuring ten IDPs who were taking shelter there, including two in serious condition.

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. However, eight Israel civilians were wounded, three seriously, by mortars on 31 July. Since 8 July, three civilians in Israel have been killed, including one foreign national, and dozens directly injured by rockets or shrapnel. Seven soldiers were killed during the reporting period, bringing the number of Israeli military fatalities to 63. An Israeli soldier was reportedly captured on 1 August and has been formally designated as missing in action.

Displacement

The collapse of the ceasefire dashed hopes of a return by IDPs to homes which are still inhabitable. The intensification of hostilities in Rafah has reportedly led to thousands of new IDPs moving to the western part of the city and to Khan Yunis, many moving to ten UNRWA schools where 30,000 are already taking refuge.

As of this afternoon, UNRWA was providing shelter to 253,211 persons in 90 shelters throughout the Gaza Strip, which represents an average of over 2,800 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 such as scabies and lice. While showers in shelters have improved personal hygiene and decreased the risk of spread of disease, the situation in overcrowded shelters is becoming increasingly tense. Fights between families over water were reported on multiple occasions.

Another 18,000 IDPs are residing in 19 government schools, including one which opened yesterday, and other institutions. Approximately 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, meaning that, in total, one quarter of the Gaza population are displaced.

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 from 09:00 to 13:00 for pre-coordinated movement only.

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

Kerem Shalom: The crossing was open briefly earlier this morning but then closed due to security developments in the area. No specification on what entered yesterday was available by the time of this update.

Rafah: Open briefly this morning but then closed due to security developments.

Humanitarian needs and response



Needs

- At least 326,000 children require direct and specialized psychosocial support (PSS). Children are showing symptoms of increasing distress, including bed wetting, clinging to parents and nightmares.
- 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.

326,000

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, 180,000 child protection and PSS text messages have been sent to Jawal subscribers in Gaza.
- Since 13 July, the Sawa Child Protection Helpline has provided counselling to 1,204 callers, including 375 children.
- World Vision is providing PSS to children in hospitals and UNRWA shelters.
- Save the Children, in cooperation with partners, has distributed 400 nursing kits since 8 July.

- The Community Training Centre and Crisis Management (CTCCM) has conducted activities for a total of 475 children in UNRWA shelters in Jabalia since 27 July.
- UNRWA Community Mental Health Programme has reached a total of 47,378 children since the beginning of the emergency. Partners of the Community Mental Health Programme have provided PSS services to an additional 27,306 children in coordination with UNRWA.
- Since 18 July, Tamer has been conducting daily activities for children in their libraries.
- UNRWA continues to provide basic unexploded ordnance (UXO) awareness in shelters UNRWA's television channel shows clips about the danger of UXO.
- 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.
- Communication with emergency PSS teams in Gaza was not possible due to ongoing hostilities in the reporting period.
- Local organizations continue to face fuel and electricity shortages.
- Quicker coordination is required to allow for urgent evacuations of injured children to hospitals in East Jerusalem.
- Sawa Child Protection Help Line needs additional trained counsellors.
- The number of social workers and psychosocial support counsellors at hospitals is insufficient to meet current needs.
- Displaced children and their families hosted with community members remain largely unreached by child protection interventions.
- Due to 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.
- 9815 families (approximately 58,900 individuals) whose homes were totally ruined or sustained major damage are in need of emergency NFI kits. In the medium term, they will also need cash assistance.
- NFI emergency shelter repair interventions are needed for about 5,005 families (30,050 individuals), whose homes sustained damage but are still inhabitable. Another 28,400 families (an estimated 170,400 individuals), whose homes sustained minor damage need basic NFI assistance but less urgently.

9,815

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

Response

- 253,221 people are being provided with shelter in 90 designated UNRWA schools across the Gaza Strip and an estimated 18,000 individuals are sheltered in at least 19 government and private schools, and other facilities.
- Today, one new government school was assigned as shelter in Gaza, Al Boraq, currently sheltering 600 IDPs. Additionally, an unknown number of IDPs have taken shelter in five government schools in Khan Younis not previously designated as shelters by the MoSA.
- UNRWA delivered 29 truckloads of NFIs (including mattresses, health kits and cleaning supplies) to IDPs in UNRWA shelters on 31 July.

Gaps and Constraints

- Cash assistance of over US\$ 40 million is needed for 9,815 families to cover rental fees and urgent expenses.
- Emergency shelter kits are required for 5,940 families.
- Additional shelters for IDPs are required to reduce overcrowding at existing shelters and accommodate for the needs of new IDPs.

- Thousands of IDPs have reportedly moved into shelters in the southern Gaza Strip due to ongoing hostilities over the course of the past 24 hours. The security situation hinders assistance to those newly displaced.
- UNRWA's NFI stock at minimum level. Workers face difficulties accessing some storage warehouses safely.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Needs:

- The current provision of water is estimated to be less than three litres per capita per day for IDPs in shelters. There is an urgent need for drinking water and water for domestic use as well as access to sanitation and hygiene articles for IDPs.
- Fuel is urgently needed to operate critical WASH facilities.
- Chlorination is a priority need.

Response:

- On 31 July, UNRWA maintenance staff installed showers in the toilets of UNRWA schools serving as shelters in all areas of Gaza. They also carried out critical repairs of WASH facilities in shelters.
- UNRWA continues to provide water to shelters and is cooperating with local organizations to secure the provision of potable and non-potable water.
- Oxfam GB distributed desalinated drinking water to 39 IDP shelters, including UNRWA shelters, government schools and informal shelters.
- UNRWA supplied fuel for UNRWA vehicles and generators in UNRWA schools serving as shelters, and offered logistical support to fuel distribution to municipalities and selected WASH facilities.
- UNICEF distributed 836 adult hygiene kits, 328 baby hygiene kits and 2,000 jerry cans.
- On 31 July, UNRWA sanitation staff removed an estimated 362 tons of solid waste.

Gaps:

- The destruction of the GPP (the Gaza Power Plant) on 29 July has had a devastating effect on all WASH facilities in Gaza. While IDPs are among the most vulnerable, the entire 1.8 million population of Gaza face severe shortages of electricity, water and sanitation services. Limited electricity equals limited or no access to water.
- While showers in shelters have improved personal hygiene and decreased the risk of spread of disease, the situation in overcrowded shelters is becoming increasingly tense. Fights between families over water were reported on multiple occasions.
- Al Maghazi and Bureji camps remain inaccessible.
- Lack of energy to operate facilities and limitations on access hinder the critical operations of WASH facilities, including operations of water service providers as well as maintenance and repairs, with potential devastating consequences for the entire population of the Gaza Strip.
- One of CMWU's dosing units for chlorination has sustained damage by attacks and is currently non-operational. The lack of chlorination may have serious public health implications.



Food Security

Will be included in tomorrow's situation report.


Education
Needs

- In the past 24 hours, two UNRWA schools were damaged by shelling, both for the second time. The total of damaged schools since the start of the emergency therefore remains at 137, including 49 government schools and 88 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, 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.

Funding

On 1 August, the Minister of Social Affairs and Minister of Agriculture of the State of Palestine, H.E. Mr. Shawqi Issa and the Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. James W. Rawley, launched the Gaza Crisis Appeal. The 2014 Gaza Crisis Appeal considers that the entire population of the Gaza Strip (1.8 million Palestinians) is affected by the hostilities in multiple ways. The Appeal focuses on supporting access to health and water as well as catering for the needs of the displaced people in Gaza, including food assistance, blankets and mattresses as well as psychosocial support. Assistance will be provided by UN agencies and international and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The Gaza Crisis Appeal presents a preliminary strategy of the humanitarian community to meet the most urgent humanitarian needs that have arisen as a result of the current emergency in the Gaza Strip, focusing on the groups that have been rendered the most vulnerable. This includes displaced persons, the injured, the elderly, children, women, and farmers and fishermen who have lost their livelihoods. The Gaza Crisis Appeal was developed in consultation with the State of Palestine, in order to ensure coherence with Palestinian strategies for response.

A number of bilateral contributions have already been received from donors who have provided funding for urgent needs in the most critical sectors.

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.

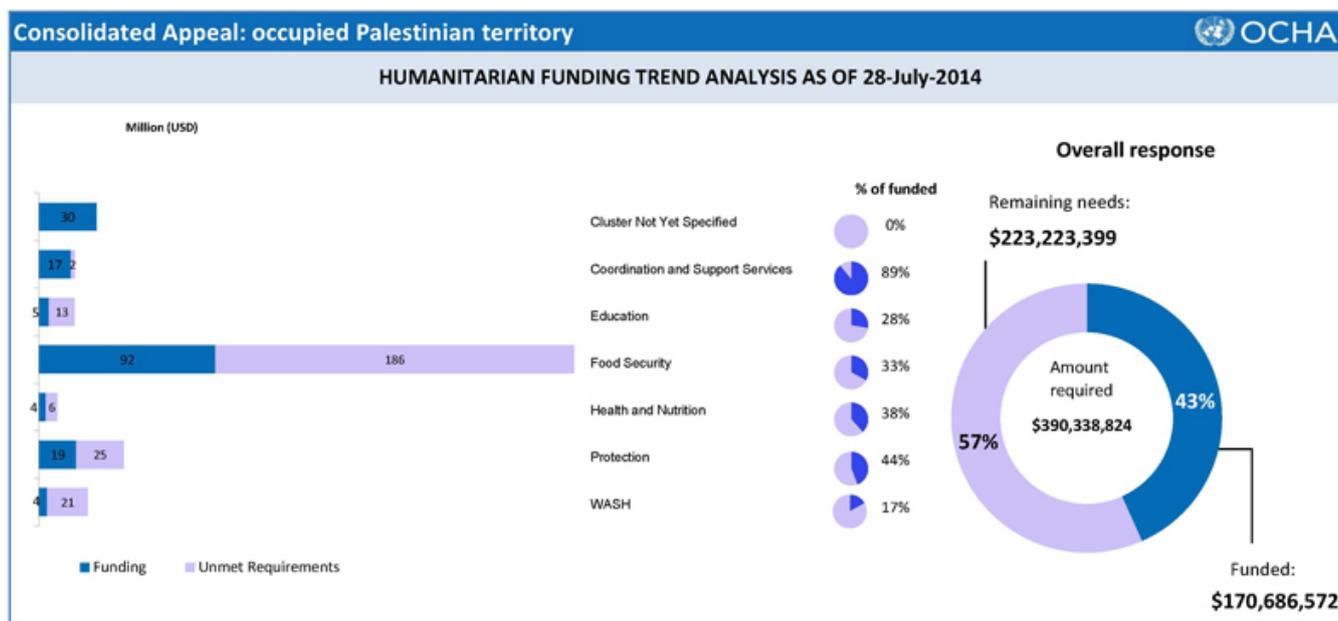
The 2014 Strategic Response Plan (SRP) for the oPt has received US\$ 170 million (43 per cent) out of a total request of US\$ 390 million. Nearly 90 per cent of 1.9 million vulnerable people targeted in the SRP are in Gaza. Gaza-specific projects have received 32 per cent of their requested funding.

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.

To date, seven project proposals were approved for a total of US\$ 1.6 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; Union of Health Work Committees (UHC) emergency intervention to support the continuation of health services in the northern area of Gaza Strip by providing dedication fuel and consumables to Al Awda hospital, Dan Church Aid and PARC projects to

provide food packages and hygiene kits to IDPs hosted in Shelters in Deir Al Balah ,Rafah and Khan Yunis; by and UNMAS' project for the management of ERW to reduce the risk posed to civilians. In addition, a proposal by Palestinian Medical Relief Society – PMRC for Emergency Intervention,(totalling US\$ 249,845) to build community support teams in Gaza Strip, is under process.

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 US\$ 1,002,369 and US\$ 1,480,166 and US\$ 402,130 and US\$ 135,870 respectively. 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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