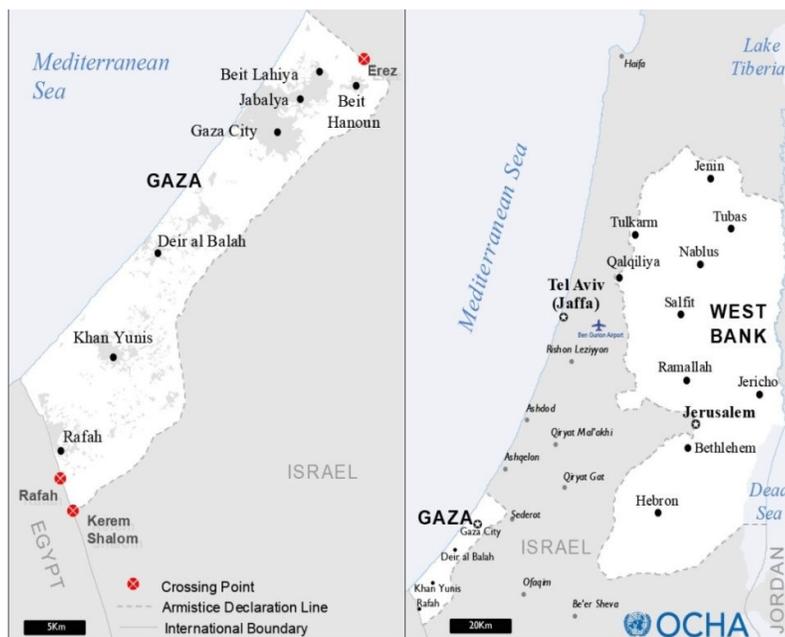




This report is produced by OCHA oPt in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 18 July (1500 hrs) to 19 July (1500 hrs). The next report will be issued on 20 July.

Highlights

- The Israeli ground operation continues, resulting in at least 69 Palestinian fatalities in the last 24-hours, the highest death toll recorded in one day since 7 July.
- According to preliminary information, the Palestinian fatality toll since the start of the emergency is now 336, including at least 228 civilians (68 per cent) and 77 children.
- Indiscriminate rocket fire from Gaza at Israel continues, resulting in the second civilian fatality since 7 July, in addition to several injuries.
- Displacement is increasing with over 50,000 displaced Palestinians taking shelter in 44 UNRWA schools, exceeding the peak number in Agency facilities during the conflict in 2008/09.



Latest developments:

Amid an escalation of violence in Gaza, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is leaving for the region on Saturday to support regional and international efforts for a ceasefire.

As of 18:00, the number of displaced Palestinians seeking shelter in UNRWA facilities exceeds 60,000 in 49 schools.

336

Palestinians killed, including at least 228 civilians, of whom 77 are children and 56 women¹

2,268

Palestinians injured, of whom 65t are children and 463 women²

900,000

People affected by lack of adequate access to water and sanitation services

50,000

Displaced people hosted at 44 UNRWA schools

80%

Of the population receive electricity 4 hours a day.

Situation Overview

The Israeli ground incursion into Gaza continues accompanied by intensive airstrikes, artillery fire and shelling. This has led to a sharp increase in Palestinian casualties; since the last situation report, at least 69 persons, including at least 18 children and

¹ 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.

² Data on injuries is provided by the Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza.

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

3 women, have been reported killed, the highest number of fatalities in a 24-hour period since the current emergency began on 7 July.

Overnight fatalities include incidents in which multiple family members were killed; nine people, including two sets of brothers in Khan Yunis; eight members of the Abu Jarad family, including four children, in Beit Hanoun; two children from the 'Olwan family in the east of Gaza City; and three brothers of the Sha'at family near Khan Yunis. In all these cases, according to the preliminary reports, those killed were in, or adjacent to, their homes.

The Palestinian fatality toll from Israeli air, naval and ground strikes in Gaza is at least 336 Palestinians, according to preliminary data collected by the Protection Cluster from various sources, including at least 228 civilians (68 per cent of total fatalities), including 77 children and 56 women, 53 members of armed groups and 55 persons whose status cannot yet be determined. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, 2,268 Palestinians, including 657 children and 463 women, had been injured as at 06:00 on 19 July. The proportion of civilians among the fatalities is above that recorded during the most recent large offensive in the Gaza Strip in November 2012 ("Operation Pillar of Defense"), when 60 per cent of the fatalities were civilians (99 out of 165).

Since 7 July, hundreds of homes have reportedly been directly targeted by Israeli airstrikes, causing a large number of civilian casualties. Human rights organizations have reported on multiple occasions about 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 reports, along with the high proportion of civilian casualties, continue to raise concerns about respect for the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution in attack under international humanitarian law.

Thousands of Palestinians continue to flee their homes. Displacement is expected to continue rising posing an increasing challenge for national and international humanitarian organizations to deliver protection and assistance. On 19 July, it is reported that the IDF warned residents of areas in the central Gaza Strip, including al-Bureij and Maghazi refugee camps, to evacuate the area to Deir el Balah; over 165,000 people live in this area. There are concerns regarding the safety of people fleeing, as there have been reports of people being injured or killed while trying to flee.

The number of displaced Palestinians seeking shelter in UNRWA schools in Gaza has escalated sharply in the past 48 hours and now exceeds 50,000 in 44 schools, straining the Agency's capacity to cope. This figure equals the peak number of people seeking shelter in Agency facilities during "Operation Cast lead" the 2008/2009 conflict. This is in addition to the more than 11,000 people who have been displaced, after their homes were destroyed or severely damaged, and are currently hosted by relatives and neighbours.

"The number of displaced persons doubled in one day and more than 25,000 moved to our schools only yesterday; we are very concerned. These men, women and children are relying on us to provide them with shelter, and the reality is that UNRWA only had relief supplies in stock for about 35,000 people. We are procuring additional supplies now but remain critically short of funds." Director of Operations for UNRWA in Gaza, Robert Turner, 19 July.

The ground incursion and related shelling has resulted in extensive damage to electricity infrastructure, with some 80 per cent of the population receiving electricity during only four hours a day, down from 12 hours previously. Shelling and airstrikes have also caused an increase in damage to wells, sewage pumping stations and water and sewage lines. Water supply for an estimated half of the population of Gaza (900,000 people) has been cut or severely disrupted. The demand and pressure on the private sector water tankering system is increasing and prices are soaring.

Indiscriminate firing by Palestinian armed groups in Gaza into Israel also continued during the past 24 hours, albeit with a lower frequency than previous days, with most falling in open areas or intercepted by the Iron Dome system. The second Israeli civilian killed since the start of hostilities was reported in a Bedouin community in southern Israel today, with four members of his family injured. On 19 July, it was also reported that two Israeli soldiers were killed by Palestinian combatants who had crossed into Israel; in total, it is reported that at least three Israeli soldiers have been killed and 21 soldiers injured during the military operation, according to Israeli media sources.

Updates on Gaza Crossings

Erez: Closed as per regular Saturday operating schedule. However, three trucks of medicines for ICRC are exceptionally scheduled to cross Gaza today at 1500.

Beit Hanoun (Arba-Arba): The authorities in Gaza announced that the crossing is closed until further notice.

Kerem Shalom: Kerem Shalom: Closed as per regular Saturday operating schedule. Expected to open tomorrow. In case of sudden closure, the CLA Erez have informed the UN Access Coordination Unit (ACU) they would redirect trucks to Erez crossing.

Rafah: Open today from 09:00-15:00. No goods entered on 17 or 18 July.

Humanitarian needs and response



Needs

- At least 72,000 children require direct and specialized psychosocial support (PSS) on the basis of families who have experienced death, injury or loss of home over the past ten days.
- Explosive remnants of war present a major hazard to the population, particularly to children. Risk education targeting children remains a major need.

72,000

Children in need of psychosocial support

Response

- Protection Cluster members continue monitoring and investigating incidents to identify possible violations of international law.
- The Protection Cluster continues to monitor and crosscheck information on civilian fatalities.
- As of 18 July, eight psychologists from the Youth Empowerment Center are providing psychosocial support for IDPs in UNRWA schools in Jabalia refugee camp.
- Radio spots continue to alert children and their families on the dangers posed by Explosive Remnants of War. In addition, partners are preparing for the provision of UXO risk education, as soon as the situation allows.

Gaps and Constraints

- Ongoing hostilities continue to impede movement of child protection staff and emergency PSS teams.
- Emergency PSS teams are working at half capacity due to funding constraints.



Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI)

- A shelter update for 19 and 20 July will be included in tomorrow's report.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Needs

- Water supply for an estimated half of the population of Gaza (900,000 people) has been cut or severely disrupted.
- Several areas are experience sewage flooding, in particular in Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya, raising the risk of health problems.
- Insufficient amount of water comes via the water networks in some schools hosting displaced people in Rafah due to low pressure resulting from lack of electricity and damage to the infrastructure.
- Due to the increase in the number of displaced persons, additional displacement shelters are planned to be set up, which will require additional water through emergency tankering.
- Hosting families are also in need of water.
- The demand and pressure on the private sector water tankering system is increasing and prices are soaring.

900,000

people are affected by the lack of adequate access to water and sanitation services

Response

- UNRWA provided water tankering to more than 50,000 displaced persons in 44 UNRWA shelters.

- Technicians continued to repair damaged water and waste water facilities under ICRC protective escort and in coordination with Israeli Coordination and Liaison Administration (CLA) for Gaza.

Gaps and constraints

- As a result of heavy airstrikes, shelling and the ongoing military ground incursion, new information about WASH needs could not be adequately collected.
- The lack of protection during damage repair, operation and assessment remains the biggest constraint, impeding the immediate repair of water and waste water pipelines.



Health and Nutrition

Needs

- Beit Hanoun hospital was hit on 18 July; partial damage sustained to the roof of the administrative building.
- Critical shortage of medical supplies in hospitals due to the increasing number of injuries following the ground incursion.
- Thirteen out of a total of 54 Ministry of Health (MoH) primary health centres (PHC) are still closed due to their geographic location near targeted sites.
- 18 health-related facilities damaged since July 7 (three hospitals, twelve clinics and three nursing care centers) require repair.

18
Health
facilities damaged

Response

- Nineteen of UNRWA's 21 health centers are functional with most staff reporting daily for work.
- Three trucks of medicines for ICRC were scheduled to enter Gaza through the Erez crossing at 15:00 today.

Gaps and constraints

- Lack of adequate protection of health facilities and personnel, impeding emergency assistance to sick and injured.
- Reduced access for referral cases out of Gaza.



Food Security Sector

Needs

- 50,000 persons hosted at UNRWA shelters and some 1,780 displaced families (12,460 persons) hosted by relatives, are in need of emergency food assistance.
- At least 3,600 fishermen are in need of re-establishing their livelihoods and require assistance in the interim.
- A minimum of 2,500 farmers require urgent food assistance, as well as other interventions to re-establish their livelihoods, due to damage or loss sustained to livestock, agricultural lands, crops and facilities.

64,415
Palestinians received
food assistance

Response

- Regular food distribution to more than one million people has continued by UNRWA and WFP through their partners
- WFP, in cooperation with UNRWA, distributed 7,770 bread packets and tins of tuna to IDPs in UNRWA shelters.
- Dan Church Aid provided complementary food packages (ready-to-eat) to 3,000 displaced families hosted in UNRWA Shelters in northern Gaza.
- Welfare Association provided food assistance to 1,770 families (12,390 persons) in different Gaza governorates
- WFP continues to distribute daily emergency food rations to 2,039 hospital patients and staff across the Gaza Strip.

Gaps and Constraints

- As movement is increasingly impeded due to the security situation, access to affected areas and people remains restricted. This has been further compounded by Israeli military ground operations.
- Ongoing military operations pose a risk to the continuation of regular emergency food distributions, potentially leaving thousands of people without access to food.

Education

Needs

- In the past 24 hours, another school has sustained damage. Since the start of the emergency, 85 schools have been damaged due to their proximity to targeted sites and need repairs.

85

Schools damaged
by shelling

Response

- To respond to the need for temporary shelter for displaced families, there is ongoing coordination between UNRWA, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Affairs and ICRC to open at least two government schools in North Gaza Strip on 20 July and arrange the transition of displaced persons.

Gaps & Constraints

- Restrictions on movement impede the ability to assess impact of hostilities on school infrastructure.
- Still no information available about the condition of the 12 schools located in the Access Restricted Area (ARA).
- Insufficient pre-positioned supplies, such as school tents and teaching/learning materials, to respond to likely scale of need.

General Coordination

UNRWA's Emergency Operations Room (EOR) has switched to 24 hour operations mode, primarily to monitor IDP movement at night. Today, there was a meeting of the EOC Secretariat in Ramallah under the Ministry of Social Affairs, with HCT members in attendance. The EOC in Ramallah is set up to support the relief operation in Gaza, connecting with the EOC in Gaza and improving information management and coordination.

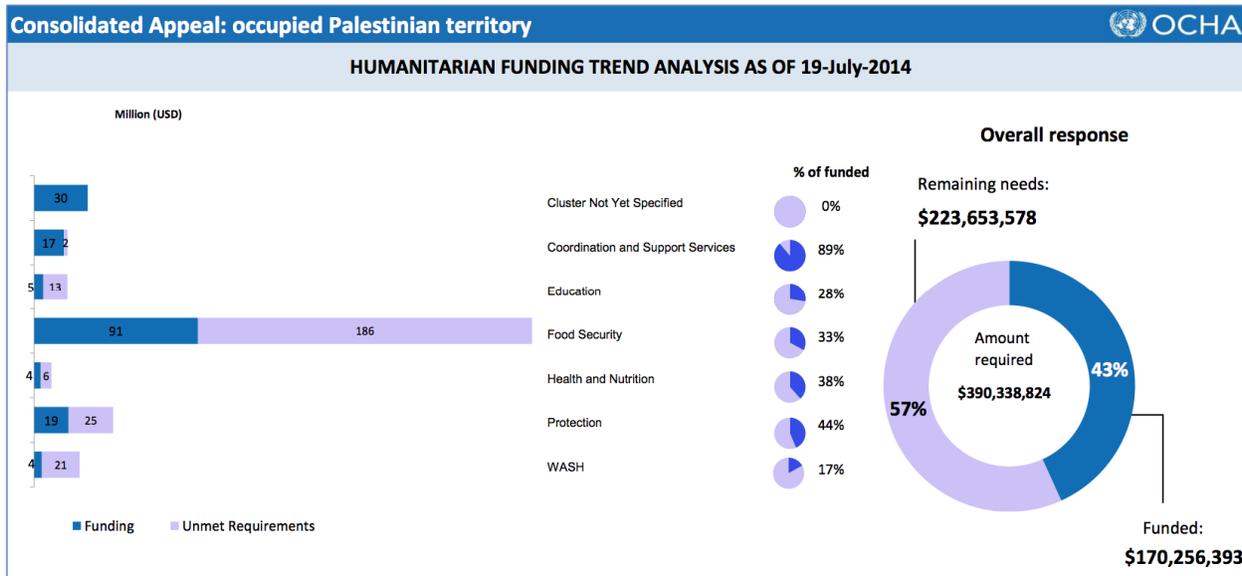
Funding

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 initial cluster / sector analysis it is estimated that US \$ 40 million is needed for immediate assistance in Gaza, excluding UNRWA's requirements. A number of clusters have also made a preliminary estimate of a further US \$87 million that is needed for medium term interventions once the security situation permits. All estimates are based on initial information; revisions, as new assessments come in, will be communicated to donors.

UNRWA has issued an emergency flash appeal worth \$60 million to respond to the most pressing humanitarian needs of the people of Gaza, including the tens of thousands taking shelter in its facilities. New funding will enable UNRWA to respond to needs in shelter, food, health and psychosocial of internally displaced persons (IDPs), while replenishing emergency supplies and preparing for vital interventions necessary after a cessation of military activities.

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% of their requested funding. The HCT is currently undertaking an exercise to identify the most urgent SRP projects that if funded would help support the response in Gaza, as well as any new needs.

The Emergency Response Fund (ERF) is an additional mechanism available to fund interventions in Gaza through rapid and flexible support to affected civilian populations. Currently, the ERF is processing one project application in regards to the Gaza emergency. A number of donors have come forward with expressions of interest or pledges for the ERF including Denmark, Ireland, Sweden, and Switzerland, as well as Italy, which is a new donor set to come on board. Further funding for the ERF is still being sought.



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 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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