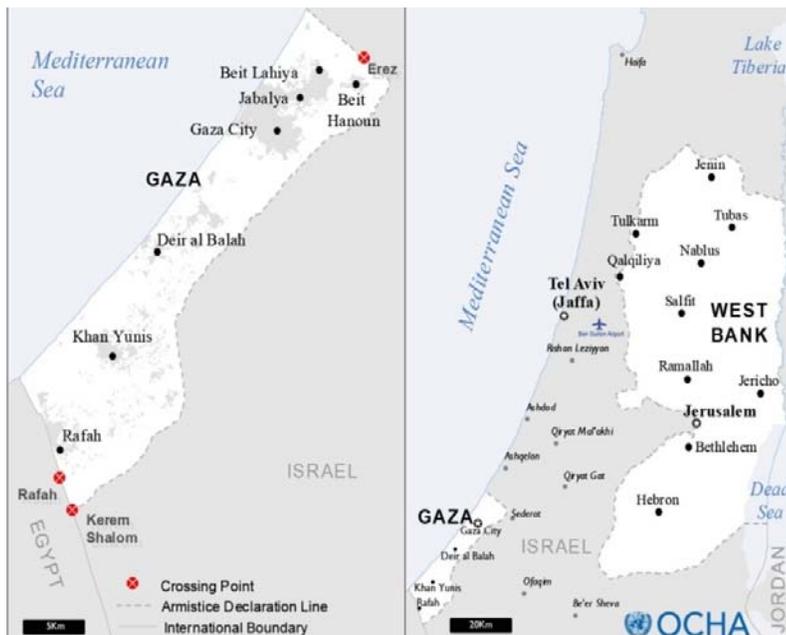




This report is produced by OCHA oPt in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 19 July (1500 hrs) to 20 July (1500 hrs). The next report will be issued on 21 July.

Highlights

- Up to 60 Palestinians, including 17 children and 14 women, are reported to have been killed in the past 24 hours in the Ash Shuja'iyeh area in eastern Gaza City, raising concern about respect for the principle of distinction and proportionality under international humanitarian law.
- 16 Israeli soldiers have been killed in the past 24 hours, including 13 in Ash Shuja'iyeh.
- A brief humanitarian pause to evacuate the wounded and the dead from Ash Shuja'iyeh, could only be partially implemented due to the resumption of hostilities; search and rescue efforts have continued.
- Mass displacement escalated in the past 24 hours across Gaza, including up to half of Ash Shuja'iyeh's residents. The cumulative number of IDPs has exceeded 100,000, including nearly 84,000 at UNRWA schools.
- The rapid depletion of stocks, along with bombardments and access restrictions in urban areas, are increasingly challenging efforts by humanitarian agencies to supply food, water, mattresses and hygiene items to those displaced.



375	20	3,008	>100,000	43 %
Palestinians killed, including at least 270 civilians, of whom 83 are children and 36 women ¹	Israelis killed, including two civilians and 18 soldiers.	Palestinians injured, of whom 904 are children and 533 women ²	Displaced, including 84,000 hosted at 61 UNRWA schools	of Gaza's territory affected by evacuation warnings or declaration of 'no-go zones'

Situation Overview

The last 24 hours have been the deadliest recorded since the start of the Gaza emergency, following an escalation in the Israeli ground offensive. This has taken place as the offensive, previously focused on the margins of population centers, expanded into some of the most densely populated areas, including Ash Shuja'iyeh neighborhood, in the eastern part of Gaza City. The

¹ These figures do not include many reported cases that could not yet be verified. 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

latter area has been subject to the most intense artillery shelling and airstrikes recorded since the beginning of the emergency, alongside fierce fighting on the ground, that continued overnight and into the morning. This resulted in 60 Palestinians, including 17 children and 14 women, killed, according to reports by human rights organizations, as well as 13 Israeli soldiers (figures could not yet be verified). There has been also widespread destruction of buildings and infrastructure. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) negotiated a two-hour humanitarian pause to allow ambulances and medical teams to evacuate the wounded and the dead, as well as search and rescue of people trapped under the rubble. The pause entered into force at 13:30, was interrupted in the middle by crossfire, and subsequently extended until 16:30; evacuation and rescue efforts have continued after the end of the pause.

Until yesterday, the majority of Ash Shuja'iyeh's 92,000 residents had remained in their homes, despite Israeli warnings during the previous days. However, upon the intensification of bombardments, it is estimated that up to half of them have now fled to Gaza City. Along with the influx of people from other affected areas, this has led to an exponential increase in the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

By this afternoon, over 100,000 are believed to have fled their homes, with UNRWA hosting nearly 84,000 in 61 schools operated as emergency shelters, including all UNRWA schools in Gaza city. The number of IDPs hosted by UNRWA has exceeded the equivalent figure during the three-week long "Cast Lead operation" in 2008-9 (51,000 people), which was the deadliest escalation recorded in Gaza since 1967. Additionally, an unknown number of IDPs have taken refuge at 12 government schools, of which only one is currently being managed as an emergency shelter by the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and deemed safe, as well as with relatives. Hundreds of other IDPs have sought refuge in the compound of Shifa Hospital, the main medical facility in the Gaza Strip, adding to the burden on overwhelmed doctors and medical staff. Finally, it is estimated that over 13,000 IDPs, whose homes have been destroyed or damaged, are hosted by relatives and neighbors.

Apart from the protection of civilians and the evacuation and treatment of those injured, the main priority for humanitarian agencies continues to be the provision of food, water, mattresses and hygiene items to those displaced, as well as fuel to essential water, health and solid waste facilities. However, the expansion of ongoing hostilities into built up areas and the resulting access restrictions are increasingly challenging humanitarian operations; as of the time of writing, agencies were unable to deliver supplies to Beit Hanoun town, in the northern area, affecting 2,500 IDPs in an UNRWA school, among others. Israeli ground operations took place also in the Middle Area of the Gaza Strip, triggering the closure of all UNRWA installations in Maghazi and Bureij refugee camps, severely disrupting the delivery of aid and provision of basic services.

Due to the intensity of hostilities, no progress could be achieved in the repair of the electricity feeder lines damaged in previous days, while only limited repairs of water and sanitation infrastructure took place. Some 80 per cent of the population continues receiving electricity only four hours a day, and water supply or sewage services to as many as 1.2 million have been cut or severely disrupted. The demand and pressure on the private sector water tankering system is increasing and prices are soaring.

The scope of displacement is expected to increase rapidly as the ground operations continue. In the past 24 hours, Israeli forces have delivered additional warnings to large population centers in the middle and southern areas of Gaza. The areas where civilians have been warned to leave in the past few days, together with the 3 kilometers-wide strip along the perimeter fence, which was declared as a 'no-go zone', cover approximately 43 per cent of Gaza's territory.

The Palestinian fatality toll since the start of the emergency, which includes only those fatalities reported during the past 24 hours that can be confirmed (39), is at least 375, of whom 270 (72 percent) are believed to be civilians, according to preliminary data collected by the Protection Cluster. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, 3,008 Palestinians, including 904 children and 533 women, have been injured. The high proportion of civilian casualties, along with allegations by human rights organizations about the targeting of civilians and civilian objects, continue to raise concerns about respect for the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution in attack under international humanitarian law.

Indiscriminate firing by Palestinian armed groups in Gaza into Israel also continued, with most falling in open areas or intercepted by the Iron Dome system. In total two Israeli civilians have been killed from rocket and mortar fire since the start of hostilities and at least 15, who were injured by shrapnel, have been treated by the Magen David Adom. Additionally, since the start of the ground operation on 17 July, 18 Israeli soldiers have been also killed, the majority within Gaza.

Humanitarian needs and response



Needs

- At least 72,390 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.

72,390

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 18 July, the Youth Empowerment Center has been providing psychosocial support to IDPs in UNRWA schools used as shelters.
- Between 17 and 19 July, the Gaza emergency PSS teams conducted visits to 315 children. Since 7 July, the Gaza PSS teams have reached a total of 775 children.
- On 20 July, text messages were sent to more than 10,000 Jawal subscribers in the Gaza Strip, conveying information about child protection and psychosocial responses. The messages included information to care givers and a contact number for the free 24-hour Sawa Helpline.
- 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.
- Increased hostilities and major electricity outages since July 18 hamper communication with staff and partners on the ground.
- Emergency PSS teams are working at half capacity due to funding constraints.
- Displaced children 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

- There is an urgent need for additional emergency shelters for IDPs, particularly in Gaza City and the north.
- An estimated 2,200 families (approximately 13,200 individuals), whose homes have been either totally destroyed or sustained major damage are in need of emergency NFI kits, including mattresses, blankets, hygiene kits and kitchen sets. In the medium term, they will require cash assistance to cover rental fees and basic household items.
- NFI emergency shelter repair interventions, such as nylon and tarpaulin, are needed for 2,720 families (16,300 individuals) whose homes sustained damage but are still inhabitable. Another 90,000 individuals living in slightly affected houses (broken windows and / or damaged doors) are in need of basic NFI assistance such as nylon and plastic sheets.
- Approval of 12 government schools to be employed as additional shelters, along with the allocation of management, is needed.

>100,000

IDPs in shelters and with relatives

Response

- About 84,000 people are provided with shelter at 61 UNRWA schools across the Gaza Strip. In addition, 12 government schools have been used as shelters, including one in northern Gaza (currently managed by the PRCS), eight in Gaza City and three elsewhere.
- 8,900 individuals whose homes were destroyed or sustained damage have been provided with NFIs by different cluster members.

Gaps and Constraints

- Emergency shelter kits for 2,200 families are available in stock and will be distributed by NFI agencies when the security situation allows.
- Impediments to distribution of supplies to approximately 2,500 people taking shelter in an UNRWA school in Beit Hanoun, due to ongoing military operations?



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Needs

- Repair of wells, sewage pumping station and water and sewage lines damaged is needed.
- Several areas experiencing sewage flooding, in particular in Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya, posing public health hazards.
- Emergency water tankering to current and expected IDPs in shelters is required.

1,2 million

People with no or very limited access to water or sanitation services

Response

- UNRWA is providing water tankering to IDPs in UNRWA shelters.
- Water tankering to 11 of the 12 government schools serving as IDP shelters started today. Oxfam GB is supplying water to IDP shelters in Gaza city, and is supporting delivery of water trucks to UNRWA shelters in Rafah.
- Technicians continued to do limited repairs of damaged water and waste water facilities under ICRC protective escort and in coordination with Israeli Coordination and Liaison Administration (CLA) for Gaza.
- On 19 July, UNRWA supplied 9,820 cubic metres of water to refugee families through water wells in eight camps.

Gaps and constraints

- 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

- The ongoing military incursion has greatly increased trauma casualties, which hospitals are hard-pressed to treat without adequate medicines and medical consumables.
- 71 drug items and 20 disposable items are urgently needed, especially psycho-tropic drugs for patients with mental illness, trauma and anxiety.
- Eight anesthesia machines, 10 ventilators, five electrosurgical units, 20 vital sign monitors, ECG machines, five defibrillator machines (total estimated cost US\$ 742,500) are needed.
- Specialists needed: neurosurgery (cranial and spinal cord) specialists, anesthesiologists, plastic surgeon, war general surgery specialist, advanced orthopedic specialists, and burn management specialists.
- 18 health-related facilities damaged since July 7 (three hospitals, twelve clinics and three nursing care centers) require repair.

18

Health facilities damaged

Response

- A number of medical donations were delivered on 19 and 20 July (to be detailed in tomorrow's Situation Report).
- WHO is coordinating with MoH and health sector partners on the most urgent needs for donations, informing donors and facilitating procurement and delivery to Gaza.

Gaps and constraints

- Lack of adequate protection of health facilities and personnel, impeding emergency assistance to sick and injured.
- One-third of MoH and UNRWA clinics (25 of 75, including 12 UNRWA health centres) are currently closed due to inability of staff to report or because they are located in risk areas.
- The military incursion restricts access to healthcare for wounded and for patients with acute and chronic illness.

**Food Security Sector****Needs**

- IDPs hosted at UNRWA shelters and hosted by relatives, are in need of emergency food assistance.
- Food stocks for under 5-year-olds (particularly under 2-year-olds) are running extremely low and require replenishment.
- Farmers, breeders and fishermen's livelihoods are heavily compromised but the exact needs cannot be determined due to the ongoing ground operation.
- Humanitarian access to allow for provision of food and other emergency assistance is urgently needed.

64,415Palestinians received
food assistance**Response**

- WFP, in cooperation with UNRWA, continues to provide daily emergency food rations to IDPs in UNRWA shelters. More than 50,000 people received emergency food assistance in the last 24 hours, including 7,775 bread packets and 25,662 tins of tuna provided by WFP.
- WFP continues to distribute daily emergency food rations to 2,039 hospital patients and staff across the Gaza Strip.
- 66,350 people have received emergency food assistance since 8 July by food security partners.

Gaps and Constraints

- The military ground operation is limiting access to food warehouses and jeopardizes the provision of food commodities for those in urgent need. One WFP warehouse has already burned down.
- Immediate emergency funds to cover massively increasing food needs of IDPs are required.

**Education****Needs**

- Since the start of the emergency, 85 schools have been damaged due to their proximity to targeted sites and need repairs.

85Schools damaged
by shelling**Response**

NTR

Gaps & Constraints

- Access restrictions 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).

General Coordination

Updates to be provided in tomorrow's Situation Report.

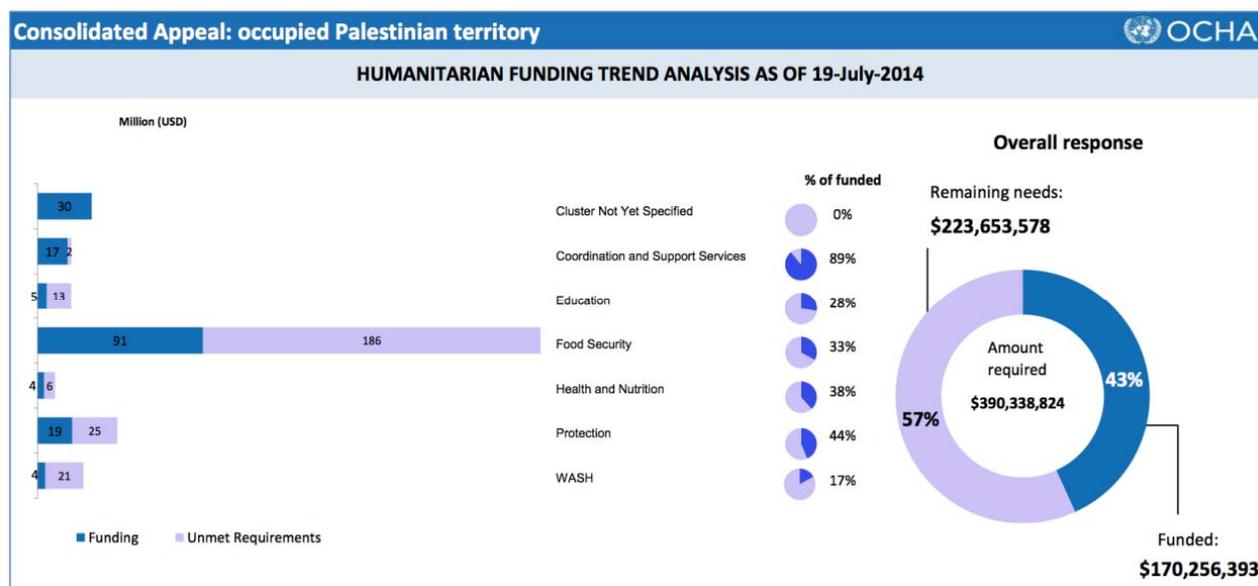
Funding

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 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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