



The Humanitarian Monitor

occupied Palestinian territory

Number 23

March 2008

Overview- Key Issues

Significant Increase in Child Casualties

The number of children killed by the IDF in the Gaza Strip during the first quarter of 2008 (40), exceeds the total number of children killed by the IDF in the Gaza Strip in the whole of 2007 (29). The total number of Palestinian child fatalities (28) in March due to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the highest since November 2006, when 30 children were killed, the majority of whom were also in the Gaza Strip. March 2008 also recorded the highest monthly number of child injuries in the Gaza Strip since January 2005. In Israel, four Israeli children were killed and one injured in an attack by a Palestinian on a Jewish seminary (Yeshiva) in West Jerusalem. No other Israeli child deaths or injuries took place in the oPt. No Israeli children were killed in 2007 and two were killed in 2006. *(For more details on child casualties, see Child Protection section herein.)*

Marked Increase in West Bank Demolitions

IDF demolitions in the West Bank continued in March, at the same level recorded last month. Out of 42 demolished structures, 20 were residential and inhabited, 14 were animal barracks, two for storage purposes and six uninhabited and/or under-construction. 135 Palestinians were displaced, including 95 children. Structures demolished during the first quarter of 2008 (153) are equivalent to 80% of the total structures demolished in 2007 (191). *(For more details, see Violence and Private Property section herein.)*

Increased Restrictions on Humanitarian Access

UN operations were significantly affected by tightened Israeli movement restrictions on UN vehicles in March. More UN staff hours were lost due to access delays in March 2008 than in all of 2007. In particular, access into Jerusalem for UN staff entering from the south was extremely difficult. Almost daily, UN vehicles were delayed and/or turned back by Israeli soldiers demanding to search the vehicles, contrary to internationally recognized rules for UN access, which prohibit searches of UN vehicles. This change in access was focused on UN vehicles; NGOs contacted by OCHA report that they did not experience increased access difficulties in March. Restrictions on access for humanitarian staff into Gaza have also been further tightened. Permits to enter or exit Gaza are more difficult to obtain for national staff and, if obtained, are being issued for shorter periods of time. For example, instead of three month permits, some staff who obtain permits now find that they are given permission for a single crossing only.

Table of Contents

Key Issues	1 - 2
Regional Focus	3
Protection of Civilians	4-5
Child Protection	6-7
Violence & Private Property	8 - 9
Access	10 - 11
Socio-economic Conditions	12 - 13
Health	14 - 15
Food Security & Agriculture	16 - 18
Water & Sanitation	19
Education	20
The Response	21 - 22
Sources & End Notes	23 - 26

The Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also imposed new restrictions that limit the ability of international staff to obtain the “yellow card”, which confirms their status as staff of an international organization. This is required to be assured of an exit from Gaza. As a result, consultants and other international staff on short term contracts are reluctant to go to Gaza and their access has effectively been reduced. UN agencies are very concerned by these developments and the decreased respect they represent for humanitarian access for UN agencies.

Gaza

a) Violence

In the first two days of March, heavy clashes continued between Palestinian militants and the IDF during the IDF military incursion named ‘Hot Winter’. A series of Israeli army air and ground operations took place throughout the Gaza Strip, but focused particularly on eastern parts of Jabalia and North East Gaza City. The high Palestinian casualty toll from 27 February – 4 March, during which at least 45% of those killed were civilians not involved in fighting, made the operation one of the most violent IDF incursions into Gaza since Israel’s disengagement in 2005. *(For more details on the incursion, see OCHA Gaza Humanitarian Situation Update, 3 March 2008, <http://www.ochaopt.org>.)*



b) Fuel Shortages

The scarcity of fuel emerged as the most serious impediment to all aspects of life in Gaza. Though fuel for commercial and humanitarian use has been restricted to 70,000 liters of gasoline and 700,000 liters of diesel per week since January, the impact of the shortages became evident in March. Drivers began to queue from 2am in the hope of buying fuel, and prices on the black market rose to 10 shekels per liter for diesel (5.17 at fuel stations) and 20-25 shekels for gasoline (5.99 at fuel stations). The only traffic jams existing in Gaza are outside gas stations, and groups of people line-up to wait for the few taxis that are still operating. The demand for fuel also increased in March, as farmers and fisher folk prepared for harvests and the bi-annual sardine season, respectively. *(For details on the impact of the fuel shortage on water and sanitation issues, see Water and Sanitation section herein).*

c) Decline in Fishing

The Gaza Strip fishing catch in March 2008 declined by 98% compared to March 2007 (four metric tonnes (mt) compared to 248 mt in 2007). This huge reduction is due to the shortage of fuel in the Gaza Strip, restrictions imposed on Palestinian fisher folk, and the lack of spare parts, which prevented hundreds of fisher folk from operating their fishing vessels. If the situation continues, the livelihood of 3,000 fisher persons will be threatened due to their loss of income. According to the Fishing Workers' Trade Union, for two months there has been no fuel for 450 small boats and the Union received only 1,000 litres of benzene last month, 0.5% of their requirement of 200,000 litres. The union reports that 519 fishing boats completely stopped during the month due to the lack of diesel.

Average Number of Curfew Hours in West Bank Increases to 24 hours per Curfew Incident

Curfew hours imposed by the IDF are on the rise, primarily due to a sharp increase in curfews imposed in response to stone throwing incidents on Israeli vehicles. This comes in spite of a decrease in curfews imposed during IDF military operations and search and arrest campaigns. Moreover, while the number of curfew incidents has remained rather stable, the number of curfew hours imposed during each

incident has increased from eight hours in December, nine in January, 21 in February and finally to 24 hours per curfew incident in March. *(For more details, see Access section herein.)*

Drought and Frost in the oPt

The oPt is currently facing a serious drought, due to the lack of winter rain. Cumulative rainfall from November 2007 to February 2008 was only 55% of the expected amount in the southern West Bank and rain gauges in Hebron and Jericho have marked 0 mm for the month of March 2008. The most severely affected are herders and Bedouin in the southern governorates and the Jordan Valley. Herders, who are already deep in a cycle of debt and poverty, now face a year with sparse pastures, very limited fodder crops and almost no drinking water. Furthermore, in January 2008, many areas were hit by the worst frost of the last 10 years and extremely strong, cold winds. Together, these weather conditions damaged 70-100% of all open field crops, as well as 30-90% of greenhouse crops (Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) estimates). Consequently, thousands of farmers have lost their main source of income for the next 10 months. Hundreds of families, some living in tin shacks or tents without any type of heating, had to survive harsh conditions that occasionally reached -5 °C. Recently, a HERF funded project provided assistance to help the poorest families. The MoA has declared that it plans to compensate some of the losses caused by the frost, and aid agencies have begun mobilising funds to address the weather crisis. However, there remains a large gap to fill if a major humanitarian crisis is to be avoided. An Inter-Agency (PA, UN and NGOs) Appeal proposing multi-sectoral, immediate action to assist affected families can be found at http://www.apis.ps/monitor.php?menu_name=monitor.

The following UN Agencies, local and international NGOs and organisations participate in sector working groups and regularly provide information to the Humanitarian Monitor: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), 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 for Children International – Palestine Section (DCI-PS), Oxfam GB, Palestine Hydrology Group (PHG), ACF-E, AAA, ACP, ACAD, and members of the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM).



Overview- Regional Focus

West Bank including East Jerusalem

At Risk of IDF Demolition – Focus on al 'Aqaba village (Tubas Governorate)

Al 'Aqaba is a village of approximately 250 Palestinians⁴ situated in Area C on the edge of the Jordan Valley, about 7 km east of Tubas city. According to residents, they own approximately 3,500 dunums of registered (Tabo) land, on which the village is located. Villagers rely primarily on agriculture and grazing for their livelihoods, with a combined livestock herd of around 800 animals.

The village consists of 45 structures, 35 of which have received Israeli-issued stop construction orders due to lack of permit (some of the targeted structures were subsequently issued demolition orders). Ten years ago, the Village Council applied for a master plan, which would enable the village to obtain permits for construction, but the application is still pending. The most recent stop construction order was received on 13 March 2008. The al 'Aqaba Village Council has applied for construction permits to be issued retroactively for the structures targeted in the March order.

In 2003, thirteen demolition orders were issued for the village's mosque, kindergarten, office of the Rural Women's Association, clinic and the building housing the electricity generator, among other structures. The Al 'Aqaba Village Council petitioned to the Israeli High Court of Justice against these orders, and the Court froze the orders pending resolution of the case. According to the Village Council, the Israeli army proposed verbally to allow permits for buildings located within a small area inside the village only, where the mosque, the kindergarten and a couple of houses are located. *(For developments in the case, contact OCHA.)*

On-going Negotiations over Palestinian Public Employees' Salaries

March witnessed a series of negotiations between unions of the Public Sector Employees (UPSE), teachers and healthcare workers, and the Palestinian government, over the payment of the Palestinian Authority (PA) employees' salary arrears. Since July 2007, an additional amount of 1,000 NIS (or about US\$ 260)⁵ of salary arrears is paid monthly to PA staff with their full monthly salaries. Employees believe this amount to be insufficient. In March, PA staff threatened to carry out a series of strikes in demand for a pay raise that would include paying the full amount of salary arrears and compensating for the high cost of living. On 15 March 2008, a ministerial committee was formed to hold discussions on methods of paying employees their overdue salaries. Accordingly, the unions suspended all planned industrial actions and

announced a 10-day truce with the Palestinian government. On 30 March 2008, a strike was conducted by PA staff to protest against their unmet demands, following the end of the truce period. According to an UPSE spokesperson, each teacher's strike means that about 1.2 million students will not go to school. *(Information on the impact of health sector strikes is not yet available).*

Update on Closure of Charitable Societies and Confiscations in Hebron City

Following the closure and confiscation orders issued against the Islamic Charitable Society⁶ and the Muslim Youth Association in Hebron city in February,⁷ the IDF carried out a number of raids of affected establishments in March and a number of tenants evacuated affected buildings, including:

- On 6 March, the IDF raided a warehouse (1,150 m²) used to store food, stationary and clothes for orphanages owned and operated by the Islamic Charitable Society and confiscated its belongings.
- On 24 March, an orphanage for 200 boys was inspected by the IDF, and, on 29 March, an orphanage for 180 girls was inspected. The IDF verbally informed both orphanages that they would be closed on 1 April.
- Following the 26 February IDF raid of the administration offices of the Muslim Youth Association, a number of businesses located in the administration office building were ordered to remove their belongings and close their businesses by 1 April.
- Several of the owners of affected establishments have succeeded in securing an extension of the closure order, or had the order frozen, after follow-up with the Legal Advisor of the Israeli Civil Administration. There is an understanding between the Israeli DCL and the PA that the military order will not be fully implemented before appeals have been brought before the Israeli High Court of Justice. Currently, the Palestinian Minister of Civil Affairs is conducting consultations with the Israeli side to resolve the matter. *(For more details on events to date, please contact OCHA.)*



Protection of Civilians

Protection of Civilians Analysis

The Palestinian-Israeli conflict resulted in the death of 113 Palestinians (including 28 children and 6 women) in March 2008. All were killed by the IDF, except two by Israeli settlers in the Hebron and Ramallah governorates. Seventy-six percent (86) of the casualties took place in the Gaza Strip in the first four days of the month, during IDF operation "Hot Winter." Similarly, out of the 337 Palestinians injured in direct conflict this month, 56% (189) took place between 1 and 4 March in the Gaza Strip. IAF missiles and live ammunition fired by the IDF continue to result in the largest number of casualties in the Gaza Strip.

In the West Bank, eight were killed in direct conflict, of whom four were killed in an IDF undercover operation in Bethlehem governorate and two (both children) in demonstrations against the Israeli military operation in the Gaza Strip. Demonstrations against operation "Hot Winter" accounted for more than 1/3 of West Bank injuries (51 out of 122) this month. Almost all those injured in these demonstrations were wounded by live ammunition or rubber-coated metal bullets fired by the IDF. Twenty-nine (29) of the 51 injured were children. March injuries constitute the highest monthly total for the West Bank since March 2007, when more than 1/3 of injuries (51 out of 141) took place during demonstrations against the Barrier.

Eleven (11) Israelis were killed this month; eight (including four children) were killed by an armed Palestinian during an attack on a Jewish seminary (Yeshiva) in West Jerusalem and three were IDF soldiers killed in the Gaza Strip. A total of 54 Israelis were also injured in direct conflict, including: 18 IDF soldiers in the Gaza Strip; 14 Israelis and 4 IDF soldiers in the West Bank; eight by rockets fired from the Gaza Strip towards the Western Negev; one by live ammunition near the Gaza border; and nine (including one child) by live ammunition during the attack on the Yeshiva.

In addition to direct conflict, two Palestinians were killed and two injured due to the reckless handling of weaponry, three men died in tunnel collapses along the Gaza-Egypt border and one woman died of a heart attack when the IDF stormed her house to arrest her nephew in the Nablus governorate. Ten Palestinians were also killed and 40 injured due to Palestinian internal violence, the majority of which occurred in the context of family feuds and none due to inter-factional fighting.⁸

Intensified Restrictions on Media

Free media is vital and important in situations where humanitarian and human rights abuses continue. Although restrictions on media based in the oPt have been reported in the past,⁹ the situation deteriorated following the January 2006 Palestinian Legislative Council elections. Palestinian journalists report that restrictions again intensified following Hamas's takeover of the Gaza Strip in June 2007.

Following publication of a caricature casting doubt on the legitimacy of Hamas parliamentarians, Hamas has barred Al-Ayyam newspaper from being distributed in the Gaza Strip since 12 February 2008.¹⁰ In the West Bank, journalists note that the Palestinian Authority prohibits the Hamas-affiliated Al-Aqsa TV from covering events there. A coalition of independent journalists are asking both Fatah and Hamas to allow the Palestinian media to operate more freely in the oPt. At the same time, the Israeli authorities have decided to officially boycott the Qatari-based Al-Jazeera news station, because of what it perceives to be biased coverage.¹¹ As part of the boycott decided upon by the Israeli Foreign Ministry on 12 March 2008, Israeli officials are refusing to be interviewed by Al-Jazeera.

It is important that all actors (i.e, the PA, Hamas¹² and the Israeli authorities) take the necessary steps to secure the right to freedom of opinion and expression and to allow media to function. Such fundamental principles are set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and reiterated in article 19 (2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: "Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice."



Protection of Civilians

"Protection encompasses 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."^a

	Total 2005 (monthly average)	Total 2006 (monthly average)	Total 2007 (monthly average)	Apr-07	May-07	Jun-07	July-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08
Number of Palestinian deaths - direct conflict¹															
West Bank	216 (18)	678 (57)	396 (33)	9	8	10	6	10	7	10	1	4	9	6	8
Gaza Strip				10	54	30	23	37	30	27	25	58	80	67	104
Israel				0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	1
Number of Palestinian injuries - direct conflict															
West Bank	1260 (105)	3194 (266)	1843 (153)	109	94	76	38	92	79	81	77	53	111	58	122
Gaza Strip				6	187	86	29	62	56	71	50	84	182	143	215
Number of Israeli deaths - direct conflict															
oPt	48 (4)	25 (2)	13 (1)	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	2	1	0	3
Israel				0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	8
Number of Israeli injuries - direct conflict															
oPt	484 (40)	377 (31)	322 (27)	22	10	18	3	54	18	13	6	14	11	12	36
Israel				0	20	1	4	2	69	0	0	6	9	23	18
Number of Palestinian deaths - internal violence²															
West Bank	12 (>1)	146 (12)	490 (41)	1	7	5	4	1	4	8	1	3	0	2	7
Gaza Strip				16	63	188	11	11	8	16	11	12	9	4	3
Number of Palestinian injuries - internal violence															
West Bank	130 (11)	871 (76)	2726 (227)	10	25	25	18	7	24	13	64	2	45	4	19
Gaza Strip				88	308	841	56	119	139	109	116	107	22	19	21
Average weekly IDF searches, arrests and detentions in the West Bank³															
Search Campaigns	Ave Weekly (61)	Ave Weekly (109)	Ave Weekly (102)	126	124	101	86	98	91	78	89	71	94	103	113
Arrests and Detentions	Ave Weekly (74)	Ave Weekly (101)	Ave Weekly (96)	88	105	78	65	93	84	73	88	83	92	94	115

For more information please contact OHCHR, (02) 2965534 or OCHA, (02) 582 9962 (Isra' Muzaffar)



Child Protection

In March 2008, a total of 28 Palestinian children were killed due to the conflict with Israel (one by an Israeli settler and the remaining 27 by the IDF) and one child was killed by a stray bullet in Gaza city. With the exception of two, all of the direct conflict deaths took place in the Gaza Strip and the majority (25) occurred in the first four days of the month during operation "Hot Winter." Between 1 and 4 March, 12 children were killed in the Gaza Strip by Israeli Air Force missiles and eight by live ammunition. Half of those killed by live ammunition were killed while inside their homes. In one incident in Jabaliya refugee camp, a 14-year-old boy was killed by an IDF sniper while he tried to look out the window; his 17-year-old sister ran to his aid, but was also shot and killed by the IDF. Another 12-year-old Palestinian girl was shot by the IDF inside her home; the IDF denied a Palestinian ambulance access to the area and the girl bled to death.

Unlike trends observed over the past three years where West Bank injuries constituted the majority of child injuries, over the past two months, child injuries in the Gaza Strip have exceeded those in the West Bank. Out of 93 children injured in direct conflict in March, 52 were in the Gaza Strip. In the West Bank, more than 2/3 of injuries (28 out of 41) took place during demonstrations against operation "Hot Winter" on 2 and 3 March.

Children in Detention

At least 324 Palestinian children, including three girls, were held in Israeli detention facilities in March. A total of 13 children were held in administrative detention (without charge or trial), a significant increase compared to the three being held in February 2008. Of the total, 309 children were held in Israel Prison Services facilities and 15 children were held in IDF detention centers. Of the children held in IPS facilities, 14.6% (45) are under 16 years old. The remaining 85.4% (264) are 16-17 years old (including the three girls).

Access, Damage and Attacks on Educational Facilities

- In March, the IDF carried out a number of raids of establishments affiliated with the Islamic Charitable Society in Hebron, which offers shelter, food and educational services to hundreds of local children, and is located inside the H1 area of Hebron city.¹³ According to a closure and confiscation order issued in February, a number of establishments affiliated with it should be shut down by 1 April 2008. (See *Regional Focus section herein*.)

- Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian schools and school children in vulnerable communities in the Hebron governorate multiple times in March. Qurtoba School, which has been the site of repeated settler attacks, sustained damaged, after it was attacked twice, once during Purim celebrations. Additionally, school children from At Tuwani village, in the southern Hebron district, were attacked by Israeli settlers from Havat Ma'on, who threw stones and verbally abused them in late March. The IDF has committed to escort children from At Tuwani to school. However, in the past month, the IDF has ceased to do so along the full route occasionally, leaving the children to walk half the route alone. This situation has been further exacerbated by the installation of a gate by Israeli settlers that blocks vehicular access to the school route. The IDF has not removed the gate, informing OCHA that it is on a private road. Field observations indicate that the likelihood of settler attacks in Hebron city seems to increase on Jewish holidays. This raises serious concerns for the safety of pupils during the Passover holiday. (See *September 2007 Humanitarian Monitor for previous incidents of settler violence during Jewish holidays in Hebron*).
- A number of schools in Gaza were damaged or affected during Israeli military operation "Hot Winter" at the beginning of the month (see *February 2008 Humanitarian Monitor for more details*).



Child Protection

“Child protection includes strategies and activities aimed at the protection of children (under 18) against abuse, exploitation and violence.”^b

Children under 18 continue to be victims of Israeli-Palestinian violence and of conflict within the Palestinian community. UN Security Council Resolution 1612, adopted on 26 July 2005, makes explicit the need for protection of children in armed conflict. This section's indicators are used to monitor the rights of children for protection as stated in this Resolution.

	Total 2005 (monthly average)	Total 2006 (monthly average)	Total 2007 (monthly average)	Apr-07	May-07	Jun-07	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08
Number of Palestinian children killed - direct conflict⁴															
West Bank	52	127	43	1	0	1	2	2	3	1	0	0	2	0	2
Gaza Strip	(4)	(11)	(4)	2	9	3	1	6	2	2	2	0	4	10	26
Number of Palestinian children injured - direct conflict⁵															
West Bank	129	470	265	31	22	14	14	21	29	24	17	6	38	12	41
Gaza Strip	(11)	(39)	(22)	2	10	4	1	2	3	9	0	0	27	17	52
Number of Israeli children killed - direct conflict⁶															
oPt	3 (<1)	1 (<1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Israel	3 (<1)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Number of Israeli children injured - direct conflict⁷															
oPt	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Israel	0	7 (<1)	3(<1)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	1
Number of Palestinian children killed - indirect conflict⁸															
West Bank	5 (<1)	2 (<1)	1(<1)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gaza Strip	3 (<1)	6 (<1)	1	0	1	5	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Number of Palestinian children killed in Palestinian internal violence⁹															
West Bank	0	2 (<1)	2(<1)	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Gaza Strip	0	11 (<1)	36(3)	1	3	4	1	1	1	5	1	2	0	1	1
Number of Palestinian children held in detention by Israeli authorities¹⁰															
West Bank	n/a	n/a	357	381	357	384	375	328	335	319	324	311	327	307	324

For more information, please contact UNICEF, (02) 584 0400 (Christine Gale).



Violence and Private Property

Rise in Settler Violence against Herders in the Southern West Bank

During March 2008, a marked increase in settler violence against Palestinian herders was recorded in the Hebron governorate. March is the month when Palestinian herders take their sheep to the open ranges for grazing. It is also when Palestinian farmers start plowing their lands, in preparation of the planting season. In light of current drought conditions and the increase in fodder prices, Palestinian herders need access to more land, some close to settlements and outposts. As a result, confrontations with Israeli settlers near the settlements and outposts increased during the month.

On 7 March, a settler from the new neighborhood of the Karmel settlement chased away Palestinian shepherds and their sheep from the adjacent Palestinian community of Umm al Kheir. An additional thirty Israeli settlers joined him and began to throw stones at the shepherds and their flocks. A 70-year-old woman was bruised when the settlers pushed her down. On 27 March, Israeli settlers from the outpost of Havat Ma'on fired five shots into a flock of sheep, owned by a Palestinian from the hamlet of Maghayer Al Abeed (located near At Tuwani village), while grazing in Al Kharouba Valley. The settlers killed two sheep and injured two others. On 30 March, three masked Israeli settlers, accompanied by a dog, from the settlement of Shima, located south of Adh Dhahiriya, physically attacked a 70-year-old Palestinian male, while he was grazing sheep on his land. During March, OCHA recorded 10 additional settler harassment incidents against herders in the hamlet of At Tuwani alone. Other settler harassment incidents in the Hebron district, not related to herding, were also reported, in the areas of Tel Rumeida (2 incidents), Al Shalala Street (2 incidents) – both in Hebron city, and in Umm Al Kheir (2) and Ma'on (1).

Increase in Settler Incidents in the Ramallah District

Settler incidents increased in the northern and western Ramallah district in March. The Israeli DCL officer in Ramallah reported to OCHA that the IDF had expected an increase in settler incidents following the attacks at Dimona in February and the Jerusalem yeshiva in early March. During the month, two Palestinians were killed and one injured in three separate shooting incidents. In two separate incidents, Israeli settlers shot dead Palestinians, near settlements in the West Bank, under unclear circumstances: on 3 March, a 17-year-old Palestinian male from Al Mazra'a al Qibliya was shot and killed by an Israeli settler from Talmon settlement during a student demonstration in a village field near the settlement, protesting against IDF operations in Gaza; and, on 31 March, a 22-year-old student at Birzeit University

was shot and killed by a settler on Route 60, near Shilo settlement. In addition, in a separate incident at the same location later in the day, a Palestinian was shot and injured while driving his car on Route 60.

In addition, Palestinians living in villages near the settlements of Shilo, Rehalim, and the Adi Ad outpost also reported repeated harassment and denied access to agricultural areas near their villages. On 18 March, Palestinians in Turmus'ayya village found that approximately 200 olive trees, owned by two families, had been uprooted and damaged and the fence surrounding them damaged as well. The villagers reported that they had seen Israeli settlers from the settlement of Shilo entering the fields the previous night.

West Bank Demolitions (*continued from Key Issues*)

The vast majority of March demolitions (39 out of 42) took place in Area C, where owners lacked building permits, and the remaining three took place in the course of IDF military operations in Bethlehem and Tulkarm. As a result, Area C demolitions accounted for 89% (119 out of 134) of the number of persons displaced during the month, the majority of whom were children. Out of 95 children displaced this month, 85 lived in shelters that lacked building permits.

Demolitions in the Hebron district resulted in close to half (56 out of 119) of those Palestinians displaced in Area C in March 2008, including 38 children; this was due to demolitions that took place on 19 March in Imneizel, Qawawis, Um Lasafa, Ad Deirat, and the area beyond Beit Yatir checkpoint. A year ago, in February 2007, Hebron governorate also accounted for the majority of people displaced (81%) due to demolitions in Area C; at the time, 92 were displaced (including 64 children) in Imneizel, Qawawis, Umm Al Kheir and Abu Kubita.



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.”^c

	Total 2005 (monthly average)	Total 2006 (monthly average)	Total 2007 (monthly average)	Apr -07	May -07	Jun -07	Jul -07	Aug -07	Sep -07	Oct -07	Nov -07	Dec -07	Jan -08	Feb -08	Mar -08
Incidents involving Israeli settlers¹¹															
Total number of incidents	n/a	235 (20)	291 (24)	21	15	17	37	30	21	47	34	24	28	24	50
Leading to Palestinian casualties	n/a	63 (5)	76 (6)	11	5	6	7	10	9	5	7	3	9	1	12
Leading to Israeli Settler casualties	n/a	28 (2)	25 (2)	4	0	0	0	4	1	2	3	4	1	8	4
Leading to international casualties	n/a	11 (<1)	4 (<1)	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of rockets fired into/towards Israel¹²															
From the Gaza Strip	1 194 (100)	1 786 (149)	1 331 (111)	60	323	140	96	92	97	56	114	155	267	207	347
Number of IDF artillery shells															
Into the Gaza Strip	509 (42)	14 111 (1175)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of IAF air strikes															
In the Gaza Strip	n/a	573 (48)	173 (14)	3	65	14	13	14	10	11	14	26	33	26	91
Number of Mortars fired from the Gaza Strip¹³															
Towards Israel	n/a	n/a	1 071 (97)	3	45	69	116	135	122	110	118	342	256	98	147
Towards IDF troops	n/a	n/a	178 (16)	0	0	27	17	17	9	19	34	55	52	145	87
Physical structures demolished - West Bank¹⁴															
Structures demolished	n/a	201	191 (16)	11	8	7	10	17	29	21	7	1	69	42	42
Of which residential (occupied)	n/a	56 (5)	90 (7)	8	4	2	5	11	5	19	3	0	31	20	20
Physical structures demolished - Gaza Strip															
Structures demolished	n/a	246 (21)	24 (2)	0	16	2	1	1	0	0	3	1	1	14	15
Of which homes demolished	n/a	127 (11)	7 (<1)	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	7	5

For more information, please contact OCHA, (02) 582 9962 (Catherine Cook or Isra' Muzaffar)



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.”^d

	Monthly average 2005	Monthly average 2006	Monthly average 2007	Apr-07	May-07	Jun-07	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08
IDF Physical obstacles in the West Bank*¹⁵															
Staffed	62	74	86	86	86	85	86	86	88	87	87	87	87	87	n/a
Unstaffed	410	445	467	453	467	471	455	477	475	474	476	476	482	493	n/a
Total	472	518	552	539	553	556	541	563	563	561	563	563	569	580	n/a
Average weekly Random or 'Flying' checkpoints	73	136	113	175	141	105	107	100	104	70	74	50	61	85	88
Curfews imposed by IDF¹⁶															
No. Incidents - West Bank	9	4	5	4	5	8	0	3	2	5	17	11	19	11	15
Total hours under curfew - West Bank	126	40	73	20	48	79	0	27	77	27	362	93	177	239	360
No. Incidents - Gaza Strip	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total hours under curfew - Gaza Strip	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Access incidents reported by humanitarian organisations¹⁷															
Access incidents reported in the West Bank	n/a	79	40	42	34	38	47	46	41	36	41	47	47	63	139
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	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ambulances incidents in the West Bank and access for medical referrals from the Gaza Strip to West Bank and Israel¹⁸															
Ambulance access delays reported at West Bank checkpoints	n/a	10	28	25	36	39	44	37	27	22	28	n/a	24	25	n/a
Ambulance access denial reported at West Bank checkpoints	n/a	9	23	14	24	32	40	27	20	19	25	n/a	32	38	n/a
MoH medical referral requests (via Erez)	n/a	459	735	515	737	413	872	985	715	1103	n/a	1041	776	841	1036
Actual no. of medical referrals receiving permits to cross (via Erez)	n/a	416	599	460	664	369	777	787	591	850	n/a	669	542	664	683
Actual no. of medical referrals who approached Palestinian side to cross via Erez (number reported being denied passage on Israeli side)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	789 (27)	656 (16)	602 (6)	645 (5)	651 (5)	664 (n/a)
Access for Palestinians to East Jerusalem and Israel from oPt¹⁹															
West Bank (total closure days)	n/a	n/a	3	13	2	0	0	0	12	6	0	0	5	0	8
Gaza Strip (total closure days)	n/a	17	n/a	4	1	17	31	31	30	31	30	31	30	29	31
Movement of people from/to Gaza Strip - daily average²⁰															
Workers to Israel - Erez	1029	378	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Traders to Israel - Erez	107	42	n/a	157	318	262	0	n/a	0	5	n/a	n/a	163	13	27
Rafah - daily crossing out	n/a	423	n/a	383	304	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rafah daily crossing in	n/a	424	n/a	345	294	125	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

* OCHA is in the process of conducting a comprehensive update of its closure survey. New figures will be issued in April.



source: OCHA, January 2008



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.”^e

	Monthly average 2005	Monthly average 2006	Monthly average 2007	May-07	Jun-07	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08
Functioning of the Gaza Strips crossing points - percentage of days open/scheduled days open²¹														
Rafah crossing	n/a	57%	n/a	26%	18%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Karni crossing	n/a	71%	n/a	85%	46%	26%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Sufa crossing	n/a	60%	n/a	43%	15%	100%	95%	68%	32%	n/a	46%	48%	79%	23%
Nahal Oz energy pipelines	n/a	n/a	n/a	96%	92%	100%	96%	100%	96%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Movement of goods through Karni crossing - daily average²²														
Karni import - commercial truckloads incl. humanitarian supplies	n/a	156	n/a	210	84	13	10	19	24	25	18.3	33	20	10
Karni export - commercial truckloads incl. humanitarian supplies	n/a	17	n/a	25	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other imports into the Gaza Strip - total²³														
Sufa import - aggregates (construction materials) truckloads	3 527	1 598	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nahal Oz import - Fuel truckloads	n/a	583	n/a	n/a	n/a	523	474	396	472	403	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

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

Gaza Crossings

There was an increase in the numbers of truckloads of goods delivered to Gaza in March, compared to February. The number rose from 1,782 in February (61 per day) to 3,399 in March (110 per day). However, this represents only 30% of the March 2007 inflow of goods (11,011 truckloads or 355 per day). The vast majority of goods are foodstuffs (2,287 trucks), followed by fuel (365) and animal feed (273). Some goods that were not permitted in for months, such as livestock, transformers, generators and agricultural supplies, were allowed to enter Gaza in March. However, while the number of truckloads increased in March, it is insufficient to have a significant impact on the overall humanitarian situation, given the continued low number, relative to earlier periods, along with the nature of goods allowed in.

Access of Palestinian Patients through Rafah and Erez (WHO)

Rafah border was reopened on 1 March pursuant to an informal agreement with the Egyptian Authorities to evacuate some medical cases. An Egyptian medical committee stationed at the crossing categorized medical cases for passage: patients with injuries resulting from the IDF operation “Hot Winter” that could not be treated at Gaza hospitals, and patients with referral documents for chemotherapy, radiotherapy and cardio-surgery. Patients with other conditions were referred back to Gaza hospitals. During the period 1- 12 March 2008, 257 patients were evacuated through Rafah. The border was reopened on 25 March, to allow patients that had been treated in Egypt to return.

According to the Palestinian Liaison Officer at Erez Crossing, 664 patients with permits approached the Palestinian side of Erez to cross during March. Access of patients was affected during the first 12 days of March. Only urgent medical cases, as considered by the Israeli authorities, were allowed to cross. From 6 to 12 March, patients were delayed for more than 8 hours before being allowed to pass. On 9 March, eight patients were denied access after being delayed for 12 hours. They were later allowed to cross on 10 March. On 13 March, seven patients were allowed to cross Erez to Egypt via Nitsana in Israel, and, on 16 March, 21 patients were allowed to cross Erez to Jordan via an Israeli shuttle. Following the complicated referral process, four patients, including a 12-month-old infant, died in March after being denied permits to cross Erez (*see Gaza Strip Inter-Agency Humanitarian Fact Sheet, 18 April 2008*).

West Bank Curfew Hours (continued from Key Issues section)

The average of curfew hours imposed per incident was only exceeded twice last year; in February and September 2007, during IDF military operations in Nablus city and Camp No. 1. Curfew hours this month were especially localized in Huwwara (Nablus), ‘Azzun (Qalqiliya), Hajja (Qalqiliya) and Marda (Salfit). ‘Azzun alone, home to more than 8,000 Palestinians, accounted for 60% of curfews this month and all were in response to stone throwing at Israeli vehicles travelling on Road 55 from/to Israeli settlements in the northern West Bank.



Socio-economic Conditions

Unemployment, poverty and socio-cultural changes as reported by UNRWA

According to a recent PCBS press release:¹⁴

- 4.6% of Palestinians under the age of 18 were employed in 2007 (either paid or unpaid), with higher rates in the West Bank (6.5%) compared to Gaza (1.7%);
- 74% of employed children were classified as “unpaid family workers” (96% female and 70.7% male), while 20.9% were in paid employment outside family businesses (1.6% female and 23.5% male)
- 41.8% worked in the agricultural sector (46.7% in the West Bank and 12% in Gaza) and 34% in trade, restaurants and hotels (27.8% in the West Bank and 71.8% in Gaza).

Rising Gold Prices and Poor Socio-economic Situation Impacting Palestinian Wedding Traditions

Rising gold prices on the international and local markets are impacting marriage practices and newly married couples all over the West Bank. The value of refined gold increased by some 46% since April 2007, with a sharper rise in the last six months. A valid marriage in Islamic law requires a form of dowry, which becomes the property of the bride and is usually considered her insurance, in case of divorce or her husband's death. In the oPt, marriages have also traditionally been seen as an opportunity to enhance a family's financial and social status, elevating the importance of the dowry.

Regional disparities exist within the traditional Palestinian dowry system. In the central and northern West Bank, dowries include gold, along with a certain amount of clothes for the bride. The size of the dowry is specified in monetary value, ranging from 3,000 to 5,000 JD in Ramallah and surrounding areas, up to 4,000 JD for an average marriage in the north. In the southern West Bank, however, a dowry is usually defined in grams of gold (on average 300gr) and clothes are not strictly considered as part of it.

As the value of gold rises and unemployment remains a problem, bridal purchases and dowry gold, in particular, are being reduced. In the central and northern areas, the monetary value of the dowry has not changed significantly, but the actual amount of gold purchased has decreased in recent months. In the south, the number of grams of dowry gold registered in marriage contracts decreased by almost half in the past year, down to an average of 150-200 grams.

As a coping strategy, engaged couples often decide to buy only a limited amount of gold, or to borrow their relatives'

jewelry for the wedding celebration, deferring the purchase of the full dowry until the future. The size of wedding parties are also smaller than in the past and, often, participants agree not to bring any gift to the couple (“honouring without burdening”), thus further limiting the financial resources available to the newly married couple.

Poor Economic Situation for Al Makassed Hospital Patients

Interviews conducted by UNRWA research staff during a recent visit to Al-Makassed Islamic Charitable Society Hospital in East Jerusalem indicated that the economic status of its patients (approximately 80% of whom are West Bankers and 20% Jerusalem ID holders) has severely deteriorated. The hospital social workers, who are in charge of assessing the patient's economic situation and reviewing their applications and medical files, report that in recent months the number of patients requesting exemption from the payment of hospital fees has increased significantly. Most of the hospital's patients are unemployed, or, at best, hold unsteady jobs, where they earn 50-70 NIS a day. Almost all patients ask that either a portion of the fees be waived or all of them.

While the deteriorating economic situation is not restricted to patients from a specific area of the West Bank, those from the northern West Bank seem to be in the direst economic need. They often claim to be unable to afford basic food items, such as bread, or report that they have not eaten meat in the last six months. Social workers also report that patients and the relatives accompanying them to the hospital often do not have enough money for transportation back home. They are forced to rely on charities or financial donations collected by the hospital staff itself.



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”^f

	Q1 1999	Q1 2000	Q1 2001	Q1 2002	Q1 2003	Q1 2004	Q1 2005	Q1 2006	Q3 2006	Q4 2006	Q1 2007	Q2 2007	Q3 2007	Q4 2007
Unemployment rate - relaxed definition - % - PCBS²⁴														
West Bank	22.9%	16.9%	32.5%	35.0%	40.3%	31.0%	28.8%	27.2%	25.3%	23.4%	24.3%	22.6%	25.20%	25.90%
Gaza Strip	27.9%	21.8%	48.8%	46.4%	37.3%	35.1%	38.0%	39.6%	41.8%	39.6%	35.4%	32.3%	37.60%	35.30%
oPt	24.7%	20.2%	37.7%	38.7%	39.3%	32.3%	31.7%	31.1%	30.3%	28.4%	27.9%	25.7%	29.10%	28.80%
Households in poverty - based on consumption - % - PCBS²⁵														
Poor	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	27.7%	38.8%	29.1%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Deep poor	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	16.8%	23.8%	18.1%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Number of Palestinians employed in Israel and in the settlements - PCBS²⁶														
West Bank	107067	105501	105501	57000	43281	49750	65255	59846	69478	68100	68100	63700	66800	n/a
Gaza Strip	25758	25380	2580	2000	6295	5849	0	852	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
oPt	132825	130881	107630	59000	49576	55999	65255	60698	69478	68100	68100	63700	66800	n/a
Economic dependency ratio - PCBS²⁷														
West Bank	n/a	n/a	5.7	6	6.6	5.7	5.6	5	5	5	5.0	4.7	4.9	n/a
Gaza Strip	n/a	n/a	9.1	8.8	7.5	7.5	8.2	8	9	8	7.3	6.9	7.4	n/a
oPt	n/a	n/a	6.6	6.8	6.9	6.3	6.3	6	6	6	5.7	5.3	5.6	n/a
Evolution of consumer price index (CPI) - PCBS²⁸														
West Bank	19.9%	24.8%	26.0%	32.0%	39.7%	44.2%	49.2%	54.3%	55.3%	57.0%	57.0%	55.7%	59.3%	64.1%
Gaza Strip	21.9%	24.7%	22.8%	23.2%	26.4%	32.0%	33.8%	38.1%	41.5%	40.7%	42.0%	41.9%	46.1%	53.0%
oPt	20.7%	20.7%	24.2%	28.4%	36.2%	41.4%	46.1%	51.0%	53.1%	52.9%	53.5	53.1%	56.9%	62.2%
Evolution of daily wages in NIS - PCBS²⁹														
West Bank	57.7	61.5	60	57.7	60	62.8	60	70	69.2	67.3	70.0	69.2	70.0	70.0
Gaza Strip	45.0	48.2	60	50	50	50	55.8	65.4	65.4	61.5	66.9	57.7	57.7	60.7
oPt	51.35	54.8	55	53.85	55.6	57.7	57.7	69.2	69.2	65.4	69.2	65.4	67.3	69.2

For more information, please contact UNRWA, (02) 589 0500 (Valentina Debernardi)

PCBS Labour Force Survey Q4 2007

Dependency on PA employment increased:
160.000 PA employees in oPt

Represents:

- 22.5% of the employed people in the oPt
- 15.0% of the employed people in the West Bank
- 41.1% of the employed people in the Gaza Strip

PCBS Poverty Consumption-based Yearly Figures

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	oPt
1998	14.5%	33%	20.3%
2001	16.2%	41.9%	23.6%
2004	19.8%	37.2%	25.6%
2005	22.3%	43.7%	29.5%
2006	24%	50.7%	30.8%

Poverty can be defined by using either of two indices: Consumption-based poverty, and Income-based poverty. For clarifications on definitions, please see footnote # 25.

Deep Poverty in the oPt Consumption-based (PCBS)

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	oPt
1998	8.4%	21.6%	12.5%
2001	12.0%	35.4%	19.5%
2004	11.6%	26.0%	16.4%
2005	13.1%	27.9%	18.0%
2006	13.0%	34.8%	18.5%

Source: PCBS, Poverty in Palestine (Aug 2007)



Health

“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”⁸

Impact of Fuel / Electricity Shortages on Health Services in the Gaza Strip during March (WHO)

The Gaza Strip faced fewer hours of electricity outages in March, due to the decreased demand during warm days. As a result, the consumption of available fuel decreased and the Gaza Strip is facing a daily electricity outage of an average of two hours.¹⁵ All MoH hospitals were working at full capacity in March and MoH vehicles were functioning.

Response to the MoH Urgent Appeal of Needs (UNFPA and UNICEF)

During the recent Israeli incursion into the Gaza Strip (“Hot Winter”), the MoH declared its urgent need for a variety of drugs, consumables and lab reagents (chemicals and materials used for laboratory testing) in order to respond to the attack. As a result, UNFPA provided to MoH US\$ 30,000 of narcotics. In addition, nine maternity delivery beds, one ultrasound machine and other reproductive health drugs and commodities totaling US\$ 300,000 were provided to the MoH, under the regular support programme of UNFPA. UNICEF provided the MoH with drug items¹⁶ in six-month quantities, along with the following: two new emergency health kits, to cover 2,000 people for three months; one new emergency health kit, to cover 1,000 people for three months; and two obstetric surgical kits, sufficient for 100 complex deliveries. In addition, UNICEF will distribute, through the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, 20 family water kits, sufficient for 200 families, 35 family hygiene kits, sufficient for 245 people, and 60 baby hygiene kits, to families that lost their shelter in East Jabalya. UNICEF has also distributed 30 first aids kits to the Patients Benevolent Friend Society –an NGO hospital.

Availability of Drugs in the Gaza Strip (WHO)

While coordination problems between the PA and Hamas continue to negatively impact the availability of drugs in the Gaza Strip, the actual supply of drugs has improved at central drug stores in the Gaza Strip. The number of drug items at zero level¹⁷ in March reached 55, out of 416 items on the Essential Drug List (EDL), compared to 85 items in February 2008. However, the availability of medical supplies has slightly decreased. The number of medical supply items at zero stock in March reached 142 items, out of 596 items on the Essential Medical Supply List, compared to 132 in February. At the peripheral level, 36,300 doses of Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR)¹⁸ vaccine that were unavailable at the MoH and UNRWA

PHC facilities for five months, were delivered recently by UNICEF and distributed among the PHC facilities in Gaza. During March, WHO arranged for the passage of four shipments of five trucks, with 62 pallets of drugs, medical supplies and laboratory reagents, to enter Gaza through the Sufa Cargo Crossing. Additionally, WHO arranged for the entry of two shipments of four trucks, with 50 pallets, to enter Gaza through Kerem Shalom Crossing. Following coordination with the Israeli authorities, all of these were allowed entry into Gaza on time, with no reported problems, except for one truck that was denied entry on 18 March. The Israeli authorities claimed that the truck contained one item that was not included in the packing list. The delivery was delayed until 19 March.

Rapid Nutritional Assessment in the Gaza Strip (UNICEF)

Monitoring the population’s nutritional status, in general, and children’s nutritional status, in particular is crucial. Therefore, UNICEF decided to conduct a Rapid Nutritional Assessment in the Gaza Strip. The assessment will be carried out at the household level, with a sample of 750 children under five years, living in North Gaza, East Gaza and Khan Younis. The training phase of data collectors was conducted on 24 March for 15 collectors, and the data collection process started on 25 March. Data analysis and interpretation are expected to be done within the first 2 weeks of April, and the final report will focus on the main nutritional indicators of stunting, underweight and wasting.

Service Provision in Al Zawadeen, Um Al Kheir, Hameeda and Um Ammer in the West Bank (WHO)

Al Zawadeen, Um Al Kheir, Hameeda and Um Ammer are villages/small communities located in Area C in South Hebron. The presence of earth mounds, road blocks and checkpoints impede the population’s ability to access health services and impede the MoH’s ability to provide regular health services to the population in this area. In each village, the MoH runs one clinic, which provides awareness and educational services on a daily basis and curative services twice per week. Immunization services are provided in Hameeda and Um Al Kheir clinics twice per week. To ensure that the population in South Hebron is able to access health services, the available clinics should be upgraded in order to provide other health services on a regular basis and to have a mobile clinic, to facilitate the provision of health services, especially in those areas where no other health service provider is available.



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.”^h

	Apr -07	May-07	Jun-07	Jul- 07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08
Number of primary health care consultations by service provider³⁰												
MoH - West Bank	49270	53833	151.293	137.597	144.668	157267	147942	151637	187851	120246	n/a	n/a
UNRWA - West Bank	156246	175466	158420	153433	162,627	158.625	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
NGOs-West Bank	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 - Gaza Strip	235922	228046	216294	225021	204728	186780	188620	183092	172120	164927	185944	n/a
UNRWA - Gaza Strip	336433	350374	324193	386560	370,756	352782	344883	346932	350073	332193	335733	n/a
NGOs - Gaza Strip	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Proportion of deliveries by service provider³¹												
MoH - West Bank	14.60%	18.20%	39.0%	48.70%	47.60%	39.40%	45.30%	51.70%	53.30%	n/a	n/a	n/a
MoH - Gaza Strip	85%	76.10%	78.10%	88.30%	89.90%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
NGOs - West Bank	48%	53.6%	41.9%	34.0%	27.70%	29.40%	16.8%	29.50%	20.50%	n/a	n/a	n/a
NGOs - Gaza Strip	9.00%	9.90%	9.20%	2.70%	2.70%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Private hospitals and clinics- West Bank	31.40%	23.0%	14.70%	15.20%	20.10%	22.30%	27.40%	15.40%	22.10%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Private hospitals and clinics- Gaza Strip	9.00%	9.90%	9.20%	8.60%	6.90%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Home - West Bank	5.95%	5.23%	3.33%	2.19%	4.53%	8.92%	10.22%	3.40%	4.20%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Home - Gaza Strip	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	0.30%	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNRWA - Gaza Strip	0.10%	0.0%	0.0%	0.10%	0.50%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Pharmaceutical items out of stock (416 drugs and 596 consumables)³²												
Drugs - West Bank	26.7%	25.7%	44.7%	n/a	n/a	n/a	18.8%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Consumables - West Bank	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Drugs - Gaza Strip	24.0%	28.6%	19.5%	15.60%	15.63%	14.7%	21.9%	n/a	25.20%	20.40%	n/a	n/a
Consumables - Gaza Strip (at zero level)	36.2%	22.8%	22.5%	n/a	26.68%	30.03%	31.50%	26.30%	34.06%	22.15%	n/a	n/a
Consumable - Gaza Strip (at less than three months)	49.8%	31.6%	32.0%	n/a	51.17%	49.33%	50.67%	51.70%	61.24%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Malnutrition among children 9 - 12 months³³												
Underweight - West Bank	2.59%	2.84%	4.0%	3.37%	3.29%	3.33%	2.08%	2.16%	1.97%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Anemia - West Bank	45.69%	45.0%	50.0%	50.08%	47.20%	51.96%	48.72%	43.92%	41.47%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Underweight - Gaza Strip	3.2%	3.85%	4%	4.10%	4.60%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Anemia - Gaza Strip	7.23%	72.2%	n/a	72.30%	69.2%	70.39%	67.15%	63.20%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Number of consultation for diarrhoea in refugee children 0-3 years at UNRWA clinics³⁴												
West Bank	637	1068	921	1032	1312	1007	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gaza Strip	1224	1765	1574	1693	1,596	1325	1232	1374	1123	1037	1166	n/a
Number of new cases attending community and hospital mental health services³⁵												
UNRWA- West Bank	193	151	173	171	155	n/a	161	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNRWA- Gaza Strip	47	25	20	3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
MoH- West Bank						n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
MoH- Gaza Strip	187	191	147	156	129	106	129	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
NGO- West Bank						n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
NGO- Gaza Strip	58	46	35	50	35	40	30	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

For more information please contact WHO, (02) 582 3537 (Dr. Katja Schemionek)



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.”

Availability and Prices of Basic Commodities and other factors Affecting Food Security Gaza Strip

- All basic food commodities were available in the market during March in the Gaza Strip, despite localized shortages of fresh meat, frozen meat and frozen fish. Localized shortages were due to erratic and/or limited imports, as well as some problems related to the transportation of goods due to fuel prices.
- The price of wheat flour increased by 57%, compared to March 2007, and the price of rice rose by 6%, compared to March 2007.
- There was a sudden rise in vegetable prices by the third week of March (mainly potatoes, up by 41%, and tomatoes, up by 89%). These rises came in conjunction with the local procurement of farmers' produce by aid agencies for distribution to poor food-insecure households. An additional factor pushing the price of some produce (potato, onions, strawberries) upwards was the end of the respective harvesting season.
- There was a reduction in the price of fresh meat, as a result of the import of 406 heads of cattle during the last week of March. The price of chicken was unstable, as a result of the limited availability of fertilized eggs for hatching that are imported from Israel, as well as difficulties in planning hatching timing (due to the lack of control on imports). The price of animal feed was stable during March.
- There was a general strike of all bakeries in the Gaza Strip on 26 March, in protest of the Government's ban on raising the price of the bread parcel to 9 NIS, instead of 8 NIS. The Ministry of National Economy will be examining the request of the striking bakeries and issue a decision on 21 April. Bakeries are currently operating normally, as there is electricity during the day. However, if power cuts resume, 80% of bakeries will stop the production, as their stocks of diesel to operate the generators has been depleted.
- March's total food imports into the Gaza Strip were less than those of February 2008, with a sharp increase for sugar by 88% and a decrease for rice and wheat flour by 43% and 6% respectively. The total amount of basic food commodities imported increased by 18% compared to February 2008.

West Bank

The market survey in the West Bank shows that all basic food commodities were available in the market and that there was a major increase in the prices of basic commodities, compared to last year. The market survey revealed a sharp increase in the price of wheat flour, rice and vegetable oil, by 90%, 62.4 % and 34.8 % compared to March 2007, respectively. The price of bread, the main food commodity, increased by 50% (from 3.0 NIS/kg to 4.5 NIS/kg) in the past three months, due to the increased price of wheat flour globally.

Update on Social Hardship Cases

The Social Hardship Cases in the West Bank and Gaza Strip received their monthly cash assistance from MoSA this month. Each family received 1,000 NIS (US\$ 279).



Agriculture

	Monthly Average 2006	Monthly Average 2007	Apr-07	May-07	Jun-07	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan -08	Feb-08	Mar-08
Arable land requisitioned, levelled and reclaimed in dunums - West Bank³⁶														
Requisitioned	484	131	40	260	60	155	30	50	500	20	60	0	0	0
Levelled	n/a	126	30	60	130	720	25	75	33	2	6	26945	100	30
People affected	n/a	265	203	650	170	370	125	182	470	32	77	n/a	60	21
Reclaimed	n/a	83	60	50	55	10	90	42	156	150	70	71	110	98
Arable land requisitioned levelled or reclaimed in dunums - Gaza Strip														
Requisitioned	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Levelled	n/a	1623	0	2000	1330	9100	1600	1400	2750	0	1300	6000	100	850
People affected	n/a	657	0	490	300	400	1400	2520	1020	0	1750	n/a	150	670
Reclaimed	n/a	35	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	170	200	40	611
Greenhouses land destroyed and rehabilitated in dunums - West Bank³⁷														
Destroyed	n/a	30	130	60	26	100	0	0	20	7	2	4797	7	25
People affected	n/a	111	350	420	90	140	0	0	117	35	14	n/a	30	84
Rehabilitated	n/a	76	7	50	57	10	134	176	148	285	30	60	39	226
Greenhouses land destroyed and rehabilitated in dunums - Gaza Strip														
Destroyed	n/a	3	2	0	15	0	12	4	0	0	0	4561	0	0
People affected	n/a	13	14	0	80	0	42	14	0	0	0	n/a	0	0
Rehabilitated	n/a	6	8	0	0	10	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0
Number of trees destroyed³⁸														
Trees destroyed in the West Bank	n/a	318	100	200	300	80	375	30	1500	140	0	2059	500	3150
People affected	n/a	62	70	50	94	20	90	21	130	28	0	n/a	180	49
Trees destroyed in the Gaza Strip	n/a	2883	0	0	0	0	3600	5000	16000	0	10000	n/a	400	n/a
People affected	n/a	292	0	0	0	0	1100	420	230	0	1750	n/a	150	n/a
Agricultural produce trading in/out the Gaza Strip - metric tonnes³⁹														
Import	12901	13983	16834	17101	11270	16401	9526	2911	580	4753	13902	n/a	n/a	14049
Export	1370	2691	5503	1495	422	0	125	0	0	37	238	n/a	n/a	0

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



Food Security

	Benchmark	Monthly average 2006 ⁴⁵	Monthly average 2007	May-07	Jun-07	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08
Retail price of basic food commodities - West Bank, in NIS⁴⁰														
Wheat flour 50 kg	-	91.0	128.7	98.6	100	108.1	133	157	180	190	190	205	205	184.5
Olive oil 1 Kg	-	18.6	19	16.8	15.8	17.75	17.75	20.6	22	25	25	23.8	23.8	22.5
Rice 1 kg	-	3.6	4.3	4.1	4	4.28	5	4.3	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.9	4.9	5.1
Veg. oil 1 kg	-	5.5	6.4	5.9	5.8	6.163	6.163	7.2	7.5	7.4	7.4	8.7	8.7	9.4
Chickpeas 1 kg	-	4.8	4.9	4.3	4.6	4.5	4.5	5	5	5.4	5.4	5.6	5.6	5.6
Refined sugar 1 kg	-	3.7	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.51	3.51	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	3
Milk powder 1 kg	-	23.2	25.5	25	26	26	26	25.7	25.7	28	28	32.1	32.1	32.6
Basket of 7 items	-	150.5	192.1	157.9	159.3	170.3	195.923	223	248	263.6	263.6	283.1	283.1	262.7
Price of basic food commodities - Gaza Strip, in NIS⁴¹														
Wheat flour 50 kg	-	82.9	104	82.8	111	98	104.6	118.4	134.6	130	130	135.0	135	130.75
Olive oil 1 Kg	-	23.1	24.09	22.5	22.85	22.85	22.65	23.05	26.6	27	27	27.0	27	27
Rice 1 kg	-	3.3	3.57	3.1	3.7	4	4	4	4	3.50	3.50	3.3	3	3.5
Veg. oil 1 kg	-	5.5	6.28	5.7	6	6	6	6.62	7	7	7	6.8	6.75	6.5
Chickpeas 1 kg	-	5.3	5.36	5.1	4.9	5	5	5	5.8	5.80	5.90	5.7	5.7	5
Refined sugar 1 kg	-	4.2	3.09	3.3	3.36	3.07	2.66	2.66	2.66	2.66	2.66	2.6	2.6	2.53
Milk powder 1 kg	-	33.4	35.14	31.8	41.17	38.81	38.81	38.81	37.38	31.10	28.8	29.0	31.7	29
Basket of 7 items	-	157.1	178.6	154.1	157.7	177.7	183.72	198.54	218	207	205	209.4	211.8	204.28
Availability of basic commodities - Gaza Strip⁴² (against benchmark of quantities needed per day)														
Wheat - mT	450 mt/day/pop	-	n/a	10565	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wheat - days	-	-	n/a	23	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sugar - mT	111 mt/day/pop	-	n/a	2075	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sugar - days	-	-	n/a	19	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rice - mT	72 mt/day/pop	-	n/a	1670	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rice - days	-	-	n/a	23	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Veg. oil - mT	44 mt/day/pop	-	n/a	1305	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Veg. oil - days	-	-	n/a	30	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Quantities of food imported in the Gaza Strip - metric tonnes⁴³														
Wheat - mT	450 mt/day/pop	-	7338	5898	3673	5250	6194	5238	10529	18381	11473	8784	13341	12644
Rice	72 mt/day/pop	-	1382	857	952	916	1979	549	2222	2422	1592	3916	2091	1200
Veg. oil	44 mt/day/pop	-	1437	1519	579	963	2124	958	1862	3228	1860	3054	311	2991
Sugar	111 mt/day/pop	-	3350	3292	2952	2570	4208	4151	4576	2817	5250	4984	2496	4692
Veg. and fruits	-	-	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Commodities	-	-	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	-	-	13512	11566	8156	9699	14505	10942	19189	26848	20175	20738	18239	21527
Fishing catch in the Gaza Strip⁴⁴														
		Total												
mT	2,323 (in 2005)	1604.2	2704.7	687.0	309.5	219.0	316.5	99.6	149.1	135.2	82.4	62.7	246.0	4.0

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



Water & Sanitation

“The Human Right to Water entitles everyone to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic uses.”¹

	Baseline Pre-Intifada	Average 2006 ⁵²	Average 2007	Jun-07	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08
West Bank per capita use of water per day - in litres⁴⁶													
Minimum	-	20.3	18.8	20	20	16	19	19	20	13	18	n/a	n/a
Maximum	-	207.2	178.3	138	147	220	192	192	197	215	196	n/a	n/a
Average	90	65.3	60	58	63	67	66	64	63	65	62	n/a	n/a
Gaza Strip - Per capita use of water per day - in litres⁴⁷													
Minimum	-	37.0	24.3	29	31	26	24	22	17	25	14	n/a	n/a
Maximum	-	116.5	90.5	79	84	75	81	101	106	159	122	n/a	n/a
Average	95	80.5	57.8	57	63	55	57	60	53	66	52	n/a	n/a
Price of tankered water in the West Bank in NIS⁴⁸													
Minimum	-	7.3	8.5	8	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	n/a	n/a
Maximum	-	22.5	22.8	23	23	30	27	27	27	25	20	n/a	n/a
Average	11.4	14.0	14.0	14	15	16	15	15	15	15	14	n/a	n/a
Price of tankered water in the Gaza Strip in NIS⁴⁹													
Minimum	-	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	n/a	n/a
Maximum	-	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	n/a	n/a
Average	-	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	n/a	n/a
Percentage of HH connected to water network paying the bills⁵⁰													
West Bank	-	35.5%	35.2%	35%	33.0%	36.0%	35.0%	33.0%	34.0%	34.0%	35.0%	n/a	n/a
Gaza Strip	-	4.2%	36.3%	2%	2.0%	2.0%	3.8%	5.0%	6.0%	5.0%	5.0%	n/a	n/a
Percentage of HH monthly income spent on sanitation services⁵¹													
West Bank	-	2.2%	2.9%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	n/a	n/a
Gaza Strip	-	4%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	n/a	n/a
Cost recovery of water bills by village councils and Municipalities in the West Bank⁵³													
Minimum	-	0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Maximum	-	16.7%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Average	75.0%	13.5%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cost recovery of water bills by village councils and Municipalities in the Gaza Strip⁵⁴													
Minimum	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Maximum	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Average	75.0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

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

- During March, the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU) received only 36% of its monthly needs (a minimum of 150,000 litres needed every 2 months). As a result, according to CMWU, about 15-30% of the population had access to water every other day for a few hours only. CMWU received 135 cubic metres (m³) of chlorine, covering its needs until mid-April.
- The Israeli authorities denied entry of all CMWU spare parts and equipments (pipes, valves, water and waste-water pumps and electromechanical spare parts) required for the maintenance and upgrading of water and sanitation networks, despite a mid-March promise to review the list submitted by CMWU and World Bank.
- 40,000 m³ of partially treated sewage continues to be pumped into the sea daily from the Gaza Treatment Plant, due to electricity cuts and the low capacity of the only generator available (450 KVA while 900 KVA is required). Another 16,000 m³ of raw sewage is being pumped daily into the sea from the area of Beach Camp.
- Construction of the East Gaza Waste-water Treatment Plant was on hold in March, due to security reasons, the absence of construction materials (base course, gravel and cement) and fuel shortages. The first phase of this project is due for completion by the end of June 2008. The first two infiltration basins will be used to reduce pressure on the North Gaza Treatment Plant lagoon.
- UNICEF funded activities, carried out by CMWU in East Jabalya, have been completed. These included: the cleaning of waste-water manholes; repair of specific damaged parts in waste-water networks and water networks; replacement of about 500 meters of damaged pipes, used for water distribution; and a cleaning campaign around four pumping stations in Gaza. The provision of drinking water to 220 schools in Gaza, the central area and Rafah (200,000 children) that has taken place since 10 February 2008 has been extended until the end of the academic year in June 2008.



Education

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

	# of Schools	Apr 07	May 07	Jun-07	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08
Number of schools with at least one day of disruption - West Bank⁵⁵													
Bethlehem	100	85	106	1	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
Hebron	207	150	214	0	n/a	n/a	15	4	0	0	0	11	0
South Hebron	159	112	160	0	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jenin	113	92	116	1	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jericho	20	12	17	0	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jerusalem	37	All	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jerusalem suburbs	55	16	56	0	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Nablus	196	149	187	0	n/a	n/a	11	5	0	0	13	0	0
Qabatya	103	61	77	0	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Qalqilia	67	10	69	0	n/a	n/a	0	0	14	0	0	6	10
Ramallah	159	113	161	0	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	3	2	0	6
Salfit	57	19	58	0	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Tubas	-	n/a	39	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Tulkarm	107	66	110	0	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0
Total West Bank	1,380	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Number of schools with at least one day of disruption - Gaza Strip⁵⁶													
Gaza	151	80	152	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gaza North	60	39	66	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Khan Younis	64	19	35	3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Middle Area	37	44	63	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rafah	34	29	37	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total Gaza Strip	346	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

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

According to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education:

- In March, a total of 20,303 children's schooling was disrupted for at least one day. Due to an Israeli military imposed curfew, 10 schools in Qalqiliya were closed on 3, 5, 11, 16 and 23 March 2008, affecting 5,775 students. Additionally, three schools in Salfit were closed on 11 March, affecting 578 students.
- In solidarity with Gaza residents during the IDF's military incursion "Hot Winter", the MoEHE closed 24 schools in Bethlehem on 2 and 3 March, affecting 11,498 students. Six schools in Ramallah were also closed for the same reason on 3 and 4 March, affecting 2,452 students.

- During the month, one school principal and two teachers were arrested by the IDF, two students were killed, 42 wounded and 16 students arrested by the IDF.
- On 2 March, al Sadiq Khairiya Basic school in the southern Hebron district was stormed during the night, by Israeli soldiers, who vandalized classrooms, confiscated three computers, some CDs from the school library and several school files and records of teachers and students.



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	273	34.5	n/a	n/a	104.4	225	176
2007	272.7	57.4 (appeal)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	29.8*
2008	130.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

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

*Available up till April

The CAP

Sector	CAP 2007 - revised May 2007			CAP 2008			CAP 08 % Funded (as of 18 April 2008)	CAP 07 % Funded (as of 18 April 2008)
	Requirements in \$ million	Number of Projects	Level of Funding in \$ million as of 18 April 2008	Requirements in \$ million	Number of Projects	Funding in \$ million		
Agriculture	11.3	14	6.7	22.2	26	2.1	9%	47%
Coordination and support services	14.2	7	17.3	18.3	8	4.1	22%	100+
Economic Recovery and Infrastructure	198.1	17	57.4	158	17	17.8	11%	35%
Education	9.1	4	7.3	7.9	6	0	0%	84%
Food	149.7	8	149.9	156.1	9	32.6	21%	100+
Health & Psychosocial	35.7	30	28.1	40.1	26	8	20%	70%
Protection	1.7	4	0.5	8.7	15	2.5	29%	66%
Water and Sanitation	35.0	19	5.0	42.9	17	0.3	1%	15%
Shelter and non-food items	0.0	-	0.4	-	-	0	-	18%
Multi-Sector	0.0	-	0.1	5.5	1	0	0%	100%
Sector not yet specified	-	-	-	2	1	62.8	100+	-
Mine action	-	-	-	0.2	1	0	0%	-
Total	454.7	103	272.7	461.9	127	130.2	28%	61%

Source: OCHA, Financial Tracking System (FTS).

The PA operating budget

\$ million	2005		2006		2007 Budget	
	\$ million	%	\$ million	%	\$ million	%
Clearance revenues collected by Gol	894	40	344	24	1280	51
Domestic revenues	476	22	378	26	336	13
External finances for budgetary support	349	16	738	51	907	36
Total other financing, incl. Palestinian Investment Fund Dividend	477	22	-25	-2	0	0
TOTAL	2196	100	1435	100	2523	100

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

Source: IMF, Macroeconomic and Fiscal Developments in the West Bank and Gaza, December 17, 2007. The above sources of income finance the PA's operating budget. Net Lending, as an expenditure item, has been excluded from this table.



Temporary International Mechanism (TIM)/ PEGASE

\$ million	Confirmed Pledges in million \$US	Total disbursed as of 31 Mar 2008
TIM window 1/ ESSP	96.03	55.30
TIM window 2	206.98	202.40
TIM window 3	713.40	677.10
Total	1016.41	934.80

Window II : "Window II of the TIM is entirely funded by the European Commission to ensure access to electricity, health care, and sanitation."

1) Emergency Fuel Supply

Sector	Number of facilities	Note: The TIM gradually phased out its Emergency fuel distribution programme, which ended on 22 May 2007
Hospitals and Health Centers	45	1.4
Water System	103	2.1
Waste Water System	75	0.8
General Power Generators	6	0.8
Um Nasir Disaster Relief	29	0.01
Total	258	5.1
Total Cost in US\$ million as of 11 Oct 2007		5.3

After the partial repair of the Gaza power plant in November 2006, the TIM gradually phased out its emergency fuel distribution programme, which ended on 22 May 2007.

2) Support For Electricity production and distribution

	Cost in US\$ million as of 30 Mar 2008	Fuel received in million litres as of 31 Mar 2008
Gaza Power Plant	167.0	140
Electricity Production Gaza	8.2	
Electricity Distribution Gaza	5.1	
Electricity Distribution West Bank	12.5	
Total Cost in US\$ million as of 31 Mar 2008		192.8

3) Access to Quality Healthcare

Cost in US\$ million (one-time payment in 2006)	
East Jerusalem hospitals referral costs in US \$million	4.3

Window III : "Window III of the TIM is funded by the EC, EU Member States and other donors. It provides relief to approximately one million vulnerable and poor members of Palestinian society affected by the current crisis through direct cash assistance."

Type	Num of Beneficiaries	Num of Allowances Received	Total Amount Received in US\$ as of 31 Mar 2008
Low-income Healthcare provider workers	12000	19	105.6
Low-income public service providers	59000	17	426.4
Pensioners	6700	17	45
Social Hardship Cases Scheme for the Poor	40000	7	80.4
Social Hardship Cases Beneficiaries of Food for work/training programme	39000	1	11
Civil Police Employees	16000	2	9

Note the Civil police allowance is a one-time contribution provided by the Netherlands.

Source: Temporary International Mechanism, Implementation Progress Update. Based on figures provided by TIM; originally in Euro Currency. As of 29 Mar, 1 Euro=1.58 USD.



Sources and Rationale

The following four factors have been identified by the United Nations Country Team as having the greatest impact on the current humanitarian situation: (1) Lack of protection for civilians and increasing violence; (2) Political, geographic, institutional and social fragmentation of the oPt; (3) Closure, lack of access, separation, restrictions and their effects on livelihoods; and (4) the impact of Israeli settlements and settlement expansion on Palestinian livelihoods, the availability of resources and a reduction in space for development.

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 sector groups and organisations contribute to the Humanitarian Monitor:

Sector	Sector Lead
Protection	OHCHR/OCHA
Socio-Economic	UNRWA
Health	WHO
Child Protection and Psychosocial	UNICEF
Food	WFP
Agriculture	FAO
Education	UNICEF
Water and Sanitation	UNICEF
Coordination and Security	OCHA

See page 2 for individual contributors.



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, targeted 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 or arrests/detentions that take place at checkpoints or during demonstrations (i.e. no search). 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. Since Israel's unilateral disengagement from the Gaza Strip the vast majority of these operations occur in West Bank towns and villages.

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, etc.) 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 and shooting of alleged collaborators with Israel. These incidents began to be comprehensively reported from May 2006; earlier figures will be underreported. Figure does not include the number of children killed as a result of reckless handling of explosives.
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. This figure also included incidents when the IDF restrict Palestinian access due to Israeli settler presence or activity.
12. Number of Palestinian homemade (Qassam, etc.) 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. This number includes rockets that detonated in the Gaza Strip.
13. Prior to July 07, the figure for mortars fired "in the Gaza Strip" included mortars known to be fired towards IDF troops in the Gaza Strip. In July 07, these figures were broken down.
14. 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

15. IDF physical obstacles in the West Bank. Source: OCHA field monitoring. The movement of 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. The annual total of curfew incidents is less than the aggregate of monthly incidents for that year because some curfew incidents began at the end of one month and continued into the next month and were, thus, counted as one incident in each of the two months. In 2007, there are three such incidents.
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. 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. Figures for November 2007 inclusive only of the 13-30 November period.
19. 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.
20. Movement of people from/to the Gaza Strip - daily average. Source: OCHA Gaza Field Office; 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.
21. 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.
22. 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 GoI and PA, a minimum of 150 truckloads should be exported every day throughout 2006, to reach 400 per day by 31 December 2006.
23. Other imports into the Gaza Strip - total. Source: IDF, and Paltrade. This indicators 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

24. Unemployment rate – relaxed definition. Source: PCBS labour force surveys. In the 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”).
25. 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 2006, PCBS estimates it at NIS 2,300 (\$518). 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 1,837 (\$419) in 2006 (PCBS).
26. 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.
27. 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.
28. 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.
29. 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 looked at in conjunction with changes in CPI to determine purchasing power.

Health

30. 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. NGOs in the Gaza Strip include Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS) and Union of Health Workers Committees (UHCWC), which are the main non-governmental providers of health services.
31. 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.
32. 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.
33. 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.
34. 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 enables follow up of environmental health status and 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.
35. Number of new cases attending UNRWA community mental health services, MoH community and hospital mental health services and Gaza Community Mental Health Program (GCMHP) in Gaza Strip and in the West Bank. Source: UNRWA, Epidemiology Department, West Bank and Gaza Strip Field Offices, MoH, Palestinian Health Information centre and PHC directorate in the West Bank and Gaza Strip compiled by WHO. 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.

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 the IDF for any reason (Barrier construction, settlements, roads, military areas, etc.). Levelled land is public or private land that has been deforested or devoid of inhabitation by the IDF. It, however, remains accessible to farmers and can be re-used once the levelling is completed. Reclaimed land is that land, which is originally non-productive, and is transformed into farming land, under a private or NGO/UN-led initiative. Most of the time, this land is privately owned.
37. Greenhouses’ land destroyed (greenhouses and land they are on) and rehabilitated or constructed in dunums - West Bank and Gaza Strip. Sources: Ministry of Agriculture, Palestinian Agriculture Relief Committees, compiled by FAO.
38. Number of trees destroyed (uprooted, burnt or cut by Israeli authorities or settlers). Source: FAO; Ministry of Agriculture Directorates, Palestinian Agriculture Relief Committees.
39. Agricultural produce trading in or out of the 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. Retail 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. Retail 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. 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. 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. 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 fisherfolk 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. Fisherfolk 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.
45. 2006 averages cover only data from 1 April - 31 December 2006.



Water & Sanitation

46. 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).
47. 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).
48. Price of tankered watered in the West Bank- in NIS. Prices are indicated in NIS to limit distortion due to frequent fluctuations of the exchange rate between the shekel and the dollar.
49. Price of tankered watered in the Gaza Strip - in NIS. Prices are indicated in NIS to limit distortion due to frequent fluctuations of the exchange rate between the shekel and the dollar.
50. Percentage of HH connected to water network paying their bills. These figures reflect the percentage of HH from which the municipality, due to capacity limitations, is able to collect payment.
51. Percentage of HH monthly income spent on sanitation services
52. 2006 averages cover only data from 1 June - 31 December 2006.
53. Cost recovery of water bills by village councils and Municipalities in the West Bank
54. Cost recovery of water bills by village councils and Municipalities in the Gaza Strip.

Education

55. Number of schools with at least one day of disruption – West Bank. Source: MoEHE, collected by UNICEF. The indicator "Complete disruption" indicates that all students and teachers were unable to reach their schools and, therefore, the school was closed on that day. "Partial disruption" indicates that some students and/or teachers were unable to reach their schools and, therefore, some classes were not in session.
56. Number of schools with at least one day of disruption – Gaza Strip. Source: MoEHE. This indicator shows access to schools for students.

Sources of Sector Quotations

- a. Protection of Civilians: Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC)
- b. Child Protection: UNICEF
- c. Violence: Protocol I Additional to the Geneva Conventions, Article 51
- d. Access: Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 13
- e. Access: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 12 (1)
- f. Socio Economic: Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 23
- g. Health: WHO Constitution, 1948
- h. Health: WHO
- i. Food Security: FAO/WHO/WFP
- j. Water and Sanitation: United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, General Comment No. 15 (November 2002)
- k. Education: UNICEF

End Notes

1. The IDF officially ended ground operations for "Hot Winter" on 2 March, but casualties continued thereafter, including as a result of aerial attacks. Therefore, the casualty figures included in this issue extend through 4 March.
2. Israel is a signatory to the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations (1946).
3. Humanitarian Emergency Relief Fund.
4. Population figure is an OCHA estimate. According to the head of the Village Council, there are some 450 persons from Al 'Aqaba living outside the village, because of the difficulties facing the village in terms of obtaining building permits and the risk of demolition for building on the land.
5. Exchange rate of US\$1 to 3.83 NIS.
6. The military order refers to the "Islamic Zakat Committee", though the name of the targeted charity is the "Islamic Charitable Society (Al-Jamaiyya Al-Khairiyya Al-Islamiyya)".
7. See the February 2007 Humanitarian Monitor for details on the orders.
8. The totals exclude one Israeli citizen who was injured and a 40-year-old Palestinian man killed when unknown persons opened fire at an Israeli plated truck near Idhna/Tarqumiya junction and fled the scene (disputed circumstances).
9. See Reporters Without Borders: Worldwide Press Freedom index 2007, October 2007. http://www.rsf.org/IMG/pdf/index_2007_en.pdf.
10. <http://www.maannews.net/en/index.php?opr=ShowDetails&ID=27746>.
11. <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/963582.html>.
12. Though the PA and Hamas are non state actors, both can reasonably be expected to honor human rights obligations.
13. See OCHA Special Focus, "The targeting of West Bank Islamic Charities by the IDF", November 2006, for previous examples of the targeting of Islamic Charities.
14. PCBS, on the Occasion of "Palestine Children's Day" (5 April 2008).
15. The average two hours are distributed as follows: four hours in the Gaza District; two hours in Khan Younis and North Gaza districts; and one hour in Rafah and the Middle Areas.
16. Drugs provided included paediatrics' drugs to be used at the PHC level, antibiotics, ferrous sulphate, antifungal, and analgesics.
17. Items at zero level mean a stock of 0-1 month, which is below the security level.
18. MMR vaccine should be taken at the age of 15 months.