# oPtHF Palestini Humani

occupied Palestinian territory Humanitarian Fund

# **OPT HUMANITARIAN FUND**



# THE OPT HF THANKS ITS DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT IN 2021



OTHER DONORS

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STATES



# **CREDITS**

This document was produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) oPt. OCHA oPt wishes to acknowledge the contributions of its committed staff at headquarters and in the field in preparing this document.

The latest version of this document is available on the oPt HF website at https:// www.ochaopt.org/page/opt-humanitarianfund.

Full project details, financial updates, real-time allocation data and indicator achievements against targets are available at gms.unocha.org/bi.

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## Front Cover

Hanin and Asil in their house that sustained severe damage during the May 2021 hostilities on the Gaza Strip. The family house, where 28 members live, was rehabilitated through the Immediate Rehabilitation of Housing of Non-refugee Internally Displaced Families in the Gaza Strip project, supported by the Humanitarian Fund, through UNDP.

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# FOREWORD

I am pleased to share the Annual Report of the 2021 occupied Palestinian territory Humanitarian Fund (the "Fund") providing an overview of the Fund's operations and key achievements during the past year. The report also provides an update on the Fund's management and accountability against key performance principles.

While a protracted crisis, the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory "(oPt") remains dynamic. May 2021 saw the most serious escalation of hostilities between Palestinian armed factions and Israeli forces since 2014 in Gaza. The conflict caused significant damage and loss of life, increased aid dependency and exacerbated poverty in Gaza. In the West Bank, extensive clashes between Palestinians and Israeli security forces, triggered by the threat of eviction of Palestinian families from their homes and violent clashes between Palestinians and Israeli civilians and police were an all too common occurrence. The economy remained almost stagnant in the first half of 2021, with unemployment in Gaza reaching 44.7 per cent and poverty almost 60 per cent, exacerbating vulnerability and fragility. 2021 also saw continued restrictions on movement and access due to the COVID-19 pandemic requiring high levels of adaptability to enable continued delivery of humanitarian assistance within an already fragile system.

Within this context, the Fund remained a strategic and flexible instrument which strengthened my stewardship, as Humanitarian Coordinator in promoting a principled, timely, coordinated, and effective humanitarian response in Palestine contributing to alleviating the suffering of vulnerable Palestinians in the oPt.

Despite critically low global funding levels, the Fund saw sustained donor trust and generous support throughout the year. Overall contributions received in 2021 reached US\$ 29.3 million, enabling the Fund to continue to facilitate the delivery of a coordinated and strategic humanitarian response, in accordance with humanitarian principles and in line with the priorities outlined in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

The Fund launched four allocations (one standard and three Reserve Allocations and a two million top-up) totaling \$27.7 million supporting the implementation of over 57 projects. With \$18 million disbursed in response to the May 2021 Gaza escalation, 2021 saw the largest single Reserve Allocation made since the inception of the Fund in 2017. Projects funded in 2021 supported life-saving and sustaining activities in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip under the HRP, as well as the COVID-19 response.

The robust accountability system of the Fund ensured that all partners underwent a due diligence process prior to receiving funding and that projects were implemented according to stringent criteria. The Fund actively sought to work with local partners and ensured that affected populations were substantively engaged in decision-making processes. The Fund continued to promote cash programming whenever feasible, and programs that speak to the needs of the most vulnerable, with a special focus on women and persons with disabilities.

As the oPt continues to endure the challenges and consequences of a protracted crisis, the Fund's added value continues to be demonstrated. In 2022, I look to donor partners to continue their generous support to the work of the humanitarian community through their investment in the Fund.

**LYNN HASTINGS** Humanitarian Coordinator for oPt

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The proven utility and agility of the oPt HF makes it one of the smartest choices to support the timely and effective humanitarian response in the oPt. DI AL

LYNN HASTINGS HUMANITARIAN COORDINATOR FOR OPT

A child from the Middle area in the Gaza Strip moving around the destroyed houses and rubbles following the May escalations. © Tdh - Samar Abu Elouf

# 2021 in review

# HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT

#### HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN

The humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt) at a glance

2.1M PEOPLE IN NEED



\$510M FUNDING REQUIREMENT

# Humanitarian situation in 2021

The occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) remains a protracted protection crisis, characterized by over 54 years of Israeli military occupation, a lack of respect for international humanitarian and human rights law, internal Palestinian political divisions, and recurrent escalations of hostilities. In 2021, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and related mobility restrictions, exacerbated humanitarian vulnerabilities, overburdening the already-stretched healthcare system and worsening socioeconomic conditions across the oPt. An outbreak of violence in May, the most serious escalation of hostilities between Palestinian armed factions in the Gaza Strip and Israel since 2014, has increased people's dependence on aid and their reliance on negative coping strategies to address basic needs. In Gaza and the West Bank, concerns remain, about excessive use of force by Israeli soldiers resulting in the killing or serious injury of Palestinians, and lack of accountability for such possible violations of international law.

#### The May escalation in Gaza

In Gaza, the May escalation resulted in 261 Palestinians killed, over 2,200 injured, and up to US\$380 million in physical damage to core infrastructure assets, including buildings, health, educational and WASH facilities, in addition to US\$190 million in economic losses.<sup>1</sup> Although the ceasefire is holding, and the Israeli authorities have eased some restrictions

imposed in May, the blockade remains in place, impeding the access and movement of people and goods in and out of Gaza, implementing infrastructure projects and delaying economic recovery. The longstanding intra-Palestinian divide between Hamas and the Fatah-led Palestinian Authority (PA) remains unresolved, reducing the ability of local institutions in Gaza to deliver basic services to the population. Restrictions imposed by Hamas increasingly impede humanitarian operations in Gaza. Gaza's economy remained almost stagnant in the first half of 2021 due to the May conflict, unemployment has reached 44.7 per cent and poverty almost 60 per cent.<sup>2</sup>

#### The ongoing threat of eviction in the West Bank

In the West Bank, May 2021 witnessed extensive clashes between Palestinians and Israeli security forces, focused on the ongoing threat of eviction of Palestinian families. Overall, 2021 has seen a significant increase in conflict-related Palestinian casualties in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and settler-related violence against Palestinians and their property. The restrictive and discriminatory planning regime applied in Area C and East Jerusalem continues to prevent Palestinians from addressing basic housing, livelihood and service needs, with continuing high rates of demolitions and seizures of Palestinian structures, including 'self-demolitions' in East Jerusalem, on the grounds of a lack of Israelirequired building permits. Demolitions, evictions

PAGE 6 and settler violence are some of the ongoing Israeli policies and practices, many linked to Israeli settlements, which intensify the coercive environment on vulnerable communities in Area C, East Jerusalem and the Israeli-controlled part of Hebron city.

The Israeli authorities, citing security reasons, continue to impose physical and administrative restrictions on humanitarian programmes. This includes constraints on delivering of materials needed for humanitarian projects, and limitations on implementing projects that involve building, expanding or rehabilitating infrastructure in the Gaza Strip, Area C, the H2 area of Hebron and East Jerusalem.

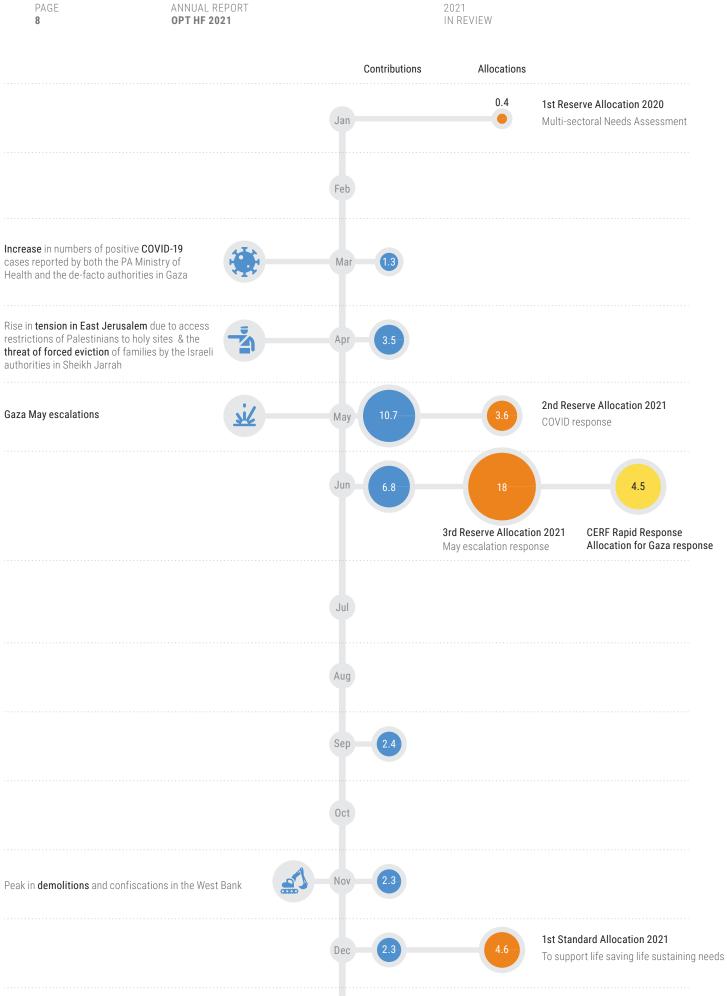
Continuing shortfalls in funding accompanied these limits on operating space, further constraining operations. Six Palestinian human rights and humanitarian NGOs as were designated as 'terror organizations' by the Israeli authorities in late 2021. At the time of writing, evidence substantiating the allegations had not been provided to the United Nations.

These decisions risk further undermining the humanitarian community's ability to provide assistance and protection to Palestinians throughout the oPt<sup>3</sup>.

# **VISION STATEMENT**

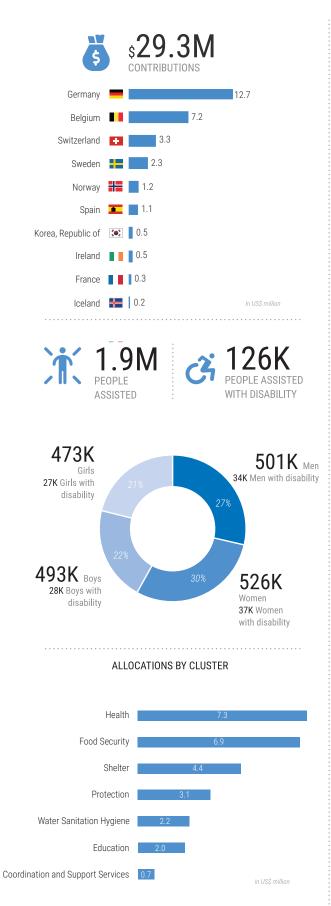
The occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) suffers from a protracted protection crisis, characterized by over 54 years of Israeli military occupation, a lack of respect for international humanitarian and human rights law, internal Palestinian political divisions, and recurrent escalations of hostilities. The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbates the humanitarian situation.

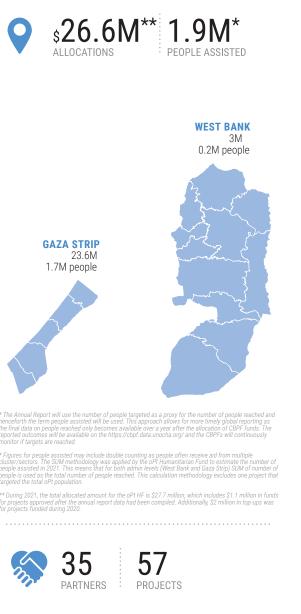
The oPt Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF) aims to contribute to alleviating the suffering of vulnerable Palestinians. The Fund facilitates the delivery of strategic humanitarian assistance, according to humanitarian principles. The priorities outlined in the HRP will guide the Fund, while retaining the flexibility to allocate funds to unforeseen needs. The Fund will provide resources to best-placed partners in line with their comparative advantage to deliver agreed strategies. The Fund will prioritize working with local NGOs, leveraging their to access hard-to-reach areas. The Fund will support the most efficient ways of delivering humanitarian aid, including cash-based assistance. All projects funded will have the highest standards for gender mainstreaming and accountability to the affected people, including protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).

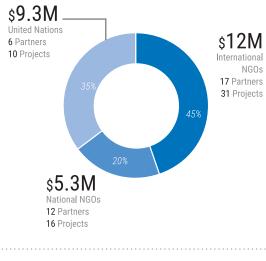


<sup>\*</sup>In 2021 the oPt HF channeled \$2 Million in top up to 2020 ongoing projects as part of the COVID response.

# 2021 IN NUMBERS



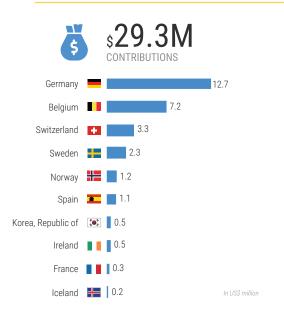




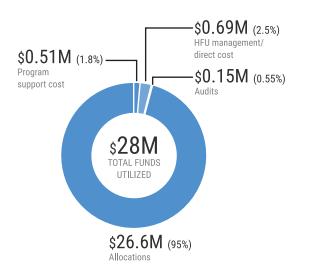
See explanatory note on p.6

# Donor contributions

### DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS



# UTILIZATION OF FUNDS



In 2021, donors continued to demonstrate trust and confidence in the oPt HF, contributing \$29.3 million between March and December 2021, on top of \$4.4 million carried over from 2020. The generous support allowed the oPt HF to support partners to implement urgent and life-saving humanitarian activities.

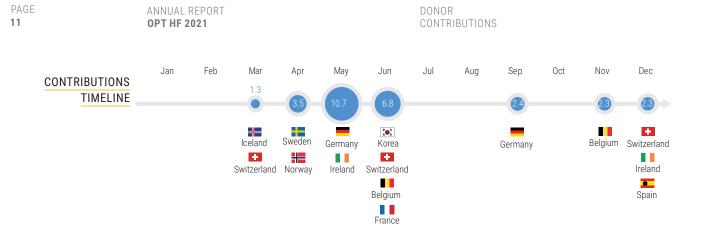
Donors' commitment and timely contributions throughout 2021 enabled the Fund to allocate resources strategically, in alignment with the oPt HRP objectives and to immediately respond to emerging humanitarian needs from the May 2021 escalations and the spread of COVID-19.

Over two-thirds of contributions in 2021 (72 per cent) came in the second quarter of the year. These early contributions enhanced planning and strategic response and enabled the Fund to conduct its largest ever Reserve Allocation in response to the 2021 May escalations, directing \$18 million to address life-saving and life-sustaining humanitarian needs in the Gaza Strip.

As the situation in the oPt remains volatile, the oPt HF values its donors' commitment, continued trust and support. The Fund seeks to encourage more contributions from existing and new donors to respond to top priorities within the HRP and ensure the availability of funds for new emergencies and unforeseen crises.

In 2021 Germany was the largest contributor to the Fund, for the third year in a row, with 43 per cent of total contributions, followed by Belgium with 25 per cent and Switzerland's with 11 per cent.

Donor contributions to the oPt HF and its subsequent allocations complemented funding from other sources, particularly \$4.5 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). The two OCHA-managed Funds jointly supported scale up of response to the worsening humanitarian situation following the May escalations.



DONOR TREND The oPt HF kept its average donor base of 10 donors in 2021 with funding amounting to \$29.3 million. Germany remained the largest contributor to the Fund for the third year in a row, contributing 43 per cent of the total 2021 contributions, followed by Belgium with 25 per cent and Switzerland with 11 per cent. France has contributed to the Fund as a new donor during the year.

The oPt HF will continue to use a resource mobilization strategy that enables the Fund to consistently release at least two Standard Allocations that are appropriately timed to support the HRP every year and ensure sufficient funding is available for emergency response through Reserve Allocations.

Efforts will continue to expand and diversify the donor base per the Resource Mobilization Action Plan with support from the Donor Relations Section. Efforts will continue to involve the HC and Head of Office in resource mobilization activities and Advisory Board members.

**Germany** has contributed **\$12.7** million in 2021, making it the largest donor to the oPt HF. Its annual contributions have gradually increased over the years and it contributed \$51.4 million since 2013, which amounts to 28 per cent of the total funds received since oPt HF's inception in 2007.

**Belgium** contributed **\$7.2** million in 2021, almost double its contribution from the previous year. It first contributed to the oPt HF in 2015 and has since contributed \$26.9 million to the Fund, which amounts to 15 per cent of funds received since 2007.

**Switzerland** contributed **\$3.3** million to the Fund in 2021, its annual average. This amounted to 11 per cent of the total funds received that year.

**Sweden** contributed **\$2.3** million in 2021. One of the first donors to the oPt HF, Sweden has contributed \$27.7 million since 2007.

**Norway** donated **\$1.2** million in 2021. This remains within its usual annual average since 2018, Norway has been one of the Funds leading donors over the years, contributing \$17.8 million to date.

**Spain** contributed **\$1.1** million in 2021, or 4 per cent of the funding received that year. One of the first donors to the Fund, Spain has contributed \$13.8 million since 2017, or 7 per cent of total funds received by the Fund.

**Korea** provided its second-ever contribution in 2021, donating **\$500,000**. We hope Korea will continue to be a regular donor.

**Ireland** contributed **\$475,000** thousand in 2021 or 2 per cent of total funding for the year. This was Ireland's tenth-year in-a-row, steadily contributing to the Fund, with only one year of hiatus since it began donating to the Fund in 2009.

**France** joined the oPt HF as a new donor in 2021, contributing **\$304,000** thousand, or 1 per cent of total contributions that year.

**Iceland** returned as a donor to the Fund, contributing **\$196,000**, or 1 per cent of the funds for that year. This was Iceland's sixth contribution to the Fund. We look forward to continuing our cooperation.



# **Allocations overview**

# STRATEGIC STATEMENTS

During 2021, the oPt HF disbursed \$27.7 million through four new allocations, of which three were Reserve Allocations<sup>1</sup>. The third Reserve Allocation was a record-breaker, with \$18 million disbursed in one single allocation to respond to the deteriorating needs of vulnerable people in the Gaza Strip following the May escalations.

# First Reserve Allocation: Facilitating a Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) in the West Bank and Gaza

Through this allocation, the oPt HF funded a multi-sectoral needs assessment (MSNA), in the West Bank and Gaza. The MSNA comprised a multi-sectoral household data collection, carried out by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), drawing on the agency's extensive experience in large-scale surveys and experience collaborating with humanitarian and development actors to conduct assessments. The outputs of the survey included a summary of the findings and analysis to support OCHA and the clusters for calculating the inter-sectoral and sectoral People in Need (PiN) figures presented in the 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO).

The survey process and outputs were a collaborative effort, inclusive of a broad array of humanitarian and development stakeholders such as humanitarian clusters, UN development agencies, local NGOs and civil society organizations, and representatives from the Government of Palestine.

The findings of the MSNA were the backbone document on which the oPt 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) was based, supporting the broader humanitarian community to deliver strategic and needs-based assistance.

# Second Reserve Allocation: Scaling up response to COVID-19

A surge in COVID-19 cases severely affected the health system and the socio-economic situation of the most vulnerable people in an already fragile context in the Gaza Strip. The allocation of \$3.6 million launched in June 2021 supported enhanced COVID-19 testing and case management, scale-up in mental health services, and livelihoods support to vulnerable people. The funding also supported improved COVID-19 testing and case management, scale-up of mental health services and supported the livelihoods of the most vulnerable people.

# Third Reserve Allocation: Responding to urgent humanitarian needs and the May escalation

In May 2021, the most serious escalation of hostilities between Israel and Palestinian armed groups in Gaza since the 2014 conflict erupted. Armed groups fired more than 4,300 rockets towards cities and towns across southern and central Israel, while Israeli forces carried out over 1,500 strikes from air, land and sea across Gaza. The situation resulted in significant loss of life and human suffering In Gaza, with devastating humanitarian consequences exacerbating the impact of almost 14 years of an Israeli blockade, internal Palestinian political divisions and recurrent escalations. The allocation kick-started the May Escalation Flash Appeal (\$95M) with \$18 million, in complementarity with \$4.5 million from the CERF Rapid Response window, aiming to catalyze additional funding from other sources. The allocation addressed the most pressing humanitarian needs, focusing on protecting women, children and PwD, including through cash and voucher assistance.

# First Standard Allocation: Supporting life-saving and lifesustaining humanitarian activities in the oPt

The oPt continues to suffer from the prolonged consequences and humanitarian consequences of the occupation, including ongoing settlement expansion, increased use of live ammunition by the Israeli Security Forces and settlers, and overall increasing settler violence in the West Bank and the blockade on the Gaza Strip.

The allocation responded to ongoing humanitarian needs by supporting livelihoods and strengthening access to basic services in the oPt, including providing shelter assistance to vulnerable households at risk of exposure or affected by natural hazards in the Gaza Strip and providing urgent rehabilitation and shelter NFIs vulnerable groups affected by conflict and violation of IHL in the West Bank. The allocation also improved people's preparedness for the winter – from December-March in the Gaza Strip – and improved access to sanitation for the communities not connected to any sewer systems and suffering wastewater accumulation. Protection activities, such as emergency child protection and psychosocial support including to GBV survivors were provided, as well as improved access to education and learning opportunities through the emergency repair of schools and non-formal education services.

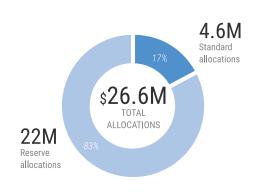
Finally, the allocation supported COVID-19 response including testing and disease management.

#### 2021 ALLOCATIONS

Amount	Category	Launch month
\$0.4M	First Reserve Allocation	Jan-21
\$3.6M	Second Reserve Allocation	May-21
\$18M	Third Reserve Allocation	Jun-21
\$4.6M	First Standard Allocation	Dec-21

1 During 2021, the total allocated amount for the oPt HF is \$27.7 million, which includes \$1.1 million in funds for projects approved after the annual report data had been compiled. Additionally, \$2 million in top-ups was for projects funded during 2020.

# ALLOCATION BY TYPE in US\$ million



# ALLOCATION BY STRATEGIC FOCUS in US\$ million

**S01** The rights of Palestinians living under occupation, including those living under the blockade and other restrictions, are protected, respected and promoted in accordance with IHL and IHRL.

**S02** The basic needs of vulnerable Palestinians living under occupation are met through the provision of quality basic services and improved access to resources.

 ${\color{black}{S03}}$  The capacity of vulnerable Palestinians to cope with and overcome protracted crisis, including from environmental threats, is supported.

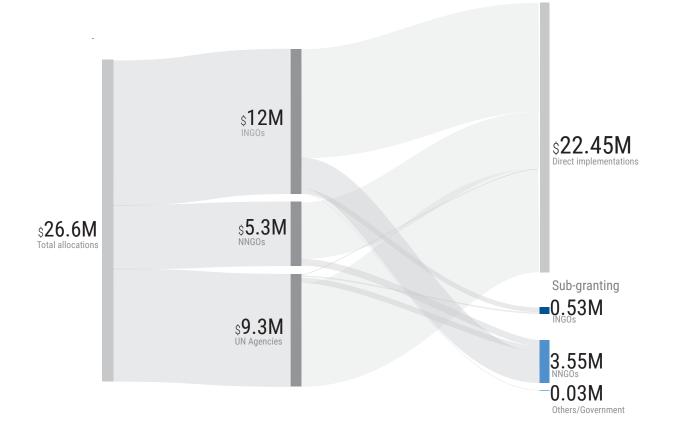
ALLOCATIONS BY STRATEGIC FOCUS





\*People assisted per cluster are calculated by summing up unique project beneficiaries of all 2021 projects, excluding one common service support project (multi-sectoral needs assessment) targeting the total population of the oPt.

# ALLOCATION FLOW BY PARTNER TYPE in US\$ million



# HIGHLIGHTED ACHIEVEMENTS



# \$3.2M

of projects funded by the oPt HF contributed to gender equality, including GBV.



# \$1.3M

of projects funded by the oPt HF contributed to GBV prevention and awareness raising.



persons with disability were assisted in 2021, amounting to 6.3 per cent of total people assisted.





# 31.2 per cent

of total funds allocated to national partners directly (20 per cent) and indirectly (11.2 per cent), surpassing the 25 per cent global target, set during the IASC summit.

# **PROMOTING LOCALIZATION**

The oPt HF aims to advance localization and ensure local partners' participation by promoting direct funding to local actors, strengthening their performance, and ensuring their participation at the strategic and technical levels. At the strategic level, the oPt HF Advisory Board includes two national NGOs representatives At the technical level, national partners continue to play a lead role in project vetting and review. The oPt HF will continue to invest in capacity development interventions for National NGOs, aiming to strengthen the capacity of local and national implementing partners to better access and outreach to the most vulnerable people in hardto-reach areas, particularly during emergencies.

# **EFFECTIVE PROGRAMMING**

# KEY PRINCIPLES FOR INCLUSIVE PROGRAMMING

#### **Strengthening Accountability to Affected People**

The oPt HF facilitates the participation of affected people in all phases of the project cycle and empowers communities to determine their priorities. The oPt HF will continue to promote more adherence to quality standards and incorporate AAP modalities into the design, implementation, management, and monitoring. The oPt HF will encourage organizational and collective feedback mechanisms across the humanitarian landscape to collect and act upon the voices and priorities of affected people across gender, age, disability status and other diversity factors. All people, including those with disabilities, should be able to access the collective feedback and complaint mechanisms.

In 2021, the oPt HF supported World Food Programme (WFP) to take the lead in coordinating and managing the Inter-Agency Common Feedback Mechanism (CFM). The CFM ensures a transparent two-way communication channel with affected communities. The toll-free, country-wide number has been accessible to all affected people, allowing them to get information on humanitarian assistance programs, submit their feedback and get referrals to the humanitarian organizations that are best suited to assist them.

#### **Promoting the Centrality of Protection**

In 2021, the oPt HF supported 11 protection projects with US\$ 3.2 million, 12 per cent of total allocations. On the technical level, a protection advisor reviewed

all projects submitted to the oPt HF and ensured that all projects incorporated key protection principles and promoted meaningful access, safety, and dignity in humanitarian assistance.

The oPt HF ensures adherence to the highest standards of protection principles when monitoring projects. This includes ensuring respect for the rights of individuals by all stakeholders, it also ensured this at the implementing partner level, as well as adherence to Do No Harm principles.

## Addressing Gender equality and responding to Sexual- and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

By mainstreaming cross-cutting issues (Protection Gender, and PSEA) the most significant risks affecting different people, as well as drivers of those risks, are better identified. This allows the building of mechanisms to monitor risks across sectors and humanitarian operations.

oPt HF support preventative and responsive actions to address priority risks by ensuring that cross-cutting issues are incorporated into all Fund operations and project design, implementation, monitoring, and reporting.

Additionally, the oPt HF took the lead in conducting a comprehensive PSEA training on how to report on any PSEA-related issues within the oPt context, emphasizing partners' obligations and zero tolerance.

#### **Including Persons with Disabilities**

In 2021, the oPt HF prioritized programmes targeting disabled people. About 126,000 people with disability (6.3 per cent of total assisted people) benefited in 2021, which shows an increase of 56 per cent compared with 2020. In 2021, the oPt HF and Clusters prioritized people suffering from disabilities as a key vulnerable group to be supported. All oPt HF implemented projects gave special consideration to persons with disabilities when and if needed.

In 2021, oPt HF funded a project that ensured access to inclusive educational and psycho-social support services for children with and without disabilities. Another project aimed to provide specialized mental health services to boys, girls, women and men, with and without disabilities.

ALLOCATIONS OVERVIEW CONTRIBUTIONS

5 advisory board meetings were conducted, at least 1 representative from a local NGO was present along with the Palestinian NGOs Network (PNGO).



HFU conducted 4 training sessions with 202 total participants between the West Bank and Gaza for NNGOs, UN agencies and other agencies.



26 Projects with Cash Components \$7.84M

2,724 Internally Displaced People received timely non-food items kits during the May 2021 escalations

# AREAS OF CONTEXTUAL PROGRAMMING

#### Advancing Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)

When feasible, Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) offers affected people flexibility, dignity, and efficiency corresponding to meet their diverse needs. The oPt HF promoted CVA by prioritizing its use across the project portfolio where appropriate to address the needs. Particularly, the oPt HF ensured close coordination with the Cash Working Group (CWG) and clusters, as well as including CVA in project proposal templates, and as a properly weighted criterion in scorecards, which guide the review and selection of projects.

In 2021, the Fund directed 30 per cent of allocated funds toward cash programming. This is a 50 per cent increase from last year's achievement. One of the main contributors to the prioritization of cash was the oPt HF's 3rd Reserve Allocation, which responded to the aftermath of the May escalations. It directed the majority of the cash programming towards food assistance under the Food Security Cluster and to shelter repairs of households affected by the May escalations in Gaza. The Fund considered this the most dignified approach for people after they suffered an escalation.

#### Improving humanitarian access

During May 2021 escalation of hostilities, the oPt HF partners could respond quickly to the most affected people's shelter needs by timely distributing NFI's kits to 2,724 IDP's (533 HHs). The kits and other humanitarian items were previously stocked/ prepositioned to strengthen the ability of humanitarian actors to reach populations most in need in times of crisis. Thus, the pre-positioned items were immediately distributed during the May escalation as well an additional 338 vulnerable HHs received winterization and NFI's kits during winter storms.

The oPt HF supported WFP's logistics hub to ensure timely delivery of humanitarian relief and free movement of humanitarian cargo between Israel, Egypt and the Gaza Strip. The logistics hub provided needed coordination and operational structure to ensure the efficient and timely delivery of humanitarian aid into Gaza given the ongoing blockade of the Strip.

On the other hand, oPt HF also supported WHO in scaling up the capacity to detect COVID-19 early and trace contacts of confirmed cases in Gaza, and scaleup risk communication and community engagement to improve the COVID-19 vaccination uptake. The Fund supported the Gaza health authorities in increasing COVID-19 diagnostics capacity by ensuring an adequate and consistent supply of testing kits, increasing risk communication and community engagement to ensure adherence to effective public health measures, and encouraging demand for vaccination take-up scaling up vaccination rollout across Gaza.

# Enhancing complementarity with CERF and other funding streams

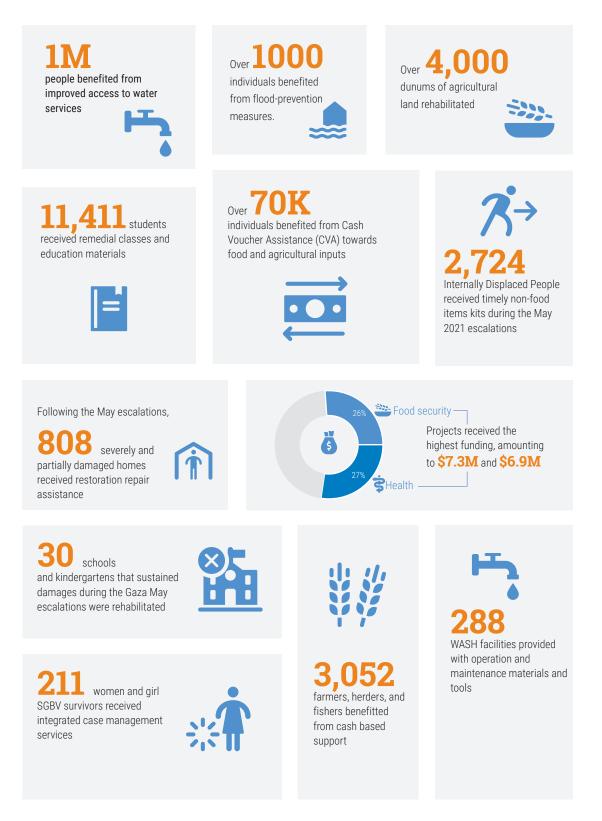
In the first half of 2021 and to respond to the needs emerging from the May 11-day hostilities that affected the Gaza Strip, compounded with an upsurge in COVID-19 cases, CERF and the oPt HF delivered a complementary and comprehensive response enabled by the comparative advantages of the two funding sources. With an allocation of \$4.5 million, CERF ensured immediate funding for the Flash Appeal. Taking advantage of CERF's pace, the allocation ensured rapid and short-term initial funding for UN agencies' immediate response and helped to ensure attention to the developing crisis. The allocation enabled the immediate provision of life-saving psycho-social support services, shelter support, access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and clearance of explosive remnants of war - Mine Action response. Followed by a \$18 million allocation from the HF; the 3rd Reserve Allocation ensured providing emergency shelter assistance to vulnerable people and displaced people affected by the escalations, emergency cash and non-cash food assistance to support affected families' livelihoods and support to farmers and fisher's, improving access to mental health care and providing life-saving health interventions to the victims of the escalations as well as providing household-level rehabilitation of water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. Through the complementary use of resources from CERF and the oPt HF, the funds addressed the needs of some 25 per cent of the one million vulnerable Palestinians referenced in the Flash Appeal.

# Improve the common ability of partners to deliver a more effective response.

In 2021, the oPt HF supported three common services projects; the Common Feedback Mechanism (CFM), the Multi-sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) and the Logistics Hub.

ALLOCATIONS OVERVIEW CONTRIBUTIONS

# SECTOR/CLUSTER ACHIEVEMENTS



# Lessons learned and best practices

The oPt HF continues to fine-tune its approaches and processes in line with the changing humanitarian context. This goes in hand with ongoing interaction and active discussion with different stakeholders. The oPt HF gathers lessons learned and best practices through various consultative forums with operational partners, affected people, donors and other stakeholders.

#### Preparedness for unforeseen emergencies

The global COVID-19 pandemic was unprecedented, imposing significant restrictions on the humanitarian community. This was coupled with an increased rise in tensions throughout the West Bank and the Gaza May 2021 escalations.

The context demanded high levels of adaptability to support COVID-19 response and continued delivery of humanitarian assistance to ongoing programmes and addressing urgent needs. The oPt HF will continue making critical preparations and facilitating flexible and agile response, including stockpiling emergency NFIs.

Strategically, the oPt HF's resource mobilization and continued donor trust strengthened the Fund's agility and ability to respond to emergencies. The Fund will advocate for early commitments with donors to better plan and remain ready for any unforeseen emergencies.

#### **Providing constructive feedback**

Timely feedback to all implementing partners in the different fund processes ensures prompt corrective measures and enhances their chances of being funded. Hence, the oPt HF will continue to contribute to strengthening the performance of local and national NGOs to expand opportunities to access funding and improve the assistance delivered. This may take various forms, including feedback, and mentoring during Fund processes, i.e. registration, due diligence, capacity assessments, proposal & budget development, monitoring, reporting, spotchecks, audit and revisions.

# **Re-evaluating risk**

Risk management is an important tool for the oPt HF, involving a set of instruments to inform decisionmaking processes to support the Fund's objectives transparently. The oPt HF will ensure a participatory and engaging approach in risk identification, risk analysis, the development of mitigation strategies to manage residual risks, and monitoring and review of identified risks. At the implementing partners level, the oPt HF will encourage project-risk level analysis and ensure risk-based conditionalities and oversight procedures for each grant agreement.

#### **Partnerships and localization**

Partnership and diversity in humanitarian response helps to ensure an inclusive response to the diversified needs of people in need. The oPt HF will continue to identify the best-placed partners to deliver the required humanitarian assistance on the ground. However; the oPt HF will further advance localization and support direct funding to local and national actors to engage successfully with the Fund processes and give consideration to the role and added value of local and national action within allocation strategies.



ASSISTING A BEREAVED SISTER OVERCOME TRAUMA

Five-year-old Fadia<sup>\*</sup> is admirably struggling to heal her still-fresh wound after losing dear family members in a military strike.

On 10 May, Israeli munition struck near the town of Beit Hanoun, northern Gaza, killing eight Palestinians. The oldest two were 20 years old, and the rest were children, aged 2-16. This was the first evening of the 11day escalation of hostilities between armed Palestinian groups and Israeli forces in Gaza.

Two of the people killed were Fadia's brothers. Fadia ran screaming, desperately looking for the rest of her family, only to find her two-year-old cousin, bleeding to death. She tried to pull the baby out of the destroyed house but couldn't. Subsequently, she ran away screaming in shock, until she reached her uncle's house, when ambulances arrived at the scene. At that point, her neighbours began fleeing to safer places.

Children across Gaza are traumatized by this round of hostilities. Many suffer from fear and anxiety, do not sleep well, or show worrying signs of distress, like shaking and bedwetting.

After this incident, Fadia isolated herself from her surroundings. The world she knew had become a world of fear, dread and insecurity, where she did not feel she belonged. According to her family, Fadia refused to leave the house or go to the street to play with other children. She started crying a lot and began showing psychological and behavioral disorders, such as sleep disturbance and absent-mindedness. Following the ceasefire, supported by the occupied Palestinian territory Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF), the Italian association Vento di Terra (VDT), in partnership with a local NGO, the Remedial Education Center (REC), provided children in northern Gaza with education and psycho-social support. They repaired five kindergartens and one school that had sustained minor damages, provided children with recreational activities and trained teachers on supporting children in postemergency situations.

In November 2021, Fadia started receiving individual, group and family psychological and social support through this project and took part in extracurricular activities. Her kindergarten joined in to also provide some psychol-social activities and support. Her mother was instructed on ways to support her daughter overcome the trauma.

As a result, Fadia's self-confidence increased, and she overcame her sleep disorders. Although her ability to move on was remarkable, she will continue benefiting from VDT services until she fully recovers.

\* All names have been changed to respect people's privacy.

# Fund performance

The oPt HF measures its performance against a management tool that provides a set of indicators to assess how well a Fund performs in relation to the policy objectives and operational standards set out in the CBPF Global Guidelines. This common methodology enables management and stakeholders involved in the governance of the Funds to identify, analyze and address challenges in reaching and maintaining a well-performing CBPF.

CBPFs embody the fundamental humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence, and function according to a set of specific principles: Inclusiveness, Flexibility, Timeliness, Efficiency, Accountability and Risk Management.

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#### Principle 1 INCLUSIVENESS

A broad range of humanitarian

partner organizations (UN agencies and NGOs) participates in CBPF processes and receive funding to implement projects addressing identified priority needs.

# Principle 2 FLEXIBILITY

The programmatic focus and funding priorities of CBPFs are set at the country level and may shift rapidly, especially in volatile humanitarian contexts. CBPFs are able to adapt rapidly to changing priorities and allow humanitarian partners to identify appropriate solutions to address humanitarian needs in the most effective way.

# Principle 3 TIMELINESS

CBPFs allocate funds and save lives as humanitarian needs emerge or escalate.

# Principle 4 EFFICIENCY

Management of all processes related to CBPFs enables timely and strategic responses to identified humanitarian needs. CBPFs seek to employ effective disbursement mechanisms, minimizing trans-action costs while operating in a transparent and accountable manner.

# Principle 5 RISK MANAGEMENT

CBPFs manage risk and effectively monitor partner capacity and performance. CBPFs utilize a full range of accountability tools and measures.

### PRINCIPLE 1

# INCLUSIVENESS

A broad range of humanitarian partner organizations (UN agencies and NGOs) participates in CBPF processes and receive funding to implement projects addressing identified priority needs.

# 1 INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE

The Advisory Board has a manageable size and a balanced representation of CBPF stakeholders.

# Target

Maintain the same ratios as 2020 [2 NNGO (12.5 per cent) & 2 INGO (12.5 per cent); 2 UN (12.5 per cent) 10 Donors (62.5 per cent); Observers (PNGO, AIDA & ECHO)] and work on adding ICRC as observer to the board.

# Results

In 2021, the AB composition of 2020 was maintained and had a fair and proportional representation with the ratio of [2 NNGOs (12.5 per cent), 2 INGOs (12.5 per cent), 2 UN agencies (12.5 per cent), 10 donors (62.5 per cent) and observers (PNGO, AIDA & ECHO). The oPt HF updated AB terms of reference and endorsed in the second quarter of 2021, in close consultation with the oPt HF AB members.



#### Analysis and follow-up

In 2021, the AB maintained equitable representation of CBPF key stakeholders, as per the parameters of the guidelines and in-country presence management, serving as technical and strategic experts from their constituencies or stakeholder groups. The Advisory Board has 16 members and three observer members. AB members with observer status, including PNGO, AIDA & ECHO remain key in improving transparency of the AB decision-making process and overall coordination of humanitarian response and aid flow. Five AB meetings were organized in 2021.

# COMPOSITION OF ADVISORY BOARD

# 2

# INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE

The review committees of the Fund have the appropriate size and a balanced representation of different partner constituencies and cluster representatives

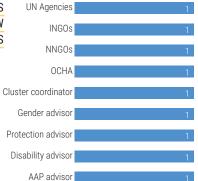
# Target

A diverse and balanced representation among UN agencies, INGOs and NNGOs, and HFU participation maintained in review of project proposals.

#### Results

In 2021, combined strategic and technical review committees were established at each cluster level, with the membership of one national NGO,

REPRESENTATIVES IN THE REVIEW COMMITTEES



one international NGO, one UN agency who are cluster members to ensure a diverse and balanced representation in review of project proposals. An average of three cross-cutting issue advisors have consistently provided input on issues including gender, protection, AAP and disability.

#### Analysis and follow-up

All project proposal reviews were co-chaired by the Fund Manager and cluster coordinators and attended by representatives of one UN agency, one INGO and one NNGO.

HFU provides further technical review of recommended proposals.

# PRINCIPLE 1

# 3 INCLUSIVE IMPLEMENTATION

CBPF funding is allocated to the best-positioned actors, leveraging the diversity and comparative advantage of eligible organizations.

# Target

HF is guided by the following Allocation Principles:

- Continue to focus on lifesaving and life-sustaining humanitarian response (100 per cent).
- Prioritize direct implementation through international and national non-governmental partners, accounting for at least 80 per cent of available annual oPt HF funding.
- Support for local partners by striving to channel at least 60 per cent of available funding directly or indirectly through national partners (when and where feasible).
- Use the HRP needs distribution as guide for project allocation between Gaza and the West bank (70 per cent Gaza 30 per cent West Bank).

### Results

In 2021

- HF continued to focus on lifesaving and lifesustaining humanitarian response (100 per cent).
- Prioritized direct implementation through international and national non-governmental partners as follows: 45 per cent INGOs, 20 per cent NNGOs accounting for 65 per cent of available annual oPt HF funding.
- oPt HF supported local partners by channeling about 31 per cent of available funding directly (20 per cent) or indirectly (11 per cent) through national partners (when and where feasible). The Fund continues to channel funds through bestplaced actors.
- The oPt HF continued to allocate funds based on need, utilizing the proper funding modality.
- Distributions were interrupted by the May escalation in Gaza.

# Analysis and follow-up

The oPt HF continued to focus on lifesaving and life-sustaining humanitarian response by channeling resources through the best-positioned actors to expand the delivery of assistance in the most inaccessible areas. Ultimately, the type of organizations the Fund selects to channel funds through is determined by the organisations' comparative advantages in response mechanisms.

# PRINCIPLE 1 INCLUSIVENESS

# 4 INCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT

Resources are invested by OCHA's Humanitarian Financing Unit (HFU) in supporting the capacity of local and national NGO partners within the scope of CBPF strategic objectives.

## Target

Six training rounds and briefings (3 Gaza, 3 West Bank) for partners to ensure understanding of CBPF process and procedures and improve their management and implementation of oPt HF projects.

#### Results

oPt HF successfully conducted four rounds of training sessions: with 202 total participants from all partners. Training sessions focused on building partner capacity to design, manage and implement oPt HF projects, ranging from programmatic to financial issues, compliance, operational modalities, risk management, protection mainstreaming, accountability to affected people, participation of women and disability and PSEA. Training sessions saw a mixed approach methodology as some were held remotely due to the spread of COVID-19 but saw good participation and involvement of potential partners.

In 2021, the number of people trained from NNGOs saw a significant increase from the previous year, from 50 people trained in 2020 from NNGOs to 83 people trained in 2021.

On-going support is offered to partners and potential partners as needed.

TRAININGS

4 TRAININGS

46

# **\*1** 83

ININGS

TOTAL PEOPLE TRAINED FROM NNGOS

6

NNGOS TRAINED

TRAININGS FOR WOMEN-LED ORGANIZATIONS

### Analysis and follow-up

The HFU continues to proactively invest time and resources in training and guiding eligible as well as prospective National NGOs to help increase their chances of participating in the coordination process.

The Fund's accountability framework and related activities incentivizes partners to improve their performance, capacity and risk rating.

# PRINCIPLE 1

# 5 INCLUSIVE RESPONSE

CBPF funded projects have a clear strategy to promote the participation of affected people.

# Target

Al oPt HF-funded projects ensure accountability to affected people (AAP) as part of the implementation. All monitoring instances include beneficiary consultations to assess community engagement in project implementation.

#### Results

HFU has ensured all approved projects in 2021 included a developed AAP component through vetting criteria applied in the strategic and technical review phase.

In 2021, all oPt HF-funded projects were required to include a plan to ensure AAP as a project component and report against it. All field monitoring visits included beneficiary consultations to assess community engagement throughout project implementation.

#### Analysis and follow-up

As part of the Fund's strategic objectives in 2021 and in line with the operating procedure, the oPt HF promoted AAP throughout the partner project cycle.

At the strategic review level, scorecards for all allocations launched during 2021 included a specific question on the provision of accessible and functioning accountability mechanisms. This ensured that projects with accessible and functioning feedback/complaint mechanisms received higher scoring and eventually were funded.

At the implementation level, the monitoring of projects constantly includes meetings with first-hand beneficiaries, collecting feedback and following up on issues arising.

The oPt HF supported World Food Programme (WFP) one UN agency to lead coordination and management the Inter-Agency Common Feedback Mechanism (CFM) in connection with the delivery and impact of humanitarian assistance programmes in Palestine and to ensure a transparent two-way communication channel with affected communities. The toll-free, country-wide number has been accessible to all affected populations to obtain information on humanitarian assistance programs; submit their feedback and get referrals to the humanitarian organizations that are best-suited to handle their issues.



2 The project includes the provision of accessible and functioning feedback and/or compliant mechanisms for beneficiaries 1 The project partially includes the provision of accessible and functioning feedback and/or compliant mechanisms for beneficiaries 0 The project does not include the provision of accessible and functioning feedback and/or compliant mechanisms for beneficiary

# PRINCIPLE 2

# FLEXIBILITY

The programmatic focus and funding priorities of CBPFs are set at the country level and may shift rapidly, especially in volatile humanitarian contexts. CBPFs are able to adapt rapidly to changing priorities and allow humanitarian partners to identify appropriate solutions to address humanitarian needs in the most effective way.

# 6 FLEXIBLE ASSISTANCE

CBPF funding for in-kind and in-cash assistance is appropriate.

#### Target

Cash as a response modality is operationally considered and strategically prioritized by clusters and partners, where appropriate.

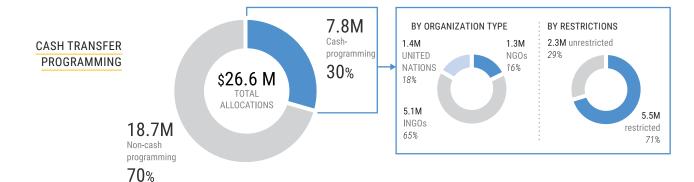
#### Results

30 per cent of funds (\$7.8M) were allocated through cash modalities, of which 5.5 million was restricted cash assistance.

#### Analysis and follow-up

In 2021, cash as a response modality continues to be the preferred modality of implementation when and if operationally feasible and appropriate as per OCHA's and CBPF cash guidance notes.

The Fund directed 30 per cent of allocations towards cash programming. This is a 50 per cent increase from last year's achievement of 15 per cent. One of the main contributors to the prioritization of cash was the oPt HF's 3rd Reserve Allocation responding to the aftermath of the May escalations. Majority of the cash programming was directed towards food assistance under the food security cluster and shelter repairs of households affected by the May escalations in Gaza.



PAGE 26 FUND PERFORMANCE

# 7 FLEXIBLE OPERATION

CBPF Funding supports projects that improve the common ability of actors to deliver a more effective response.

# Target

5 per cent of CBPF funding supports an enabling operational environment through funding allocated to common services.

### Results

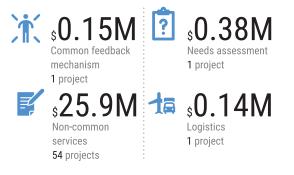
The Fund continued to assess needs as they emerged to only support critical common services. In 2021, the oPt HF supported three projects amounting to 2.5 per cent of 2021 allocations. This remained well below the oPt HF's benchmark not to exceed five per cent for support to common services.

# Analysis and follow-up

In 2021, 2.5 per cent of the allocated funding was made in support of common services. This remained well-below the oPt HF's benchmark not to exceed five per cent for support to common services.

The oPt HF supported a Multi-Sector Needs Assessment, a Common Feedback Mechanism (CFM) and a Logistics Hub to ensure timely delivery of humanitarian relief into Gaza.

# ALLOCATION THROUGH COMMON SERVICES



# PRINCIPLE 2 FLEXIBILITY

# 8 FLEXIBLE ALLOCATION PROCESS

CBPF funding supports strategic planning and response to needs identified in the HRPs and sudden onset emergencies through the most appropriate modalities.

# Target

At least 75 per cent of total funds are allocated trough Standard Allocation(s), and 25 per cent of the available funds are kept for Reserve Allocation(s), to respond to changes in the humanitarian context.

### Results

The oPt HF launched one Standard Allocation (SA) and three Reserve Allocations (RAs). The RAs totaled 83 per cent of total allocated funds. The high percentage of funding allocated through the reserve window is justified. It mainly supported the May escalations Flash Appeal. It responded to the emergency needs of populations in the Gaza Strip, following an 11-day escalation that had a huge toll on an already fragile context. This required a rapid response at scale to address the sudden-onset emergency.



# 9

# FLEXIBLE IMPLEMENTATION

CBPF funding is successfully reprogrammed at the right time to address operational and contextual changes.

# Target

Project revision requests are processed by the HFU within 10 days to respond to shifting/ emerging operational needs.

# Results

In 2021, the HFU processed 53 revision requests of 42 oPt HF-ongoing projects (multiple requests were submitted for some projects). These included 75 different revisions (some requests have several types of revisions). Changes in project duration (no-cost extension) and budget were the most frequent. The

### Analysis and follow-up

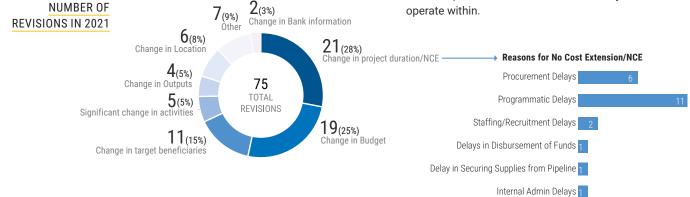
During 2021, the oPt HF funding was directed by a sudden onset of an emergency, namely the Gaza May Escalations. While the oPt HF was planning the First Standard Allocation of 2021, the HC wisely decided to relocate all funding towards an emergency Reserve Allocation. The Reserve Allocation of \$18 million was the largest-ever single allocation to support the continuation of lifesaving and life-sustaining services.

The oPt HF remains a flexible tool and will continue to utilize the two modalities required by the context.

Fund processed project revision requests within an average of 15 days (from IP submission of Project Revision to EO signature of GA.

### Analysis and follow-up

Revisions or project amendments included minor alterations/modifications to project activities to requesting project No-Cost Extension and other instances. HFU was responsive to situations requiring re-programming activities that enable implementing partners to deliver better project outputs. This was key, especially given the pandemic and the May escalations and allowed partners to adapt and adjust to the unprecedented circumstances they have to operate within.



# PRINCIPLE 3

# TIMELINESS

CBPFs allocate funds and save lives as humanitarian needs emerge or escalate.

# 10 TIMELY ALLOCATION

CBPFs allocation processes have an appropriate duration.

# AVERAGE WORKING DAYS OF ALLOCATION PROCESSING

## Target

Standard Allocation projects are processed (from allocation closing date to HC signature) within 40 days on average. Reserve Allocation projects are processed (from allocation closing date to HC signature) within 20 days on average.

#### Results

	Milestones	Category	2019	2020	2021
	From allocation closing date to HC signature of the grant agreement	Standard Allocations	35	40	32
of		Reserve Allocations	N/A	9	32

#### Analysis and follow-up

In 2021, the four allocation round in the oPt, were processed within an appropriate duration. They avoided major decision-making delays to ensure the achievement of the intended operational objectives and priorities. Additionally, given the record increase in the size of funds required to be channelled through the Reserve Allocation in 2021, the oPt HF made sure to process projects as they go and make sure to maintain a good record when processing projects grant agreements. The global average duration of all launched Standard Allocations is 50 days.

# 11 TIMELY DISBURSEMENTS

Payments are processed without delay

#### Target

6 days from Executive Officer signature of a proposal to first payment.

#### Results

Average number of days from Executive Officer signature of a proposal to first payment was 6 days.



#### Analysis and follow-up

The indicator was maintained within average. Speed and efficiency in processing payments enables implementing partners to initiate project activities promptly.

HFU coordinates with HQ to ensure the disbursements are processed within 10 working days (from EO clearance of grant agreement).

# PRINCIPLE 3

# TIMELINESS

# 12

# TIMELY CONTRIBUTIONS

Pledging and payment of contributions to CBPFs are timely and predictable.

Target

Two thirds of annual contributions committed and paid before the end of the first half of the year.

# Results

In 2021, 76 per cent of the contributions were received between January and June 2021 i.e, by the second quarter of the year surpassing the two thirds target for the year.





# Analysis and follow-up

There was a significant improvement in the timeliness and predictability of funding compared with the previous year (from 58 per cent to 76 per cent), with well-over two-thirds of the total contributions paid by June. These contributions allowed the Fund to launch the largest-ever Reserve Allocation of \$18 million in May in immediate response to the May escalations.

## PRINCIPLE 4

# EFFICIENCY

Management of all processes related to CBPFs enables timely and strategic responses to identified humanitarian needs. CBPFs seek to employ effective disbursement mechanisms, minimizing transaction costs while operating in a transparent and accountable manner.

# 13 EFFICIENT SCALE

CBPFs have a significant funding level to support the delivery of the HRPs.

# Target

12 per cent of HRP funding received.

# **Results**\*

In 2021, 10 per cent of HRP funding was channelled through oPt HF in 2021 allocations.

# Analysis and follow-up

In 2021, the significant increase in funding to the oPt HF demonstrated the added value of the Fund, with the ability to fund what is urgent and what is important.

The oPt HF continued its average contribution to towards the HRP

\* For planning purposes, the target is based on last year's level of HRP funding as the current year HRP level of funding cannot be known when the targets are set.

# 14

# EFFICIENT PRIORITIZATION

*CBPF funding is prioritized in alignment with the HRP.* 

# Target

All funded projects address HRP strategic priorities. At least 77% of value of funded projects is linked to pipeline HRP projects.

### Results

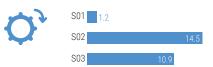
All funded projects (100%) address HRP strategic priorities outlined in the Allocation Strategy papers.

Thirty-nine of the 2021 HF-funded projects were directly linked to HRP projects within the 2021 appeal, amounting to 80 per cent of funding.

# Analysis and follow-up

The oPt HF supports activities prioritized as the most urgent and strategic to address critical humanitarian needs in the country, in close alignment with the oPt Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

# ALLOCATION BY HRP STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



**S02** The basic needs of vulnerable Palestinians living under occupation are met through the provision of quality basic services and improved access to resources.

**SO3** The capacity of vulnerable Palestinians to cope with and overcome protracted crisis, including from environmental threats, is supported.

**SO1** The rights of Palestinians living under occupation, including those living under the



# EFFICIENT COVERAGE

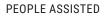
*CBPF funding effectively assisted people in need.* 

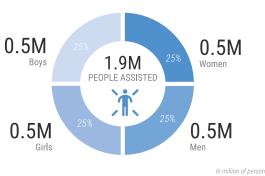
### Target

100% of the affected population assisted in projects that have finished and been final reported on during the year have reportedly been reached.

# Results

In 2021, the oPt HF assisted 1.9 million of the most vulnerable people.





minimon or persor

# Analysis and follow-up

The oPt HF assisted people in need. Verification of reach have been closely monitored through various monitoring methods.

# PRINCIPLE 4

# EFFICIENCY

# 16 EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT

CBPF management is cost-efficient and context-appropriate.

# Target

HFU operations costs (execution of cost-plan) account for less than 2.5% of overall utilization of funds (allocations + operations costs).

#### Results

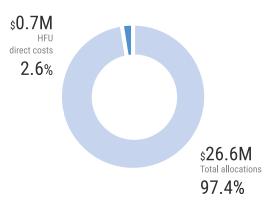
In 2021, the HFU operations cost was \$0.7 million and the total allocations \$26.6 million. The HFU cost constituted 2.6 per cent.

### Analysis and follow-up

HFU is still well-below the global average of direct cost of 4 per cent. With a rather low HFU cost, the oPt HF managed to allocate an extraordinary amount of funds during 2021 with the largest-ever Reserve allocation of \$18 million in response to the May escalations.

While the capacity of the HFU has increased since 2019, operations costs remained at a good low percentage.

HFU EXPENDITURE AGAINST TOTAL ALLOCATIONS



# 17 EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT

CBPF management is compliant with management and operational standards required by the CBPF Global Guidelines.

# Target

oPt HF Operational Manual has been updated in alignment with the latest version of global CBPF guidelines by the end of Q1/2019. Annual report and allocation papers compliant with global guidance documents.

### Results

The Operational Manual was updated in 2021 and the annual report and allocation papers were prepared in line with the Global Guidelines.

### Analysis and follow-up

The operational manual and the risk management framework were updated to reflect the country-specific operational constraints. The manuals considered the importance of keeping all stakeholders appropriately represented.

#### **PRINCIPLE 5**

# **RISK MANAGEMENT**

CBPFs manage risk and effectively monitor partner capacity and performance. CBPFs utilize a full range of accountability tools and measures.

#### 18

# RISK MANAGEMENT OF PROJECTS

CBPF funding is appropriately monitored, reported and audited.

## Target

Ensure 100% compliance with operational modalities, as per OCHA assurance dashboard.

Follow up with UN agencies to improve their reporting performance and timeframe.

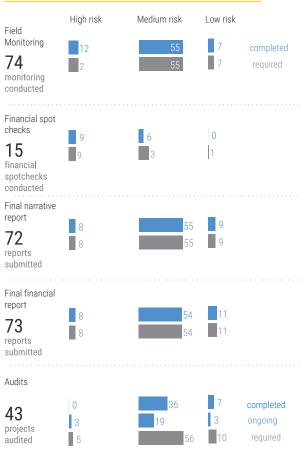
#### Results

In 2021, the Fund adhered to the operational modalities and assurances.

#### Analysis and follow-up

The oPt HF ensured compliance with requirements as per the operational modalities matrix for each project based on the adjusted country-based operational modality. Compliance was ensured for all projects reported, monitored, and audited during 2021. The Financial Spot-Checks are conducted by the oPt HF Finance team based on the risk level of the partner and the operational modality (the review takes place at the IP's location - where IP has financial records and concerned staff - in one working day). Following the spot-check, a report is produced, highlighting key findings of concerns, that is shared with external auditors upon audit initiation for further follow-up. HFU continues to surpass targets as per operational modalities for the compliance tools; 104 monitoring incidences took place in 2021 surpassing the required target of the operational modalities, while 18 spotchecks were conducted as and when needed.

#### PROGRESS ON RISK MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES



MANAGEMENT

**OF PARTNERS** 

FUND PERFORMANCE

# Target

HF to channel at most 5% to HIGH risk partners, at most 50% to MEDIUM risk partners, and at least 15% to LOW risk partners. Continue to invest in prospective and registered implementing partners by conducting capacity and training initiatives to educate organizations (primarily NNGOs) on the oPt HF eligibility process, and how to improve their risk rating by providing increased competency through Performance Framework indices.

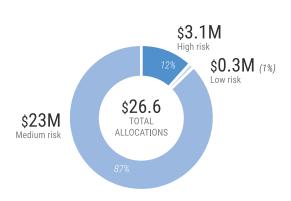
#### Results

The oPt HF channelled funds to 35 implementing partners in 2021 (12 NNGOs; 17 INGOs and 6 UN agencies). HIGH risk partners received 12 per cent of funding; MEDIUM risk partners received 87 per cent of funding; and LOW risk partners received 1 per cent of funding.

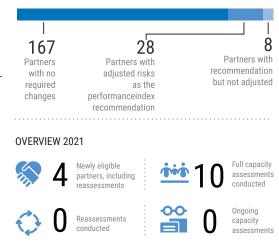
#### Analysis and follow-up

In 2021, most oPt HF funds were allocated towards projects implemented by medium-risk partners. Careful due diligence and duty of care in the qualifications and capacities of implementing partners receiving oPt HF funding. Prior to modifying a partner risk level as suggested by the GMS, HFU waits for proper time to check on partner implementation and alignment with the actual risk level.

# IMPLEMENTATION BY PARTNER RISK LEVEL TYPE



#### UPDATED RISK LEVEL BASED ON PERFORMANCE INDEX



1 Capacity assessment is created and conducted in 2021

2 Capacity assessment is only revised in 2021, regardless of what year it was created

3 Capacity assessment is created, conducted and revised in 2021

## PRINCIPLE 5

# **RISK MANAGEMENT**

# 20

# RISK MANAGEMENT OF FUNDING

Appropriate oversight and assurances of funding is administered through CBPFs.

Reported cases: # of incidents (allegation, suspected fraud, confirmed fraud, theft, diversion, looting, destruction, etc.) in 2021, either open or closed.

On going cases: # of incidents for which measures (inquiry, assurance, measures, settlement etc.) were still on going as of 31 December 2021

#### Target

HF to ensure 100% compliance with CBPFs SOPs on fraud management, especially through increasing HFU capacity to ensure control mechanisms are appropriately utilized (Advise HF Advisory Board on issue when cases come to fruition).

#### Results

oPt HF ensured 100% compliance with CBPFs SOPs on fraud management, especially through increasing HFU capacity to ensure control mechanisms are appropriately utilized (Advise HF Advisory Board on issue when cases come to fruition).

In 2021, there was one compliance-related case ongoing from the previous year, 2020, identified through several assurance mechanisms, including performance and compliance monitoring, financial controls and information received through confidential feedback.

Q REPORTED INCIDENTS/CASE



## Analysis and follow-up

HFU continued to utilize accountability measures by conducting financial spot-checks and programmatic monitoring. Through monitoring activities, HFU was able to contact first-hand beneficiaries and better understand beneficiaries' feedback, concerns and complaints.

In 2021, the HFU increased field visits and financial spot-checks to further monitor the progress of HFU-funded projects and ensure partners are compliant with the requirements. This has further been achieved by utilizing additional remote monitoring activities and communicating with affected populations via phone.

In addition, narrative and financial reports followed by audits created another level of scrutiny to determine the accuracy, quality and consistency of information. Overall, the assurance measures – audits, financial spot-checks, field monitoring and reports – were interlinked.





What makes me happy the most, Mohammed concluded, is watching Leen run and play with her peers without any health concerns.

> Mohammad, Leen's father

# FIGHTING MALNUTRITION IN GAZA

Thanks to her resourceful parents and some timely support, Leen is now a healthy, active little girl.

At the age of three, Leen Abu Hajras was suffering from severe malnutrition. This is rather common in the occupied Palestinian territory, especially in Gaza, where she lives. Children generally have been identified as more vulnerable than others to malnutrition, which poses significant health and well-being challenges.

Even though Gaza is under Israeli blockade, food is available in the market. But for many, is too expensive. Job opportunities in this coastal enclave are limited, especially for women. Leen's mom, Islam, has not been able to find one. Leen's dad, Mohammed is the family's sole breadwinner; he works as a cleaner on a part-time job, struggling to provide for Islam, Leen, and Leen's two sisters. "My family hasn't had fruits and vegetables for so long," he told us. "I don't remember the last time my daughters had a nutritious meal. For many days, our fridge has been empty, and my children stayed hungry all day."

Their home is small. It is made of uncovered bricks, and an iron sheet is used as a roof. When hostilities escalated in May 2021, this precarious shelter was damaged, and the entire family was traumatized. Their situation further worsened, and the girls started missing meals. The more Leen's medical situation deteriorated, the more stressed her parents became. They were burdened with loans for medical expenses they just could not afford.

Islam and Mohammed were finally able to improve their family's situation thanks to help from the Catholic Relief Services (CRS), supported by the occupied Palestinian territory Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF). They were among 1,067 people identified as eligible for a two-month cash assistance that would allow them to meet basic needs following the devastating armed fighting. Each family received ILS 645 (about US\$200) per month.

"We were filled with joy when we got the message confirming our eligibility," Mohammed recalls. "My wife and I started thinking what we would buy. We needed to carefully prioritize." Indeed, the timely provision of cash, as opposed to other assistance modalities, allows families to make their own plans.

For the first time in many months, Mohamed bought fresh, varied and nutritious food for his family. He and Islam could finally cover the medical expenses for Leen, who shortly after that recovered from her condition. "What makes me happy the most," Mohammed concluded, "is watching Leen run and play with her peers without any health concerns."





My dream was to have a home where we can be protected and live our lives with dignity, Lina concluded. We made it come true.

Lina from Gaza

# IMPROVING PEOPLE'S LIVING CONDITIONS IN WAR-TORN GAZA

Located in a refugee camp, Lina and Ali's home is basic, but it provides them, their children and Ali's sick mother, with the essential privacy and weather protection that everyone should have. It was not always like that.\*

For many years, Palestinians in Gaza have been virtually isolated from the rest of the occupied Palestinian territory and exposed to recurrent escalations in hostilities. As a result, many of them have not been able to work, and more than one in every two residents is poor.

As Palestine refugees, whose families originate from areas now part of Israel, Lina and Ali are eligible to humanitarian assistance from the UN. But they have refused to solely rely on such support, and along the years, Ali has seized every opportunity to work and provide for the family.

But it was not enough. They could not afford appropriate bathroom or kitchen facilities, and the house lacked basic furniture, including beds. Money was also not enough for them to cover for proper isolation against extreme weather conditions. "I want a normal home," Lina told us. "Every time a season ends, I fear of what the next one will bring."

The May 2021 escalation of hostilities between Israeli forces and armed Palestinian groups in Gaza made things even worse. It was devastating. Beyond deaths and injuries, over 58,000 residential units were either damaged or destroyed altogether. Subsequently, people who had already lived in poor conditions, were now left with less than the little they had.

The fighting took a heavy toll on Lina and Ali's home. The ceiling was damaged, windows were shattered, and walls sustained deep cracks. ACTED, supported by the occupied Palestinian territory Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF), stepped in to help. They provided Lina and Ali with cash assistance so they can fix the damage and upgrade the house, and gave them some items that they needed. With this support, they rehabilitated two rooms and upgraded their kitchen and bathroom, equipping them with basic facilities, including a water tank. They also fixed the ceiling and the windows to protect the family from bad weather and to secure some privacy.

The support was part of a larger project. Overall, assistance was provided to over 200 households across Gaza. These families received cash to rehabilitate and upgrade their homes, and beds, cleaning kits or other items were also provided as need.

"My dream was to have a home where we can be protected and live our lives with dignity," Lina concluded. "We made it come true."

\* All names have been changed to respect people's privacy.



"

There are many families like ours, where people need treatment but can't afford it. Now, we all come to this local clinic and get quality medical care free of charge.

Hana' from Gaza

## PROVIDING FREE HEALTH CARE TO PEOPLE IN GAZA

Hiba (12) and her brother Hasan (16) are doing much better now; they finally got the health care they needed. The entire family is happier and more relaxed.

Accessing medical services is challenging for many in the occupied Palestinian territory, where 1.5 million Palestinians require health-related humanitarian assistance. Two in every three of them live in Gaza, just like Hiba and Hasan. The high dependency on health support in this small blockaded enclave results from recurring escalations of hostilities; the Israeli blockade and other challenges to movement; a weakened, overstretched medical system locally; the internal Palestinian political divide; and limited resources. All of these have recently been worsened by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Hiba and Hasan live with six other siblings and their parents in a village bordering with Israel, in the southern Gaza Strip. For over a year, Hiba, suffered from urinary incontinence and Hasan had a prolonged urinary infection. Hiba's condition was extremely unpleasant, and negatively stigmatized in her community. Hasan had constant presence of blood in his urine, and his condition was painful and concerning.

However, their parents could not afford securing their children with the care that they needed. "I was relying on traditional home remedies to no avail," their mother Hana' (37) recalls. Hana' is a housewife and her husband (42) is unemployed. They rely on assistance to survive. They can't afford the cost at a private clinic. "I was worried for them. My son's case could have become complicated." Hana' adds.

In October 2021, Hana' heard about free health care services provided in a nearby clinic. Without any delays, she rushed there with her children. That clinic is one of four providing free health care to families in need thanks to a project implemented, starting August 2021, by the Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS), supported by the occupied Palestinian territory Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF).

As part of this projects, the clinics' stocks were replenished with much-needed drugs and laboratory reagents. They were supported to offer services in general medicine, child health, management of chronic disease, women's health services and are equipped with laboratories and diagnostic equipment.

For Hiba and Hasan, results were almost immediate. "Finally, it was all resolved", Hana' explains with a sigh of relief. "Thank God, my son has become much better. Neither blood nor pain. There are many families like ours, where people need treatment but cannot afford it. Now, we all come to this local clinic and get quality medical care free of charge." ANNUAL REPORT **OPT HF 2021** 

**STORIES** 



My teachers keep saying I'm smart. They complement me for participating activities. It just makes me happy.

> Dina, 14 years old from Gaza

### HELPING A GIRL KEEP UP HER STUDIES AMID POVERTY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Fourteen year-old Dina\* is a charming little girl from Gaza who likes sports and drawing. But she was born into extremely challenging family conditions. Her parents treat her violently. Her mother, who has an untreated psychiin class and in other atric disability, holds her responsible for feeding, teaching and cleaning her siblings. Any of Dina's attempts to protect herself from abuse is only encountered with more violence. COVID-19 closures, requiring her to spend more time at home, as well as the May 2021 escalation of hostilities, have only made this worse.

> Understandably, Dina's living conditions have undermined her personal wellbeing: she began wetting the bed and withdrawing from her friends at school. The situation has also undermined her education and, by extension, her prospects for the future. In particular, she has failed Math and Arabic. In August 2021, supported by the occupied Palestinian territory Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF), NRC launched a project to support education in Gaza, in the aftermath of that year's escalation. The project enhanced the mental health and psycho-social wellbeing of students, parents and educators, all traumatized by 11 consequent days of armed conflict. Overall, 2,400 students in twenty schools benefitted from recreational activities, extra academic instruction, and psychosocial support.

> Dina took part in the afterschool programme. There, teachers helped her develop learning techniques that work for her, including the use flashcards and worksheets, and a psychological counselor provided support that helped her stop wetting the bed at night.

As a result, like many other participants, Dina increased her participation in class and became more self-confident. Going to school became something she is looking forward to. "My teachers keep saying I'm smart," she says. "They complement me for participating in class and in other activities. It just makes me happy."

While this project focuses on education, other interventions are carried out in parallel to protect children in difficult situations, like Dina's.

Dina's teachers say she had enhanced her self-confidence following her participation in the afterschool sessions, has increased her participation in class and is no longer failing basic subjects. "I am very happy that I participated in the lessons with the teachers, Iman and Jasmine, because they helped me pass my exams," Dina says.

\* All names have been changed to respect people's privacy.



to children affected by stress and psychosocial distress, including for children impacted by COVID-19. ©UNICEF

### HELPING A FIRST GRADER OVERCOME WAR NIGHTMARES

Salah's nightmares have finally stopped. In May 2021, at the age of six, he survived a massive blast caused by a bomb that landed very close to his house. He lives in the Gaza Strip, which at the time, was the epicentre of an 11-day-long escalation of hostilities between Israeli forces and armed Palestinian groups. Those endless days and nights of heavy bombardment took a psychological toll on all people across the blockaded enclave, particularly on children.

Following the incident, Salah felt more and more insecure. He became attached to his parents and refused to go to the bathroom alone. He also needed company in his bedroom, where he had recurring nightmares about the war.

At school, staying focused became a major challenge. Salah's parents noticed that he re-enacted the traumatic event when playing with his peers. Hearing news about the possibility of a new escalation of hostilities, a common reality in Gaza, would make him anxious and agitated. His parents and teachers noticed how irritable and aggressive Salah had become.

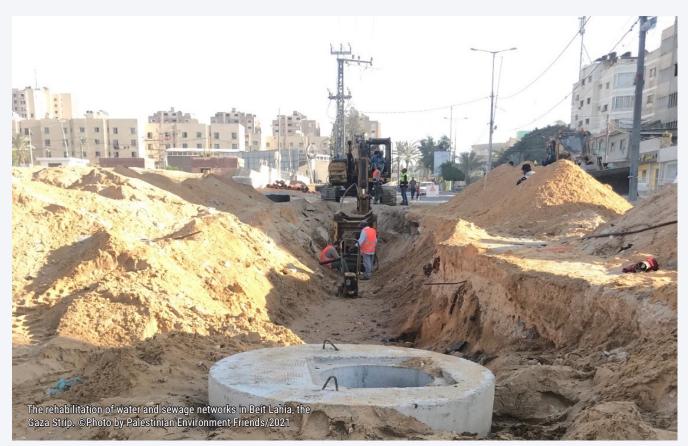
Realizing that her son needed professional support, Salah's mother called a counselling hotline operated by the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme (GCMHP), a partner of UNICEF, supported by the occupied Palestinian territory Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF).

Following a referral from the hotline counsellor, Salah's father took him to a GCMHP-run community centre

in Khan Younis, their town, where he was assessed by a multidisciplinary team and diagnosed him with posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The centre's team put a therapeutic plan in place that included psychotherapy, play therapy, and family counselling.

Through the Humanitarian Fund, UNICEF supported two partners to provide protection and mental health support services through their hotlines. At least 1,104 children (39 per cent girls) and 1,774 adults (42 per cent women) accessed MHPSS services remotely providing callers with the opportunity to debrief to a professional and helping them to understand the situation and source out support through available networks. Callers who need more specialized mental health support services were further referred to access needed support.

The nightmares stopped occurring," his father said. "He now goes to the bathroom without asking us to accompany him. He even finishes all of his homework, unlike before." While feeling more secure, Salah has not yet fully recovered, and continues the treatment at the GCMHP centre.



## The mome

**RECONNECTING WATER, RESTORING LIVES** 

The moment we saw that the machinery starting fixing the networks, we were relived; we were finally rescued.

> Basma, grandmother from Gaza

Basma and her family can breathe now; they are no longer exposed to the unbearable smell of sewage accumulating in front of their home. Similarly, they no longer struggle to access safe drinking water.

They live in Beit Lahia, in the Gaza Strip, where their situation deteriorated significanlty during the 11 days of escalated hostilities, in May 2021. Beyond deaths and injuries, the fighting severely damaged civilian infrustructure, including water and sewage networks.

"These were dreadful days," Basma recalls, "especially the day where bombing was particularly heavy in our area. We were frightened. The next day, we found that the bombing had destroyed most infrastructure in our neighborhood."

More than 1.2 million Palestinians had their access to water, sanitation and hygiene services constrained due to infrastructure damage during the May 2021 escalation. "Sewage accumulated next door," Basma continued. "It was caused by damage to the network. It poisoned the air that we breathe and attracted mosquitoes; it was awful."

Even before the fighting, more than 97 per cent of the coastal aquifer, Gaza's underground water source, was deemed unfit for human consumption due to unsafe pumping and

wastewater contamination. "We struggled daily to secure domestic water," Basma recalls. "Many times, we had to buy expensive water for drinking, washing and cleaning," she adds, aluding to bottled or tankered water often availed of when piped water is unavailable or to avoid it because it is unsafe. "It overwhelmed us financially and physically." Immediately after the ceasefire, with support from the occupied Palestinian territory Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF), Oxfam and its partners were racing against time to fix networks, so that people can access safe water and to prevent sewage hazards. Oxfam indicated that Palestinians in Gaza had expressed their concerns about the health consequences of water shortages, especially during COVID-19.

Shortly thereafter, new pipes, fittings, concrete maintenance holes, and tiles were installed in multiple areas of the war-torn Gaza strip. Basma expressed her gratification: "The moment we saw that the machinery started fixing the networks, we were relived; we were finally rescued. I no longer worry that my grandchildren would catch diseases because of the sewage."

Additionally, chlorine solutions were provided for two months to disinfect the water of 286 wells serving more than 400,000 people. "The water supply is much better than before the destruction," Basma concludes. "I don't need even to run the water pump, which saves a lot on the electricity bill."

\*Basma's name has been changed to protect her privacy.



# Annexes

- Annex A Acronyms & abbreviations
- Annex B Reference Map
- Annex C OPT HF Advisory Board
- Annex D Allocations by recipient organizations

#### ANNEX A

## **ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS**

AAP	Accountability to Affected People
ACF	Fundacion Accion Contra El Hambre (Action Against Hunger )
ACTED	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
AIDA	Association of International Development Agencies
AISHA	Aisha Association for Women and Child Protection
CBPF	Country-Based Pooled Fund
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CESVI	Cooperazione e Sviluppo
CFM	Common Feedback Mechanism
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CWG	Cash Working Group
ECHO	European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office
EO	OCHA Executive Officer
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCS	Funding Coordination Section
GBV	Gender-based violence
GC	Global Communities
GCMHP	Gaza Community Mental Health programme
GMS	Grant Management System
HC	Humanitarian Coordinator
НСТ	Humanitarian Country Team
HFU	Humanitarian Financing Unit
HI	Handicap International
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
IDPs	Internally displaced persons
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
IHRL	International Human Rights Law
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
MA'AN	MA'AN Development Center
MAP	Medical Aid for Palestinians
MC	Mercy Corps
MDM	Médecins Du Monde

MDM France	Médecins du Monde France
MHPSS	Mental Health & Psychosocial Support
MSNA	Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA)
NFI	Non-food items
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NNGO	National Non-Governmental Organization
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
PA	Palestinian Authority
PAAPD	Palestinian Al Nakheel Association for Progress and Development
PARC	Agricultural Development Association
PCBS	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
PCHR	Palestinian Center for Human Rights
PEF	Palestinian Environmental Friends
PHC	Palestinian Housing Council
PiN	People in Need.
PMRS	Palestinian Medical Relief Society
PNGO	Palestinian NGOs Network
PSCF	Palestine Save the Children Foundation
PSEA	Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse
PUI	Première Urgence Internationale
SC	Save the Children
TDH-L	Terre des Hommes Lausanne
UHWC	Union of Health Work Committees
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VDT	Associazione Vento Di Terra Onlus
WAC	Women's Affairs Center
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WCH	War Child Holland
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WLO	Women-led Organisations
WRO	Women's Rights Organisations

#### ANNEX B

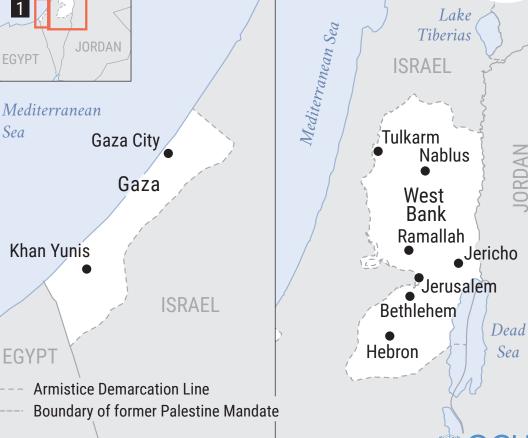
## **OPT ADVISORY BOARD**

#### STAKEHOLDER ORGANIZATION

Chairperson	Humanitarian Coordinator
NNGO	Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center(JLAC)
NNGO	The National Society for Rehabilitation (GNSR)
INGO	CARE International
INGO	Première Urgence Internationale (PUI)
UN	UNRWA
UN	World Food Programme (WFP)
Donor	Belgium
Donor	France
Donor	Germany
Donor	Iceland
Donor	Ireland
Donor	Korea
Donor	Norway
Donor	Spain
Donor	Sweden
Donor	Switzerland
Observer	The Association of International Development Agencies (AIDA)
Observer	European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)
Observer	The Palestinian NGOs Network (PNGO)
oPt HF/OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

ANNEX C **REFERENCE MAP** 





JORDAN

HA

Map Sources: ESRI, OCHA, UNCS.

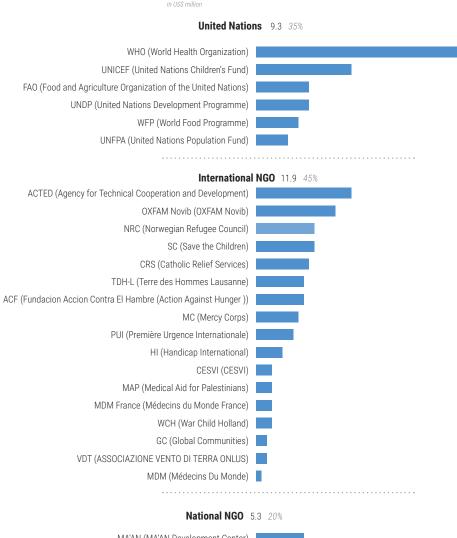
5 km

The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any

20 km

#### ANNEXT D

### ALLOCATIONS BY RECIPIENT ORGANIZATION







- 1. World Bank: Gaza Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment, June 2021. The Gaza 2021 Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment- June 2021 (worldbank.org)
- 2. World Bank: Economic Monitoring Report to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, 17 November 2021. https:// www.un.org/unispal/document/world-bank-economicmonitoring-report-to-ad-hoc-liaison-committee-ahlc-17- november-2021/
- 3. OCHA published Humanitarian Response Plan 2022, issued December 2021 https://www.ochaopt.org/ sites/default/files/HRP\_2022.pdf

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