



Credit: UN OCHA oPt, HRF Unit

Note from the Humanitarian Coordinator

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to share with you the Annual Report for 2011 of the Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF) for the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), prepared by the OCHA oPt office as the administrator of the Fund.

Over the past year, the HRF has continued to fulfil its role as an emergency funding mechanism for the humanitarian community in the oPt. In doing so it has enhanced the leadership role of the HC and supporting clusters and sectors of the Humanitarian Country Team, improved inter-agency coordination, and strengthened partnerships among United Nations agencies, international and local NGOs, and the donor community.

Since its inception in 2007, the HRF has received more than US\$19 million in contributions from donors. It remains ready to provide essential and timely responses to unforeseen and sudden emergencies in the Gaza Strip and in West Bank. It has demonstrated its effectiveness and flexibility to respond to crises and to fill critical gaps in humanitarian relief response.

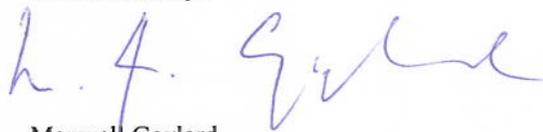
By the end of 2011, the Fund had disbursed over US\$16 million to national and international NGOs and UN Agencies across six clusters and sectors, namely Agriculture, Education, Emergency Shelter and NFIs, Health and Nutrition, Wash. In 2011, the HRF funded 14 projects for a total of \$2,667,112. It supported ten organizations in the provision of direct assistance and protection to 624,731 Palestinians in need. As such, the HRF was instrumental in improving the predictability, timeliness, and appropriateness of humanitarian relief response.

In a situation of protracted occupation, many challenges remain. Small scale emergencies which demand rapid and flexible funding continue to accumulate. There is a need to do more to empower local NGOs and strengthen partnerships with and among them. The HRF team will thus continue to strengthen its outreach to national NGOs in 2012 and seek to build their capacity and strengthen partnerships through the cluster/sector system. There is also a need to maximize the benefits of the HRF to fund NGOs in responding to emergencies with small-scale projects not normally available to them through bilateral funding.

Looking forward, I am pleased to inform you that the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)¹ Gender Marker will be formally rolled out for the oPt HRF in 2012, once global guidelines for all countries with pooled funding have been finalized. The HRF will be committed to practical initiatives which translate gender commitments into action in humanitarian programming.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all stakeholders including donors, UN agencies (cluster/sector leads), members of the Review Board as well as national and international NGOs for their collaborative effort in 2011. With the continued support of our donors and cooperation of UN agencies and national and international NGO colleagues, I am confident that the Fund will continue to be a critical tool in providing timely humanitarian relief assistance to people in need.

Yours sincerely,



Maxwell Gaylard
Humanitarian Coordinator for the occupied Palestinian territory

¹The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) is the primary mechanism for inter-agency coordination of humanitarian assistance. It is a unique forum involving key UN and non-UN humanitarian partners. The IASC was established in June 1992 in response to United Nations General Assembly Resolution [46/182](#) on the strengthening of humanitarian assistance.

Executive Summary

Palestinians in oPt face regular threats to life, liberty and security as a result of Israeli policies and practices related to the ongoing occupation and conflict-related and settler violence. Meanwhile, an increase in the number of demolitions in Area C of the West Bank, water scarcity,² high food and input prices and the closure of Gaza Strip negatively impact on livelihoods.

In Gaza, Israeli authorities continue to impose the land, sea and air blockade and the groups most-affected continue to be farmers in access restricted areas (ARAs), fishermen, unemployed youth and chronic poor living under the deep poverty line. In the West Bank, those most at risk are herders, Bedouin communities and farmers with land behind the barrier. The rise in demolitions, movement restrictions and the planning and zoning regime in the West Bank continue to affect the daily life of Palestinians under occupation. As a result, lives and livelihoods have become threatened, coping strategies overwhelmed and there has been a continued increase in the number of Palestinians displaced from their homes and land³.

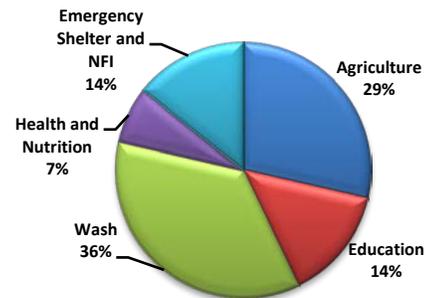
In face of these vulnerabilities, in 2011 the HRF in opt received 42 project proposals for a total amount of \$8,394,062. Of these 42 proposals, 14 projects were approved at a total amount of \$2,667,112 allowing the HRF in 2011 to support the provision of direct assistance to 624,731 Palestinians (299,448 children, 161,398 women, and 163,885 men). The funded projects addressed emergency needs and/or filled critical gaps in Agriculture, Education, Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and Health and Nutrition. WASH was the biggest recipient of funds, followed by Agriculture.

For all submitted projects, OCHA and the relevant cluster/sector coordinators undertake a preliminary review of the proposal, which includes a technical review. Proposals that pass this stage are referred to the HRF Review Board (members consist of UN agencies and international and national NGO representatives) who carry out a further review of proposals before proposals are forwarded to the HC with the Review Board recommendation.

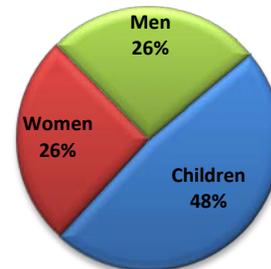
The HRF approved 14 projects last year; 3 were implemented in the Gaza Strip and 11 in the West Bank. Of these 11 projects approved in the West Bank, 4 were in Agriculture, 2 were in Education, 2 were in Emergency Shelter and NFIs, and 3 were in WASH. The projects were implemented in Area C of Bethlehem, and the Hebron, Jericho, Jerusalem, Ramallah and Tubas Governorates. In the Gaza Strip, of the 3 projects implemented, 2 were in WASH and 1 was in Health and Nutrition.

Cluster	Number of projects	US\$
Agriculture	4	909,028
Education	2	151,025
Emergency Shelter and NFIs	2	214,481
Health and Nutrition	1	222,036
Wash	5	1,170,542
Total	14	2,667,112

Graph 1 : HRF allocations per cluster



Graph 2: Targeted beneficiaries of HRF funded projects in 2011



² The Monthly humanitarian Monitor July 2011, http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha_opt_the_humanitarian_monitor_2011_08_19_english.pdf

³ CAP 2012, Humanitarian Dashboard – occupied Palestinian territory, http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ochaopt_cap_2012_full_document_english.pdf



PALESTINIAN REGISTERED REFUGEES*

West Bank ~ 848,000 refugees

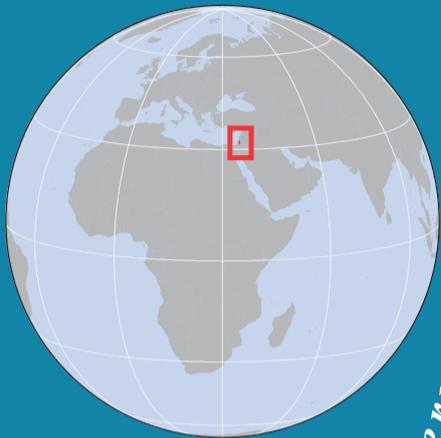
Gaza ~ 1,167,000 refugees

Lebanon ~ 455,000 refugees

Syria ~ 496,000 refugees

Jordan ~ 2 million refugees

Source: UNRWA, January 2011



Mediterranean Sea

Lebanon

Occupied Golan Heights

Syria

(Syria)

LAKE TIBERIAS

JORDAN RIVER

Dead Sea

Jordan

Israel

Egypt

GULF OF AQABA

Acre

Haifa

Nazareth

Tiberias

Al Qunaytirah

Irbid

Ajloun

Balqa

Amman

Madaba

Karak

Jenin

Tubas

Tulkarm

Qalqiliya

Salfit

West Bank

Ramallah

Jericho

Jerusalem

Bethlehem

Hebron

Gaza City

Khan Yunis

Gaza Strip

Rafah Crossing

Be'er Sheva

Eilat

Sheikh Hussein Crossing

Allenby Bridge Crossing

Safe Passage (Non-functional)

International boundary

Boundary of former Palestine Mandate

1949 Armistice (Green Line)

Area A and B

Area C

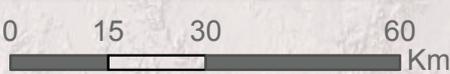
Israeli Unilaterally declared Jerusalem Municipal Boundary

Ceasefire line 1974 administered by UNDOF

Airport

Capital

Main City



Information on Contributors

In 2011, Norway, Sweden, and Spain contributed \$3,759,567 to the HRF.

On 1 January 2011, the HRF had a carry-over balance of \$7,716,534 while the closing balance on 31 December

2011 was \$7,924,743. The HRF retains \$5 million in its reserves, as recommended by the HC and the Advisory Board.

Table 1: Contributions received by donor

Donor	Total Received Contributions in US\$
Norway	1,705,903
Spain	726,744
Sweden	1,326,920
Total	3,759,567

Fund Overview

Summary of HRF Allocations in 2011

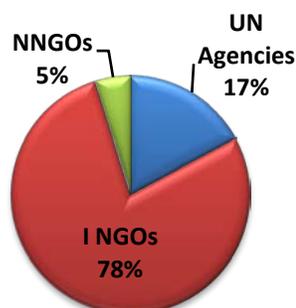
Requested for 2011 in US\$	Carryover from 2010 in US\$	Amount received in 2011 in US\$	Total available in 2011 in US\$
5,000,000	7,716,534	3,759,567	11,476,101

HRF allocations in 2011 by partner type in US\$

UN Agencies	456,414
International NGOs	2,081,983
National NGOs	128,715
Total	2,667,112

HRF allocations in 2011 by project type in US\$

Emergency response	2,667,112
Preparedness	0
Innovative (if any)	0
Total	2,667,112



Graph 3: 2011 HRF funding per partner type

Results of HRF Projects per Cluster

Agriculture:

Number of projects	Budget in US\$	Implementing Agencies	Geographic Area
4	909,027	Oxfam Italia(3 projects), ACF (1 project)	West Bank
Outputs			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Total number of beneficiaries: 7,668 ■ Gender consideration: 1,605 women, 1,495 men, and 4,568 children ■ Project results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Urgent need to strengthen breeders' ability to respond to the on-going Chlamydia infection was addressed through organization of a vaccination and awareness campaign, which included administration of vaccines to 54,000 sheep, helping 468 families. - The vaccination campaign has contributed to reduced mortality rate of herds and has limited spread of the disease from the Southern West Bank to other areas through migration of breeders. - Distribution of 1,207 tons of fodder, alleviating the effects of drought for 829 herding families, and protection of their livelihoods from erosion. 			

Education:

Number of projects	Budget in US\$	Implementing Agencies	Geographic Area
2	151,025	COOPI,MAAN	West Bank
Outputs			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Total number of beneficiaries: 221 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Gender consideration: 221 children ■ Project results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Area C, the restrictive planning regime imposed by the Israeli authorities, combined with limitations imposed on humanitarian organizations working in the area, have negatively impacted service delivery to communities, including the provision of education in schools. - Last year, HRF education projects supported five communities. A temporary school was constructed, while 31 classrooms, 23sanitation units and 2,130 meters of surrounding premises were rehabilitated (e.g. school yards, boundary walls, ceiling, fences, and sidewalks)to create a proper and safe learning environment for children and teachers. 			

Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items:

Number of projects	Budget in US\$	Implementing agencies	Geographic Area
2	214,481	ACTED	West Bank
Outputs			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Total number of beneficiaries: 369 ■ Gender consideration: 82 women, 88 men, 199 children ■ Project Results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 43 households were assisted through provision of 9 residential structures, 55 animal shelters, 4 mobile latrines, 3 water tanks and 1 classroom to prevent further deterioration of livelihoods, strengthen resilience and avoid forced displacement or the loss of assets. - Construction materials such as fencing, plastic sheets, metal poles and limestone powder were distributed. 			

Health and Nutrition:

Number of projects	Budget in US\$	Implementing agencies	Geographic Area
1	222,036	WHO	Gaza
Outputs			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Total number of beneficiaries: 4,181 ■ Gender consideration: 2,000 women, 2,000 men, 181 children ■ Project results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 181 children suffering from Galactosemia and Phenylketonure genetic disorders were provided with special nutrients to reduce mortality rates among children. - HRF provided emergency funds for this critical need, supporting the Ministry of Health in filling the gap until planned funds were received. 			

WASH:

Number of projects	Budget in US\$	Implementing agencies	Geographic Area
5	1,170,542	CISP, PU, UNICEF, ACF, GVC	West Bank & Gaza
Outputs			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Total number of beneficiaries: 611,778 ■ Gender consideration: 157,711 women, 160,302 men, and 293,758 children ■ Project results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The immediate risk posed by direct contact of the population to raw sewage was removed. A sewer network with individual house connections was constructed, cesspits were cleaned and closed, awareness raising measures were put in place and hygiene kits were distributed to 4,500 refugees in Gaza. 			

- The aquifer which was already under strain was protected.
- Water and wastewater services were provided to more than 600,000 beneficiaries in Gaza Strip by ensuring fuel could be purchased for coastal municipalities' water utilities until a more sustainable system is put in place.
- Water scarcity was mitigated through supply of clean and safe potable water to 967 families living in the rural areas in West Bank. (For human and animal consumption).
- Prevention of deterioration in health and hygiene standards for 210 inhabitants of the Abu Farda community in West Bank through provision of safe water, improved storage capacity, promotion of good hygiene practices, cleaning of the targeted living area and organization of waste disposal.

Summary and analysis of achievements

The humanitarian situation in oPt is directly related to the ongoing conflict and occupation. It can be best characterized as a protection crisis with serious humanitarian consequences brought about by the lack of accountability and lack of respect for International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law⁴.

Livelihoods remained severely constrained in the Gaza Strip due to policies that restrict access to areas with the most viable agricultural and fishing prospects. Restrictions on the movement of goods and people into Gaza have created chronic problems in service delivery in health, education and WASH.

In the West Bank more than 500 internal checkpoints, roadblocks and other physical obstacles impede Palestinian movement. In addition, a huge number of Palestinians were displaced due to demolitions of homes and schools by Israeli forces in 2011. Over 80 Palestinian communities continue to be vulnerable to Israeli settler violence.⁵ The WASH cluster moreover, estimates that around one million people (in 492 communities) lack adequate water for drinking and personal hygiene.

In 2011, 14 HRF projects directly benefited 624,731 Palestinians in need. In the Gaza Strip HRF projects supported interventions such as assisting children suffering from genetic disorders, enabling water and sanitation facilities to function by filling a funding gap, and reducing health risks due to inadequate wastewater treatment in refugee camps.

In the West Bank, HRF projects provided residential shelter (tents and portable structures) and restored livelihoods for 369 displaced persons. In addition, the

HRF contributed to mitigating the effects of water scarcity by providing subsidized clean water and helped counter pestilence in Area C by supporting herders and communities with vaccinations. The HRF also enabled the rehabilitation and construction of temporary classrooms and facilities for schools in East Jerusalem and Area C. The HRF has again demonstrated its added value in filling gaps in humanitarian response.

The HRF has aligned its strategy with the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) over the past five years, as a tool for the provision of flexible and predictable financing to promote greater effectiveness, accountability and partnership in humanitarian response.

The HRF continues to be a critical instrument to strengthen the leadership of the HC and cluster/sector leads for improving inter-agency coordination and strengthening partnerships between UN agencies, international and local NGOs, and the donor community. The HRF Secretariat paid particular emphasis in ensuring that projects supported by Fund in 2011 were in line with the HCT and clusters' priorities, mainly through a greater engagement of cluster leads and strengthened links between the HRF and coordination activities of the HCT.

⁴<http://www.unocha.org/ocha2012-13/opt>

⁵Israeli settlers violence in the West Bank

http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha_opt_settler_violence_FactSheet_October_2011_english.pdf

Gender Consideration

In preparation for the formal roll-out of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee⁶ (IASC) Gender Marker for the oPt HRF, the HRF Secretariat undertook a baseline analysis of all HRF projects approved in 2011 to see how well projects were designed to meet the specific needs of women, girls, boys and men.

Of the 14 projects approved for 2011, 4 projects that were implemented by International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGO) were gender mainstreamed projects (2for WASH and 2for Shelter/NFIs). Three projects showed no attention to gender mainstreaming and gender equality in their project design, including a lack of sex and age disaggregated data and information, while other projects generally had weak gender analyses in their assessment.

The HRF Secretariat recognizes that additional steps need to be taken in 2012 to raise awareness on the purpose and application of the gender marker for implementing partners to ensure that gender considerations are mainstreamed in all HRF projects. OCHA will undertake practical initiatives to translate gender commitments into action in humanitarian programming. Therefore, once the Global ERF Guidelines are finalized in 2012, the HRF Secretariat will formally roll-out the Gender Marker. In addition, identification of the Gender Marker as a Response-Based Management (RBM) tool has emphasized the synergy and logic of introducing both the gender marker and the RBM approach to all HRF formats/templates with the aim of developing a more robust, accountable and rigorous monitoring and reporting framework.

As a first step, the HRF Secretariat has already started to update all HRF formats/templates (application format, log frame, budget and progress and final reporting) including guidelines, all of which are posted on the HRF website. These new initiatives will come into effect once Global ERF Guidelines have been endorsed. Nevertheless, a Gender Marker self-assessment form has already been included as part of the screening process for projects in 2012.

Looking ahead, outreach activities and sensitizing cluster/sector partners on the purpose of the Gender

Marker and assisting in improving the design of projects will be a priority for 2012. This will include strengthening technical support for the integration of cluster/sector specific minimum standards in individual cluster/sector HRF guidelines to ensure inclusion of basic requirements. Moreover, sex and age disaggregated data should be collected, collated and analyzed consistently to inform programming; an aspect that will need to be strengthened in order to enhance gender sensitive programming by all cluster/sectors. Lastly, monitoring will also need to be strengthened to ensure that projects are being delivered as per the project design and reflect the correctly assigned gender code.

The introduction of the Gender Marker tool in 2012, which encourages agencies to include gender analysis in their needs assessments and integrate the advancement of gender equality into all activities and outcomes, will be key in supporting this endeavor. However, it is anticipated that innovative initiatives in strengthening and engendering humanitarian programming will need to be taken in order for the Gender Marker to become an effective and valuable tool for the HRF.

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Project Monitoring

The monitoring of HRF projects is carried out by the implementing organizations as well as externally by OCHA. Organizations were requested to submit progress reports during the implementation period, and a final narrative and financial report, in addition to the audit report (for NGO recipients) after completion of the

project. A number of field visits were carried out by the HRF manager, HRF Advisory Board and OCHA field staff to monitor the progress of projects. Of the 14 projects implemented during 2011, 10 projects (70%) were visited by the HRF manager.

Conclusion

Five years after the inception of HRF in the oPt, the fund continues to be an effective tool in responding to unforeseen emergencies through life-saving interventions and preventing the erosion of livelihood assets. It has also proved to be a critical tool in filling gaps in funding within a humanitarian response plan until mainstream humanitarian funding becomes available. Moreover, the HRF has been proven to be instrumental in strengthening the leadership of the HC and cluster/sector leads to improve inter-agency coordination and in strengthening partnerships between UN agencies, international and local NGOs, and the donor community.

However, numerous challenges remain. The continued challenge in striking a balance between timely decision-making in providing a rapid response remains an issue. Delays continue to be encountered during the review process resulting in major delays in the processing of applications. Unfocused applications and slow responsiveness from stakeholders are among the challenges that the HRF review process consistently faces. Efforts and corrective steps have been taken by the HRF Secretariat to mitigate delays primarily through supporting humanitarian partners to improve the quality of project proposals, together with the increasingly active role of the cluster/sector leads in the HRF process and the strengthened alignment of HRF funding priorities with coordination priorities. Moreover, the recruitment of a

full time HRF assistant has proved to be a real asset in providing back-up support to the HRF Manager.

While the HRF Secretariat will ensure greater inclusion of cluster/sector members, in particular national NGOs, it recognizes that capacity building still needs to be further strengthened in support of national and international NGOs to improve the quality of HRF proposals, ensuring smooth processing and more rapid response.

The HRF Secretariat will continue to focus on increasing the participation of national NGOs with its outreach activities and meetings with national NGOs at national and district levels. In line with the above, the HRF Secretariat will enhance monitoring and evaluation and increase the participation of cluster/sector coordinators and OCHA field units. OCHA has already taken steps to translate HRF guidelines and templates into Arabic as it strives to reach out to more local NGOs.

The introduction of the HRF monthly update in 2011, shared with Members of the Advisory Board and humanitarian partners, proved to be an excellent initiative. OCHA will continue to improve the flow of information with Members of the Advisory Board and humanitarian partners so as to ensure the transparency and accountability of the fund.

Glossary

Term	Description
ACTED	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
ACF	Action Against Hunger
ARA	Access restricted areas
CISP	Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli
GVC	Gruppo di volontariato civile
HC	Humanitarian Coordinator
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
HRF	Humanitarian Response Fund
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
MAAN	MAAN Development Center
NNGO	National Non-Governmental Organization
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
oPt	occupied Palestinian territory
PU	Premiere Urgence
RBM	Response Based Management
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization