KEY FACTS

1. The summer 2014 hostilities resulted in the largest displacement recorded in Gaza since 1967. The massive scope of destruction of houses can be attributed to practices adopted in the conduct of hostilities, including Israeli airstrikes targeting residential buildings, Israel’s use of artillery barrages in residential neighborhoods, and the Palestinian armed factions’ practice of launching attacks nearby, or from within, heavily populated areas. Multiple incidents in the context of these practices have raised concerns about respect for the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution in attack under international humanitarian law (IHL), and may amount to war crimes.1

2. The living conditions of IDPs, currently accommodated with host families, in rented apartments, prefabricated units, tents and makeshift shelters, or in the rubble of their previous homes, raise a range of protection concerns. These include limited access to basic services, lack of privacy, gender-based violence, tensions with host communities, risks due to unexploded ordnance, and exposure to weather extremes. This has exacerbated the vulnerability of certain groups, particularly children, women-headed households, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and those with chronic diseases.

3. Information gaps regarding the exact location of IDPs and their living conditions at the household level are an ongoing challenge, impeding the ability to respond to existing and emerging needs. A profiling exercise aimed at assessing the specific needs and vulnerabilities of IDPs and hosting communities is planned to be launched in August 2015, involving multiple humanitarian agencies and local authorities coordinated by OCHA.

4. Almost one year after the hostilities, there has been little progress in the reconstruction of houses totally destroyed, prolonging the suffering of IDPs. Key reasons include the inability of the Palestinian Government of National Consensus to assume effective government functions in Gaza, due to the ongoing internal divide; Israel’s longstanding restrictions on the import of building materials defined as “dual use items”; and the slow pace of disbursement of pledges made by member states for reconstruction. This is adding to the general frustration of the population following years of longstanding movement restrictions and rising unemployment and poverty.

5. Large-scale reconstruction within a reasonable time period, allowing for a durable solution to the plight of IDPs, including those from previous conflicts, is essential to enable the realization of their human rights, and can contribute to avoid an environment conducive to a new round of violence. Such a solution requires a full lifting of restrictions on the import of building materials, alongside the ability of the relevant Palestinian authorities to discharge their government functions effectively, and a strong and timely mobilization of resources by the international community.

1. Report of the detailed findings of the independent commission of inquiry established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution S-21/1.
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Gaza

Internally Displaced People (IDPs) before ceasefire as of 26 August

Total IDPs 190,017
- With host families 100,112
  - Rafah 29
  - Khan Yunis 17
  - Managed and supported by MoSA

Total IDPs 141,371
- With host families 20,893
  - Erez 16
  - Managed by popular communities, supported by UNRWA

Total IDPs 78,402
- With host families 19,525
  - Kerem Shalom 18

Total IDPs 61,511
- With host families 6,233
  - 14

Managed by popular communities, supported by UNRWA

Source: UNRWA

Gaza: Damage to Homes from Israeli Military Operations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Military Operation</th>
<th>Totally Destroyed (Housing Units)</th>
<th>Severe/Major Damage (Housing Units)</th>
<th>Partial/Minor Damage (Housing Units)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014* 'Protective Edge'</td>
<td>12,620</td>
<td>12,740</td>
<td>143,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012† 'Pillar of Defence'</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008/09‡ 'Cast Lead'</td>
<td>3,425</td>
<td>2,843</td>
<td>54,800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


* 'Protective Edge' Operation
† 'Pillar of Defence' Operation
‡ 'Cast Lead' Operation

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Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Gaza

Family residing in a severely damaged home in Johr ad-Deek

Makeshift shelter in eastern Gaza City, January 2015.
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Gaza: Damage to Homes from Israeli Military Operations