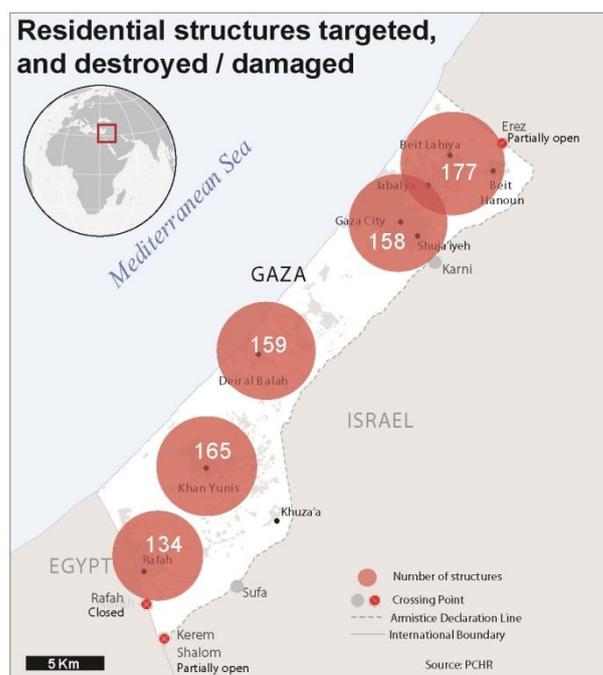




This report is produced by OCHA oPt in collaboration with humanitarian partners. This report covers the period from 8 August (0800 hrs) to 9 August (0800 hrs). The next report will be issued on 10 August.

Highlights

- Hostilities resumed, resulting in five Palestinian fatalities and significant damage to property across the Gaza Strip.
- The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) climbed again, with at least 60,000 returning to UNRWA and government shelters, renewing concerns about overcrowding and health risks.
- Nearly 10,800 homes in Gaza have been destroyed or severely damaged during Israeli attacks, 70 per cent more than during the “Caste Lead Operation” in 2008/9; reconstruction and repair costs of residential structures are estimated at US\$ 238 million.
- Despite the repair of most feeder lines from Israel, only 10 per cent of the electricity received is utilized due to the extensive damage sustained by the internal distribution network; there has been only minor increase in electricity supply to households.
- About half of the population remains without or with very little water supply, while the other half receives water for a few hours every five days.



1,935

Palestinians killed, including at least 1,408 civilians, of whom 452 are children and 235 are women.¹

67

Israelis killed, including 64 soldiers, three civilians including one foreign national.

255,000

People hosted at UNRWA and government shelters.

3-6

Hours of electricity supply per day

36,700

Homes in Gaza sustained light or significant damage.

Situation Overview

The expiration of the temporary ceasefire yesterday at 08:00 AM was followed by a resumption of hostilities, albeit at a lower intensity than during the days prior to the lull, resulting in additional Palestinian fatalities and significant property damage. These developments triggered a new wave of mass displacement, with tens of thousands returning to emergency shelters. The status of the negotiations over a more permanent settlement mediated by Egypt is uncertain.

¹ Data on fatalities and destruction of property is consolidated by the Protection and Shelter clusters based on preliminary information, and is subject to change based on further verifications.

[+ For more information, see “background on the crisis” at the end of the report](#)

Hostilities and casualties

At least five Palestinians have been killed as a result of Israeli airstrikes and shelling during the 24 hours that followed the resumption of hostilities. These include ten-year old Ibrahim Al-Dawsa, killed yesterday at around 17:00 during an airstrike in the Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood of Gaza city, while reportedly playing in the street. An additional eight fatalities were also recorded over the reporting period, including persons whose bodies were recovered, cases of late reporting, and people who died from their wounds. The latter category includes a 14 year-old boy who died in an Egyptian hospital.

This brings the cumulative death toll among Palestinians to at least 1,935, according to preliminary data collected by the Protection Cluster from various sources, including 309 persons who could not be yet identified or their status established. Of the fatalities whose identity and status could be verified, 1,408 are believed to be civilians, including 452 children and 235 women, and 218 have been identified as members of armed groups. The fatalities include eleven UNRWA staff members. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, as of 17:00 on 6 August, 9,806 Palestinians, including 2,979 children and 1,903 women and 356 elderly, had been injured.

Additionally, during the reporting period, at least seven residential structures have been reportedly hit in Israeli air strikes, bringing the total number of such structures destroyed or severely damaged (including multi storey buildings) since the start of the Israeli military operation to over 800. The cumulative number of housing units destroyed or severely damaged (including those directly targeted or affected as collateral damage) is estimated at over 10,800, nearly 70 per cent higher than the equivalent figure recorded during the “Caste Lead Operation” in 2008/9 (approx. 6,400); the number of units that sustained light or substantial damage (still inhabitable) is estimated at 36,700. The estimated cost of the reconstruction and repair of these homes is approximately US\$ 238 million.

Rocket and mortar firing by Palestinian factions resumed during the reporting period, affecting Israeli communities within a radius of up to 40 kilometres from Gaza. Most projectiles landed in open areas or were intercepted in the air, resulting in two injuries and some damage to property, including one house directly hit. Since 8 July, three civilians in Israel have been killed, including one foreign national, and dozens directly injured by rockets or shrapnel. The total of Israeli military fatalities stands at 64.

Over the years there have been constant efforts to evade the binding nature of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory [...] There can be no true security without justice and respect for human rights. Adherence to international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and ensuring accountability for violations, are essential pre-requisites for any lasting peace.

Ms. Navi Pillay, High Commissioner for Human Rights, 6 August 2014

Displacement

The past 24 hours witnessed a sharp reversal of the trend observed in the previous days, when internally displaced persons (IDPs) at emergency shelters began returning to their homes. It is estimated that over 60,000 individuals have returned back to shelters, since the resumption of hostilities. As of yesterday afternoon there were 221,600 people taking refuge at 90 UNRWA schools, while another 33,800 were hosted at 25 government and private schools and public facilities (including seven schools supported by UNRWA). There is no update available on the number of IDPs who were taking shelter with host families.

The massive influx into the shelters has placed additional strain on the already overstretched capacity of humanitarian agencies, and renewed concerns about hygiene and health conditions, including water-borne diseases and scabies. To address these concerns, UNRWA and partners launched a campaign designed to raise awareness among IDPs about certain risks and promote initiatives to keep shelters clean. Additionally, UNRWA has implemented a program to improve the tracking of nine specific health concerns at shelters.

It is estimated that the sustained efforts by UNRWA and WASH cluster members have ensured that all IDPs in shelters have access to at least 15 litres of water per day, including three litres for drinking, as per the international standards for survival during emergencies. The level of access to water by other IDPs remains uncertain.

Infrastructure and services

Although the Gaza Power Plant (GPP) remains inoperable following an Israeli airstrike on 29 July, eight of the ten electricity feeder lines from Israel to Gaza are now working. Efforts to repair the remaining two lines, which require extensive repairs, are uncertain due to the resumption of hostilities. Despite the increase in the volume of electricity incoming from Israel and Egypt (currently 124 MWs), Gaza's electricity corporation estimated that due to the extensive damage sustained to the internal distribution network, only 10 per cent of that amount is actually being utilized. Consequently, electricity supply to households has seen only a minor improvement and now ranges between three and six hours a day, up from 2-4 hours previously.

The strike on the GPP and the damage sustained by the feeder lines and distribution networks, compounded by the damage to water facilities, also had a devastating impact on the supply of water and sanitation services. Technical teams from the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU) have continued to repair and operate previously inaccessible facilities. It is estimated that water supply to half of the population has been restored, allowing the provision of households with water for several hours every five days, while the other half of the population receives no or very little water.

Key humanitarian priorities

Humanitarian space: access for humanitarian workers to carry out life-saving activities should be maintained, among other reasons, to complete search and rescue operations in several areas, and repair critical water and electricity infrastructure. Removal of the threat of numerous UXO in built up areas is vital.

Joint needs assessments: must be launched in the coming days to inform interventions by humanitarian organizations. This is contingent on an extension of the ceasefire.

Additional fuel supply: needed to operate backup generators at essential facilities, including water, sanitation and health, for longer hours.

Strengthen response to IDPs: improving priority response to IDPs in non-UNRWA facilities and with host families; ensuring common standards of response to IDPs throughout the Gaza strip, including comprehensive and common registration.

Erez: Open for movement with prior coordination according to normal operation hours. National staff working for international organizations are not authorized for the time being

Beit Hanoun (Arba-Arba): Operations reactivated.

Kerem Shalom: 135 truckloads of goods entered yesterday. Today the crossing is closed as per normal operating hours.

Rafah: Yesterday, ten tons of medicines and medical supplies from Kuwait and six recovered patients entered Gaza, whilst 330 dual nationals and four patients left to Egypt.

Humanitarian needs and response



Needs

- At least 373,000 children require direct and specialized psychosocial support (PSS). Children are showing symptoms of increasing distress, including bed wetting, clinging to parents and nightmares.
- Child protection and PSS is urgently required to address issues of child abuse, exploitation and violence inside shelters.
- Thousands of explosive remnants of war are left in civilian areas affected by conflict, causing a major threat, especially to children, farmers, humanitarian workers and IDPs returning home. UN premises have also been contaminated by ERW.

80,300

Parents have been provided psychosocial support

Response

- Protection Cluster members continue monitoring and investigating incidents to identify possible violations of international law, as well as consolidating information on civilian fatalities.
- The Protection Cluster consolidated inputs from partners on the “UNRWA Guidance to Basic Protection Issues in Shelters” in order to address ongoing protection concerns and to mainstream the needs of priority groups including women, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly and persons with injuries.
- Since 8 July, emergency PSS teams and have been able to provide initial psychosocial support to 2,206 children across the Gaza Strip.
- Since 15 July, PRCS has been providing PSS through UNWRA and governmental schools/shelters and reached 1,015 girls and 805 boys; additionally they were able to reach out to 2,079 women and 1,531 men.
- Since 20 July, 280,000 child protection and PSS text messages have been sent to Jawal subscribers in Gaza.
- Since 13 July, the Sawa Child Protection Helpline has provided counselling to 1,677 callers.

- World Vision is providing PSS to children in hospitals and UNRWA shelters.
- Since 8 July, UNRWA Community Mental Health Programme (CMHP) has provided 9,615 PSS sessions to 80,377 parents and conducted recreational activities for 87,971 children through 104 counsellors. Activities include playing, relaxation, meditation, drawing and storytelling.
- CMHP also coordinated and supervised the implementation of 1,509 sessions by other partners covering 6,237 parents and 43,359 children.
- Since 18 July, Tamer Institute has been conducting daily activities for children in their libraries. It has also been distributing children's books and games to children and their families hosted in the Holy Land school shelter.
- Tomoh is conducting support activities for parents and children in two government schools. Ma'an started providing child protection training to managers of government shelters. It will also re-establish ten family centers in the coming weeks.
- UNICEF through its partnership with AMAAN organization is providing daily PSS and extracurricular activities to 2,000 children in six shelters in Gaza city, that are managed by Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) and other NGOs.
- UNRWA, UNICEF and UNMAS are distributing ERW awareness leaflets to families in UNRWA shelters. Radio and TV ERW awareness messages are broadcasted several times a day to spread awareness about the danger posed by unexploded ordnance. Save the Children will also include ERW awareness leaflets in their education packages which will be distributed to children.
- On 7 August, UNMAS continued clearing UNRWA installations from unexploded ordnance (UXO), including in two distribution centers in Beit Hanoun and Deir El Balah, the Gaza City and Beit Hanoun Health Centers, the Relief and Social Services Office in Beit Hanoun, and four schools.

Gaps and Constraints

- Local organizations continue to face fuel and electricity shortages.
- Sawa Child Protection Help Line needs additional trained counsellors.
- The number of social workers and PSS counsellors at hospitals is insufficient to meet current needs.
- Displaced children and their families hosted with community members remain largely unreached by child protection interventions.



Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI)

Needs

- More than 10,800 families (approximately 64,850 individuals) whose homes were totally destroyed or heavily damaged by either air strikes or tank shelling are in need of emergency NFI kits. In the medium term, they will also need cash assistance.
- Emergency shelter repair interventions are needed for about 5,555 families (33,350 individuals), whose homes were damaged but are still inhabitable. Another 31,150 families (an estimated 186,900 individuals), whose homes sustained minor damage need basic NFI assistance.

64,850

People whose homes were totally destroyed or sustained major damage.

Response

- 221,600 people are being provided with shelter in 90 designated UNRWA schools across the Gaza Strip and 33,800 individuals are sheltered in 25 government shelters (including seven supported by UNRWA).
- A total of 87,481 NFI kits have been distributed since the start of the emergency by ten agencies and organizations.

Gaps and Constraints

- Cash assistance of over US\$ 44 million is needed for 10,850 families to cover rental fees and urgent expenses.
- Emergency shelter kits are needed for **13,563** displaced families.
- Displaced families with hosting families are considered to be particularly vulnerable and in need of NFIs and food items.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Needs

- There is an urgent need for drinking water and water for domestic use as well as access for sanitation and hygiene articles for IDPs.
- Fuel is urgently needed to operate critical WASH facilities.
- Damaged electricity feeder lines, water and waste water lines need urgent repairs.

Response

- The ceasefire has allowed water service providers, including CMWU and municipalities, to access WASH facilities for operations, maintenance and repairs, as well as carry out assessments for needed damage repairs. Around half of the network is back under control and people receive water every 5 days. Service providers continue damage repairs and assessments.
- ICRC, together with the Khan Yunis Municipality and CMWU, delivered 40 plastic tanks and provided 25,000 liters of drinkable water to 300 families who moved back to the less damaged area in Khuza'a.
- UNRWA continued to distribute potable and non-potable water to emergency shelters during the reporting period. During the reporting period, 1,132 cubic meters of potable water were delivered to UNRWA shelters. Also, some shelters benefit from UNRWA wells and municipal water sources. UNRWA's 11 water wells in Jabalia, Beach, Khan Younis and Rafah camps supplied a total of 11,273 cubic meters, including to UNRWA shelters.
- UNRWA's Infrastructure and Camp Improvement Department removed a total of 366 tonnes of solid waste from all Gaza camps. UNRWA maintenance staff continues to undertake critical repair work in UNRWA installations, including plumbing and electrical works in shelters.
- UNRWA also continued to provide its logistics capacity to supply fuel to municipalities, water, and sanitation and health facilities through the WASH cluster (led by UNICEF). Around 24,000 liters were delivered to UNICEF for the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU).

Gaps

- The constant movement of IDPs between their homes and designated shelters during ceasefires poses challenges in prioritizing responses undertaken by water and sanitation service providers.
- The damage sustained to the GPP (the Gaza Power Plant) on 29 July has had a devastating effect on all WASH facilities in Gaza.
- Lack of energy to operate facilities and limitations on access hinder the critical operations of WASH facilities, including operations of water service providers as well as maintenance and repairs, with potential devastating consequences for the entire population of the Gaza Strip.
- WASH partners' communication with CMWU and municipalities is challenged due to lack of electricity and internet.



Health and Nutrition

Updates to this section will be provided in the next Situation Report.



Food Security

Needs

- IDPs are still in need of emergency food assistance. Nutritious food commodities rich in vitamins and minerals should be provided in a more consistent manner to IDPs, in particular for children under five, pregnant and lactating women, and elderly people.
- At least 64,000 people who will not be able to go back to their homes will need food and other assistance for a longer term.
- Additional bread production capacity is required due to lack of electricity in households.
- Immediate emergency funds to cover massively increasing food needs of IDPs are required.

- Animal feed for 4,000 breeders/herders should be provided in order to avoid further loss of livestock and additional erosion of livelihood of herder's communities.
- Humanitarian access to allow for provision of food and other emergency assistance to the civilian population should continue.

Response

- WFP, in cooperation with UNRWA, is providing ready-to-eat emergency food rations to all IDPs sheltered in UNRWA or government schools on a daily basis. Over the reporting period, UNRWA delivered 95 truckloads of food to shelters. Food to shelters is provided in cooperation with WFP
- WFP continues to provide food assistance to 25,000 IDPs hosted with relatives and to 2,039 patients and hospital staff.
- Food Security Sector (FSS) partners are delivering complementary food distributions to IDPs at UNRWA and government shelters. WFP is distributing bread from West Bank bakeries to meet the mounting food needs.
- The Food Security Sector is preparing for the food distribution, from 10 August on, for everyone not normally receiving core food assistance, primarily to assist people whose houses have been partially or fully destroyed and/or those housing IDPs.

Gaps and Constraints

- The ongoing electricity shortage has heavily impacted commercial activities, the milling capacity and the performance of bakeries. Alternatives ways to provide bread to the IDPs require additional logistic and financial efforts.
- Supply chains in Gaza are already stretched and therefore aid agencies are highly encouraged to bring in food aid items from West Bank/outside Gaza Strip.



Logistics

Needs

- Safe and secure transportation inside the Gaza Strip is urgently required to ensure the delivery of much needed relief supplies and to guarantee transporters are able to continue working.
- The hostilities in the Gaza Strip have been impeding an effective distribution plan of relief commodities; both access to existing warehouses and supply of labour forces has been hindered.
- There is an urgent need to ensure coordination with relevant authorities and organisations operating in the Gaza Strip and coordinate proper humanitarian space to ensure safe passage, delivery and distribution of aid cargo.

Response

- Since the establishment of the Logistic Coordination Cluster, 15 trucks transporting relief items on behalf of the humanitarian community have been facilitated by the Logistics Cluster and arrived in Gaza City. Items transported include urgent aid relief such as water, bread, toilet paper, cooking oil, rice, hygiene kits, mattresses and pillows.

Gaps and Constraints

- The almost exclusive reliance on Kerem Shalom as entry point into the Gaza Strip remains a key constraint currently limiting access to the region.
- Safe and secure transportation inside the Gaza Strip remains an ongoing constraint limiting the ability of the delivery of urgently required relief supplies.
- The increasing needs and deteriorating situation is forcing the humanitarian community to augment its pipelines, increasing pressure on Kerem Shalom, the only goods crossing into the Gaza Strip, and at same time raise issues of prioritization of cargo.
- The unpredictable nature of cargo prioritization procedure at the Beituniya crossing in the West Bank impedes operations.

General Coordination

Following the resumption of hostilities, humanitarian organizations have postponed the launching of the joint rapid needs assessment originally scheduled for 10 August. However, preparations have continued, including the finalization of

questionnaires, the allocation of staff to various teams, and the conduct of relevant trainings. Various technical authorities have committed their support. The assessment will take place in two phases: an overview at the governorate level, on the first day, followed by an assessment at the municipality and refugee camp level for during three-four days. Data collected will be entered on tablets and linked directly to a database. The information will be subsequently validated and analysed, before it is disseminated. Protection and gender concerns have been integrated throughout the process.

Funding

Mr. Shawqi Issa, Minister of Social Affairs and Minister of Agriculture of the State of Palestine along with the Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. James W. Rawley launched the 2014 Gaza Crisis Appeal which outlines the planned humanitarian response of the HCT, including UNRWA to the current emergency. The appeal is intended to address urgent needs in Gaza and currently requests US\$ 367 million to implement 86 projects in clusters/sectors including Education, Food Security, Health and Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and WASH as well as Coordination and Support Services. The clusters/sectors requesting the largest amount of funds are Food Security and Shelter which are requesting a total of US\$ 293 million together. The appeal is based on the latest analysis of the required emergency assistance to meet the most critical needs of the affected population and will be revised as further information from the ground becomes available and needs assessments become possible. The Crisis Appeal supersedes the estimates presented in the Gaza Crisis Preliminary Needs and Requirements paper of 24 July. The Crisis Appeal is available online at www.ochaopt.org.

The Emergency Response Fund (ERF) is an additional mechanism available to fund interventions in Gaza through rapid and flexible support to affected civilian populations. The ERF has begun processing project applications in regards to the Gaza emergency. To date, eight project proposals were approved for a total of US\$ 1.85 million. UNDP for Emergency Support to the Electricity Sector due to Damages in the Gaza Strip through the Gaza Electricity Distribution Corporation (GEDCO), ACF's two projects to provide emergency shelter and NFIs and water, sanitation and hygiene to affected families; Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) project to support for the emergency needs of neonatal units in Gaza hospitals by procurement of essential drugs and disposables; Union of Health Work Committees (UHC) emergency intervention to support the continuation of health services in the northern area of Gaza Strip by providing dedication fuel and consumables to Al Awda hospital, Dan Church Aid and PARC projects to provide food packages and hygiene kits to IDPs hosted in Shelters in Deir Al Balah ,Rafah and Khan Yunis; by and UNMAS' project for the management of ERW to reduce the risk posed to civilians.

In addition a number of proposals are currently being processed, including by Palestinian Medical Relief Society for an emergency intervention to build community support teams worth approximately US\$ 250,000; by the Agricultural Development Association (PARC) to provide safe water for IDPs worth approximately US\$ 250,000; by MA'AN Development Center for the reparation of WASH facilities worth US\$ 275,000; by the Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC) for the support of families in informal shelters worth US\$ 238,700 . Further funding for the ERF is still being sought.

UN humanitarian agencies, in cooperation with NGO partners are in the process of finalizing an application to the CERF Rapid Response window covering urgent needs in food assistance, psychosocial support, WASH, rubble removal and critical drugs.

Background to the crisis

On 7 July 2014, the Israeli army launched a large military operation in the Gaza Strip, codenamed "Protective Edge", with the stated objective of stopping Palestinian rocket firing at southern Israel and destroying the military infrastructure of Hamas and other armed groups.

This development marked the collapse of the Egyptian-brokered ceasefire understanding reached between Israel and Hamas in November 2012, which has been gradually undermined since December 2013. The latest escalation round started in early June, characterized by an intensification of Israeli airstrikes and rockets launched from Gaza at southern Israel. Tensions further increased following the abduction and killing of three Israeli youths in the southern West Bank, on 12 June, which the Israeli government attributed to Hamas. Overall, in the period leading up to the start of the current operation a total of 15 Palestinians, including one civilian, were killed, and another 58 others, mostly civilians, injured, as a result of Israeli airstrikes in the Gaza Strip; seven Israelis, five of whom were civilians, were injured due to rocket fire.

The current crisis comes against a backdrop of heightened vulnerability and instability. Unemployment increased dramatically since mid-2013, following a halt of the illegal tunnel trade, exacerbating the impact of the Israeli blockade in place since June 2007. Additionally, former de facto government employees, including the security forces, have not been paid salaries regularly since August 2013 and no salaries at all since April 2014. Delivery of basic services has been also undermined due to an ongoing energy crisis, involving power outages of 12 hours per day.

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