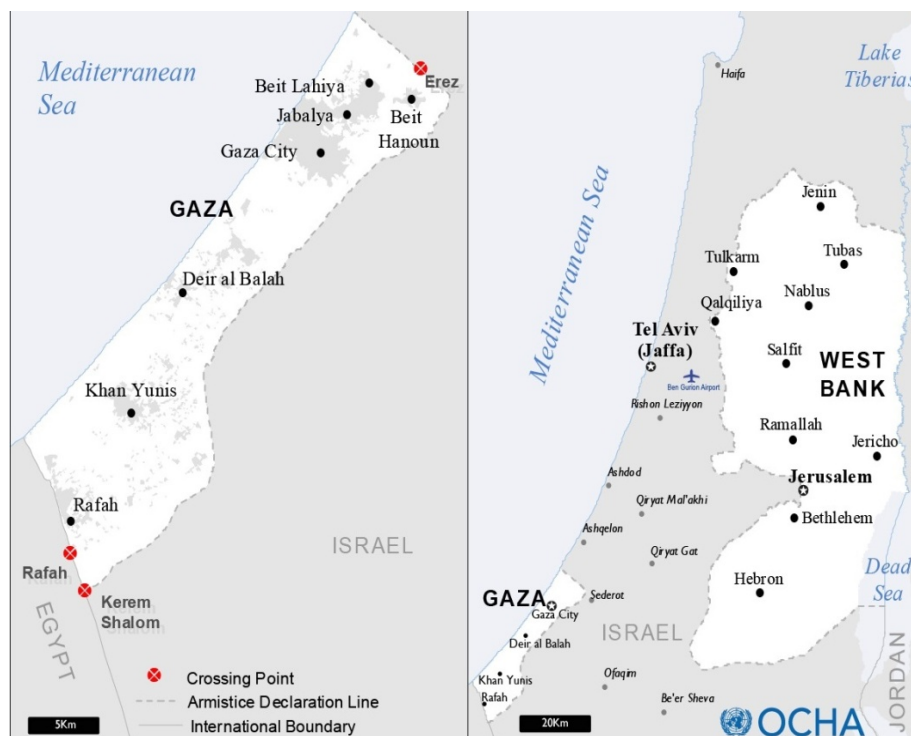




This report is produced by OCHA oPt in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 16 July (1500 hrs) to 17 July (1500 hrs). The next report will be issued on 18 July.

Highlights

- A temporary humanitarian pause took place today from 10:00 to 15:00 today, the first halt in hostilities since 7 July.
- The Palestinian fatality toll since the start of the emergency is now 230. According to preliminary information, at least 74 percent (171 people) are civilians.
- An estimated 57,900 children who have experienced death, injury or loss of home over the past ten days require direct and specialized psychosocial support (PSS).
- 22,900 persons hosted at UNRWA shelters are in need of emergency food assistance.
- Only between 50 to 60 per cent of pumped water is being supplied to households due to damage to critical WASH facilities.
- Latest development: 22:30 17 July. Reports from Gaza and from media sources indicate that an Israeli ground incursion into Gaza has begun.



230

Palestinians killed, including at least 171 civilians, of whom 48 are children and 31 women¹

1,764

Palestinians injured, of whom 521 are children and 372 women²

1,780

Displaced families whose homes have been destroyed or severely damaged.

22,900

Displaced people hosted at 24 UNRWA schools

50%

Of sewage pumping and treatment centres no longer operating.

Situation Overview

As the Gaza emergency enters its tenth day, a UN-initiated humanitarian pause took place from 10:00 to 15:00 today. The temporary pause held despite limited fire from Gaza at southern Israel and Israeli shells in response during the designated period.

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.

² Data on injuries is provided by the Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza.

+ For more information, see “background on the crisis” at the end of the report

Today's humanitarian pause, the first negotiated break in hostilities since the emergency began on 7 July, allowed Gaza residents to leave their homes and shelters and stock up on basic food items and other necessities. Streets were quickly filled with people and vehicles and shops and markets opened. Banks and ATMs were operational but unable to cope with demand, leading to arguments and altercations in some branches. Patients were also to visit health centres for the first time for regular non-emergency appointments. Food security members were able to assess damage to agricultural land for the first time since the start of the operation. Farmers were also able to harvest some crops and bring them to the markets, where fresh fruit and vegetables were in short supply.

The pause allowed for the removal of accumulated garbage and the initial clearing away of rubble, and for utility workers to carry out maintenance repairs. Staff with the main water utility in Gaza (CMWU) and the electricity provider (GEDCO) deployed several teams simultaneously, to carry out repairs of damaged infrastructure. However, due to the lack of progress on the repairs on two electricity feeder lines on the Israeli side, power outages continued in some areas.

The pause also allowed humanitarian workers to conduct field visits in safety and to begin the first detailed assessment of damage and needs since the emergency began, as reflected in the cluster updates below.

This is the third major military confrontation in Gaza in six years and civilians have borne the brunt each time. They are paying the price for a collective failure to break the cycle of violence and reach a lasting political solution. Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos, 16 July 2014.

Prior to the five hour pause, hostilities continued over night, with intense Israeli bombardment of Gaza by air, land and sea, resulting in another 23 Palestinians killed in the reporting period. In one widely reported incident, a group of seven children from the Bakr family were struck by a missile strike while playing football on a beach in Gaza city. Four boys aged 10 to 11 were killed and an eight-year-old boy seriously injured. The Israeli military has announced an investigation into the incident.

The Palestinian fatality toll since the start of the emergency is now 230. According to preliminary information, at least 74 percent (171 people) are civilians, including 48 children and 31 women, 17 per cent (39 people) are members of armed groups, and the status of the remainder (20 people) cannot be determined as yet.³ According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, 1,764 Palestinians, including 521 children and 372 women, had been injured as of midday on 17 July. The large proportion of civilians among the fatalities continues to raise concerns about respect for the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution in attack under international humanitarian law.

Indiscriminate firing by Palestinian armed groups in Gaza into Israel also continued during the past 24 hours with most falling in open areas or intercepted by the Iron Dome system. Rocket fire by Palestinian armed groups has so far resulted in one Israeli civilian fatality and at least 11, and possibly up to 26, civilians directly injured by rockets or shrapnel, based on various Israeli media reports.. Today, UNRWA announced the discovery, on 16 July, of approximately 20 rockets hidden in one of its vacant schools in the course of a regular inspection of its premises. UNRWA has strongly condemns the group or groups responsible for placing the weapons in one of its installations as a "flagrant violation of the inviolability of its premises under international law."

Updates on Gaza Crossings

Erez: Functioning and processing passengers as per permitted categories.

Beit Hanoun (Arba-Arba): The authorities in Gaza announced that they would keep the crossing open during the humanitarian pause, 10:00 – 15:00.

Kerem Shalom: Closed earlier this morning due to a security incident. Reopened at 13:00 and closed again at 13:30 due to security incident. Yesterday 68 trucks entered in addition to 642,000 litres of fuel. Although usually closed on Fridays, CLA Erez stated its willingness to keep the crossing open tomorrow provided there is a critical need for imports.

Rafah: Open for medical evacuations, foreign and dual nationals and Egyptian passport holders. The Egyptian authorities informed the UN Access Coordination Unit (ACU) that they will be processing up to six busses of eligible passengers per day to exit Gaza, provided the crossing is open. Six trucks of food and medical supplies, one ambulance and 48 personnel for United Arab Emirates hospital entered yesterday together with additional 18 trucks of food and medical supplies donated by Egypt and the Arab Medical Union.

³ 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.

Humanitarian needs and response



Protection

Needs

- At least 57,900 children require direct and specialized psychosocial support (PSS) on the basis of families who have experienced death, injury or loss of home over the past ten days.
- Explosive remnants of war present a major hazard to the population, and particularly to children, therefore risk education targeting children is a major need.

57,900

Children in need of psychosocial support

Response

- Protection Cluster members continue monitoring and investigating incidents to identify possible violations of international law. Protection monitoring visits were carried out during the humanitarian pause.
- The Protection Cluster continues to monitor and crosscheck information on civilian fatalities.
- On 16 July, the Gaza emergency PSS teams conducted 66 visits to injured children in three hospitals and destroyed homes throughout the Gaza Strip. All children showed signs of extreme anxiety, fear and a sense of insecurity. A total of 415 visits, reaching 448 children have been conducted since 7 July.
- Since 13 July, Sawa' Child Protection Help Line is receiving calls from children and caregivers 24/7.
- Radio spots continue to alert children and their families on the dangers posed by Explosive Remnants of War. In addition, partners are preparing for the provision of UXO risk education, as soon as the situation allows.

Gaps and Constraints

- Ongoing hostilities continue to impede movement of child protection staff and emergency psychosocial teams.
- Emergency psychosocial teams are working at half capacity due to funding constraints. As of 15 July, partners have identified a funding gap of USD 2,340,000 for the child protection component of the emergency response.



Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI)

Needs

- An estimated 1,780 families (10,600 individuals) whose homes have been either totally destroyed or sustained major damage, rendering their homes uninhabitable, require emergency NFI kits, including mattresses, blankets, hygiene kits and kitchen sets. In the medium term, they will need cash assistance to cover rental fees and basic household items.
- The total number of people in need of shelter assistance due to destruction of or damage to their homes is estimated to be 96,400 individuals.
- NFI emergency shelter repair interventions, such as nylon and tarpaulin, are needed for about 2,300 families (13,800) individuals whose houses sustained damages but are still inhabitable.
- About 72,000 individuals are living in slightly affected houses with broken windows and damaged doors, and need basic NFI assistance such as nylon and plastic sheets. However shelter partners considered this as second priority that will be dealt with at later stages after the cessation of fighting and after a damage assessment has been conducted.

1,780

Families in need of NFIs and cash assistance

Response

- Trucks with nearly 6,500 mattresses, 23 family hygiene kits, and other supplies were sent and distributed to UNRWA's 24 shelters.
- In addition to UNRWA's provision of shelter assistance, a total of 6,240 individuals have been provided with shelter assistance to date by different cluster members.

Gaps and Constraints

- Emergency shelter kits for 1780 families are available in stock and are provided by NFI agencies when the security situation allows. Protection monitoring visits were carried out during the humanitarian pause.
- Cash assistance for 1780 families to cover rental fees and urgent expenses (US\$ 8,900,000) is needed.
- Shelter NFIs (nylon and tarpaulin and/or assistance to replace broken glass and repair of damaged windows and doors) for 12,700 families are needed in the medium term.
- The lack of security continues to impede delivery of the most urgent shelter/NFI assistance.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Needs

- Gaza water service providers reported that currently only between 50 and 60 per cent of the normally pumped water is being supplied to the population due to damages to critical WASH facilities.
- More than 30,000 people in Al Junaina and Al Salam area remain without water for the past seven days as result of damage to the main pipeline. In Bani Suheila, a water pipeline was damaged when nearby houses were targeted, affecting the water supply to 9,000 people.
- Only 50 per cent of the sewage pumping and treatment systems still operate. This is of particular concern in North Gaza, Gaza City and Rafah. The mixing of sewage and water constitutes a very high public health risk of waterborne diseases.
- Hygiene or water kits (containing storage and chlorine tablets) are needed.
- Protection of staff to allow for essential operation and repair of critical WASH facilities remains a key priority during hostilities. The pause permitted today to carry on some critical works.

50 per cent

Of sewage pumping and treatment systems no longer operate

Response

- Sanitation staff worked in all refugee camps in the Gaza Strip, removing solid waste and cleaning the streets. UNRWA staff ensured that the 11 UNRWA water wells in Jabalia, Beach, Khan Younis and Rafah camps remained operational.
- Damage of water and sewage pipelines in five locations in the eastern and western parts of Jabalia were temporarily repaired by the municipality
- Despite increased security risks, service providers continue to conduct limited maintenance to restore minimum water and sanitation services.
- WASH cluster area focal points for Southern Gaza and Gaza City were able to visit key WASH installations damaged by airstrikes to assess the extent of the damage; in the case of Gaza City, the municipal water official accompanied the assessment team.
- The electricity provider (GEDCO) had 15 teams throughout the Gaza Strip carrying out repairs during the humanitarian pause, but no progress was reported on the repairs on the feeder lines (7,11) on the Israeli side.
- CMWU teams throughout the Gaza Strip carried out repairs today during the humanitarian pause, pre-positioning spare parts, supplies and fuels in certain areas. The waterline in Zemo area, providing water for 15,000 people in Gaza City is being fixed.

Gaps and constraints

- The lack of protection during damage repair, operation and assessment remains the biggest constraint, impeding the immediate repair of water and waste water pipelines.
- The use of vouchers for provision of bottled water for drinking is considered for emergency purposes, given the critical water situation.
- Private water vendors who conduct crucial water tankering have in certain areas raised security concerns and suspended water delivery.



Health and Nutrition

Needs

- Urgent need of 50 essential drug items and 20 disposables at Gaza hospitals.
- Half of psycho-tropic drugs, used for patients with mental illness, trauma and anxiety, at zero stock.
- Eight anesthesia machines, 10 ventilators, five electrosurgical units, 20 vital sign monitors, ECG machines, five defibrillator machines urgently needed.
- Specialists in neurosurgery, anesthesiology, plastic surgery, general trauma surgery, advanced orthopedics and burn management needed at Gaza hospitals.

**50 essential
drug items
and 20
disposables**

Urgently needed at
Gaza hospitals

Response

- Six health facilities (four MoH, two UNRWA) have been damaged since the outbreak of hostilities, and 13 health facilities are currently closed, but 19 of 21 UNRWA health clinics remain operational. All regular UNRWA services remain available. On 15 July, 8,891 people visited UNRWA health clinics in Gaza, including more than 730 children who received their regular check up and/or immunization vaccinations. 465 people went to the dentist at UNRWA health clinics on 16 July, and a small number also attended psychosocial counselling.
- Emergency fuel of 26,000 litres of diesel was distributed to critical health facilities. As with yesterday, this was again predominately distributed on behalf of WHO to hospitals and clinics it services in Gaza (UNRWA).

Gaps and constraints

- Lack of adequate protection of health facilities and personnel.
- Restricted access to the injured due to ongoing military operations.
- Reduced access for referral cases out of Gaza, due to the difficulty in travel within Gaza, as well as the delay in processing referrals.



Food Assistance

Needs

- 22,900 persons hosted at UNRWA shelters and another 685 displaced families hosted by relatives, are in need of emergency food assistance.
- 3,600 fishermen are still in need of re-establishing their livelihoods and require assistance in the interim.
- Damage to agricultural land, crops and facilities include 58 dunums of greenhouses, 17 livestock farms, 1,230 dunums of agricultural lands and about 2,000 cultivated dunums of irrigated vegetables are at high risk of drought and loss because farmers are unable to access their lands. At least 2,000 farmers are in need of urgent food assistance, as well as other interventions to re-establish their livelihoods.

34,350

Palestinians received
food assistance

Response

- WFP in cooperation with UNRWA continues to provide emergency food rations to 22,900 IDPs in 24 UNRWA shelters, for the third day and are scaling-up the assistance to reach newly displaced IDPs.

- On 16 July, WFP delivered four trucks with about 6,000 bread packets and 19,300 tins of tuna, as well as bottled water to UNRWA.
- UNRWA's regular food distribution reached 5,560 people through five distribution centres on 16 July.
- WFP, in partnership with Oxfam GB, continues to provide food vouchers to 685 families hosted by relatives.
- WFP continues to provide food assistance to about 2,040 hospital patients and staff across Gaza.
- 600 families (4,200 persons) are currently receiving food parcels through the Welfare Association. The Welfare Association is scaling up its food assistance to reach an additional 3,000 families with Ramadan food packages.
- Up to 2,800 food parcels are being prepared to reach up to 19,600 people. PU-AMI has identified 57 displaced families (around 340 people) in the Middle Area who will be receiving food assistance through food parcels distribution.

Gaps and Constraints

- Food Security Sector (FSS) members continue to face security constraints in accessing affected areas to assess damage, especially agricultural lands and livestock. During the short humanitarian pause on 17 July, FSS staff and partners were able to access some sites and directly visit a number of locations.
- Information about displaced families at relatives' houses/ host families is needed in order to provide emergency food assistance.
- Immediate emergency funds to cover food assistance to displaced people are required.

Education

Needs

- In the last 24 hours, three additional government schools have been affected by shelling. In total, 84 schools (37 government schools and 47 UNRWA schools) have been affected by shelling due to their close proximity to targeted sites and are in need of repairs.

84

Schools damaged
by shelling

Response

- On 16 July, the Education Cluster was able to conduct field observations in Gaza City for the first time since the outbreak of hostilities. Observation of seven damaged public schools revealed light damage such as broken windows and doors.

Gaps & Constraints

- Restrictions on movement to assess impact of hostilities on school infrastructure.
- Still no information available about the condition of the 12 schools located in the Access Restricted Area (ARA).
- Insufficient pre-positioned supplies, such as school tents and teaching/learning materials, to respond to likely scale of need.

General Coordination

On 17 July, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) met with donors to discuss preliminary needs and requirements related to the current Gaza emergency. OCHA prepared a joint proposal on behalf of the HCT that reflects the priorities identified by the various clusters and sectors based on preliminary information, in advance of full assessments. The initial request amounts to \$US 40 million for immediate needs.

HCT members attended a coordination meeting led by the Minister of Social Affairs and Agriculture at the Emergency Operation Centre.

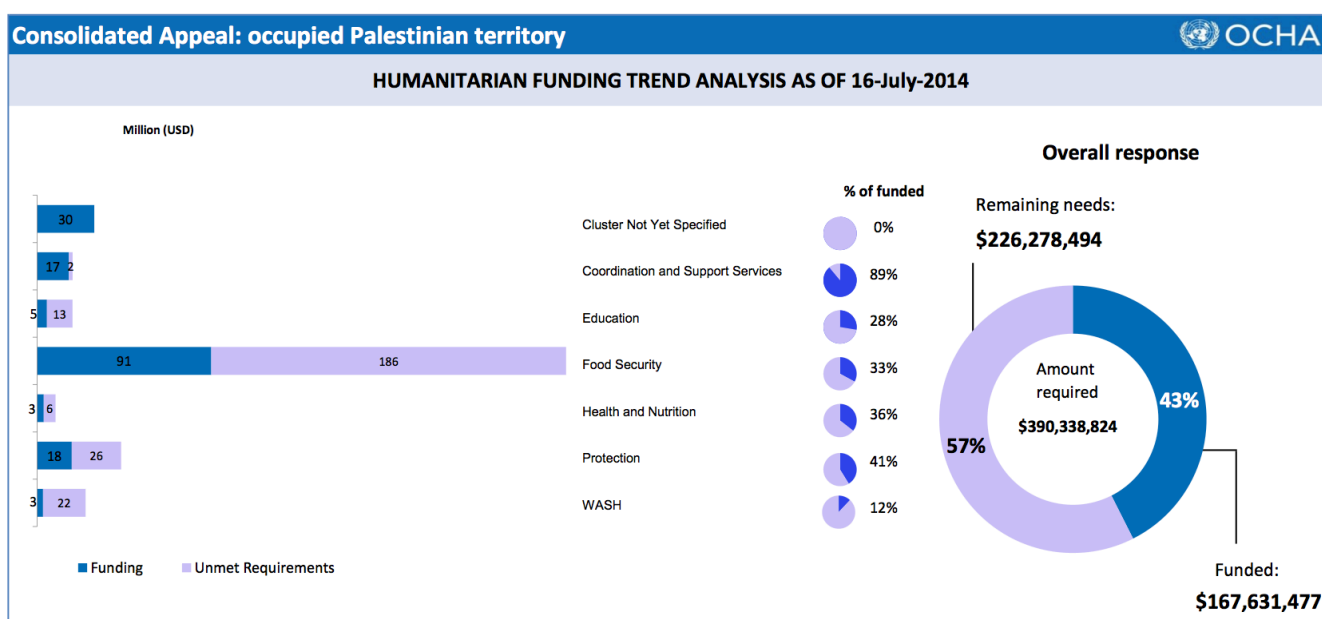
Emergency Operation Centre members in Gaza developed a list of priority activities to be carried out during the humanitarian pause. These activities were implemented today. During the pause, the EOC members were able for the first time to conduct more in-depth assessments and monitoring activities.

Funding

A number of bilateral contributions have already been received from donors who have provided funding for urgent needs in the most critical sectors. Based on initial cluster / sector analysis and using existing projects in the Strategic Response Plan, it is estimated that US \$ 40 million is needed for immediate assistance in Gaza, excluding UNRWA's requirements. A number of clusters have also made a preliminary estimate of a further US \$87 million that is needed for medium term interventions once the security situation permits. All estimates are based on initial information; revisions as new assessment comes in will be communicated to donors. UNRWA is due to issue an emergency flash appeal to respond to the most pressing humanitarian needs of the people of Gaza, including the thousands taking shelter in its facilities. New funding will enable UNRWA to respond to the immediate shelter, food, health and psychosocial needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs), while replenishing emergency supplies and preparing for vital interventions necessary after a cessation of military activities.

The 2014 Strategic Response Plan (SRP) for the oPt has received US\$ 168 million (43 per cent) out of a total request of US\$390 million. Nearly 90 per cent of 1.9 million vulnerable people targeted in the SRP are in Gaza. Gaza-specific projects have received just over 30% of their requested funding. The HCT is currently embarking on an exercise to identify the most urgent SRP projects that if funded would help support the response in Gaza, as well as any new needs to develop an initial cost estimate for the response.

The Emergency Response Fund (ERF), an additional mechanism available to fund interventions in Gaza, is in urgent need of replenishment to ensure the fund's ability to provide rapid and flexible support to affected civilian populations. The mobilization of resources through the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) is another channel that may be used to meet needs. Currently, the ERF is processing one project application in regards to the Gaza emergency.



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 on early June, characterized by an intensification of Israeli airstrikes and Palestinian shooting rockets 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 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 firing.

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 longstanding access restrictions imposed by Israel, including the blockade imposed 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 an ongoing energy crisis, involving power outages of 12 hours per day.

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