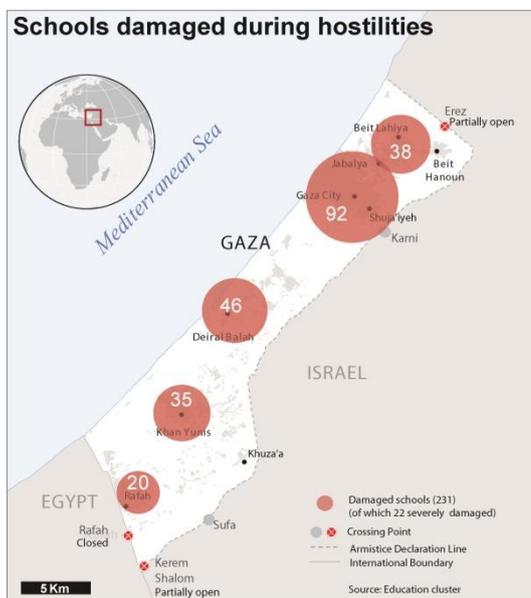




This report is produced by OCHA oPt in collaboration with humanitarian partners. This report covers the period from 19 August (08:00 hrs) to 20 August (08:00 hrs). The next report will be issued on 21 August.

Highlights

- Following a series of temporary ceasefires, hostilities have resumed, with rockets fired from Gaza into Israel and the Israeli military striking targets in Gaza. The Palestinian fatality toll is 1,999, of whom 1,434 have been identified as civilians, according to preliminary estimates.
- An estimated 1,000 of the 3,000 children who have been injured will suffer from a life-long disability.
- The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) has risen to more than 400,000, and is expected to increase further with the resumption of hostilities.
- There are approximately 103,000 people whose homes have been destroyed or severely damaged; UNRWA is expecting some 65,000 to 70,000 Palestinians to stay in its schools as long-term displaced.



1,999

Palestinians killed, including 1,434 civilians, of whom 467 are children and 244 are women.¹

66

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

+400,000

People hosted at UNRWA, government shelters and with host families.

65,000

Palestinians to stay in UNRWA schools as long term displaced

1,000

Children will suffer a life-long disability.

Situation Overview

A series of negotiated ceasefires, stretching over nine days in total, ended yesterday before the midnight deadline, with rockets and mortars fired from Gaza into Israel and the Israeli military striking targets in Gaza. Hostilities continued overnight and into today, resulting in additional Palestinian fatalities and property damage. There has been an increase in the number of internally displaced as Palestinians, in particular from the northern and eastern areas of Gaza, seeking a safe place in emergency shelters.

The Secretary-General condemns in the strongest terms the breach of the Egyptian brokered humanitarian ceasefire which was to expire at midnight local time. He is gravely disappointed by the return to hostilities. The Secretary-General reminds both sides of their responsibility not to let the situation escalate. The hopes of the people in Gaza for a better future and the hopes of the people in Israel for sustainable security rest on the talks in Cairo. The Secretary-General calls on the delegations to live up to this expectation and urges the parties to reach an immediate understanding on a durable ceasefire which also addresses the underlying issues afflicting Gaza.

Statement attributable to the Spokesman for the Secretary-General on the situation in Gaza, 19 August 2014.

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

Twenty-two fatalities have been recorded in the reporting period, comprising 17 new deaths and five who succumbed to injuries sustained earlier. Eleven of these have been classified as civilians and the status of the others is unknown.

This brings the cumulative death toll among Palestinians since 7 July to at least 1,999, according to preliminary data collected by the Protection Cluster from various sources, including 334 persons who could not be yet identified or their status established. Of the initially verified cases, 1,434 are believed to be civilians, including 467 children and 244 women, and 231 members of armed groups. According to the World Health Organization, as of 17:00 on 12 August, 10,193 Palestinians, including 3,084 children, 1,970 women and 368 elderly, were injured.

The number of child fatalities exceeds the combined number of children killed in the two previous conflicts in Gaza, 350 in 2008-9 and 35 in 2012. An estimated 1,000 children injured will suffer from a disability for life, and a further 6,000 children will have a parent with a life-long disability. Based on the total number of adults killed, there may be up to 1,500 children orphaned.

The cumulative number of housing units destroyed or severely damaged (including those directly targeted or affected as collateral damage) is estimated at 17,200, nearly 270 per cent higher than the equivalent figure recorded during the “Cast Lead Operation” in 2008/9 (approx. 6,400). The number of units that sustained minor or major damage, but are still inhabitable, is estimated at 37,650.

No additional Israeli casualties were reported as a result of the renewal of rocket fire from Gaza into Israel, with most projectiles landing in open areas or intercepted in the air. Since 8 July, three civilians in Israel have been killed, including one foreign national, and dozens directly injured by rockets or shrapnel. The total number of Israeli military fatalities remains at 64.

Displacement

As of yesterday afternoon, there were 238,564 IDPs hosted in 82 designated UNRWA schools, 26,085 IDPs in seven government shelters supported by UNRWA and another 10,241 in 11 government schools not assisted by UNRWA. Nearly 134,660 IDPs residing with host families have been registered and reached by various partners. However, it is anticipated that with the resumption of hostilities, more people will return to designated shelters or to host families.

Dedicated health teams have continued working in all UNRWA shelters and compile a daily health surveillance report to prevent a large scale outbreak of diseases. The report now includes 16 health issues of concern, up from an initial nine. Pending a lasting ceasefire, which will allow the UNRWA engineers to undertake shelter assessments, it is estimated that about 100,000 Palestinians have lost their homes through destruction or serious damage. Based on these figures, UNRWA is expecting some 65,000 to 70,000 Palestinian to stay in its schools as long-term displaced, and is urgently looking for donors who can support cash assistance to cover rental expenses to enable these individuals to rebuild their lives.

Infrastructure and services

Up to 15 August, at least 216 schools in Gaza, including 141 government schools, 75 UNRWA schools, and four private/kindergarten schools, were partially damaged due to Israeli airstrikes or shelling. At least 25 schools were reportedly severely damaged, to the extent that they can no longer be used. Two Israeli schools have been damaged by rocket fire from Gaza.

UNRWA estimates that 108 installations, in total, have been damaged since 8 July. Of these, 62 have been inspected by the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS), with 59 installations cleared for UNRWA engineers to conduct assessments. With thousands of unexploded weapons scattered across the Gaza Strip, unexploded ordnance (UXO) is posing an increasing threat to the population. The continuing of hostilities will both delay clearance campaigns and add to the overall UXO risk.

Almost the entire population of Gaza (around 1,800,000) has been affected by the conflict and requires food and other assistance to recover. The exceptional one-off food distribution by UNRWA, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the MoSA, targeting families who do not regularly receive food assistance, has so far reached around 375,000 out of a targeted 730,000. The resumption of hostilities puts food distribution activities at risk.

It is essential that the guns remain silent to allow civilians to resume the necessities of their daily lives, and to allow for increased humanitarian and early recovery efforts, addressing the manifold needs of the people in Gaza, such as urgent repairs of water and electricity networks, and finding more viable shelter for those displaced who are not able to return to their destroyed homes.

Robert Serry, UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Briefing to the Security Council, 18 August 2014.

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: the first phase initial rapid needs assessment, covering the governorate level, was launched on 13 August to inform responses by humanitarian organizations. The second phase, covering the municipal level, began on 18 August and was completed yesterday. Information collected will be collated and analysed to determine the overall level of humanitarian needs.

Additional fuel supply: fuel is 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 during normal working hours (08:00-16:00).

Beit Hanoun (Arba-Arba): Operational.

Kerem Shalom: Open as per its regular operating hours (08:00-16:00).

Rafah: Open from 09:00 to 15:00.

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. Every child in the Gaza Strip is affected by the crisis and will require some level of psychosocial support.
- Child protection and PSS is urgently required to address issues of child abuse, exploitation and violence inside shelters.
- Thousands of explosive remnants of war (ERW) 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.

Response

- Protection Cluster members are monitoring and investigating incidents to identify possible violations of international law, as well as consolidating information on civilian fatalities.
- PRCS continues to provide PSS through UNRWA and governmental schools/shelters and has reached 7,480 girls and 6,711 boys since 15 July; additionally they were able to reach 6,618 women and 4,314 men.
- Since 8 July, the PCDCR (Palestinian Center for Democracy and Conflict Resolution) has provided initial PSS to 3,860 children across the Gaza Strip, including through home and hospital visits.
- 480,000 child protection and PSS text messages have been sent to Jawal mobile phone subscribers in Gaza since 20 July.
- The Sawa Child Protection Helpline has provided counselling to a total of 2,338 callers since 13 July.
- Since 8 July, UNRWA Community Mental Health Programme (CMHP) has conducted 15,061 PSS sessions for 126,394 parents and recreational activities for 141,632 children. CMHP also coordinated and supervised the implementation of sessions by other partners covering 21,213 adult IDPs and 105,859 children.
- CTCCM (Community Training Centre and Crisis Management) has been providing PSS support to other IDP sites, including in two government schools, the Orthodox Church in Gaza and al Amal Institute, reaching 221 children and 20 women.
- UNICEF, in partnership with Ma'an Development Center, is providing daily PSS and extracurricular activities to 2,000 children in six shelters in Gaza city managed by the MoSA.

- PEDCOM is providing awareness sessions for parents, recreational activities for children, individual counselling and group sessions and capacity building of pre-school teachers on identifying and responding to psychosocial distress in young children
- ERW awareness campaign for families in UNRWA shelters continues. Radio and TV ERW awareness messages are broadcasted several times a day to spread awareness about the danger posed by unexploded ordnance.
- UNMAS has carried out 67 risk assessments for UNRWA, UNDP and UNSCO, of which 59 UNRWA installations have been cleared.
- UNMAS is systematically delivering risk education and providing ERW awareness material to the persons working and living in the facilities where risks assessments are conducted (IDPs, Guards, etc.). UNMAS provided risk education for 26,000 people. Furthermore, more than 100 humanitarian workers in Gaza and in Jerusalem received education training on the danger of ERW.

- **Gaps and Constraints**

- Local organizations still 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.
- UNMAS team is not able to conduct field activities until further notice due to the security situation.
- Displaced children and their families hosted with community members remain largely unreached by child protection interventions.



Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI)

Needs

- It is estimated that 17,200 families (consisting of approximately 103,200 individuals) whose homes were totally destroyed or heavily damaged are in need of emergency NFI kits. In the medium term, they will require cash assistance to cover rental fees and basic household items.
- Emergency shelter repair items are needed for about 5,635 families (33,800 individuals), whose homes were damaged but are still inhabitable. Another 32,400 families (an estimated 194,400 individuals), whose homes sustained minor damage need basic NFI assistance such as nylon and plastic sheets.

Response

- 238,564 people are being provided with shelter in 82 designated UNRWA schools across the Gaza Strip and 26,085 individuals are sheltered in seven government shelters supported by UNRWA, and another 10,241 in 11 government schools. Nearly 134,660 IDPs residing with host families have been registered and reached by various shelter partners.
- Shelter and WASH partners have provided household NFIs to 53,250 families and hygiene NFIs to 77,043 families since the beginning of the emergency.
- In addition, Secours Islamique France (SIF) has distributed additional 500 kitchen household NFIs, 635 hygiene kits and 1,300 blankets.

Gaps and Constraints

- Cash assistance of more than US\$ 70 million is needed for 17,200 families to cover rental fees and urgent expenses.
- Emergency shelter kits are needed for 6,435 displaced families.
- 25,665 family hygiene kits are needed for IDPs with host families and in UNRWA and government shelters.
- Shelter NFIs such as plastic sheets and tarpaulin are needed for 33,400 families (approximately 200,400 individuals) whose homes sustained minor damage.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Updates to this section will be provided on Friday, 22 August.



Health and Nutrition

Updates to this section will be provided on Friday, 22 August.



Food Security

Needs

- IDPs are in need of food and other immediate assistance.
- The entire population of Gaza has been affected by the conflict and almost all need food and other assistance to recover.
- An estimated 100,000 people whose homes were destroyed or damaged beyond repair will need food and other assistance for a longer term.
- Families relying on agricultural-related livelihoods need food, other immediate assistance and support in re-establishing their sources of income. New equipment for 3,600 fishers should be provided in order to re-establish their livelihood.
- Approximately 55,000 livestock heads are in need of animal feed and water tanks in order to avoid further loss of livestock and additional erosion of productive assets.
- Humanitarian access to allow for provision of food and other emergency assistance to the civilian population should be maintained.

Response

- The regular food assistance to more than one million UNRWA and WFP core beneficiaries is ongoing. The ceasefire has allowed for safer and more efficient delivery of food parcels.
- In addition, 375,000 out of around 730,000 people have been reached by the one-time exceptional food distribution to affected families who are not receiving regular food assistance implemented by UNRWA, WFP and the Ministry of Social Affairs.
- WFP, in cooperation with UNRWA, is providing ready-to-eat emergency food rations to IDPs in UNRWA and government shelters on a daily basis.
- WFP continues to provide food assistance to IDPs hosted with relatives and to patients and hospital staff.
- Food Security Sector (FSS) partners are delivering complementary food distributions to IDPs at UNRWA and government shelters.

Gaps and Constraints

- Lack of a proper mechanism to identify the most vulnerable groups relying on agricultural-related livelihoods and being heavily affected by the conflict.
- Delays at crossings complicate food delivery.
- Electricity shortages limit the storage capacity of fresh food for both shops and households.
- The price of some food items has gone up, including fresh fruit, vegetables and eggs, due to the large damage sustained to farms and agricultural lands, among other reasons.
- Immediate emergency funds to cover massively increasing food needs of IDPs and returnees are required.



Education

Needs

- According to field damage assessment, a total of 216 schools (141 government and 75 UNRWA schools) affected by shelling are in need of repair, including 25 severely damaged requiring reconstruction.²
- UNRWA and government schools will not be ready for the new school year which was scheduled to start on 24 August.
- A lasting ceasefire is urgently needed to undertake unexploded ordnance clearance, damage assessments and repair work to damaged educational facilities, as well as preparation for the new school year.

Response

- The Education Cluster is coordinating with MoEHE and UNRWA regarding the new school year, and is engaged in ongoing assessments.
- The Education Cluster is also working with service providers to coordinate a special package for returning school students, with a focus on psychosocial support and recreational activities.

Gaps & Constraints

- Inadequate funding for cluster activities.
- The need for longer-term shelter for tens of thousands of IDPs will present significant challenges to the operation of schools currently being used as shelters.



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.
- 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

- Storekeepers and logistics assistants have been hired locally to support the staging areas secured by the Logistics Cluster in the West Bank and the common warehouses in the Gaza Strip.
- The Logistics Cluster has made five staging areas in Jerusalem, Hebron, Ashqelon, Ramallah and Nablus available for the humanitarian community.
- On the 18 August, the Logistics Cluster facilitated the transportation of 365 pallets of food, shelter and WASH supplies into the Gaza Strip on behalf of humanitarian organizations, including CHF and PARC.
- On the 18 August, the Logistics Cluster facilitated the transportation of almost 300 pallets of humanitarian relief items including more than 190 pallets of water, on behalf of the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) for distribution within the Gaza Strip.
- Since activation, the Logistics Cluster has supported 24 humanitarian organisations including OXFAM and CHF International, and facilitated the transportation of over 1,750 pallets of humanitarian relief.

Gaps and Constraints

- 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.

The Logistics Cluster is liaising with relevant authorities to ease the cargo bottlenecks and improve cargo prioritisation procedures causing delays at the border crossing points of Betunia and Tarqumia from the West Bank into Israel.

² UNRWA has revised its damaged schools estimate from 90 to 75 buildings. The change was in part due to many schools operating in double shifts under different names.

General Coordination

The first phase of the joint rapid needs assessment, led by the EOC started on 13 August, and data analysis is ongoing. The second phase of the joint rapid needs assessment started on 18 August, covering 19 municipalities (some 80 assessment staff were involved and at least 250 key informants interviewed, including youth, persons with disabilities and elderly). The remaining six municipalities were covered on 19 August and the eight refugee camps will be covered as soon as the situation allows. 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 as have questions on the information needs of affected communities.

Since its activation, the Logistics Cluster has facilitated the transportation of over 1,200 pallets of humanitarian relief supplies via 47 trucks from the West Bank on behalf of 17 humanitarian organisations for distribution within the Gaza Strip.

Funding

Based on available information, funding to the Gaza Crisis Appeal stands at US \$124 million out of a total request of US \$367 million (34 per cent), of this US \$96 million is for UNRWA, US \$20 million for WFP and US \$8 million for others, leaving large gaps to respond in other critical sectors such as Health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Education and Shelter and Non Food Items. Many key UN and NGOs partners identified for the Gaza response have received little to no funding to date for their projects in the Crisis Appeal. The Crisis Appeal is available online at www.ochaopt.org.

Donors and recipient agencies are kindly requested to report funding received to fts@un.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, thirteen project proposals were approved for a total of US \$3.1 million. Further funding for the ERF is still being sought.

UN humanitarian agencies, in cooperation with NGO partners have applied to the CERF Rapid Response window to cover urgent needs in food assistance, psychosocial support, WASH, rubble removal and critical drugs, and the request is under processing by CERF.

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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