



PERIODIC MONITORING REPORT

2015 Strategic Response Plan
occupied Palestinian territory

Covering 1 January to 30 June 2015

OVERVIEW

Key achievements toward Strategic Objectives

- 1.3 million people received food and cash-based support.
- 73% of families whose homes are subject to demolition or destruction due to natural disasters or conflict received immediate Shelter/NFIs assistance in Gaza.
- 97% of people who received legal aid from Legal Task Force members temporarily protected from demolitions due to legal proceedings in Israeli courts.
- 72% of WASH demolition incidents in the West Bank received a response.
- 486,348 vulnerable people in West Bank and Gaza provided with access to quality and affordable essential health care.
- 192,936 girls and boys directly affected by occupation or conflict-related violence, including grave violations against children, provided with child protection interventions and psychosocial support.
- 282,031 girls and boys provided with improved access to protective, inclusive, child friendly quality education.

Challenges

- The humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip continues to deteriorate, one year after the 2014 conflict. Reconstruction and recovery have not taken place at the level needed and the chronic lack of energy continues to undermine basic service provision.
- Humanitarian access remains constrained, in the Gaza Strip, Area C of the West Bank and East Jerusalem.
- Uneven use of data on needs and response that is gender and age disaggregated is limiting humanitarian actors' ability to carry out targeted humanitarian programming for the most vulnerable groups.
- While overall funding has been good, key parts of their response remain critically underfunded such as livelihoods support.
- Some indicators in the monitoring framework were found to be obsolete or difficult to measure, and were therefore updated as part of the process of producing this Periodic Monitoring Report.

Recommendations

- Efforts by donors and HCT members to maintain humanitarian space to enable humanitarian operations to deliver to the most vulnerable people are most important. The Government of Israel and relevant Palestinian authorities should fulfil their responsibilities to facilitate the work of humanitarian organizations.
 - Information management and capturing information on specific vulnerabilities to inform a more nuanced and targeted humanitarian response, as well as allowing humanitarians to monitor effectiveness, should be a priority for the next programme cycle.
 - Identify practical measures to address cluster capacity needs in relation to gender focused programming with support from the Humanitarian Gender Advisor and UN Women.
 - Ensure that a clear and robust monitoring framework is developed alongside the Humanitarian Response Plan, with clearly assigned monitoring responsibilities and timelines.
 - Donors are encouraged to continue funding the SRP in a manner consistent with the priorities outlined in cluster plans, including expanding contributions to the Humanitarian Pool Fund (HPF).
 - Intensify support for the recovery and reconstruction of Gaza in political and financial terms to help reduce the humanitarian caseload, particularly IDPs.
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Humanitarian context and needs

Despite a limited relaxation of access restrictions by the Israeli authorities and a general decline in violent confrontations and civilian casualties during the first half of 2015, the major drivers of humanitarian vulnerability across the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) remained. In addition to the protection threats affecting Palestinians in the context of the prolonged occupation, there has been no progress on the main political fronts, i.e. Israeli-Palestinian negotiations towards a realization of the two-state vision, and the consolidation of the Palestinian Government of National Consensus (GNC) ending the internal divide. Furthermore, there is a pervasive crisis of accountability, with no effective remedy for the vast majority of alleged violations of international law, to ensure justice for the victims and to prevent future violations.

Gaza Strip

In the Gaza Strip, the land, sea and air blockade imposed by Israel, citing security concerns has continued to affect the living conditions of 1.8 million Palestinians. Since the beginning of the year, the Israeli authorities have significantly increased the number of exit permits issued to Palestinians from Gaza, however, those eligible for such permits still constitute a small minority, primarily patients, businesspeople and staff of international organizations. Limited exit permits are not however, a substitute for the need to lift the blockade. The isolation of Gaza has been exacerbated since October 2014 by the almost continuous closure of the passenger crossing with Egypt (Rafah) by the Egyptian authorities, in the context of armed clashes in the Sinai.

For the first time since the imposition of the blockade, the Israeli authorities allowed the marketing of Gazan goods in the West Bank, and to a very small extent also in Israel. Although limited, this had a positive impact on the economy. The controlled import of restricted building materials under the temporary Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism (GRM) has continued, with 92,867 people having bought all or some of the materials needed for repair of their houses and another 10,374 people ready to purchase materials. However, 100,000 people remain internally displaced and continue to live in precarious conditions with host families, in rented apartments, prefabricated units, tents and makeshift shelters, or in the rubble of their previous homes. Lack of reconstruction affects not only

physical infrastructure, but also the social fabric. Continuation of these conditions raises significant protection concerns including increase in rates of gender based violence, early marriage for adolescent girls, and school drop out. Similarly, maternal and neonatal mortality rates in Gaza are showing a significant increase.

Finally, the lack of progress towards the consolidation of the Palestinian GNC has prolonged the hardship of civil servants employed by the Hamas authorities, who have not received their salaries for more than a year, and slowed down reconstruction efforts.

West Bank

While regular protests and clashes between Palestinians and Israeli forces continued, the first half of 2015 witnessed a significant decline in civilian casualties. Thirteen Palestinian civilians were killed by Israeli forces, down from 38 in the previous six months, while the number of Palestinian injuries (952) declined by almost 80 per cent. There has also been a significant decline in Palestinian attacks against Israelis and resulting casualties. However, the proportion of Palestinian injuries caused by live ammunition by Israeli forces, mostly in crowd control situations, was nearly the same as in the second half of 2014 (around 20 per cent), maintaining previous concerns about excessive use of force. A high number (62 per cent) of those injured by live ammunition or rubber coated metal bullets were children, with one Palestinian child killed. Incidents of attacks against schools decreased when compared to the same period in 2014 (46 incidents compared to 104). Refugee camps are spaces of heightened protection threat.

In March 2015, the Israeli authorities lifted the permit requirement for men over 55 and women over 50 to enter East Jerusalem and Israel and expanded this exception to additional age categories during the Fridays of Ramadan (June-July). However, significant restrictions on access to services in East Jerusalem, as well as access to livelihoods in areas isolated by the Barrier, continue to be of concern. Various Israeli practices affecting Palestinian communities in Area C and East Jerusalem continued to undermine their living conditions and acts as a "push factor". These practices include

restrictions on access to grazing land and arable land, the sea and markets; denial of access to basic infrastructure; rejection of applications for building permits; and demolition or threat of demolition to homes, schools and animal shelters. In the first half of 2015, the Israeli authorities demolished or dismantled 286 structures in these areas displacing 291 people, roughly one quarter of whom were Palestine refugees. 126 of the demolished structures were

agricultural – more than double the number of agricultural structures demolished in all of 2014 (69). Some 7,000 Bedouins living in 46 residential areas in the hills to the east of Jerusalem and in the central West Bank (the vast majority of them Palestine refugees) have remained at risk of forcible transfer (which constitutes a grave breach of international humanitarian law) due to a “relocation” plan advanced by the Israeli authorities.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES: ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1	Appealed (Est)	Received (Est)	Percentage of all funds received
Enhanced protection by promoting respect for IHL and IHRL, pursuing of accountability, and preventing and mitigating the impact of violations	\$44,811,389	\$21,052,685	7%

Progress toward Strategic Objective 1

Activities contributing to SO1 are some of the main activities undertaken by humanitarian partners in oPt since protection concerns are at the core of the crisis. At mid year, partners are making mixed progress against delivering against this objective with 2 of the 4 indicators on track so far. 97 per cent of families in the West Bank who received legal assistance from Legal Task Force members following a demolition or issuing of eviction orders by the Israeli authorities were temporarily protected from demolitions due to legal proceedings in the Israeli courts. In Gaza, legal assistance work is also on track - more people were reached with legal assistance following losses of life,

injuries and property or destruction or damage sustained during the 2014 conflict than originally planned for due to the high caseload. Although mine action partners have made good progress in mine clearance and education/awareness, 56 casualties have occurred in 2015 since almost 7,000 UXOs remained in Gaza after the 2014 conflict. The Food Security response under SO1 includes advocacy and legal support to those whose access to natural resources (and livelihoods) are threatened however, no progress was reported against these targets due to lack of funding.

The Shelter and NFIs cluster has removed an indicator that was previously contributing to SO1 with regard to legal action to prevent displacement since such an indicator better captures the work being done by the Protection Cluster.

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Result	Status
# of farmers, fishers, herders whose livelihoods are affected by protection threats (settler violence, threatened access to land and resources) are enabled to access their livelihoods through legal assistance, legal awareness and related advocacy	Not existing	2,799(1,836 females; 963 males) and beneficiaries of 38 campaigns	No progress	No progress
% of households subject to demolition and eviction orders in the West Bank including East Jerusalem that are able to remain in their homes due to the provision of legal representation.	95%	90%	97%	On track
# of individuals in Gaza who receive legal assistance to access legal remedies in Israel or losses of life, injuries and property destruction or damage sustained during Operation “ProtectiveEdge”.	1,900	100% of key cases where there is available evidence to suggest that a violation of IHL and/or IHRL has occurred	2,446	On track- 129%
# of ERW-related casualties in Gaza among boys, girls, women and men is minimal.	48	As close to 0 as possible	56 (21 men, 8 women, 13 boys, 9 girls)	-

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2	Appealed (Est)	Received (Est)	Percentage of all funds received
Respond to immediate needs following shocks and increase the resilience of those at risk of forcible displacement	\$54,976,938	\$20,597,351	7%

Progress toward Strategic Objective 2

SO2 captures the humanitarian community's work to respond to and increase resilience to shocks, such as demolitions, settler violence and escalations that can increase humanitarian needs and may increase risk of displacement. Good progress has been made against this objective, with four of the six indicators on track. The gaps in progress on the first two indicators are due to funding constraints. The good progress in the WASH cluster post-demolition response is encouraging given that lack of access to

water can act as a trigger for displacement in the West Bank. In Gaza, there has been strong progress, with almost three quarters of families subject to demolitions or destruction due to natural disasters or conflict receiving immediate Shelter/NFIs assistance in Gaza. However, as noted in the Shelter cluster section below, the shelter caseload is now larger than anticipated and needs have far outstripped those originally planned for.

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Result	Status
# of Palestinian households who suffer from lack of economic access to food as a result of shock are able to meet their basic food needs.	Not established	39,033 (13,900 females; 19,733 males)	2,513 (1,250 males; 1,263 females)	Major gaps – 6%
# of affected population reporting improvement in their livelihoods in a timely manner.	Not established	22,121	No progress reported	No progress
# of girls and boys directly affected by occupation or conflict-related violence, including grave violations against children, have strengthened coping mechanisms and resilience through the provision of child protection interventions and psychosocial support.	45,300	200,000 children accessing psychosocial support ; 300,000 children accessing child protection interventions	192,936	On track- 39%
% of families that are subject to demolitions or destruction due to natural disasters or conflict receive immediate Shelter/NFIs assistance in Gaza	0%	70%	73%	On track
% of vulnerable shelters are improved to withstand severe weather conditions through material provision and technical guidance and quality control	0%	80%	184%	On track
% of WASH demolition incidents receiving a response.	50%	100%	72%	On track

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3	Appealed (Est)	Received (Est)	Percentage of all funds received
Respond to food insecurity and promote resilient livelihoods	\$301,696,767	\$125,483,492	41%

Progress toward Strategic Objective 3

Food Security is a key humanitarian concern in oPt. Currently, there is only limited data available on progress towards this strategic objective. The SEFSec is the Food Security Sector’s main tool for capturing the picture of food insecurity in oPt and the updated results of the SEFSec 2014 should become available in September, therefore no updates can be provided for results based on SEFSec findings. Although the

financial analysis shows that SO3 is reasonably well funded, accounting for an estimated 41 per cent of all funds received, some of this was recently received and therefore has not all translated into results on the ground yet. No progress was reported on children benefitting from vouchering due to lack of funding, while lack of funding has also affected progress on activities focused on livelihood support.

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Result	Status
% of children benefiting from vouchering system	0	100%	No progress reported	No progress
% of food insecurity amongst the Palestinian Population ¹	21% in West Bank, 73% in Gaza Strip	Stable or decrease	SEFSec results due later in 2015	No data available
The resilience index of farmers, herders, fishers and urban/peri urban households is improved	Resilience Index to be elaborated during the 2015 programme cycle based on 2013 data set	The resilience index is maintained/ improved	No resilience index yet	No data available

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4	Appealed (Est)	Received (Est)	Percentage of all funds received
Ensure that 1.6 million people (men, women, boys, girls, refugees, no-refugees) have access to essential services in areas where access is restricted	\$78,207,872	\$31,247,241	10%

Progress toward Strategic Objective 4

Access to basic health care, education and water and sanitation remains severely restricted for many Palestinians. Key service delivery clusters such as Education and Health have suffered from partial funding that has only allowed them to meet a few of their objectives. There are major gaps in the provision of health services with only 30 per cent of the caseload reached - health partners for example, were not able to operate mobile clinic services in Area C in the first half of 2015 due to funding shortages until funding from the Humanitarian Pooled Fund was

secured. Late receipt of funding for education interventions (almost no funding received during the first quarter of the year) hampered the ability of partners, except UNRWA, to begin programming funds and implementing programmes before the end of the school year in late May. Ecumenial accompaniers who provide protective presence to help children access schools had not yet been deployed in the reporting period and progress will thus be made in the third quarter. Food security partners had planned to undertake interventions under

this objective such as land rehabilitation and reclamation and ensuring access to water for herding and agricultural purposes, but have made no progress due to lack of funding. WASH

partners have begun activities that will target people suffering from water scarcity in Area C however, it is not yet possible to ascertain number of people reached.

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Result	Status
# of children (girls and boys) who benefit from targeted humanitarian interventions for improved access to protective, inclusive, child friendly quality education	899,091 people (871,596 girls and boys and 27,495 female and male teachers)	610,812	280,896	Major gaps – 46%
# of children with improved safe access to educational facilities.	8,767	3,536	0	No progress
% of affected population (farmers and herders) have increased access to agriculture services (vet, extension) and resources (water, land, fodder)	n/a ²	To be established from 2014 data during the 2015 programme cycle	No progress reported	No progress
# of vulnerable people in West Bank and Gaza (women and men) accessing quality and affordable essential health by type of service (including nutrition, maternal and child health, reproductive health, mental health, rehabilitation services for people with disabilities)	1,600,000 (730,280 women, 490,062 children, 370,570 men)	1,600,000 (730,280 children 490,062 women, 370,570 men)	486,348 (147,273 women, 57,250 men, 282,323 children)	Major gaps- 30%
% of households at risk of displacement are not displaced from their shelters due to preventative humanitarian action such as shelter assistance.	38,000	20,000	64,086 ³	On track
# of people suffering people from water scarcity in Area C	150,000	45,000 targeted	Some progress ⁴	Some progress

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5	Appealed (Est)	Received (Est)	Percentage of all funds received
Enhancing the capacity of national stakeholders to provide timely coordination of and effective preparedness for coordinated response to emergencies	\$14,086,781	\$9,444,245	3%

Progress toward Strategic Objective 5

The Shelter and NFI’s contingency and preparedness plan is place; the Food Security Sector DRR plan is already well advanced at the national level and the plan for WASH is on track, while Education’s plan is at an early stage. Following the UNDAC mission to the State of Palestine in May 2014, a set of recommendations were produced. The report was officially handed over by the RC/HC to the Chief of Staff of the

President’s Office in December 2014. At that meeting it was agreed that a national workshop would be organized, divided in two sessions - one in Gaza and one in the West Bank to further disseminate and prioritize the recommendations. The West Bank workshop took place in April, and the Gaza workshop is scheduled for September. The workshops will identify existing relevant tools, mechanisms and resources for the

implementation of the recommendations as well as a reflection on the gaps; achieve a consensus at national level of the most relevant priorities related to national disaster risk management in the State of Palestine; establish links between the national disaster risk management plan with other regional risk management programs;

and identify specific venues for coordination between National Authorities , United Nations, private sector and the civil society organizations preparedness efforts. The findings of both workshops will be used to consolidate a national disaster risk management plan of action.

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Result	Status
Existence of a national preparedness planning strategy and implementation plan for the education sector, including humanitarian partners	Not existing	In place & implemented.	Concept note submitted to the MoEHE (with a favorable reception) but not yet approved or actioned	Some progress
Food security sector disaster risk reduction (DRR) plan prepared at national level	Not existing	In place and implemented.	In process	On track – 80%
Relevant national bodies maintain and test contingency and preparedness plans (Shelter)	In place	Maintained and tested	Maintained	On track
Adoption/approval of a final national action plan for the implementation of the UNDAC recommendations.	Not existing	In place	In process (West Bank workshop has taken place; Gaza workshop scheduled)	On track
# of identified vulnerable communities in West Bank and Gaza have demonstrated better preparedness to cope with health impacts of current and future crisis	120	100	50	On track- 50%
Water sector disaster risk reduction work plans jointly agreed and implemented in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.	Not existing	In place & implemented	In progress	On track

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 6	Appealed (Est)	Received (Est)	Percentage of all funds received
Ensure transitional solutions for IDPs and those vulnerable to (re-)displacement in Gaza, working towards a durable solution	\$211,509,016	\$97,429,489	32%

Progress toward Strategic Objective 6

SO6 captures the humanitarian community's response towards IDPs in Gaza, one of the groups deemed most vulnerable through the HCT's collective analysis. The current rate at which materials are entering Gaza under the GRM is slow and thus humanitarian solutions will continue to be needed for some time. According to the latest figures, 12,580 housing units were totally destroyed in the hostilities in 2014 and 6,463 housing units were severely damaged, both these categories are uninhabitable

structures and the families formerly resident there now constitute IDPs. Although actors working in this area have made good progress in some areas, the number of damaged/ destroyed homes is higher than anticipated and thus the progress below does not cover all the needed response. To date no urban planning profiles of heavily damaged localities in Gaza have been developed, however funding has recently been allocated and will allow progress to be made in the latter half of 2015.

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Result	Status
% of IDPs who are able to meet their food security needs	To be established from 2014 data during the 2015 programme cycle	Stable or improved	SEFSec results due in September	No data available yet
# of displaced people are able to find transitional shelter solutions incorporated with WASH services	0	700	700	On track- 100%
% of hosted families able to continue to access shelter through monthly cash support or improvements to hosting conditions.	20%	100%	71%	On track
# of urban planning profiles of heavily damaged localities developed.	0	4	0	No progress
# of municipality-level committees representing IDPs engage in visioning the future for their localities or neighbourhoods as part of an early recovery process aimed at ensuring building back a better built-environment with increased public amenity and enhanced absorption capacity.	0	10	6	On track – 60%

ANALYSIS

Funding analysis (as of 30 June)

All cluster partners were requested to update the UNOCHA Financial Tracking System (FTS) with second quarter funding. Analysis of funding in FTS showed that \$305 million of the \$705.3 million (43 per cent) requested had been received.

Funding across sectors and clusters was significantly more even than in previous years. Excluding Coordination, Protection is the best-funded cluster with 51 per cent funding, followed by WASH (48 per cent), which had in recent years suffered from low funding levels in the SRP, Food Security (38 per cent) and Shelter (38 per cent). In terms of the dollar amount of funding however, Food Security is the best funded area, having received \$124 million, followed by Shelter and NFIs for which \$90 million had been committed.






















Of the \$305 million funding, \$217 million was for Gaza projects (of \$517 million requested); \$43 million for West Bank projects (of \$110

million requested) and \$42 million for projects covering West Bank and Gaza jointly (of \$75 million requested). \$4 million worth of funding was for location yet to be specified. 71 per cent of funding received has been for Gaza which is in line with the Gaza only overall request in the plan, on average, although some clusters are still suffering from significant lack of funding for specific activities in Gaza.

Some 40 per cent of the plan's requirements have been deemed top priority by the HCT. However, of the \$305 million received as of 30 June, just \$89 million was towards top priority interventions, with \$212 million for 'other' priority interventions. Almost all (\$297 million) of the funding received has been for projects deemed gender sensitive (gender marker 2A) or with a primary aim of advancing gender equality (2B) however just \$0.68 million has been received for projects that are marked as 2B.

Funding: Required vs. Received (million \$US) as of 30 June



Cluster	Requirements	Funded	Est. people in need	Est. people targeted
 Education	\$20m	 32%	0.76m people	 55%
 Health & Nutrition	\$21m	 39%	1.6m people	 100%
 Coordination	\$23m	 90%	1.9m people	 100%
 WASH	\$39m	 48%	1.4m people	 36%
 Protection	\$52m	 51%	1.65m people	 88%
 Shelter & NFIs	\$225m	 40%	0.5m people	 60%
 Food Security	\$324m	 39%	1.9m people	 84%

Source: Financial Tracking Service (FTS)

Analysis of achievements, against funding and challenges

Despite challenges, clusters have made progress against at least some of their most important indicators as of midyear. Funding has been strong to oPt, particularly when compared globally however, as clusters have noted, funding has not always favoured the most critical activities, although there have been key positive strides in 2015. For example, WASH which has tended to be a poorly funded cluster has secured good funding from donors in 2015. Shelter, another cluster which attracted low funding in 2014, has also fared relatively well and as a result, has been able to make good progress against its objectives.

Although access constraints raise the costs of assistance in some cases, despite challenges, humanitarian partners have been able to reach in some cases, communities most in need. In 2015 there have also been important steps forward in seeking member state support in help to advocate on a number of challenges, such as with demolition of assistance in Area C.

In Gaza, the humanitarian community has been able to manage humanitarian space constraints through continuous engagement with the relevant interlocutors from the authorities, NGOs and donor community.

A good example of coordinated humanitarian response to the most vulnerable, and of HCT advocacy in close coordination with the international community are the efforts to support the most vulnerable Bedouin communities at risk of forcible transfer in Area C.

Cluster Performance

A review of the humanitarian coordination architecture in the occupied Palestinian territory, as well as an assessment of cluster coordination performance, was carried out in the first five months of 2015 supported by a Global Cluster Coordination mission. Cluster coordinators, cluster lead agencies, cluster members, donors as well as the national authority were part of

this exercise on the appropriateness of the current coordination set up. The HCT sought to understand the level of coordination between humanitarian and development actors, the scope for alternative coordination mechanisms, and the level of engagement with national authorities.

The review found that humanitarian coordination is still required within the oPt. Clusters and cluster functions are necessary and relevant in order to coordinate the humanitarian response. In Gaza the clusters, led by the cluster lead agencies, should remain in place and certain steps should be taken to strengthen the overall performance of the clusters (across oPt), specifically, strengthening information management, enhancing NNGO and National Authority involvement in the clusters, increasing accountability to affected populations, enhancing the operational focus of the ICCG, strengthening linkages between humanitarian and development actors, and strengthening response to gender related needs. In the West Bank, certain cluster functions for some clusters are being co-led by the national authority or are in the process of being transferred to the national authority, with some of the clusters having already undertaken extensive work to plan and transfer aspects of the core functions. It was underlined that despite recognition of some differences, a national level focus for the clusters needs to be maintained, irrespective of the degree to which clusters transition some functions in the West Bank to the national authorities. This should ensure that strong links are maintained between Gaza and humanitarian decision-making forums in Jerusalem, while also supporting the "one Palestine approach".

Challenges

Continued deteriorated humanitarian situation in Gaza: humanitarian indicators in Gaza continue to show no improvement since the 2014 conflict. The ICCG recently reviewed the key early warning indicators that underpin the contingency plan in Gaza. While the situation remains calm, there has been a steady decline

of most indicators. The continued displacement of 100,000 people is among the key concerns. The GRM which has been operational since September 2014, allows families whose homes have been assessed to purchase restricted building materials from designated private sector vendors. The chronic lack of energy continues to undermine all basic service provision and affects the delivery of even the most critical WASH and health services. Moreover, more than 70 per cent of households in Gaza are being supplied with piped water for 6-8 hours only once every two to four days, due to insufficient power supply.

Continued internal Palestinian division: the division continues to slow down recovery and reconstruction in Gaza and also impedes the local authorities' capacity to coordinate, respond and enhance its emergency preparedness to enhance communities' resilience against shocks. One of the main obstacles remains the continued non-payment of civil servants recruited under the previous de facto authorities in Gaza and the integration of ministries.

Humanitarian access: humanitarian access continues to be a challenge, particularly in the Gaza Strip, Area C of the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Israeli restrictions on the delivery of aid to vulnerable populations in Area C has hampered effectiveness, increased costs and in some cases, denied vulnerable and affected populations access to aid. 104 donor-funded structures were served with demolition, stopwork or eviction orders during the reporting period, a 22 per cent increase compared to the equivalent period in 2014 (85 orders). 69 donor-funded structures were demolished in the first half of 2015, a monthly average of 11.5, compared to a monthly average of 12 in 2014.

In Gaza, humanitarian organizations face a range of obstacles on movement and access as a result of political and administrative measures implemented by Israeli, Egyptian and Gaza local authorities such as restrictions on obtaining permits to enter or exit Gaza, in particular for national staff, as well as other access difficulties at border crossings and checkpoints like intermittent closures or security procedures that

often result in delays or denial of passage. De facto authorities in Gaza continue to request audit information, payment of income tax and VAT from NGOs affecting their operations.

Limited access to natural resources and market opportunities due to the Israeli permit regime and limitations on access to underground water, land and the sea, also continue to affect the capacity of humanitarian actors to properly plan for the sustainable and feasible phasing out of their programmes.

Information gaps: while the HCT and ICCG has made steps forwards in strengthening the evidence base of humanitarian programming and in joint assessments, targeted humanitarian programming to respond to specific needs of the most vulnerable groups remains a challenge with uneven use of data on needs and response that is gender and age disaggregated. Data gaps exist in relation to vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities, children, elderly, and widows. In Gaza, for example, service providers and the municipality are still struggling to identify the needs of IDPs in Gaza in order to improve service provision however, OCHA is currently coordinating a multi-partner IDP Vulnerability Profiling which will help address this, together with other cluster/sector specific surveys. Lack of information about vulnerable groups / lack of harmonisation of the information that is available is detrimental to the ability of humanitarian responders to address the needs of these individuals.

Key top priority projects remain unfunded: a number of clusters have noted that while overall funding is good, there has been a lack of funding for some of the most important cluster activities. Funding to support livelihoods for example has been weak, despite overall good funding for the Food Security Sector. It needs to be noted that some key humanitarian donors do provide flexible funding, which is encouraged. Funding for projects coded with the principle aim of advancing gender equality is also weak - only 0.02 per cent of funds received are for projects with a 2B gender marker code.

SRP Monitoring frameworks need to be strengthened: During this monitoring exercise, some indicators (particularly at the outcome level) were found to be either obsolete or unmeasurable. A number of clusters have improved some objectives, indicators and targets as part of this monitoring process.

Recommendations

- Efforts by donors and HCT members to maintain humanitarian space to enable humanitarian operations to deliver to the most vulnerable people are most important. The HCT should continue to move forward with the implementation of the Area C Operational Framework and continue negotiation with the de facto authorities in Gaza to ease the pressure on INGOs. The Government of Israel and relevant Palestinian authorities should fulfil their responsibilities to facilitate the work of humanitarian organizations. Israel must fully lift the blockade to comply with its legal obligations and to facilitate the right to movement of people and goods to, from and within the Gaza Strip.
- Information management and capturing information on specific vulnerabilities to inform a more nuanced and targeted humanitarian response, as well as allowing humanitarians to monitor effectiveness, should be a priority for the next programme cycle. The evidence base of humanitarian programming, particularly to support humanitarian actors to identify the most vulnerable groups should be strengthened. Analysis of the findings of the ongoing Vulnerability Profile Project, IDP Re-registration and Vulnerability Profiling exercise, Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) and other sources will help the humanitarian community to come to a more nuanced understanding of vulnerability to inform the upcoming HNO. Prioritization of vulnerable people and particularly IDPs, in the Gaza humanitarian, recovery and reconstruction effort should be improved by using the results of the upcoming IDP Re-registration and Vulnerability Profiling exercise and linking this to funding of underfunded projects under the relevant strategic objective in the SRP.
- Ensure that a clear and robust monitoring framework is developed alongside the Humanitarian Response Plan, with clearly assigned monitoring responsibilities and timelines.
- Identify practical measures to address cluster capacity needs in relation to gender focused programming with support from the Humanitarian Gender Advisor and UN Women.
- Donors are encouraged to continue funding the SRP in a manner consistent with the priorities outlined in cluster plans, including expanding contributions to the Humanitarian Pool Fund (HPF). Support to the HPF will empower the HC to support the most underfunded priorities in the SRP and to deal with unforeseen shocks, particularly small-scale emergencies in Gaza. Should funding permit, a second call for proposals for HPF funding should take place in 2015.
- Intensify support for the recovery and reconstruction of Gaza in political and financial terms to help reduce the humanitarian caseload, particularly IDPs. Materials for reconstruction need to enter Gaza at an increased rate - additional materials, crossing capacity and sufficient funding are required to accelerate the recovery and reconstruction effort. With regard to Gaza's energy crisis, until a way forward for adequate, predictable and sustainable energy provision is achieved, financial and political support for transitional solutions, including a regular fuel supply to the Gaza Power Plant and critical services, need to be provided. Coordinated planning between Palestinian authorities is also needed.

CLUSTER ACHIEVEMENTS



COORDINATION

Progress towards Cluster Objectives

Actors working in Coordination are largely on track towards meeting their stated objectives.

There has been an enhanced effort in 2015 to undertake joint inter-agency/cluster assessments with a number of key joint assessments underway such as a Vulnerability Profile Project that will cover all communities in West Bank and Gaza, and an IDP Re-registration and Vulnerability Profiling exercise in Gaza. Thematic/sectoral assessments are also being carried out by UN agencies/humanitarian partners such as Socio-Economic and Food Security (SEFSec) survey by WFP and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) and the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) by UNICEF and UNFPA. These and other assessments will help underpin the analysis for the HNO and also allow clusters to identify the most vulnerable communities that should be prioritized for response. The HC/HCT through the Assessment and Information Management Working Group (AIMWG) also encouraged clusters to make their research, assessments and raw data accessible to the public which had previously been a key challenge. Planning also began in the reporting period for the 2016 Humanitarian Programme Cycle. As one of the innovations, humanitarian actors will look more closely at how to better capture the views of affected people throughout the planning cycle building on the experience of the 2014 conflict in Gaza.

As part of efforts to strengthen gender related coordination in humanitarian action in oPt, UNOCHA and UN Women have agreed on a joint action plan aimed at strengthening gender focus in humanitarian architecture and ensuring accountability on gender equality and Gender Based Violence in humanitarian programming, improving availability and quality of data and analysis on gender differentiated needs, supporting capacity of humanitarian actors for

Coordinator Co-Facilitator	OCHA
Government Counterpart	-
 People Targeted	1.6 million
 People Covered	1.6 million



FUNDING

Requested	Received	Percent Funded
23m	21m	90%

gender focused programming, and supporting participation of women's organizations in humanitarian processes and response. Activities to implement this action plan are ongoing and a Humanitarian Gender Advisor has been deployed to support these efforts as of May 2015.

In Gaza, the humanitarian community enhanced its emergency preparedness and contingency planning work following on from the inter-agency/cluster Emergency Operation Centre After Action Review, and to implement the relevant recommendations of the Secretary-General's Board of Inquiry. These activities contribute to both strategic objective one and five of the SRP.

The Emergency Response Fund was transitioned to a Humanitarian Pooled Fund (HPF) in 2015 after agreement by the Fund's Advisory Board. In addition to maintaining a window for response to unforeseen emergencies, the HPF will now also strengthen the implementation for the SRP by providing funding to address strategic priorities in the SRP. The first HPF call for proposals began during the reporting period and was finalised in July, funding 11 priority SRP projects for \$2.7m. A further five projects for \$1.2m have been funded since the beginning of 2015 under the window for unforeseen emergencies.

The HCT Advocacy Working Group (AWG) has undergone a strategizing process for the HCT in the last six months; both an updated strategy and action plan have been developed through workshops in the West Bank and Gaza and wide consultation. One joint event and at least 19 coordinated events took place in the first half of the year. The HCT AWG also coordinated a special campaign to mark one year since the 2014 conflict in Gaza. The HCT AWG is also supporting resource mobilization efforts for the SRP, having developed a set of key messages which will be updated and circulated on a regular basis.

The Access Coordination Unit continues to monitor and facilitate access on behalf of the humanitarian community in oPt and recorded a mix of achievements and challenges. While the number of people traveling through Erez crossing continue to increase due to a range of measures

introduced by the Israeli authorities since the beginning of the year to ease the movement of Palestinians, the access of personnel working for international organizations into and out of Gaza continues to deteriorate, a trend observed since the end of hostilities in summer last year. During the first half of 2015, the approval rate of permit requests made on behalf of national UN staff wishing to travel in and out of Gaza declined to 71 per cent, from 78 per cent during the same period last year. Access of humanitarian personnel was further aggravated by a ban on entry of Israeli Arabs and East Jerusalem ID holders into Gaza, introduced by COGAT in August 2015. For the first time since 2012, the list of dual use items for Gaza has been revisited twice this year, in June and August. While some of the forbidden items were delisted, others were added causing delays in implementation of aid and relief projects.

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Result	Status
Cluster Objective 1: Humanitarian action is led by empowered, competent and experienced professionals				
% of HCT decisions implemented by HCT and clusters	80%	90%	80%	On track
Specific and timely HCT action plans devised to respond to crises and ongoing humanitarian vulnerability	Ad hoc	In place and implemented	In place and implemented	On track
Cluster Objective 2: Humanitarian decision-making is based on a common situational awareness				
A common data set established (with data disaggregated by location, social groups, sex and age) used by all clusters.	Partially established	Established and used by clusters	Ongoing	On track
Timely and quality information and advocacy products to support situational understanding and humanitarian response (maps, 3Ws, humanitarian snapshots, etc.) aligned with the HPC calendar and to support decision-making and advocacy on key issues (messages, policy papers, talking points, products) in support of thematic topics agreed by the HC	Ad hoc	Predictable	Predictable	On track
Enhance the coordination of needs assessment and analysis on underlying vulnerability factors by building on existing cluster and Line Ministry information systems to create a predictable and strengthened information management sharing platform for dissemination of, analysis of and advocacy of information in partnership with all actors and people in need of assistance	Established AIMWG under HCT	AIMWG action plan for 2015 agreed and implemented by the HCT	AIMWG TOR endorsed and a number of joint assessment initiatives underway	On track

Cluster Objective 3: Humanitarian financing is predictable, timely and allocated based on priority needs				
% of SRP requirements funded	47%	65%	43%	On track
% SRP requirements funded by end of first quarter	17%	30%	31%	On track
% of Strategic Response Plan (SRP) target indicators met	-	65%	50% (SO level)	On track
Cluster Objective 4: People in emergencies are protected from harm and have access to assistance as a result of advocacy and coordination				
# of occasions where HCT AWG advocacy language is clearly reflected in high profile statements of member states, Security Council Briefings, major media articles, etc.		12	10 (10 references in 5 SC briefings; average 70 media articles per month)	On track-83%
Cluster Objective 5: A sustainable, predictable and accountable humanitarian response mechanism to sudden emergencies				
% of recommendations from simulation exercise implemented.	0	100%	80%	On track
% of UNDAC recommendations related to the HCT implemented	0	100%	60%	On track

 **EDUCATION**

Progress towards Cluster Objectives



Progress towards overall cluster objectives has been minimal due to the late receipt of programmatic funds and restraints on launching education programmes between late May and August (summer holidays for schools in Palestine). Save the Children’s “An integrated community-based early recovery model for enhancing children’s well-being and access to quality basic and early childhood education” will be implemented only in the coming academic year, and work in the first half of the year focused on the baseline survey and school selection. Two of the three UNICEF funded projects (“Support to remedial education in Gaza” and “Protected and Safe Access to Schools as Emergency Response for Vulnerable Communities”) will also be fully rolled out from September onwards. Only two projects contributed towards Cluster Objectives in the first half of 2015: UNRWA’s “Emergency Education for Palestine Refugees in Gaza / Summer Learning Programme” and UNICEF’s “Ensure Access to Education for Affected Children in Gaza in a Safer and Enabling Environment.”

Changes in Context

No significant changes in overall context.

Cluster Performance

Following from the results of the coordination architecture review, the Education Cluster moved substantially closer to integration of humanitarian and development coordination platforms within the education sector. This work focused on developing closer linkages with Palestine’s national development coordination platform for the education sector and towards meaningful government leadership of humanitarian coordination. A concept note on integration of the Education Cluster and the Education Sector Working Group (ESWG) was drafted and shared with the Ministry of Education

Coordinator Co-Facilitator	UNICEF and Save the Children
Government Counterpart	MoEHE
 People Targeted	0.65 million
 People Covered	0.28 million

 **FUNDING**

Requested	Received	Percent Funded
20m	6.4m	32%

and Higher Education, drawing up a roadmap for the integration of the Education Cluster into the ESWG. The ESWG is co-chaired by the MoEHE and Belgium, one of the core education sector donors in Palestine, and is seen as a nationally-owned and sustainable mechanism for the coordination of education responses.

Challenges

- Funding was not received during the first quarter of the year, making it virtually impossible for partners to begin programming funds and implementing programmes before the end of the school year in late May (the exception being UNRWA, which received funding specifically for summer learning programmes).
- Of the five projects funded through the first half of 2015, only one (UNICEF “Protected and Safe Access to Schools”) was a top priority for the Education Cluster. Ten other top priority projects remained unfunded by the end of the first half of the year.

Actions to be taken

- Continued liaison between humanitarian and development actors to ensure adequate coverage of education needs.

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Result	Status
Cluster Objective 1: Ensure access to protective, inclusive and child-friendly quality education				
# of children (girls and boys) who benefit from targeted humanitarian interventions for improved access to protective, inclusive, child friendly quality education	899,091 people (871,596 girls and boys and 27,495 female and male teachers)	610,812	280,896	Major gaps – 46%
Cluster Objective 2: Education sector at all levels prepared and resilient to withstand external and internal shocks to ensure continuity of education services				
Existence of a national preparedness planning strategy and implementation plan for the education sector, including humanitarian partners	Not existing	In place and implemented	Concept note submitted to the MoEHE (with a favorable reception) but not yet approved or actioned	Some progress
Cluster Objective 3: Relieve the economic burden on the most vulnerable households through educational vouchers system				
% of children benefiting from vouchers system.	0	100%	0	No progress
Cluster Objective 4: Ensure that children have access to safe and inclusive education services				
# of children with improved safe access to educational facilities.	8,767	3,536	0	No progress
# of children benefiting from improved educational facilities.	12,833	1,659	0	No progress



FOOD SECURITY

Progress towards Cluster Objectives

No progress has been made against objectives one and nine during the first half of the year, due to lack of funding, while only slight progress has been made towards objectives three, five, six and eight.

Most progress was made against objective four. Food security partners have been able to reach 1.3 million people (676,562 males and 583,495 females) through a combination of mostly food commodities and food vouchers (mainly through UNRWA and WFP and several INGOs), and cash for work where most progress was made in West Bank. Food actors will also need to target these same beneficiaries for two further food distribution rounds in the second half of 2015. Less progress was made towards livelihood support indicators due to lack of funding. School feeding programmes have also suffered from a lack of funds.

Only five per cent progress was made towards objective three, which seeks to enhance the resilience of population at risk of shocks. Similarly, just one per cent of those targeted under sector objective five, which aims to increase the resilience of farmers, herders and fishers have been reached. Similarly low progress was reported against objective six which seeks to increase access to livelihoods resources, with only three of the projects contributing to objectives five and six having received any funding.

Efforts have been made by the sector to put in place emergency preparedness actions to enable the sector to effectively respond to food security shocks. During the reporting period, the sector has been developing a preparedness and response plan which should be finalised in September.

Coordinator Co-Facilitator	FAO and WFP
Government Counterpart	Ministry of Social Affairs and Ministry of Agriculture
 People Targeted	1.6 million
 People Covered	1.3 million

FUNDING

Requested	Received	Percent Funded
324m	124m HPF: 0.5m	38%

In addition, two national Food Security partners also responded to the January 2015 winter storm through support from the Humanitarian Pool Fund (HPF) which allowed rehabilitation of greenhouses damaged in the storm.

The Food Security Sector Analysis Unit (FSAU) also updated the analysis methodology for the Socio-Economic and Food Security Survey (SEFSec) exercise, which will consider the three pillars of poverty, food deprivation and resilience. Results of the new SEFSec will be available to inform the 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview.

Changes in Context

During the reporting period, restrictions on access to natural resources and demolition/confiscations of production means continue to reduce the ability of Palestinians to effectively farm their land and profitably access the sea.

All major identified constraints that limit the capacity to improve food security level of Palestinians are still negatively affecting Palestinian livelihoods.

Challenges

The funding shortfall has been a significant constraint for the Food Security Sector in 2015, particularly affecting some activities:

- As of 30 June, only \$124 million of requested funding was received, significantly below the required mid-year funding level, considering that most funds are committed during the first semester.

- The funding shortfall may pose a threat to the timely achievement of 2015 objectives, especially to projects that are planned to run for 12 months and those that are largely underfunded at this stage. The table below shows the funding status of FSS activities:

FSS 2015 Q2	WB only	% of funds on target request	GS only	% of funds on target request	WB and GS	% of funds on target request
Food Assistance	\$17,412,385	40%	\$78,854,039	56%		
Livelihood Support	\$348,820	3%	\$2,743,236	16%	\$4,974,984	17%
CFW	\$13,706,037	99%	\$6,135,861	9%		
Sub-total	\$31,467,242		\$87,733,136		\$4,974,984	

- Support to livelihood-based activities has been especially lacking, particularly in the West Bank where just 3 per cent of the request has been met. (In Gaza, 16 per cent has been met). Lack of support to strengthen livelihood and resilience of the most vulnerable households will necessitate continued short-term urgent interventions.
- Cash for Work activities in Gaza have struggled to attract funding (with just 9 percent of the request met) although unemployment in Gaza is still a major issue.
- The Gaza blockade and related restrictions on movement continue to undermine living conditions and limit recovery following the 2014 conflict.

- Increased advocacy on lifting of restrictions that affect food security, and to highlight issues of access to resources and protection of livelihoods.

Cluster Performance

The sector has focused on updating the 3/4Ws and developing a damage-response matrix related to the 2014 conflict in Gaza to better identify gaps and share information. The Sector is working towards strengthening its information system to provide prompt information such as who is doing what and where, those most in need, and trends in coverage and access, and need for mutual cooperation. A Food Security Watch dashboard has been developed during the reporting period which uses a web tool to provide regularly updated information through an easy-to-access portal. The sector also supported the entry-data process related to a detailed farm level assessment carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture after the 2014 hostilities in Gaza.

A lessons learned exercise looking at the role of the FSS during the last conflict in Gaza, as well as a performance evaluation was also conducted in the first semester of 2015.

Actions to be Taken

- Further input support is needed for low resilience herders/fishers and farmers to safeguard their assets, as well as investment in sustainable livelihoods.
- Interventions in the Access Restricted Areas (ARA) and Area C should be funded first.
- Additional funding to the food security sector should be allocated to cover critical gaps such as providing more short-term employment opportunities.

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Result	Status
Cluster Objective 1: For farmers, herders and fisher folk to receive a rights based response.5				
# of farmers, fishers, herders whose livelihoods are affected by protection threats (settler violence, threatened access to land and resources) are enabled to access their livelihoods through legal assistance, legal awareness and related advocacy	Not existing	2,799(1,836 females; 963 males) and beneficiaries of 38 campaigns	No progress	No progress
Cluster Objective 2: Palestinian households suffering from lack of economic access to food as a result of shock, are able to meet their basic food needs.				
# of Palestinian households who suffer from lack of economic access to food as a result of shock are able to meet their basic food needs	Not established	39,033 (13,900 females; 19,733 males)	2,513 (1,250 males; 1,263 females)	Major gaps- 6%
Cluster Objective 3: Enhancing the resilience of population at risk of shock (Man-made and Climatic)				
# of affected population reporting improvement in their livelihoods in a timely manner	Not established	21,213 (11,063 males; 10,150 females)	900 (180 males, 720 females)	Major gaps- 4%
Cluster Objective 4: Palestinian households suffering from lack of economic access to food are able to meet their basic food needs.6				
% of food insecurity amongst the Palestinian Population. ⁷	21% in West Bank, 73% in Gaza	Stable or decrease	SEFSEc results due in September	No data available yet
Cluster Objective 5: The resilience of small scale farmers, herders, fishers and urban/peri urban households is enhanced and livelihoods protected				
The resilience index of farmers, herders, fishers and urban/peri urban households is improved	Resilience Index to be elaborated during the 2015 programme cycle based on 2013 data set	The resilience index is maintained/ improved.	No resilience index measured yet	No data available yet
Cluster Objective 6: Ensure that farmers/herders/Bedouins/fishers have access to agriculture services/ resources (water, land)				
% of affected population (farmers and herders) have increased access to agriculture services (vet, extension) and resources (water, land, fodder)	n/a ⁸	To be established from 2014 data during the 2015 programme cycle	No progress	No progress
Cluster Objective 7: The capacity of and coordination between national stakeholders working in food sector is improved in order to respond to emergency situation effectively				
Food security sector disaster risk reduction (DRR) plan prepared at national level	Not existing	In place and implemented	In progress	On track- 80%
Cluster Objective 8: Palestinian IDP households suffering from displacement, as a result of war, are able to meet their basic food needs				
%of IDPs who are able to meet their food security needs	To be established from 2014 SEFSEc data at the start of programme cycle	Stable or improved	SEFSEc results due in September	No data available yet



HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Progress towards Cluster Objectives

Despite a lack of funding, health partners in West Bank managed to facilitate limited access to health services. Mobile health services were not operational in the reporting period but resumed in August 2015 after receiving funding from the HPF. The referral system for victims of violence continued to function and several cases were referred by health providers to protection organizations for follow up. The cluster also collected information on restricted access of vulnerable populations to primary health care and diffused this through the appropriate publications and channels. Gender issues were also addressed and highlighted in partner activities. Health partners also responded to health needs following home demolitions in Area C in cases where a health need was identified through assessments.

Nevertheless, there were major gaps in service provision, with only 30 per cent of the targeted beneficiaries reached. Cluster objective one was achieved partially due to limited funding. Progress against cluster objective two was better; there were however, major gaps in training of staff with only 43 per cent of the targeted beneficiaries reached. Carrying out health awareness (mostly activities in Gaza) on nutrition, reproductive health and emergency at the community exceeds the targeted group estimated number.

Changes in Context

No changes in context.

Cluster Performance

WHO as lead of the Health Cluster has continued to carry out activities related to the coordination process.

Coordinator Co-Facilitator	WHO
Government Counterpart	Ministry of Health
People Targeted	1.6 million
People Covered	0.55 million



FUNDING

Requested	Received	Percent Funded
21m	8.3m	39%

Challenges

- Mobile clinic services for vulnerable communities in Area C of the West Bank stopped functioning for six months due to underfunding.
- Shortages of essential drugs and disposables has also negatively impacted delivery of health services and contributed to the deterioration in the health status of some patients, while increasing the need for referrals abroad.
- Funding for national NGOs who can play a key role in emergency preparedness and delivery of primary health services also remains very limited.

Actions to be taken

- Focused advocacy and outreach to donors on the impact of the shortages of drugs, the need to fund health NGOs and the maintainance of provision of basic health service in vulnerable communities in Area C after November 2015 when HPF support for mobile clinics ends.

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Result	Status
Cluster Objective 1: Access of vulnerable communities in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank to quality and affordable health services, referral of victims of violence to protection organizations and advocacy ensured				
# of vulnerable people in West Bank and Gaza (women and men) accessing quality and affordable essential health by type of service(including nutrition, maternal and child health , reproductive health, mental health, rehabilitation services for people with disabilities)	1,600,000	1,600,000 (730,280 women,490,062 children, 370,570 men).	486,348 (147,273 women, 57,250 men, 282,323 children)	Major gaps – 30%
Cluster Objective 2: Vulnerable communities in the West Bank and Gaza better prepared to cope with the impact of current and potential new man-made and natural disasters				
# of identified vulnerable communities in West Bank and Gaza have demonstrated better preparedness to cope with health impacts of current and future crisis	120	100	50	On track - 50%

 **PROTECTION**


Progress towards Cluster Objectives

The Protection Cluster and its sub-groups have made positive progress towards achieving its two cluster objectives during the reporting period. Beyond progress achieved through the implementation of projects, cluster members effectively advanced the rights of affected communities, mainly through improving preparedness and crisis response plans, strengthened monitoring and reporting, advocacy and ensuring widespread protective presence to prevent right violations.

In Gaza, the Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) has introduced in its work with the Palestinian Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) a case management process, which reaches children through 24 Family Centers and two Child Protection Networks. Emergency preparedness capacities have also been strengthened in Gaza with support to implement CPWG contingency plan activities, specifically, establishment of a structure for shelter protection committees (which will activate in the event of an emergency); Protection Focal Points in each Governorate; and a situation monitoring framework and tools. The Working Group on Grave Violations has submitted inputs for the Global Horizontal Notes on Children and Armed Conflict.

97 per cent of the total number of people who received legal aid from Legal Task Force members have been temporarily protected from demolitions due to legal proceedings in the Israeli courts.

Despite funding challenges, protective presence actors were able to protect communities, such as Susiya in Hebron governorate supporting the community during the period when the risk of forced eviction and possible forcible transfer, a grave breach of International Humanitarian Law, was highest. The cluster’s advocacy work, thus

Coordinator Co-Facilitator	OHCHR
Government Counterpart	-
 People Targeted	1.46 million
 People Covered	0.35 million

 **FUNDING**

Requested	Received	Percent Funded
52m	27m	51%

far, has also helped prevent these communities from being forcibly evicted and transferred.

There were also some significant achievements in relation to some restrictions on movement, such as the opening of the DCO checkpoint to enter Ramallah and the re-opening of the Quarries road in Hebron, which followed several legal correspondences sent by Cluster members on behalf of Hebron Municipality and the Municipality of BaniNaim. Furthermore, the Israeli Board for Planning and Building partially upheld the appeal submitted by the residents of WadiHelweh and other organizations against the “Kedem Compound” plan by the Jerusalem District Planning. One of the appeals was submitted in order to protect the rights of affected Palestinian communities in occupied East Jerusalem.

UNMAS has cleared approximately one third of the 7,000 explosive remnants of war (ERW) contaminating Gaza after the 2014 hostilities. UNMAS responded to all 596 ERW risk assessments from UNDP rubble removal teams.

Changes in Context

Please refer to *page 4* section in the PMR for the main contextual developments affecting the cluster.

Cluster Performance

During the reporting period, the Cluster has experienced a number of changes in the coordination team which have affected the Cluster performance. However, OHCHR's leadership and the membership's commitment have helped overcome institutional challenges. This resulted in a more effective and efficient use of human, financial and material resources. More institutional stability is foreseen for the second half of the year.

In addition to participating in the cluster coordination architecture review led by OCHA during the second quarter of the year, the Protection Cluster took the opportunity to engage in a deeper analysis of its performance. In this respect, a comprehensive review, including of structural efficiency and ensuring endorsement of operational frameworks was undertaken. As part of the performance review, it is planned to move towards a more robust policy recommendation orientation, prioritization of operational responses on the basis of vulnerability criteria and greater protection mainstreaming efforts across Clusters.

Challenges

In general, the Cluster has faced a lack of financial resources, with not all required financial resources having been actually disbursed to implementing partners. Other challenges are as follows:

- There is a need to enhance operational focus and planning, together with a meaningful participation of national organizations, human rights organizations and local authorities.
- Better understanding of the role of the Cluster and its added value is yet to be fully achieved.
- While some of the Cluster's sub-groups have been functioning well, others have encountered some difficulties. For example, the CPWG in the West Bank has not been operational since the end of 2014 due

to staffing constraints, but is due to start operating in the second half of the year. As a result, the data collected is not a total reflection of partner inputs, as not all partners are reporting through the 5W matrix. Similar constraints affected the MHPSS WG in the West Bank.

- Generally, reporting on achievements is partially hampered by lack of quality control at the source and disciplined efforts at the coordination level.
- Despite an operational CPWG and MHPSS in Gaza, there are gaps in implementation of psychosocial support activities with multiple organizations responding in the same locations, whilst some of the most damaged and vulnerable parts of the Gaza Strip remain under-served.
- Capacity building initiatives to ensure quality and diversified targeted and child protection interventions in the emergency and protracted emergency context in Gaza remains a priority that is not recognized as an urgent need
- Interventions tend to more frequently target children and females, with less focus on responding to youths, male adults, elderly people, and persons with disabilities.
- Despite intensive ERW risk education private and individual rubble removal efforts continue to be conducted without adequate safety precautions and therefore pose a threat to civilians.
- The provision of legal services in Area C of the West Bank in cases of imminent house demolitions has been hampered by new policies imposed by the Israeli authorities, resulting in an increased vulnerability of affected families. There is a need to go beyond the limited demolition response in the existing setting.
- Existing referral systems in the West Bank need to be revisited to ensure coordinated and systematic recording of cases and responses.

Actions to be Taken

- During the next reporting period, efforts will focus on implementing the findings and conclusions of the performance review process, and ensuring meaningful contribution to the 2016 Humanitarian Programme Cycle (including a strong presence of the Protection Cluster and protection mainstreaming in other clusters, in particular as part of a robust Humanitarian Needs Overview).
- Proper functioning of all cluster sub-groups will be prioritized with a view to ensuring complementarity of actions and responses, avoiding duplication and streamlining flow of information and data collection.
- Preparedness and crisis response, in particular in Gaza, will continue to be strengthened. The CPWG proposes to strengthen coordination structures to better respond both in emergency and post emergency contexts in Gaza, which will have an overall impact on the Cluster's ability to promote and protect rights. This will include establishing child protection focal points at the Governorate level on a continuous basis and ad hoc crisis response protection committees at the shelter level (other than those UNRWA may set up). Efforts will continue to ensure common protection standards for all in crisis response plans.

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Result	Status
Cluster Objective 1: To increase respect for human rights and international humanitarian law				
% of households subject to demolition and eviction orders in the West Bank including East Jerusalem that are able to remain in their homes due to the provision of legal representation.	95%	90%	97%	On track
# of individuals in Gaza who receive legal assistance to access legal remedies in Israel for losses of life, injuries and property destruction or damage sustained during Operation Protective Edge.	1,900	100% of key cases where there is available evidence to suggest that a violation of IHL and/or IHRL has occurred	2,446	On track – 129%
Cluster Objective 2: To prevent and mitigate the impacts of abuses and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, and of the armed conflict.				
# of ERW-related casualties in Gaza among boys, girls, women and men is minimal.	48	As close to 0 as possible	56 (21 men, 8 women, 13 boys, 9 girls)	
# of girls and boys directly affected by occupation or conflict-related violence, including grave violations against children, have strengthened coping mechanisms and resilience through the provision of child protection interventions and psychosocial support.	45,300 (22,650 boys and 22,650 girls)	200,000 children accessing PSS and 300,000 children accessing CP interventions)	192,936	On track – 39%



SHELTER AND NFIS

Progress towards Cluster Objectives

The overarching Shelter Cluster objective is to secure adequate shelter solutions, including other key facilities such as WASH, for vulnerable and marginalized groups, displaced people or people under the threat of displacement. Generally, findings and indicators show positive progress in the cluster’s objectives against the targets defined for the first half of 2015. Cluster objective 3 (Ensure continued access to adequate shelter for those displaced or at risk of displacement through access to housing land and property (HLP) rights and legal support) has been removed from the cluster monitoring framework and cluster data collection system due to its lesser relevance to the work of Shelter Cluster partners, and to avoid overlap and possible inconsistency with the Protection Cluster as most of the activities for this objective come under legal and protection actions. Most of the sub-activities and indicators are on track, except in a few cases, notably activity 1 under objective 2 (Improvements, rehabilitation and winterizing of inadequate shelters with coordinated WASH support in the West Bank) and activity 4 under objective 5 (Finishing off of unfinished units to provide rent-free accommodation for up to two years, thereby increasing the housing stock in Gaza). This is due to a lack of funds.

Changes in Context

The most notable change is in the difference between the initial estimate which informed cluster planning in late 2014, and the actual number of houses damaged in Gaza as shown by subsequent assessments. For instance, the first estimation of minor/major damages was 36,000 housing units, while the number from the assessment is 145,000 units. This dramatically changes the caseload in terms of the number of affected people and the size of funds needed to cover the needs. This also leads at times to the numbers in the reported results below being higher than the original targets, such as where the donation for rental subsidies has to

Coordinator Co-Facilitator	NRC
Government Counterpart	MoLG/MoSA/MoPWH
 People Targeted	0.3 million
 People Covered	0.58 million

FUNDING

Requested	Received	Percent Funded
229m	90m ERF: 0.2m	37%

be repeated until the beneficiaries are moved to a durable shelter. At this stage the Shelter Cluster chose not to change the targets to the new numbers resulted from last assessments, as this will be reflected with the required details in the 2016 planning process that will start soon.

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, plans by the Israeli authorities to relocate Bedouins from the Jerusalem periphery, and to potentially demolish entire communities such as Susyia, may require partners to reprioritize their work and to invest more for unplanned actions and interventions to support people in such new situations. Finally the experience of the winter storms that hit Palestine, showed weaknesses in preparedness, and a lack of capacity, tools and ability to meet the emergency needs, Shelter Cluster contingency plan recommends to have at least three main stockpiles distributed along West Bank to avoid any possible hamper of assistance provision due to logistic and accessibility on the main routes as was noticed during 2014/2015 snow storms.

Cluster Performance

The Shelter Cluster has been working to ensure proper coordination between different partners by updating, collecting and sharing information through the 4Ws tool; showing where critical

gaps are, what shelter actors are working on, and producing a monthly factsheet that reflects and summarizes different caseloads, responses and gaps. The cluster conducted regular meetings with government counterparts, UN agencies, and NGOs to help outline roles and responsibilities, to ensure complementarity and integrity to maximize outcomes.

Technical working groups (TWiGs) are formed to support cluster members respond to specific needs. Such working groups include the NFIs TWiG which aims to standardize specifications for NFIs and provide guidance on their distribution, and the Vulnerability TWiG which defines shelter vulnerability indicators and criteria at the community and household level.

The cluster is also seeking to address funding shortages for critical needs, including demolition response and temporary shelter solutions in Gaza, participate in advocacy forums and provides inputs for the shelter/NFIs sector.

Challenges

West Bank and Jerusalem:

- The number of demolition and stop work orders issued for residential shelters in 2015 increased compared to the same period in the previous year. Jerusalem is the number one governorate where demolition orders issued are actually implemented, followed by Hebron and Tubas. Donor funded structures also continue to be targeted.
- Denying Palestinian planning rights also increases the likelihood of demolition of residential shelters; out of 103 master plans submitted to ICA for approval, only five plans have been approved.
- Forcible transfer, mainly for Bedouin communities located in the Jerusalem periphery, Jordan Valley and South Hebron Hills, has necessitated that partners shift their attention to preparedness actions and repositioning of emergency items.
- The lack of Shelter/NFI stockpiles in the West Bank impedes emergency response during

winter storms or other natural disasters.

- Assessments of shelter conditions in 187 communities located entirely in Area C show that the shelters of 107 communities are in need complete rehabilitation and improvement. Rehabilitation work requires special mitigation measures to avoid material confiscation or demolition.

Gaza Strip

- According to the latest figures, 12,580 housing units were totally destroyed in the hostilities in 2014 and 6,463 housing units were severely damaged, rendering these structures uninhabitable. 157,170 housing units suffered minor, major and severe damage and will require repair assistance.
- At the current rate at which materials are entering Gaza under the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism (GRM), the Shelter Cluster estimates it will take 22 years to reconstruct the housing units from the 2014 and other past conflicts.

Actions to be taken

- Advocate for the need to improve and upgrade shelters for 107 communities in Area C of the West Bank.
- Participate in advocacy actions and messaging to pressure the Israeli Civil Administration (ICA) to halt demolitions of residential shelters and resulting forcible displacement in Area C and East Jerusalem.
- Address acute shelter needs in Gaza and review the GRM to evaluate its ability to meet Gaza's housing needs within a reasonable time, in parallel with enabling required funds and pledges for Gaza reconstruction and temporary shelter solutions.
- Advocate that humanitarian and development organizations follow the technical guidance, best practices and recommendations for temporary shelter solutions to avoid exacerbating human suffering, particularly in relation to children and vulnerable groups.

- Secure commitment by relevant stakeholders to support the eight steps of reconstruction – focusing on vulnerability, monitoring, accountability, and a feedback mechanism.
- Making agencies accountable (monitoring their interventions).
- Diversify assistance to NGOs, which are more flexible than UN agencies

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Result	Status
Cluster Objective 1: Respond to the immediate shelter and shelter-NFI needs of vulnerable populations resulting from manmade or natural disasters				
% of families that are subject to demolitions or destruction due to natural disasters or conflict receive immediate Shelter/NFIs assistance in Gaza, West Bank and East Jerusalem.	0	70%	73%	On Track
Cluster Objective 2: Ensure continued access to adequate shelter for those displaced or at risk of displacement, providing shelter solutions able to mitigate against harsh weather conditions				
% of vulnerable shelters are strengthened to withstand severe weather conditions through material provision and technical guidance and control.	0	80%	184%	On Track
Cluster Objective 3: removed from the Cluster Monitoring Framework during the mid year monitoring process				
Cluster Objective 4: Work towards effective involvement of Ministry of the Government of National Consensus to prepare for emergencies and ensure a coordinated response				
Relevant national bodies maintain and test contingency and preparedness plans.	Existing	Maintained and tested	Maintained and tested	Achieved
Cluster Objective 5: Ensure maintain immediate access to transitional shelter solutions which include WASH facilities				
# of displaced people are able to find transitional shelter solutions incorporated with WASH services	0	700	700	On Track – 100%
% of hosted families are able to continue to access shelter through monthly cash support or improvements to hosting conditions	20%	100%	71%	On Track



WASH

Progress towards Cluster Objectives

The progress of WASH Cluster has to be viewed against the backdrop of the contextual factors affecting the cluster’s work as discussed below.

Two of the 31 cluster projects in the SRP have received full funding, while eight projects received partial funding, leaving 20 projects unfunded. In the West Bank, UNICEF has begun tankering of water to beneficiaries, pending completion of project formalities related to water network development to serve these communities. WASH partners responded to 72 per cent of cases of where assistance has been identified as needed following demolitions.

In the Gaza Strip, the longstanding blockade had already created an unsustainable water and sanitation situation which was compounded by the 2014 conflict. Given expected delays in reconstruction efforts, the focus is on ensuring the stability of the current (reduced) level of service, and providing household level support to conflict-affected and IDP families in improving water and sanitation access, water storage and hygiene. A secondary focus seeks to provide service in underserved /unconnected communities. Together these objectives contribute to strategic objective six to ensure transitional solutions for those affected by the recent conflict, and to strategic objective four to ensure essential services to areas with limited services and restricted access. Overall, in Gaza 58,200 people have benefited from improved access to water and 8,400 people have benefited from improved access to sanitation services through the cluster’s efforts in the reporting period.

Changes in Context

The post-conflict baseline for water production levels in Gaza have been difficult to determine given that the Gaza Power Plant and many water wells were destroyed during last summer’s

Coordinator Co-Facilitator	UNICEF PWA
Government Counterpart	PWA/ CMWU
 People Targeted	0.6 million
 People Covered	0.083 million

FUNDING

Requested	Received	Percent Funded
39.2m	18.9m	48%

conflict. This is in addition to the deleterious effects of the fuel crisis and the blockade. The Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) in collaboration with the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU) is preparing a progress report on reconstruction of WASH facilities damaged during the conflict.

Cluster Performance

The WASH Cluster at the national level has started discussions on transition, taking into consideration the results of the recent HCT cluster architecture review workshop and the structure developed with the support of the consultant engaged by the Global WASH Cluster in collaboration with the EWASH consortium. The next step would be development of specific cluster ToRs, and reviewing the existing ones.

Challenges

- Low funding of NGOs and local partners.
- The long time taken for funds committed to become available to partners.
- The continuous lack of electricity and fuel has impacted negatively in the operation of more than 280 water and wastewater facilities in Gaza. The emergency fuel distribution project administered by UNRWA with support from OCHA which is funded by the IDB (Islamic

Development Bank) is only a temporary solution.

- The GRM includes WASH interventions but does not provide solutions for other issues such as the recharge of the aquifer and the development of the Water and Sanitation sectors in Gaza.
- Aquifers are over utilized for agricultural, domestic and industrial purposes and are highly polluted (with nitrates), and suffer from saline intrusion (chloride). Access to clean water is limited in Gaza and distribution and storage systems were damaged during the conflict.

Water and sanitation facilities at household level were also severely damaged during the conflict: 16,000 roof tanks are needed as an emergency

response and 50,000 tanks are needed to maintain the normal storage capacity before the conflict.

Actions to be taken

- More efforts needed in the mobilization of funds, especially for local and international NGOs.
- Find more suitable and sustainable solutions to the electricity shortage by exploring other options such as solar panels and additional supply from the existing sources.
- Ensure the timely availability of WASH and construction materials.

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Result	Status
Cluster Objective 1: National sectoral coordination capacity increased				
Water sector disaster risk reduction workplans jointly agreed and implemented in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.	In development	In place and implemented	In progress	On Track
Cluster Objective 2: Demolition incidents in Area C communities receive an appropriate WASH response				
% of WASH demolition incidents receiving a response	50%	100%	72%	On Track
Cluster Objective 3: Water scarce population in Area C is reduced by 30%				
# of people suffering from water scarcity in Area C	150,000	45,000	Some progress	Some progress
Cluster Objective 4: Service providers and humanitarian actors are prepared to respond in flood risk areas (no outcome level indicator)				
Cluster Objective 5: Conflict-affected and critically-unserved communities in the Gaza strip have improved access to WASH services. (no outcome level indicator)				
Cluster Objective 6: Basic WASH needs of IDPs in the Gaza Strip are met (no outcome level indicator)				

END NOTES

1. Based on data of population considered food insecure plus those considered vulnerable to food insecurity in Gaza Strip
2. Baseline data currently does not exist given that this is a new indicator for the sector plan and as such the sector has not collected this information yet. Baseline information will be collected during the 2015 programme cycle to inform the next year.
3. The baseline was derived from the first estimation of minor damages in Gaza and the estimated number of vulnerable shelters in Area C of the West Bank. The actual achievement was higher due to the higher than anticipated number in need from the final damage assessment findings in Gaza.
4. Partial project activities completed however, it is difficult to ascertain at this stage number of people reached due to difficulty in translating partial construction progress in terms of people reached. Beneficiaries also reached through a transition water tankering intervention
5. Baseline data currently do not exist for these activities given that these are new indicators for sector plan and as such the sector has not collected this information yet. Baseline information will be collected during the 2015 programme cycle to inform the next year.
6. Ibid.
7. Based on data of population considered food insecure plus those considered vulnerable to food insecurity in Gaza Strip.
8. Baseline data currently does not exist given that this is a new indicator for the sector plan and as such the sector has not collected this information yet. Baseline information will be collected during the 2015 programme cycle to inform the next year.

The monitoring frameworks in this report represent a summary of progress
Detailed monitoring frameworks for all clusters are available at:
<http://www.ochaopt.org/cap.aspx?id=1010132&page=1>



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