

OPT 2022 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN: THIRD QUARTER 2022 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE DASHBOARD

(JANUARY – SEPTEMBER 2022)

KEY POINTS

- **2.1 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance** in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). The impact of the occupation has been compounded by the war in Ukraine, slow recovery from the 2021 May and 2022 August escalations of hostilities in Gaza, escalating violence in the West Bank, and ongoing effects COVID-19 pandemic.
- As of Q3 2022, **the HRP is only 57% funded** while rising prices and market disruptions threaten the food security of vulnerable families across oPt, particularly in the Gaza Strip.
- WFP is currently facing a **funding shortfall of US\$ 27 million for the next six months** to continue providing life-saving food assistance to vulnerable Palestinians. US\$ 4 million is urgently needed to avoid suspending assistance to 180,000 people in Gaza and the West Bank in December.
- Shrinking humanitarian space and **attacks on healthcare workers increasingly challenge the provision of humanitarian assistance**, driven by Israeli military operations, regular demolitions and evictions, increased use of live ammunition, and settler violence.

KEY FIGURES

PEOPLE IN NEED AND REACHED*



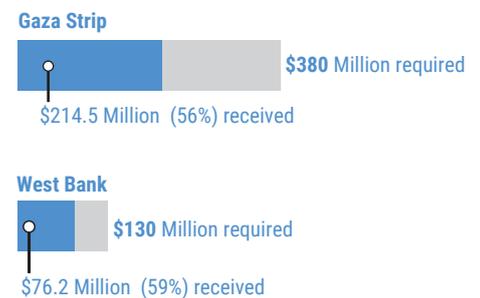
*The total number of people reached was calculated based on the number of people reached by at least one cluster in 2022.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN*



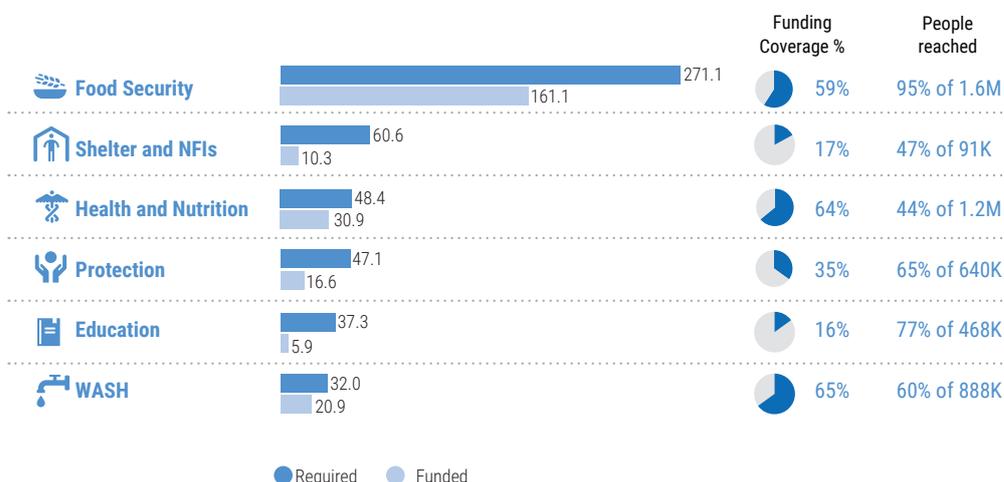
*As of quarter 3, some clusters have reported more funding received than what is currently being reported by the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS). The FTS will be updated with this new information in the coming weeks.

FUNDING BY LOCATION*



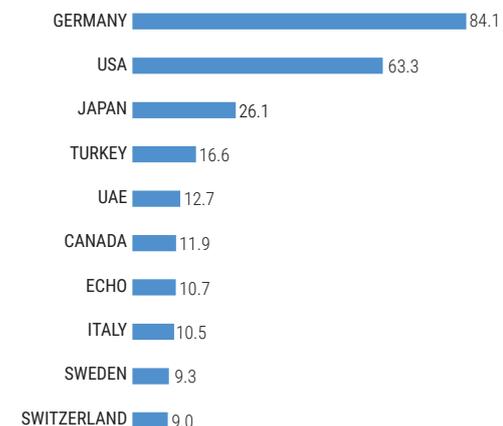
*The breakdown of funding going to Gaza and West Bank is an estimation.

FUNDING AND BENEFICIARIES 2022 (US\$ MILLION)*



*Does not include the additional \$33.4 million funded through the HRP that has yet to be allocated to a specific cluster nor \$11.5 million which has been received for Coordination and Support Services (CSS).

TOP 10 KEY DONORS (US\$ MILLION)



CHALLENGES

GAZA: Palestinians in Gaza continue to face extreme living conditions, the result of 15 years of the Israeli blockade, recurrent escalations of hostilities, and internal political divisions. These realities have resulted in limited access to essential services and continued restrictions on the movement of people and goods to, from, and within Gaza, driving critical needs which require immediate assistance.

Food, shelter, electricity, and WASH needs remain high: 62 percent of Gazans require food assistance, over 7000 are still displaced from recent escalations, the power supply is meeting only 50% of demand and power cuts average 12 hours per day, and 78 per cent of piped water in Gaza is unfit for human consumption. The food security cluster reports that global developments including the war in Ukraine coupled with severe Israeli restrictions on imports, have made it even more challenging for partners to respond to these needs. Thus, living standards and development prospects continue to deteriorate in Gaza, which is one of the most densely populated areas in the world at 5,900 residents/square kilometer.

Gazans have faced a series of destructive escalations in hostilities, most recently in May 2021 and August 2022. These have caused numerous fatalities, injuries, mental health issues, and damages to homes and structures, all of which have eroded development gains and aggravated the already over-stretched infrastructure. During the latest escalation in early August, 49 Palestinians in Gaza were killed, of whom at least 25 were civilians, including 17 children and four women. Another 360 were injured, including 151 children and 58 women. In addition, about 1,500 housing units were damaged or destroyed, leaving about 600 people internally displaced. These Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are added to the 7,000 who remain displaced from the 11-day May 2021 escalation, during which 261 Palestinians were killed, including 67 children, 62,000 housing units were damaged or destroyed, and 12,000 people displaced. In total, more than 23,000 families are still living in unhygienic and overcrowded shelter conditions. The shelter-NFI cluster reports that financial support for many of these families is severely lacking, preventing partners from addressing the needs of all IDPs.

Both mental and physical health needs are widespread in Gaza. As a stark example, almost 70 per cent of Gaza's population displayed symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) after the May 2021 escalation, a number which is expected to have risen after the August 2022 escalation. Some 55 per cent of Gaza's children, over 800,000 of whom have lived their entire lives under blockade, show signs of emotional distress, and 79 per cent of parents have reported mental health issues among their children.

As health institutions are often unable to provide sufficient medical care due to a lack of resources and delays or refusal of entry of medical equipment, Palestinians often seek medical referrals outside Gaza. The Israeli authorities however often delay or deny permits, forcing many to reschedule and reapply, as in September 2022 when only 69 per cent of applications were approved. Thus, the permit application process has life-threatening consequences for Palestinians in Gaza. In view of these health conditions, the health cluster has again reiterated the need for immediate access to essential health services in Gaza.

While there have been welcome improvements in Gazan's ability to move in the past two years, the monthly entry and exit of goods is still extremely limited. Lastly, unemployment levels in Gaza are among the highest in the world: as of June 2022, the jobless rate was 44.1 per cent, compared with an average of 34.8 per cent in 2006, according to the Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics.

WEST BANK: Israel's military occupation of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, continues to violate rights guaranteed to Palestinians under standards of both international humanitarian and human rights law. Military operations, demolitions, evictions, settlement advancement, and settler violence are the result of ongoing Israeli policies and practices. Israeli security forces maintain a consistently high and visible presence, which includes day and night search-and-arrest operations, detentions, and ill-treatment of children. Meanwhile, the presence of Israeli settlements intensifies what can be characterized as a coercive environment for vulnerable communities in Area C, East Jerusalem, and the Israeli-controlled areas of Hebron. Between 1 January and 30 September 2022, Israeli authorities demolished 677 structures in the West Bank, including 102 donor-funded structures. Most of the demolitions occurred because Palestinians lacked the Israeli-issued building permits which are nearly impossible for them to obtain. As a result, 764 people, including 367 children, have been displaced.

Areas throughout the West Bank are witnessing increasing closures, rising fatalities and injuries from the use of force, and growing settler activity and violence on bypass roads and within Palestinian villages. On a monthly average, 2022 is the deadliest year so far for Palestinians in the West Bank since OCHA began collecting data on fatalities in 2005. Ninety Palestinians, 20 of whom were children, have been killed by Israeli forces as of 30 September. This represents a 36 per cent increase in fatalities compared to the same period of 2021, during which Israeli forces killed 66 Palestinians, including 13 children. Israeli settler violence against Palestinians is likewise increasing. As of 30 September, OCHA has documented 382 incidents during which settlers caused damage to Palestinian property and 49 incidents during which settler attacks resulted in both Palestinian casualties and property damage, including more than 7,400 trees and 430 Palestinian-owned vehicles damaged. This is the highest monthly average of incidents recorded since OCHA started tracking settler-related violence incidents in 2005 and represents a 23 and 75 per cent increase compared with 2021 and 2020, respectively. Meanwhile, injuries from Israeli forces during settler-initiated violence in the West Bank also continue to rise. In 2022, the average monthly number of incidents of Israeli forces intervening following settler activity on Palestinian land has increased 160% compared with the monthly average in 2021. Furthermore, 5,068 Palestinians, including 356 children, have been arrested in the West Bank, a 19 per cent increase compared with the same period last year.

These increases in violence continue to impact the wellbeing and livelihoods of Palestinians in the West Bank. The education cluster has found that recent intensifications of Israeli military operations around schools has resulted in a loss of learning for children while reducing partner capacities in protective presence and the monitoring of violations. Meanwhile, the WASH cluster warns that increased tensions in the West Bank could affect access to critical WASH services, particularly in Area C. Finally, the protection cluster reports that these upticks in violence on the part of both settlers and Israeli forces, combined with a shrinking space for civil society and humanitarian actions, has made it even more difficult for partners to operate in the West Bank, adding to the immediate need for child protection measures and targeted legal aid services.

ACHIEVEMENTS | JANUARY - SEPTEMBER 2022



313,042 students received emergency education supplies and 29,492 students received psychosocial support.



1,517,924 people received food assistance through vouchers or in-kind distribution.



Almost 530,000 beneficiaries received healthcare, as health cluster partners were able to raise close to US\$ 22 million despite significant challenges in resource mobilization.



Over 47,500 people, including 1,232 persons with disabilities received conflict preparedness and protection training, while 95,000 people, including 41,000 children, received explosive remnants of war (ERW) risk education.



7,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) received Transitional Shelter Cash Assistance (TSCA), 4,600 households damaged during the May 2021 and August 2022 escalations in Gaza were provided repair assistance through cash grants, and 2,653 displaced persons in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, were provided cash or material assistance in response to demolitions.



104,000 people in Gaza and the West Bank gained improved access to water and sanitation through the installation or rehabilitation of 90 kilometers of the water network and 30 kilometers of the sewer network.



A Gazan family spending quality time in their renovated living room. Project implemented by CRS @2021, supported by the oPt Humanitarian Fund.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 1,517,924 people have received food assistance through vouchers or in-kind distribution.
- 27,763 households received cash assistance in the form of cash for work, unconditional cash assistance, or other types of conditional cash assistance to support their livelihoods.

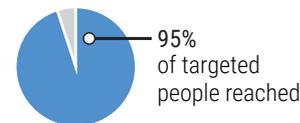
GAPS AND CHALLENGES

- There has been no support for agriculture livelihoods this year due to the lack of funding.
- The failure to properly address support to livelihoods continues to jeopardize Palestinian households' ability to upgrade their food security conditions.
- Households registered under the Social Safety Net Program (SSNP), which are particularly vulnerable, haven't received cash assistance from the program since May 2021.
- The prolonged absence of support through the SSNP is leading to increased debt and deteriorating living conditions for the more than 70,000 households who are on the waiting lists of the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD).

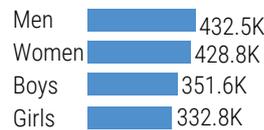


1.8 Million
people in need

1.6 Million
people targeted

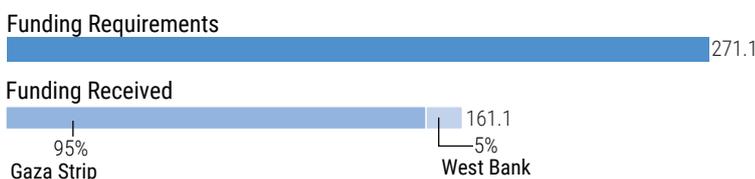


1.5 Million*
people reached



**Food assistance targets the same groups of beneficiaries multiple times through the year. Therefore, 95% of beneficiaries reached by mid-year does not imply that all of them have been provided with the assistance targeted for the whole year. The overall figure of people reached with humanitarian aid is thus lower (see page 1).*

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS & FUNDING RECEIVED BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREA (US\$ MILLION)*



** Some clusters have reported more funding received than what is currently being reported by the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS). This new funding information will be updated on FTS in the coming weeks. Therefore, the breakdown of funding received going to Gaza and West Bank for each cluster is currently an estimation.*

PRIORITIES FOR FOURTH QUARTER 2022

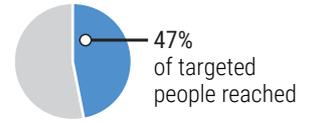
- Support to food insecure households through food assistance, particularly those who have lost their livelihoods and/or are affected by the closures imposed on the main economic sectors in Gaza.
- Direct support to farmers, herders, breeders, and fishers affected by man-made disasters as well as those at high risk of demolition or confiscation of their property, including animal feeding equipment, water for agriculture, and crop production facilities.
- Short-term livelihood, resilience, and employment opportunities through programs using cash distribution modalities, including multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA), for various community groups, especially for those who are now losing earnings.
- Food assistance through Cash Based Transfer targeting poor households which fall under the SSNP and haven't received cash assistance since 2021, including newly affected households and vulnerable groups (the elderly, disabled, and lactating and pregnant women) whose food security is directly affected.
- Production cost support to marginal producers either in the form of inputs (feed and organic fertilizers) or fixed costs (rehabilitation of infrastructures).

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

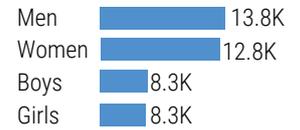
- 7,000 IDPs received Transitional Shelter Cash Assistance (TSCA).
- Funding is secured for the IDP caseload to the end of the year. Due to the slow pace of reconstruction of destroyed shelters, additional funding is likely required for the next year.
- Approximately 4,600 households whose housing units were partially damaged during the May 2021 escalation were provided repair assistance through cash grants by several shelter actors, leaving a gap in repair of 13,300 units.
- 2,653 displaced people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, were provided cash or material assistance in response to demolitions.
- 250 (140 in Gaza, 110 in West Bank) substandard shelters were provided shelter rehabilitation or cash support to achieve necessary protection and privacy, sufficient living space, and functioning WASH facilities.
- 1,500 families in Gaza received winterization Shelter/NFIs assistance during the winter season, which targeted families subjected to flooding and/or water leakage.

 **942.7 K**
people in need

91.0 K
people targeted



43.1 K
people reached



FUNDING REQUIREMENTS & FUNDING RECEIVED BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREA (US\$ MILLION)*



* Some clusters have reported more funding received than what is currently being reported by the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS). This new funding information will be updated on FTS in the coming weeks. Therefore, the breakdown of funding received going to Gaza and West Bank for each cluster is currently an estimation.

GAPS AND CHALLENGES

- The main challenge facing shelter cluster partners in the West Bank are increasingly restrictive Israeli policies and practices in Area C. Where interventions are possible, they are limited to some light interior repairs to substandard housing without any additional extensions to improve the living space, thus not creating any permanent shelter solutions.
- Israeli policy in Area C and East Jerusalem also prevents communities, mainly in Bedouin and herding areas, from expanding or improving their shelter conditions to meet minimum standards.
- Although adequate NFI support was provided to households affected by winter conditions in Gaza at the beginning of the year, no replenishment of the NFI stockpile has taken place since, which puts interventions anticipated for the upcoming winter season at risk.
- The low level of funding for the cluster this year, combined with the August 2022 escalation in Gaza, has also impacted progress on the 2022 HRP targets. Additional funding is still needed to repair damaged shelters, rehabilitate substandard shelters, and facilitate emergency preparedness to respond to immediate needs of affected people in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

PRIORITIES FOR FOURTH QUARTER 2022

- 23,000 families in Gaza and the West Bank are still living in unhygienic, overcrowded, and generally dire shelter conditions due to low funding this year.
- 13,300 families in Gaza whose houses encountered partial damage in May 2021 are still awaiting funding for repair assistance, the source for which has not yet been identified.
- 14 families have yet to receive assistance after facing home demolitions in 2022 due to increasing restrictions from the Israeli authorities, which prevent aid delivery to the displaced families or result in reoccurring demolition of shelter structures.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

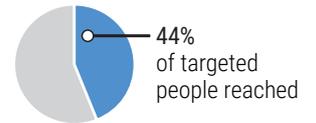
- Despite significant challenges in resource mobilization, Health Cluster partners raised close to USD 22 million and reached almost 530,000 beneficiaries.
- The health cluster hosted the August exhibition “Collective Action for Better Health” in Gaza and Ramallah. The exhibition strengthened ties between partners in the health system and sought to increase support for and investment in their work. In total, the exhibition was attended by 500 people from 65 partners.
- Mobile clinic service provision resumed in many locations across Area C where it had been interrupted due to funding issues.
- Secured \$25 Million pledge from UAE to support Al Makassad Hospital in East Jerusalem.

GAPS AND CHALLENGES

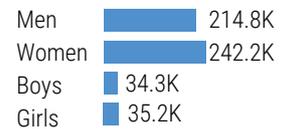
- Lack of funding with just 45% of requirements funded and only 3 months remaining in the operational year.
- The situation across the West Bank is deteriorating and increasing humanitarian health needs, while the shrinking humanitarian space in the West Bank is making it harder for partners to provide humanitarian health responses.
- There is a chronic shortage of essential medicines and disposables in Gaza, hindering access to services for NCD patients.

 **1.5 Million**
people in need

1.2 Million
people targeted



526.4 K
people reached



FUNDING REQUIREMENTS & FUNDING RECEIVED BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREA (US\$ MILLION)*

Funding Requirements



Funding Received



* Some clusters have reported more funding received than what is currently being reported by the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS). This new funding information will be updated on FTS in the coming weeks. Therefore, the breakdown of funding received going to Gaza and West Bank for each cluster is currently an estimation.

PRIORITIES FOR FOURTH QUARTER 2022

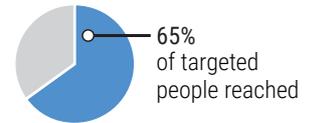
- Address essential health services needs including primary and secondary health care, trauma and emergency care (including rehabilitation), management of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), and nutrition.
- Increase mass casualty management capacity across the West Bank, especially in hotspot governorates.
- Continue advocacy to ensure access, protection, and respect for health care services. This includes advocacy at various levels to address severe restrictions on movement affecting delivery of and access to essential health care, including the permit system, the coercive environment affecting determinants of health, and the excessive use of force resulting in attacks on health care.
- Mobilize funds to ensure access to essential healthcare services for vulnerable communities through provision of support to MoH and direct implementation by cluster partners.
- Continue efforts to strengthen the health care system and build resilience, including by strengthening the link between humanitarian interventions with long-term health strategies.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

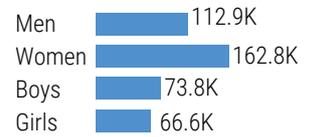
- 47,500 people, including 1,232 persons with disabilities, received conflict preparedness and protection training.
- 95,000 people, including 41,000 children, received explosive remnants of war (ERW) risk education.
- 12,000 people (7,500 women, 1,600 Men, 700 boys and 2,170 girls) accessed multi-sectoral GBV responses including MHPSS, legal counseling, and GBV awareness-raising sessions.
- 32,000 children facing protection risks, including child labor, absence from school, distress symptoms, and exposure to violence, received child protection services such as structured Psychosocial Social Support (PSS), specialized individual case management, legal aid, and child-friendly spaces.
- Provision of MHPSS services to at least 9,000 adults and children, including structured psychosocial services and awareness sessions aimed at increasing resilience, implementing positive coping mechanisms, and finding positive ways to deal with stress.

 **1.8 Million**
people in need

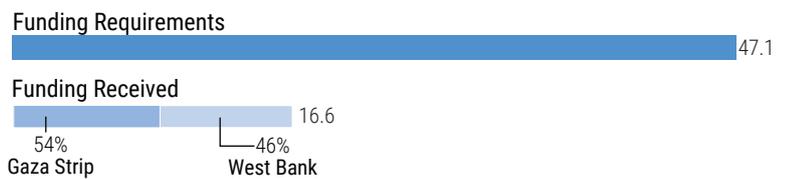
640.2 K
people targeted



416.1 K
people reached



FUNDING REQUIREMENTS & FUNDING RECEIVED BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREA (US\$ MILLION)*



* Some clusters have reported more funding received than what is currently being reported by the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS). This new funding information will be updated on FTS in the coming weeks. Therefore, the breakdown of funding received going to Gaza and West Bank for each cluster is currently an estimation.

GAPS AND CHALLENGES

- The severe deterioration in the West Bank context has resulted in increased protection risks, further compounded by constraints on movement and access of protection personnel.
- The worsening situation has also increased the need for legal aid, child protection, and GBV services.
- The need for specialized MHPSS services is very high and rising in both Gaza and the West Bank.
- The insufficient funding has limited the implementation of projects and the capacity of protection service providers and limited funded projects.
- Protection services are also limited by the shrinking space for humanitarian action, particularly in interventions involving monitoring, documentation, legal aid, and advocacy in response to IHRL and IHL violations.

PRIORITIES FOR FOURTH QUARTER 2022

- Launch a new 5Ws platform as the second phase of the new information management system that was initiated in Quarter 3, which will allow for streamlined reporting, strengthen monitoring, support identification of gaps, and help direct resources effectively.
- Facilitate a disability training for cluster partners on inclusive humanitarian action which will focus on promoting the protection of rights of persons with disabilities and older persons discriminated against in humanitarian aid design and delivery and removing environmental, institutional and attitudinal barriers persons with disabilities face in accessing humanitarian aid while recognizing and ensuring their capacity to engage meaningfully.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 313,042 students (153,040 girls and 160,002) in the West Bank and Gaza received emergency education supplies
- 30,846 children benefited from improved access to safe education.
- 29,492 students (17,354 girls and 12,138 boys) in the West Bank and Gaza received PSS
- 15,092 children (8,598 Girls and 6,494 boys) accessed remedial education.
- Advocacy initiatives focused on the right of all children to access quality and safe education: donor briefs, field visits, and reports, including the release of the annual education cluster incidents report.

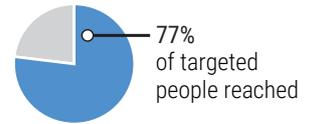
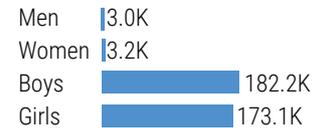
GAPS AND CHALLENGES

- It is increasingly difficult to access areas with ongoing conflicts and military operations.
- Partners are encountering reduced capacities in protective presence and the monitoring of violations.
- Lack of funding for critical intervention areas, including protection responses for children while traveling between home and school on school premises.

PRIORITIES FOR FOURTH QUARTER 2022

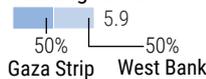
- Initiate protection responses for children in hotspot areas for their routes to school and around school premises.
- Facilitate catch-up and MHPSS interventions for vulnerable children, including children at high risk of drop-out and children with disabilities.
- Coordinate emergency rehabilitation of schools in Area C. Funding and legal issues are the main factors affecting the capacity to respond to each of these needs.
- Implement summer programs that include MHPSS interventions and remedial education and catch-up programs to compensate for education time lost due to the August escalation in Gaza and the significant increase in education-related incidents, including attacks on schools, teachers, and students by the Israeli Forces and settlers in the West Bank.
- Provide safe access and protection responses for children on their routes to schools in East Jerusalem, South Nablus, Jenin, and the H2 area of Hebron.


580.0K
 people in need

467.8 K
 people targeted

361.5 K
 people reached


FUNDING REQUIREMENTS & FUNDING RECEIVED BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREA (US\$ MILLION)*

Funding Requirements

Funding Received


* Some clusters have reported more funding received than what is currently being reported by the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS). This new funding information will be updated on FTS in the coming weeks. Therefore, the breakdown of funding received going to Gaza and West Bank for each cluster is currently an estimation.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

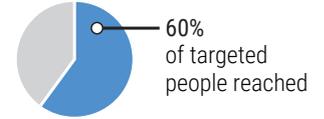
- 104,000 people in Gaza and the West Bank accessed improved water and sanitation through the installation or rehabilitation of 90 kilometers of the water network and 30 kilometers of the sewer network.
- 31 healthcare units and 119 schools received rehabilitation of their WASH facilities, which improved WASH access for more than 125,000 people in the West Bank and Gaza.
- More than 670 WASH facilities at the household level were rehabilitated, benefiting more than 4,100 people in the West Bank and Gaza.

GAPS AND CHALLENGES

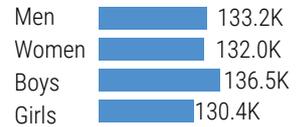
- The increasing cost of WASH activities due to the supply chain crisis, the Ukraine War, and global exchange rates.
- The ongoing operation and maintenance of WASH structures.
- Implementation of donor priorities and coordination with development actors.
- Lack of funding for sanitation services for communities suffering from wastewater accumulation and flooding in Gaza.
- Israeli restrictions in Area C are preventing WASH partners from implementing the necessary WASH structures, which would improve access to water and sanitation services for the most vulnerable communities there.
- WASH partners and donors are not prioritizing the operation and maintenance capacities of the most vulnerable WASH service providers in Gaza and the West Bank.

 **1.4 Million**
people in need

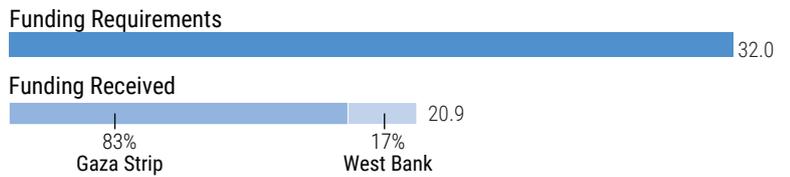
888.1 K
people targeted



532.0 K
people reached



FUNDING REQUIREMENTS & FUNDING RECEIVED BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREA (US\$ MILLION)*



** Some clusters have reported more funding received than what is currently being reported by the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS). This new funding information will be updated on FTS in the coming weeks. Therefore, the breakdown of funding received going to Gaza and West Bank for each cluster is currently an estimation.*

PRIORITIES FOR FOURTH QUARTER 2022

- Facilitate the rehabilitation and/or installation of 70 kilometers of water networks to improve access to water for more than 50,000 people in the West Bank and Gaza.
- Facilitate the rehabilitation and/or installation of 10 kilometers of sewage networks to improve access to sanitation for more than 15,000 people in the West Bank and Gaza.
- Facilitate the rehabilitation and/or upgrading of WASH facilities in 100 schools to improve access to WASH services for more than 40,000 students.

Accountability to Affected people

Most partners employ community engagement tools including focus groups, Knowledge Attitudes and Practices surveys, interviews, consultations with community leaders, public community meetings, and awareness-raising sessions. Most partners also ensure access to a feedback channel or complaint mechanism, examples of which include feedback surveys, complaint boxes, hotlines, and field visits. Individual achievements include the initiation of an oPt-wide service directory for protection referrals, the integration of AAP throughout project design and monitoring, and better coordination with local communities. However notable capacity gaps remain which impede the ability to fully integrate and subsequently monitor AAP in all projects. To address this, there is demand for advanced trainings on AAP to deepen understanding of how it can be operationalized and to develop the necessary technical expertise. Some clusters have already arranged for AAP-specific trainings to take place in late 2022, while others report that they will continue to include AAP throughout meetings, workshops, and project planning.

Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

The PSEA Network in OPT is the only fully-fledged PSEA system in the MENA region. 84 humanitarian partners have signed onto the Standard Operating Procedures: 100% of UN Agencies, 31% of PINGO members and 11% of AIDA members. The PSEA Network has established the Inter-Agency Community Complaint Mechanism to enable mutual accountability and provides a reliable platform for people receiving aid and assistance to report. Accountability for following up on the reports lies with the individual organizations and UN agencies. Some, but not all, partners advertise the SAWA/PSEAH channel in their projects. Most partners, however, have internal processes and mechanisms for reporting SEA. A challenge has been to create a reporting culture. Findings indicate that men are twice as likely as women to use the mechanism, and girls 30% less likely than boys.

Key individual cluster achievements on PSEA include the hiring of a dedicated Child Protection Officer, greater beneficiary understanding of PSEA through online and in-person trainings, staff trainings on PSEA fundamentals and mainstreaming, and an in-depth PSEA Training of Trainers. However, as with AAP, there remain significant challenges. These include an ongoing gap between the PSEA network and the operational level work of the cluster and its partners, frequent staff turnover and lack of technical expertise including for investigations, and a lack of capacity for adequate analysis and reporting on PSEA. Clusters continue to report difficulty measuring progress against HRP goals. Sustainable funding must also be identified.

Some clusters have PSEA trainings planned for Q4 2022, while others plan to facilitate closer collaboration between PSEA focal points and cluster coordinators. Cluster partners have indicated that they would also benefit from advanced trainings on PSEA.

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance

Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) in oPt has been used to support the most vulnerable Palestinians for years. Coordination of CVA in oPt has expanded in 2022 with the establishment of the national CWG and the creation of a coordination body in the West Bank as well. This evolution allows CVA efforts to be more effective and impactful at both national and local levels, ensuring consistency and stronger coordination. Through this new set-up the CWG is now able to properly promote and coordinate the use of CVA across the whole humanitarian response in oPt.

Under the HRP 2022, 33 per cent of the funding requirement is represented by Cash and Voucher Assistance, for a total of 167 US\$ million. Compared to previous years, most of this component is made up of cash (65 per cent) as opposed to vouchers (35 per cent). This represents an important shift from restricted sectoral assistance to more flexible and basic-need oriented interventions.

The shift has supported the increased consideration and planning for Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA), which featured 13 projects included in the HRP 2022. MPCA is one of the faster growing modalities of assistance in oPt over the past few years, supported as well by emerging evidences on its efficiency and effectiveness in the context.

Disability

148,288 persons with disabilities (PwD) have received humanitarian assistance from one or more clusters, including 1,232 who received conflict preparedness and protection training. With the support of HI and through the Protection Cluster, a series of trainings have been conducted for partners with the aim of strengthening inclusion of persons with disabilities in the humanitarian response in an evidence-based manner. This has included the definition of disability as well as how to interpret and use data related to disability.

During Q4 2022, programming emphasis will be placed on MHPSS and 'catch up' interventions for vulnerable children, including children at high risk of drop-out and children with disabilities coordinating further disability inclusion training in November 2022 for cluster partners; and reaching poor households which fall under the SSN and haven't received cash assistance since 2021, including newly affected households and vulnerable groups (the elderly, disabled, and lactating and pregnant women) whose food security is directly affected.

Gender

Alarming levels of GBV have been reported in OPT. PCBS recently updated figures from a survey undertaken in 2019 so as to align with UN guidelines and report that 59.3 per cent of married or previously married women between the ages of 15 and 64 experienced violence in the 12 months preceding the survey, 70.4 per cent of whom are in Gaza and 52.3 per cent in the West Bank. Of those, 57.2 per cent experienced psychological violence, 18.5 per cent physical violence, and 9.4 per cent sexual violence, while 9.6 per cent experienced the emerging issue of cyber violence.

Women and girls face extensive and diverse forms of GBV, including intimate partner and family violence, sexual harassment, rape, early/forced marriage, incest, denial of resources, psychological abuse and risk of sexual exploitation and abuse. These protection risks exist in a context in which access to GBV services is limited due to the movement restrictions imposed by the occupation and measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Women and girls with disabilities, Bedouin women, internally displaced women, and women and girls living in refugee camps are at particular risk of violence.

In response to these and other needs around gender, OCHA, UN Women, and their partners continued in Q3 to provide gender expertise to integrate Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women/Girls (GEEWG) throughout the Humanitarian Program Cycle. To support mainstreaming of gender considerations in humanitarian programming, five virtual capacity building programs for humanitarian organizations were organized for approximately 130 partners.