

SITUATION UPDATE

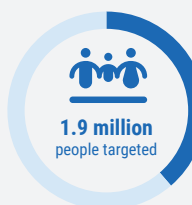
The humanitarian context in Gaza continues to deteriorate. The health system, already struggling from years of blockade, the deepening intra-Palestinian political divide, and chronic shortages of equipment and supplies, is now overburdened with enormous casualties from the ongoing “Great March of Return” demonstrations. The security situation remains tense: early May witnessed the most serious outbreak of hostilities in the Gaza Strip and southern Israel since the 2014 conflict, the fifth recorded in the past year. A continuation of the salary crisis could lead to the emergence of a new category of people in need of emergency food and cash assistance. These developments come in the wake of record shortfalls in funding to Palestinians and to humanitarian and development aid agencies operating in the oPt including due to the recent halt of all US government assistance. The humanitarian impact will be particularly serious in Gaza where unemployment, poverty and food insecurity are most acute.

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Israel’s direct military occupation continues, and with it the appropriation of land and resources. Standards of living, economic growth and employment prospects continue to be undermined by limitations on access to land, while freedom of movement remains restricted by a multi-layered system of administrative, bureaucratic and physical constraints imposed by Israel, citing security concerns. Settlement expansion and settler violence continues, and a coercive environment intensifies, driven by the demolition of residential, livelihood and service infrastructure, forced evictions, and a discriminatory planning regime in East Jerusalem and Area C, among other measures. April 2019 recorded the highest monthly number of demolitions in East Jerusalem, since OCHA began systematically monitoring demolitions in 2009. Of particular concern is the Wadi Yasul area of Silwan, where about 500 people living in 50 buildings are at risk of displacement following the exhaustion of almost all domestic legal remedies to protect their homes. All these factors generate a risk of forcible transfer for many Palestinians in Area C, East Jerusalem and the Israeli-controlled part of Hebron city, H2, where pressure on the Palestinian population has increased, following the decision by Israel not to renew the mandate of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH).

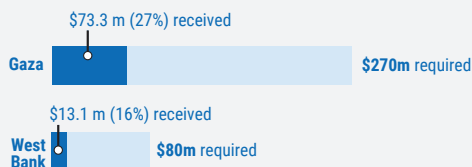
PEOPLE REACHED AND FUNDING FOR 2019 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN (US\$)



31.6%
Funded as of 30 June 2019

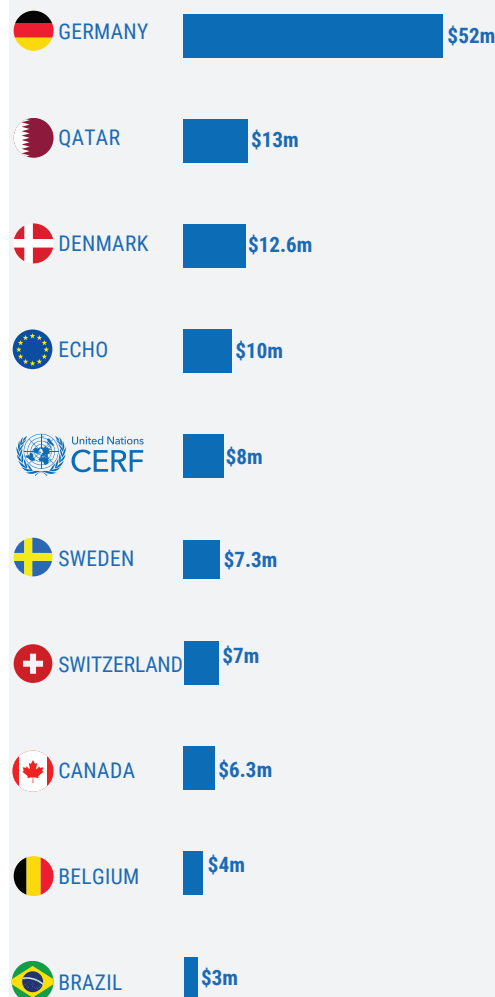


735k people reached with humanitarian aid (15% - 110,243 people in West Bank and 85% - 624,714 people in Gaza).



*The estimated total number of people reached was calculated, by considering that each beneficiary has received interventions from all clusters/sectors.

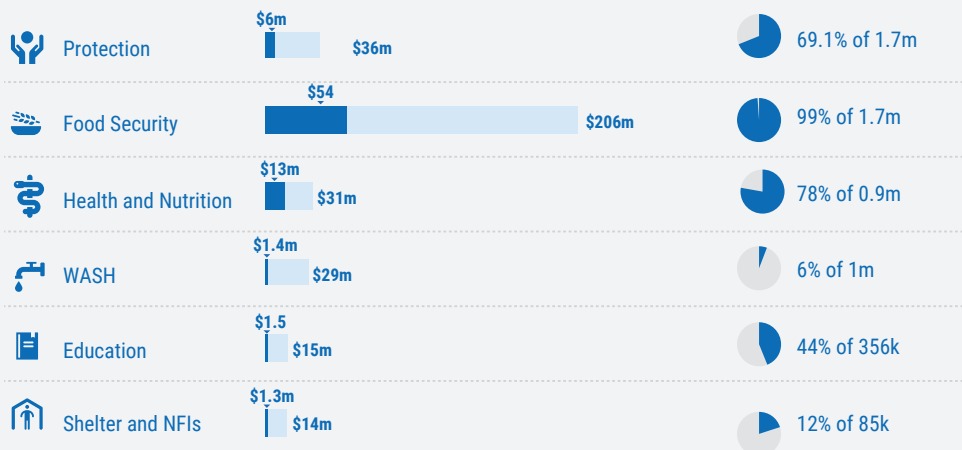
TOP 10 KEY DONORS



BY CLUSTER AND PEOPLE REACHED

FUNDED/REQUIREMENTS

BENEFICIARIES REACHED



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1

Protect the rights of Palestinians under occupation in accordance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights Law (IHRL)

2

Ensure that acutely vulnerable Palestinians under occupation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank have access to essential services

3

Strengthen the ability of acutely vulnerable Palestinian households to cope with protracted threats and shocks

FUNDING AND BENEFICIARIES REACHED



Protection

325,000 people targeted
225,487 people reached

People requiring protection interventions (GBV, Child Protection, MHPSS, Legal Aid)



Health

930,466 people targeted
728,115 people reached

vulnerable people in West Bank and Gaza accessing quality and affordable essential health by type of service, including nutrition, maternal and child health, reproductive health, mental health, health care for elderly, and rehabilitation services for people with disabilities (PWD)



FSS

1,408,700 people targeted
1,391,049 people reached

of beneficiaries receiving food in-kind



WASH

626,403 people targeted
195,192 people reached

vulnerable people with access to safe drinking and domestic water services and benefiting from improved access to sanitation and hygiene services



Health

51,986 people targeted
21,000 people reached

Identified vulnerable communities and health facilities in West Bank and Gaza have better preparedness to cope with impact of current and future crisis



Education

316,813 people targeted
77,154 people reached

vulnerable students and teachers with improved access to school



Shelter

37,750 people targeted
1,282 people reached

Individuals able to be sheltered at DES according to agreed standard and individuals in need of support with shelter NFIs (cash/in-kind) at the onset of an emergency



Shelter

40,006 people targeted
3,785 people reached

families reported improvement in living conditions or living in upgraded units in accordance with minimum standards



Education

262,624 people targeted
78,449 people reached

Students who are better supported following education-related violations, escalations in the conflict or natural disaster

1.7 million people in need



69.3%
225,487 people reached

- 65.7k women,
- 101.4k children,
- 225.4k Elderly

Funding

\$35.9 m required

\$25.8 m received

- \$7.2m Gaza Strip
- \$18.6m West Bank

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- In Gaza, the humanitarian response included 12 Governorate Protection Focal Points who identified vulnerable children, especially those affected by the GMR and referred them to sectoral service providers. In combination with 12 Community-level Family Centers, they met 40% of the cluster results of 15,871, with cluster partners reaching the remaining 60%. However, despite considerable progress in meeting the worst affected and marginalized children the humanitarian needs far outstrip the available services and capacities of overburdened service providers.
- GBV Service directory was updated, which includes all the available GBV services, service providers, focal points and their contact details. The GBV service directory was distributed to 12400 families in Palestine along with the national violence survey questionnaire.
- From January to June 2019, Child protection AoR members reached a total of 12,664 vulnerable children (5165 girls and 7499 boys) in Gaza and the West Bank with child protection services, which included individual and group counselling, psychosocial support group activities and child protection services such as life skills. In addition, Child Protection AoR members reached 3,428 vulnerable men and women for structured psychosocial services.

CHALLENGES

- The heightened levels of conflict-related violence in the context of a protracted humanitarian crisis continues to cause high levels of psychosocial stress. There is a need to strengthen multi-sectoral responses for GBV survivors, which remains a significant gap.
- The deterioration in the humanitarian situation in Gaza has pushed more families into poverty. This affected their ability to afford basic education supplies for their children, increases the risk of children dropping out of school, and taking up work (child labour) and increases pressure on the already overburdened protection system in Gaza. In addition to the negative impact of the GMR on women in Gaza, especially concerning is increased psychological stress, which threatens family stability. The mass demonstrations add further pressure on affected families and erode coping capacity, which deteriorates living conditions for women increases the risks of GBV.
- In the West Bank an increase in settler violence, continued demolitions, confiscations and forced evictions, as well as deterioration in the operating (legal) environment and shrinking of humanitarian space, continued to contribute to a coercive environment for Palestinian communities in Area C, H2 and East Jerusalem. As a result, protection response, including monitoring and documentation, MHPSS and legal aid, needs to be strengthened.

1.7 million people in need



99%
1.391m people reached*

*Food assistance targets the same groups of beneficiaries multiple times through the year. Therefore 100% of beneficiaries reached in the first half of year does not imply that the 2017 goal has been accomplished.

Funding

\$205.7 m required

\$52.8 m received

- \$54m Gaza Strip
- \$6.5m West Bank

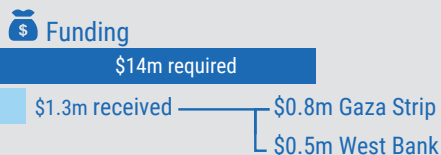
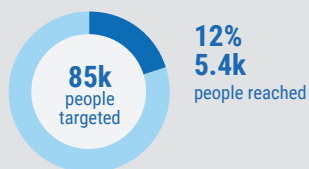
KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- By the end of quarter 2, around 1.4 million people were reported as reached through different types of support and projects. This is equivalent to 87% of the overall target of beneficiaries for 2019, but also takes into account beneficiaries reached through regular programmes, like quarterly delivered food assistance.
- Some 1.3m people received food assistance through vouchers or in-kind distribution. 76% of these beneficiaries are refugees; around 20,000 disabled people non-refugees people received food assistance. 37,000 vulnerable Bedouins people in Area C received food assistance through WFP-UNRWA.
- In quarter 2, partners still didn't report any achievements reached regarding people supported through agricultural livelihoods related interventions. Very limited reached out is expected to happen during the second semester.

CHALLENGES

- The agricultural livelihood support component under the FSS HRP registered an astonishing negative record of 95% overall funding gap. In fact, just \$1.6m were provided out of \$33.8m budget request. The Gaza Strip ask of this component received zero funding as of end on June.
- The direct access to food component received only 29% of the overall request, with varied performance for achievements, considering separately refugees and not-refugees, and West Bank and Gaza Strip. WFP was only able to distribute its electronic food vouchers to 272,000 people until mid-October. Funding limitations prevent WFP from meeting its Country Strategic Program-CSP- target (404,000) and extend its support to all food-insecure non-refugee people in Palestine (around 700,000 people).
- PNA forced to reduce the regular social assistance (Cash) to the neediest people during 2019 which have a negative impact on the poor and food insecure people.
- PNA did not publish a budget for 2019 and operated on an emergency cash management plan, addressing the crisis through a cut of 30 per cent to the wage bill, freezing hiring and promotions, reducing social assistance to the neediest, increasing public debt and accumulating greater arrears (PNA, 2019; World Bank, 2019).
- Cash-based support in Gaza Strip has not been provided to around 35% of the targeted beneficiaries until this quarter. The funding level confirm the difficulties of this sector, showing a funding gap of 83% for Gaza Strip. UNRWA Gaza has in fact received only 35% of its budget for cash for work to date.

 **260.4k** people in need



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

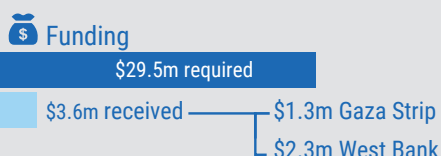
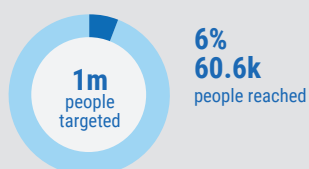
- All the eligible displaced families received timely post-demolition shelter assistance in kind or cash.
- Temporary shelter assistance to evicted Families or at risk of evection due to deteriorated socio-economic situation was provided to 244 families.
- 398 HHs received assistance to improve or upgrade the substandard shelters including WASH facilities.

CHALLENGES

- The funding level is 18% only from the total request; this low fund hinders the partners to achieve reasonable progress towards the targets.
- In Area C the changes in applying different military orders, impose further risks and limitations to implement shelter interventions. Therefore, the partners are reluctant to invest in shelter activities.
- In Gaza, the closure of Kerem Shalom Crossing during from time to time caused an increase in the prices of construction materials at the local market. Partners managed to overcome this challenge however had to delay some cash installments to the beneficiaries or postponed signing new agreements until the prices were stable and back to the normal conditions.
- The caseload for the people at risk of eviction from the rental accommodations is much higher than the target mentioned in the HRP, with the lack of financial resources this group starts to suffer more due to multiple displacements.

WASH

 **1.9m** people in need



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 54,457 people have been reached with increased access to safe drinking/domestic water services and 5,220 people with increased access to sanitation services.
- Hygiene awareness sessions, supply hygiene material kits and public environmental health campaigns were held, reaching 10,569 people.
- The WASH Cluster updated the WASH contingency plan in Gaza and developed an online rapid assessment tool to be used in emergencies.
- Reduced dependency on water trucking with the implementation of more sustainable solutions (water networks) in the most vulnerable communities and increased amount of water served per capita.

CHALLENGES

- Despite improved electricity supply in Gaza, energy shortage is still impacting the availability of clean water supply and wastewater treatment. Water distributed through the water networks reaches most homes for approximately 7 hours every 1 to 3 days (CMWU data), and the desalination plants are partially operating at less than 40 percent of their maximum capacity. The shortening or suspension of sewage treatment cycles continue to deteriorate groundwater sources and increase the Mediterranean Sea contamination, leaving over 95% of water sources too contaminated for human consumption and more than 50% of the sea around Gaza is contaminated with partially treated sewage.
- The Cluster funding gap hindered the possibility to reach the set targets for 2019 and to cover Cluster response priorities, despite the deteriorating WASH situation in Gaza and the West Bank, in addition to the limited operational and maintenance capacity of service providers in Gaza. Important to highlight that the needs of targeted families are not limited to one sector but are the cause of high vulnerability in several areas: access to and storage of water supply, sanitation conditions and hygiene habits, shelters conditions, educational level and lack of reliable sources of income into the families.
- Restrictions on the entry of construction materials and supplies into Gaza and WASH items listed as dual-use negatively impact both humanitarian interventions and the reconstruction of WASH facilities in Gaza.
- Development restrictions and demolition incidents in Area C continue to adversely affect the provision of adequate WASH services.

1.2m people in need



**78%
733k**
people reached

**Including beneficiaries reached through the non-HRP projects that were implemented to address new humanitarian needs in Gaza.*

Funding



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- In 2019, the health Cluster has worked towards establishing the first multidisciplinary limb reconstruction unit in the Gaza Strip to manage the cohort of expanding gunshot wounds to the limbs, in order to prevent amputations. In the first 12 months, the unit will manage over 400 patients, preventing potential amputations.
- In order to respond to the growing health needs in Gaza, the Health Cluster launched an operational trauma specific plan which requires a total of \$28.2 million; including some elements beyond the HRP. Out of this, \$20.9 million has been received, leaving a funding gap of \$7.3 million. An additional \$1.5 million is required to ensure the minimum needed resources are available to prepare for and respond to the first 96 hours of a potential escalation.

CHALLENGES

- The inability to access permits for local staff is severely impeding delivery of operations
- The shortages of drugs and disposables sent by the MoH in Ramallah to Gaza is causing an increasing gap in the availability of drugs refer to infographic in the annex for the infographic and analysis. By June only 1.2 million dollars of drugs had been delivered to Gaza by MoH. In comparison to 12.7million that had been delivered the year before. For example, Maternal and Child health drugs had reached 71% zero stock by June.

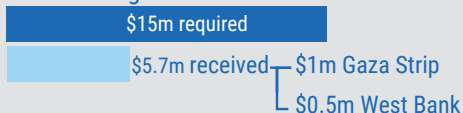
EDUCATION

519.2k people in need



**44%
155.6k**
people reached

Funding



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 6,856 students (2,364 girls) and 706 teachers (50% female) were provided with the protective presence in the West Bank daily; almost achieved 100% of the set target.
- 69,592 students (35,859 girls) in Gaza were provided emergency education supplies; almost achieved 22% of the set target.
- 4,595 students (M 27,073, F 1,897) were provided with catch up/ remedial education in Gaza; almost achieved 19% of the set target in the first half of 2019.
- 45,535 children (22,429 girls) benefited from schools based psychosocial support interventions. Achieved 17% of the target.

CHALLENGES

- The funding gap for the education HRP projects in WB and Gaza hinders achievement of set targets for 2019.
- Increase (threat of) demolitions affects children’s access to quality education in Area C and EJ, requiring infrastructure and supply support and scaled up of PSS activities for which there is no adequate funding.
- Continued attacks on schools, including military incursions onto school grounds, unsafe commute to schools, including harassment on checkpoints, settler-related incidents, which expose the students and education staff to distress.
- Restrictions on the goods movements in Gaza, makes it difficult to procure all education items needed for schools. Cuts in operational budget to school are making schools in Gaza without basic teaching and learning supplies that are needed for the start of the new year.