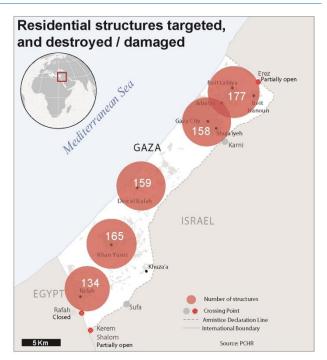


This report is produced by OCHA oPt in collaboration with humanitarian partners. This report covers the period from 9 August (0800 hrs) to 10 August (0800 hrs). The next report will be issued on 11 August.

### Highlights

- Hostilities have continued at the lower level of intensity of recent days, but continue to result in additional Palestinian fatalities and property damage across the Gaza Strip.
- The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) continues to climb, with at least another 20,000 returning to UNRWA and government schools used as shelters. At least 425,000 people are now displaced in emergency shelters or with host families.
- According to latest estimates, 11,855 housing units in Gaza have been destroyed or severely damaged by Israeli attacks, and another 36,000 have suffered damage; reconstruction and repair costs are estimated at US\$ 410 million.
- Despite ongoing repairs to the electricity and water networks, electricity supply to households is only between three and six hours a day and half of the population remains without or with very little running water.



1,948 Palestinians killed, including at least 1,402 civilians, of whom 456 are children and 237 are women.<sup>1</sup> 67 Israelis killed, including 64

soldiers, three civilians including one foreign national. 425,000

People hosted at UNRWA, government shelters and with host families. 3-6

Hours of electricity supply per day

11,855 Homes in Gaza have been destroyed or severely damaged.

## Situation Overview

Although Egyptian mediation efforts on reaching a permanent ceasefire are ongoing, hostilities have continued at the lower level of intensity of recent days. These have resulted in additional Palestinian fatalities and property damage and a continuing return of thousands of displaced to emergency shelters. In addition to generating uncertainty and fear, hostilities are impeding or delaying essential humanitarian deliveries, the repair of critical infrastructure, the clearing of unexploded ordnance, and comprehensive damage assessment surveys.

#### Hostilities and casualties

Since the last update, Israeli air raids reportedly struck four mosques, 12 houses and vacant plots across the Gaza Strip. An attack on a military site belonging to one armed group reportedly inflicted damage on an UNRWA clinic located close to the site, and some nearby housing units. Five Palestinians were killed as a result of these strikes, including three members of

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

www.ochaopt.org

**Coordination Saves Lives** 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Data on fatalities and destruction of property is consolidated by the Protection and Shelter clusters based on preliminary information, and is subject to change based on further verifications.

The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.

armed groups and two others whose status is unknown. Eight additional fatalities were recorded, including persons whose bodies were recovered, cases of late reporting, and people who died from their injuries.

This brings the cumulative death toll among Palestinians to at least 1,948, according to preliminary data collected by the Protection Cluster from various sources, including 320 persons who could not be yet identified or their status established. The number of civilians has been reduced slightly from the last situation update, from 1,408 to 1,402, because of new information on some cases, where their status was revised to unknown or to being a member of an armed group. Of the civilian casualties whose identity and status could be verified, 456 are children and 237 are women; the fatalities include eleven UNRWA staff members. Some 226 have been identified as members of armed groups. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, as of 17:00 on 6 August, 9,806 Palestinians, including 2,979 children and 1,903 women and 356 elderly, had been injured.

According to the latest figures gathered by the Shelter Cluster, since the start of the emergency, 11,855 housing units have been totally destroyed (6,670), requiring reconstruction; or are severely damaged (5,185), and are uninhabitable until major repairs can take place. This is over 85 per cent higher than the equivalent figure, approximately 6,400, recorded during the "Cast Lead" operation in 2008/9. Another 5,595 houses have suffered major damage but are still inhabitable in part while 31,350 have suffered minor damage. The estimated total cost for reconstruction and repair of these homes is approximately US\$ 410 million.

Rocket and mortar firing by Palestinian factions into Israel continued during the reporting period, mostly by groups other than Hamas. No injuries were reported. Since 8 July, three civilians in Israel have been killed, including one foreign national, and dozens directly injured by rockets or shrapnel. The total of Israeli military fatalities stands at 64.

The senseless cycle of suffering in Gaza and the West Bank, as well as in Israel, must end. Do we have to continue like this: build, destroy, and build, and destroy? We will build again - but this must be the last time to rebuild. This must stop now. They must go back to the negotiating table.

UN Secretary-General's Remarks to the General Assembly on the Situation in Gaza, New York, 6 August 2014.

#### Displacement

With no signs yet of the Egyptian-moderated negotiations bearing fruit, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) returning to schools designated as emergency shelters continues to increase. Another 15,000 have been added to the estimated 60,000 individuals who had returned in the first 24 hours following the end of the 72-hour ceasefire, bringing the total to 236,897 in 90 UNRWA schools, as of yesterday afternoon. Another 38,994 were hosted in 23 government and private schools and public facilities. As of today, 25,000 families (approximately 150,000 individuals) are registered by the Ministry of Social Affairs displaced and taking shelter with host families.

UNRWA continues to provide food, water and non food items to IDPs sheltered in its schools and, with other agencies, to the IDPs taking shelter in government schools. With prolonged displacement in schools and no end in sight to hostilities, solid waste management, overcrowding, and the lack of electricity are ongoing problems. The resumption of hostilities has also impeded the planned roll out of a hygiene and water campaign but UNRWA has increased surveillance in the emergency shelters to prevent a large scale outbreak of diseases. Health teams in each shelter, including a doctor, a nurse, and a health educator, are monitoring nine health issues of concern, and are providing health education to the displaced. However, access to medical care, including medication for chronic diseases, remains problematic

#### Infrastructure and services

The Gaza Power Plant (GPP) remains inoperable following an Israeli airstrike on 29 July. Despite repairs to feeder lines and an increase in the volume of electricity incoming from Israel and Egypt (currently 124 Megawatts), 90 per cent of which is utilized and 10 per cent not due to the extensive damage sustained to the internal distribution network, electricity supply to households continues to range between three and six hours a day. Water and sanitation services have also been severely affected and technical teams from the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU) continue to conduct emergency repairs to wells and damaged water pipelines. It is estimated that the running water supply to half of the population has been restored, allowing the provision of households with water for several hours every five days, while the other half of the population receives no, or very little, water.

Seven out of 21 UNWRA primary health centres remain closed and in other areas health centres are struggling with up to 10 IDP sites to cater for in addition to their normal patient caseload. Shortages of drugs and medical supplies continue to be a concern, with health providers estimating that they have consumed the same amount of drugs and consumables in the past month as would normally consume in three months. The 14 MoH Hospitals and 15 NGO Hospitals are relying on back-up electric generators to run the facilities, and with prolonged electricity cuts, fuel needs for these generators have increased, with fuel reserves sufficient for 3-10 days. So far, 370 patients have been referred outside facilities outside Gaza for specialized medical care due to the nature of their injuries and the lack of medical resources (specialized staff, equipment and medicine

and disposables); 340 are waiting to be referred; and 147 applications are in the process of being referred.

Even in the event of a new ceasefire agreement, the school year in UNRWA and government schools will not start on 24 August 2014, as scheduled. Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) clearance, damage assessment, repair works and preparation for the new school year – such as class formation – will take longer than the two weeks left. UNRWA is examining the possibility of installing TV screens in its shelters so that children can follow UNRWA TV, which provides 16 hours of lessons per day in mathematics, Arabic, science and English.

#### Key humanitarian priorities

<u>Humanitarian space</u>: access for humanitarian workers to carry out life-saving activities should be maintained, among other reasons, to complete search and rescue operations in several areas, and repair critical water and electricity infrastructure. Removal of the threat of numerous UXO in built up areas is vital.

<u>Joint needs assessments</u>: must be launched in the coming days to inform interventions by humanitarian organizations. This is contingent on an extension of the ceasefire.

<u>Additional fuel supply</u>: needed to operate backup generators at essential facilities, including water, sanitation and health, for longer hours.

<u>Strengthen response to IDPs</u>: improving priority response to IDPs in non-UNRWA facilities and with host families; ensuring common standards of response to IDPs throughout the Gaza strip, including comprehensive and common registration.

Erez: Open for movement with prior coordination according to normal operation hours.

Beit Hanoun (Arba-Arba): Operations reactivated.

**Kerem Shalom:** Yesterday, the crossing was closed as per normal operating hours. On 10 August at 06:30 hours, the Israeli side of the crossing was struck by two rockets and closed down but reopened at 12:00. The crossing was subsequently struck by another rocket and closed again.

**Rafah:** Yesterday, 11 tons of medical supplies entered with a Tunisian delegation, as well as 25 tons of dates. Two recovering patients returned to Gaza.

### Humanitarian needs and response

## Protection

Needs

- At least 373,000 children require direct and specialized psychosocial support (PSS). Children are showing symptoms of increasing distress, including bed wetting, clinging to parents and nightmares.
- Child protection and PSS is urgently required to address issues of child abuse, exploitation and violence inside shelters.
- Thousands of explosive remnants of war (ERW) are left in civilian areas affected by conflict, causing a major threat, especially to children, farmers, humanitarian workers and IDPs returning home. UN premises have also been contaminated by ERW.

#### Response

- Protection Cluster members continue to monitor and investigate incidents to identify possible violations of international law, as well as consolidating information on civilian fatalities.
- Since 15 July, PRCS has been providing PSS through UNWRA and governmental schools/shelters and reached 1,015 girls and 805 boys; additionally they were able to reach out to 2,079 women and 1,531 men.
- Since 8 July, the PCDCR (Palestinian Center for Democracy and Conflict Resolution) has provided initial PSS to 2,349 children across the Gaza Strip, including through home and hospital visits.
- 300,000 child protection and PSS text messages have been sent to Jawal mobile phone subscribers in Gaza since 20 July.
- The Sawa Child Protection Helpline has provided counselling to a total of 1,751 callers since 13 July.

- World Vision is providing PSS to children in hospitals and UNRWA shelters.
- Since 8 July, UNRWA Community Mental Health Programme (CMHP) has provided 10,391 PSS sessions to 86,705 parents and conducted recreational activities for 95,716 children. Activities include playing, relaxation, meditation, drawing and storytelling. CMHP also coordinated and supervised the implementation of 2,023 sessions by other partners covering 10,638 adults and 63,692 children.
- Since 18 July, Tamer Institute has been conducting daily activities for 640 children in their libraries. It has also been distributing children's books and games to children and their families hosted in the Holy Land school shelter.
- Tomoh is conducting support activities for parents and children in two government schools.
- Ma'an has provided child protection training to 42 staff in government shelters. It will also re-establish ten family centers in the coming weeks.
- UNICEF through its partnership with AMAAN organization is providing daily PSS and extracurricular activities to 2,000 children in six shelters in Gaza city, that are managed by Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) and other NGOs.
- UNRWA, UNICEF and UNMAS are distributing ERW awareness leaflets to families in UNRWA shelters. Radio and TV ERW awareness messages are broadcasted several times a day to spread awareness about the danger posed by unexploded ordnance.
- UNMAS has cleared 17 out of 74 UNRWA installations for UXO.

#### **Gaps and Constraints**

- Local organizations continue to face fuel and electricity shortages.
- Sawa Child Protection Help Line needs additional trained counsellors.
- The number of social workers and PSS counsellors at hospitals is insufficient to meet current needs.
- Displaced children and their families hosted with community members remain largely unreached by child protection interventions.
- The resumption of hostilities impedes UNMAS' ability to continue clearing UNRWA installations affected by UXO contamination. Continued military action might require some installations to be revisited.

### Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI)

#### Needs

- More than 11,855 families (approximately 71,000 individuals) whose homes were totally destroyed or heavily damaged by either air strikes or tank shelling are in need of emergency NFI kits. In the medium term, they will also need cash assistance.
- Emergency shelter repair interventions are needed for about 5,595 families (33,550 individuals), whose homes were damaged but are still inhabitable. Another 31,350 families (an estimated 188,100 individuals), whose homes sustained minor damage need basic NFI assistance such as nylon and plastic sheets.
- Approximately 20,000 IDPs returned to IDP shelters during the reporting period due to a resumption of hostilities. The number is expected to increase, which will affect shelter and NFI needs.

#### Response

- 236,897 people are being provided with shelter in 90 designated UNRWA schools across the Gaza Strip and 38,994 individuals are sheltered in 23 government shelters (including seven supported by UNRWA).
- A total of 92,816 NFI and hygiene kits have been distributed since the outset of the emergency by various agencies.
- On 8 August, UNRWA delivered 33 truckloads of NFIs to shelters, including mattresses, family hygiene kits and cleaning supplies.

#### **Gaps and Constraints**

- Cash assistance of almost US\$ 49 million is needed for 11,855 families to cover rental fees and urgent expenses.
- Emergency shelter kits are needed for 11,498 displaced families.

- Family hygiene kits are needed for approximately 9,896 families in UNRWA shelters, government shelters and hosting families.
- Displaced families with hosting families are considered to be particularly vulnerable and in need of NFIs and food items.

# Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

#### Needs

- While WASH partners have been able to increase water supply to IDPs, the fluctuating number of IDPs and the increase since the resumption in hostilities may also increase water needs and hamper distribution.
- An estimated 182,000 displaced people moving between shelters and home have restricted access to water.
- Provision of fuel is needed to operate critical WASH facilities until repairs of the electricity grid will lead to the resumption of the former power supply level.
- Damaged electricity feeder lines, water and waste water lines need urgent repairs.

#### Response

- WASH partners are monitoring and responding to the different water needs of the part of the population not currently displaced but facing restricted access to water, the displaced population in shelters as well as IDPs moving between home and shelters, whose access to water is irregular or restricted.
- UNRWA is improving surveillance in shelters to prevent a large-scale outbreak of diseases.
- Water service providers continue damage repairs and assessments. CMWU reported 11 major repairs conducted in the reporting period, in particular to damaged wells and water pipelines.
- UNRWA continued to distribute potable and non-potable water to emergency shelters during the reporting period. On 8 August, 560 cubic metres of potable water, as well as 672 cubic metres of non-potable water, were delivered to UNRWA shelters. Some shelters benefit from UNRWA wells and municipal water sources. The *Sphere* standard for IDPs in shelters is 15 litres per person per day, including 2.5-3 litres of drinking water and 12 litres for domestic use.
- UNRWA also continued to provide its logistics capacity to supply fuel to municipalities, water, and sanitation and health facilities through the WASH cluster (led by UNICEF).

#### Gaps

- Movement and access restrictions remain the inhibiting factors for WASH partners' ability to carry out assessments and repairs, and hinder solid waste removal and management.
- The constant movement of IDPs between their homes and designated shelters during ceasefires poses challenges in prioritizing responses undertaken by water and sanitation service providers.
- The damage sustained to the GPP (the Gaza Power Plant) on 29 July has had a devastating effect on all WASH facilities in Gaza.
- Lack of energy to operate facilities and limitations on access hinder the critical operations of WASH facilities, including operations of water service providers as well as maintenance and repairs, with potential devastating consequences for the entire population of the Gaza Strip.

### Health and Nutrition

#### Needs:

- Shortages of drugs and medical supplies continue to be of concern. During the last month, health services in Gaza consumed what they would normally consume in a three months period. The drugs and disposables which are most urgently needed are those related to Emergency, Operation Theatres and ICUs.
- The 14 MoH Hospitals and 15 NGO Hospitals are relying on back-up electric generators for securing power to run their facilities. With the prolonged electricity outages across Gaza, fuel needs for these generators have increased. Currently, the available fuel reserve in these hospitals is sufficient to operate them for a period of three to 10 days.
- Medical equipment and spare parts are needed, at a cost of US\$ 200,000.
- Specialized medical teams in reconstructive, orthopedic, neurovascular, plastic and pediatric surgeries are required.
- Provision of preventive health services to IDPs in shelters is required to prevent the outbreak of communicable diseases.
- 15 Damaged hospitals and 16 public health clinics (PHCs) need reconstruction to return to their former functionality.
- So far, 370 patients have been referred outside facilities outside Gaza for specialized medical care due to the nature of their injuries; 340 are waiting to be referred; and 147 applications are in the process of being referred.

#### **Response:**

- UNRWA's health department is deploying health teams to shelters, including a doctor, a nurse and a health educator to monitor health issues of concern, including acute bloody Diarrhea, water Diarrhea, Typhoid fever, mumps, measles, scabies, impetigo, acute flaccid paralysis and viral meningitis.
- Two of the nine hospitals forced to close down have been reopened (Najah and Rafah).

#### Gaps:

- Ongoing hostilities impede the ability to carry out repairs of damaged heath facilities.
- Seven out of 21 UNRWA primary health clinics remain closed. Public health clinics are struggling to cater for up to an additional ten IDP sites per clinic, in addition to their normal caseload.

## Food Security

#### Needs

- IDPs are still in need of emergency food assistance. Nutritious food commodities rich in vitamins and minerals should be provided in a more consistent manner to IDPs, in particular for children under five, pregnant and lactating women, and elderly people.
- At least 71,000 people whose homes were destroyed or damaged beyond repair will need food and other assistance for a longer term.
- Additional bread production capacity is required due to lack of electricity in households.
- Immediate emergency funds to cover massively increasing food needs of IDPs are required.
- Animal feed for 4,000 breeders/herders should be provided in order to avoid further loss of livestock and additional erosion of livelihood of herder's communities.
- Humanitarian access to allow for provision of food and other emergency assistance to the civilian population should continue.

#### Response

- WFP, in cooperation with UNRWA, is providing ready-to-eat emergency food rations to all IDPs sheltered in UNRWA or government schools on a daily basis. Over the reporting period, UNRWA delivered 95 truckloads of food to shelters. Food to shelters is provided in cooperation with WFP
- WFP continues to provide food assistance to IDPs hosted with relatives and to patients and hospital staff.

- Food Security Sector (FSS) partners are delivering complementary food distributions to IDPs at UNRWA and government shelters. WFP is distributing bread from West Bank bakeries to meet the mounting food needs.
- FSS / UNRWA plan to start a blanket food distribution tomorrow to the general population, many of whom are hosting IDPs.
- On 8 August, UNRWA delivered 105 truckloads of food to shelters in cooperation with WFP.

#### **Gaps and Constraints**

- The ongoing electricity shortage has heavily impacted commercial activities, the milling capacity and the performance of bakeries. Alternatives ways to provide bread to the IDPs require additional logistic and financial efforts.
- Supply chains in Gaza are already stretched and therefore aid agencies are highly encouraged to bring in food aid items from West Bank/outside Gaza Strip.

### Education

#### Needs

- UNRWA and government schools will not be ready for the new school year which was scheduled to start on 24 August.
- A ceasefire to undertake unexploded ordnance clearance, damage assessments and repair works of damaged educational facilities, as well as preparation for the new school year, is urgently needed.
- An estimated 25 schools have sustained damage to the extent that they may not be usable and require total reconstruction.

#### Response

• UNRWA is looking into the possibility of installing TV screens in shelters to broadcast educational programmes to children. UNRWA TV provides 16 hours of lessons per day in Math, Arabic, Science and English.

#### **Gaps & Constraints**

- Inadequate funding for cluster activities.
- Inability to carry out assessments and repair due to ongoing hostilities.

# 

#### Needs

- Safe and secure transportation inside the Gaza Strip is urgently required to ensure the delivery of much needed relief supplies and to guarantee transporters are able to continue working.
- There is an urgent need to ensure coordination with relevant authorities and organisations operating in the Gaza Strip and coordinate proper humanitarian space to ensure safe passage, delivery and distribution of aid cargo.

#### Response

- The Logistics Cluster is facilitating the transportation of shelter supplies on behalf of Handicap International, including relief items such as clothes and blankets, to be delivered to Al Shifa hospital.
- On 10 August, the Logistics Cluster will facilitate the transportation of 76 pallets of WASH, food and NFI supplies to Gaza city donated by residents of Yatta village, including water, diapers, kitchen utensils and mattresses. The items will be delivered to PRCS.

#### **Gaps and Constraints**

- The almost exclusive reliance on Kerem Shalom as entry point into the Gaza Strip remains a key constraint currently limiting access to the region.
- Safe and secure transportation inside the Gaza Strip remains an ongoing constraint limiting the ability of the delivery of urgently required relief supplies.

- The increasing needs and deteriorating situation is forcing the humanitarian community to augment its pipelines, increasing pressure on Kerem Shalom, the only goods crossing into the Gaza Strip, and at same time raise issues of prioritization of cargo.
- The unpredictable nature of cargo prioritization procedure at the Beituniya crossing in the West Bank impedes operations.

### **General Coordination**

Following the resumption of hostilities, humanitarian organizations have postponed the launching of the joint rapid needs assessment originally scheduled for 10 August. However, preparations have continued, including the finalization of questionnaires, the allocation of staff to various teams, and the conduct of relevant trainings. Various technical authorities have committed their support. The assessment will take place in two phases: an overview at the governorate level, on the first day, followed by an assessment at the municipality and refugee camp level for a period of three to four days. Data collected will be entered on tablets and linked directly to a database. The information will be subsequently validated and analysed, before it is disseminated. Protection and gender concerns have been integrated throughout the process.

On 10 August, the Humanitarian Coordinator joined the daily coordination of the OCHA-led Emergency Operations Centre in Gaza to prepare for the assessment and coordinate urgent responses.

### Funding

Mr. Shawqi Issa, Minister of Social Affairs and Minister of Agriculture of the State of Palestine along with the Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. James W. Rawley launched the 2014 Gaza Crisis Appeal which outlines the planned humanitarian response of the HCT, including UNRWA to the current emergency. The appeal is intended to address urgent needs in Gaza and currently requests US\$ 367 million to implement 86 projects in clusters/sectors including Education, Food Security, Health and Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and WASH as well as Coordination and Support Services. The clusters/sectors requesting the largest amount of funds are Food Security and Shelter which are requesting a total of US\$ 293 million together. The appeal is based on the latest analysis of the required emergency assistance to meet the most critical needs of the affected population and will be revised as further information from the ground becomes available and needs assessments become possible. The Crisis Appeal supersedes the estimates presented in the Gaza Crisis Preliminary Needs and Requirements paper of 24 July. The Crisis Appeal is available online at www.ochaopt.org.

The Emergency Response Fund (ERF) is an additional mechanism available to fund interventions in Gaza through rapid and flexible support to affected civilian populations. The ERF has begun processing project applications in regards to the Gaza emergency. To date, eight project proposals were approved for a total of US\$ 1.85 million. UNDP for Emergency Support to the Electricity Sector due to Damages in the Gaza Strip through the Gaza Electricity Distribution Corporation (GEDCO), ACF's two projects to provide emergency shelter and NFIs and water, sanitation and hygiene to affected families; Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) project to support for the emergency needs of neonatal units in Gaza hospitals by procurement of essential drugs and disposables; Union of Health Work Committees (UHWC) emergency intervention to support the continuation of health services in the northern area of Gaza Strip by providing dedication fuel and consumables to Al Awda hospital, Dan Church Aid and PARC projects to provide food packages and hygiene kits to IDPs hosted in Shelters in Deir Al Balah ,Rafah and Khan Yunis; by and UNMAS' project for the management of ERW to reduce the risk posed to civilians.

In addition a number of proposals are currently being processed, including by Palestinian Medical Relief Society for an emergency intervention to build community support teams worth approximately US\$ 250,000; by the Agricultural Development Association (PARC) to provide safe water for IDPs worth approximately US\$ 250,000; by MA'AN Development Center for the reparation of WASH facilities worth US\$ 275,000; by the Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC) for the support of families in informal shelters worth US\$ 238,700. Further funding for the ERF is still being sought.

UN humanitarian agencies, in cooperation with NGO partners are in the process of finalizing an application to the CERF Rapid Response window covering urgent needs in food assistance, psychosocial support, WASH, rubble removal and critical drugs.

#### Background to the crisis

On 7 July 2014, the Israeli army launched a large military operation in the Gaza Strip, codenamed "Protective Edge", with the stated objective of stopping Palestinian rocket firing at southern Israel and destroying the military infrastructure of Hamas and other armed groups.

This development marked the collapse of the Egyptian-brokered ceasefire understanding reached between Israel and Hamas in November 2012, which has been gradually undermined since December 2013. The latest escalation round started in early June, characterized by an intensification of Israeli airstrikes and rockets launched from Gaza at southern Israel. Tensions further increased following the abduction and killing of three Israeli youths in the southern West Bank, on 12 June, which the Israeli government attributed to Hamas. Overall, in the period leading up to the start of the current operation a total of 15 Palestinians, including one civilian, were killed, and another 58 others, mostly civilians, injured, as a result of Israeli airstrikes in the Gaza Strip; seven Israelis, five of whom were civilians, were injured due to rocket fire.

The current crisis comes against a backdrop of heightened vulnerability and instability. Unemployment increased dramatically since mid-2013, following a halt of the illegal tunnel trade, exacerbating the impact of the Israeli blockade in place since June 2007. Additionally, former de facto government employees, including the security forces, have not been paid salaries regularly since August 2013 and no salaries at all since April 2014. Delivery of basic services has been also undermined due to an ongoing energy crisis, involving power outages of 12 hours per day.

For further information, please contact:

Katleen Maes, Head of the humanitarian Emergency Operations Center in Gaza, maes@un.org, +972 592 911 047 Yehezkel Lein, Head of Analysis, Communications and Protection Unit, OCHA oPt, lein@un.org, +972 54 331 1809 For media enquiries, please contact:

Hayat Abu-Saleh, Communications and Information Analyst, OCHA oPt, abusaleh@un.org, +972 (0) 54 3311816 For more information, please visit www.ochaopt.org