Occupied Palestinian Territory: Gaza Emergency Situation Report (as of 14 July 2014, 1500 hrs)























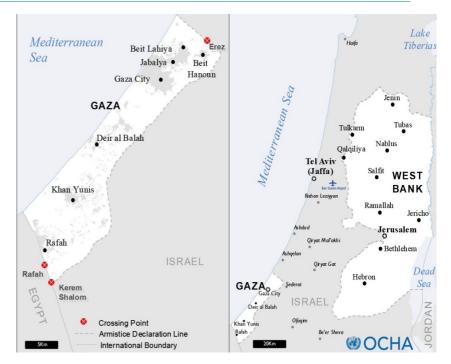




This report is produced by OCHA oPt in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 13 July (1500 hrs) to 14 July (1500 hrs). The next report will be issued on 15 July.

Highlights

- While Israeli bombardments have continued, they have resulted in fewer fatalities than in past days. According to preliminary information, over 77 per cent of the fatalities since 7 July have been civilians, raising concerns about respect for international humanitarian law.
- Reports about the launching of rockets by Palestinian armed groups from densely populated areas have raised increasing concern, as it endangers the lives of Palestinian civilians residing in these areas.
- Tens of thousands of Palestinians in northern Gaza have fled their homes following Israeli warnings, and 17,000 have taken shelter at UNRWA schools.
- Gaza's water utility has suspended emergency operations and repairs due to the insecurity of its staff, and warned that water supply to 600,000 is at risk as a result.



178

Palestinians killed, including at least 138 civilians, of whom 36 were children¹

1,361

Palestinians injured, of whom 386 are children and 249 women²

1.255

Homes destroyed or severely damaged in Gaza

17,000

Displaced people hosted at UNRWA schools

600,000

People at risk of losing access to water supply

Situation Overview

The seventh day of the Gaza emergency started amidst the first wave of mass displacement. Over the past 24 hours, tens of thousands of Palestinians from northern Gaza have fled their homes following warnings from the Israeli military, ahead of anticipated attacks on rocket launchers in the area. Some 17,000 have taken shelter in 20 UNRWA schools in Gaza City and the North Area. It is estimated that an additional 7,500 people have been displaced since the beginning of the emergency, following the destruction or severe damage sustained to their homes, and are hosted by relatives and neighbors.

The vast majority of men, women and children displaced have fled their homes with few belongings, including families who lost everything under the rubble of their destroyed homes. This is increasing the caseload of humanitarian organizations to meet these people's basic needs of shelter, mattresses, food, water and sanitation facilities. While current stocks are generally

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

¹ Data on fatalities and destruction of property is consolidated by the Protection and Shelter clusters based on preliminary information, and is subject to change based on further verifications.

² Data on injuries is provided by the Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza.

sufficient to cover these needs, the prevailing insecurity impedes distributions, particularly for families who are not in UNRWA shelters.

Meeting basic needs is becoming increasingly challenging for the rest of the civilian population as well, including related to water supply for domestic needs. As the scope of damage to water and sewage infrastructure increases, the main water utility in Gaza (CMWU) announced the suspension of regular operations and repairs, following the killing of three of its staff while on duty. The utility warned that unless its operations resume in the coming days, up to a third of Gaza's population (approx. 600,000) will be gradually left without water.

Insecurity is also undermining access to health services, with people venturing onto the streets only as a matter of last recourse. Health facilities and medical personnel have been affected by the hostilities: two hospitals, four clinics, one treatment centre, and four ambulances have sustained damage, while one doctor has been killed and 19 medical staff injured since 7 July.

Heavy Israeli bombardments, from air, sea and land, have continued almost uninterruptedly across the Gaza Strip during the period. However, the past 24 hours witnessed a significant decrease in the death toll, with a total of eight fatalities recorded compared with a daily average of over 27 in the previous six days.

One of yesterday's deaths occurred in Al Maghazi refugee camp, in the context of the targeting and total destruction of two residential properties during an airstrike. Although one of the families managed to leave the house following the shooting of two "warning missiles", some members of the other family were still inside when a thrid missile struck, killing a woman and injuring another two women and a boy.

Human rights organizations estimate that since the start of the emergency the Israeli army has targeted and destroyed over 180 homes, many of which were the residences of alleged members of armed groups. According to one Israeli organization (B'Tselem), at least 52 civilians were killed in these attacks. The targeting of civilian homes is a violation of international humanitarian law unless the homes are being used for military purposes. In case of doubt, buildings ordinarily used for civilian purposes, such as homes, are presumed not to be legitimate military targets.

Indiscriminate rocket firing by armed groups in Gaza at Israeli localities also continued during the past 24 hours, resulting in few Israeli injuries and some damage to property, as most projectiles fell in open areas or were intercepted by the Iron Dome system. While Palestinian rocket fire has so far not resulted in Israeli deaths, multiple reports about the launching of these rockets from densely populated areas have raised increasing concern. Such practice severely endangers the lives of Palestinian civilians residing in these areas, in addition to the Israeli civilians targeted.

Updates on Gaza Crossings

Erez: open for internationals and exceptional cases. On 13 July, 550 foreign nationals left to Jordan via Israel and four Jordanian ambulances entered.

Beit Hanoun (Arba-Arba): the checkpoint, which leads into Erez crossing and is controlled by the former de facto authorities, was closed today (14 July) until further notice, due to Israeli attacks. This effectively prevents the movement of humanitarian personnel in and out of Gaza via Israel.

Kerem Shalom: normal operation for imports. On 13 July, 69 trucks with humanitarian supplies (mostly food), 574,000 litres of fuel and 111 tonnes of cooking gas entered.

Rafah: open for medical evacuations, and US and Egyptian passport holders; first degree family members of patients allowed to cross.

Humanitarian needs and response



Needs

- 22,800 children whose families have experienced death, injury or loss of 'homes are in need of psychosocial (PSS) support.
- Unexploded ordnance and explosive remnants of war present a major hazard to the population. So far, approximately 100 unexploded bombs have been reported throughout the Gaza Strip, 30 in Rafah area alone.

22,800

Children in need of psychosocial support

Response

• Protection Cluster members have been monitoring incidents and are issuing press releases highlighting their findings and calling for the protection of civilians.

- The Protection Cluster continues to monitor and verify information on civilian fatalities.
- In the past 24 hours, five emergency PSS teams conducted 47 visits to children homes and hospitals injured as a result of the continuing hostilities. All children showed signs of extreme anxiety, fear and sense of insecurity. Since 7 July, PSS teams have reached 302 traumatized children.
- As of 13 July, PSS support teams from the Youth Empowerment Centre provided awareness training to caregivers in UNRWA schools currently serving as shelters for IDPs.
- Mobile radio stations will start broadcasting to alert children and their families of the dangers posed by Explosive Remnants of War and Unexploded Ordnance.

Gaps and constraints

- Difficulties in verifying information, particularly regarding casualties, due to the security situation and restricted access.
- Ongoing hostilities continue to impede the movement of child protection staff and emergency psychosocial teams.
- Inability of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) police to work on the ground to remove unexploded remnants of war due to ongoing military operations.



Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI)

Needs

• 1,255 families (7,500 persons) whose homes were totally destroyed or sustained major structural damages are in need of emergency NFI kits.

1,255

 Over 10,000 people whose homes sustained damages but are still habitable, and another 57,000 who are living in slightly affected houses, need NFI shelter repair items, such as nylon and tarpaulin. Families in need of NFIs and cash assistance

• Cash assistance for 1,255 families to cover rental fees and urgent expenses (US\$ 6 m) is needed.

Response

• UNRWA is currently providing shelter and NFIs to 17,000 displaced persons from northern Gaza, seeking refuge in 20 of its schools in Gaza City and the Northern Area.

Gaps and constraints

- Emergency shelter kits and basic NFIs available in stock cannot be delivered due to security risks.
- 36 government schools have been identified as potential shelters, but the Ministry of Education does not currently have the capacity to run the shelters.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Needs

Protection to water technicians to carry out emergency repairs of pipelines and other WASH facilities.

395,000

People affected due to damage to WASH infrastructure

- Spare parts such as water and wastewater pipes urgently needed.
- Water provision to families affected by damages to WASH facilities, including host families.
- Water provision to IDP shelters as the number of displaced will likely increase over the coming days.

Response

- UNRWA distributed family hygiene kits to IDPs taking shelter in its schools.
- On 14 July, Jabalia municipality repaired a sewer pressure pipeline in Sheikh Zayed and resumed pumping from Tal Al Zatar neighborhood to the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

- Damage to a water carrier supplying water from At Tawfeeq groundwater well in Ash Shuja'iyeh area, serving 8,000 people has been repaired, in addition to a water pipeline serving 2,000.
- Accessibility to water valves that serves Al Mansora, As Shuja'iyeh has been resolved.
- The Abdullah Azam well, serving 8,000 people, and a water pipeline serving 5,000 people on Nazaz Street has been repaired.

Gaps and constraints

• Movement for service providers to operate WASH facilities and conduct emergency repairs is extremely dangerous.



Health and Nutrition

Needs

• There is an urgent need for psycho-tropic drugs, especially emergency drug kits to use for patients with mental illness who have relapses and families in especially severe circumstances of forced displacement, trauma and anxiety.

7

Medical facilities sustained damage

Response

- The Palestinian Red Crescent conducted 797 evacuations of injured persons and of 100 fatalities since 7 July.
- An emergency mental health plan is in effect, with teams of health workers in community mental health centres, as well as general hospital teams and primary health care clinics.
- One truck load of medical aid, donated by the Emirati Red Crescent to the Palestinian Red Crescent, was received on July 14 in Gaza. There are reportedly nine trucks of aid from the Egyptian army waiting in Rafah crossing to be processed.

Gaps and constraints

- Lack of adequate protection of health facilities and personnel: two hospitals, four clinics, one treatment centre for the disabled, and four ambulances have sustained damage, while one doctor has been killed and 19 medical staff have been injured since the start of the emergency.
- Restricted access to the injured due to ongoing military operations.
- Reduced access for referral cases out of Gaza, due to the difficulty in travel within Gaza, as well as the delay in processing referrals.



Food Assistance

Needs

• The rapid displacement of Gazan families from the northern Gaza Strip over the past days has resulted in an increased need for additional food assistance.

20,500

People reached with emergency food assistance

Response

- WFP and UNRWA provided emergency food rations to all IDPs in 20 schools.
- Up to 3,000 food vouchers are being prepared to reach families currently hosted with relatives.
- About 2,040 hospital patients and staff are provided with food assistance through WFP.
- Welfare Association is planning to reach 1,600 families (displaced and needy) in Beit Lahia and East Gaza through distribution of food parcels.

Gaps and constraints

- As movement is increasingly impeded due to the security situation, Food Security Sector members continue to face problems in accessing affected areas, especially agricultural lands and livestock in order to assess damages.
- Immediate emergency funds to cover food assistance to displaced people are required.

- Although immediately needed funds will be advanced by core agencies, these funds will need to be resourced subsequently.
- Information gap in regards to the displaced families sheltered by relatives is needed in order to provide emergency food assistance.

Education

Needs

• Nine schools, including seven government and two UNRWA schools sustained damage in the last 24 hours. Since the start of the emergency, 72 schools have been damaged and need repairs.

72

Schools damaged by shelling

Response

Nothing to report

Gaps & Constraints

- Lack of movement to assess impact of hostilities on school infrastructure.
- Still no information available about the condition of the 13 schools located in Access Restricted Area (ARA).
- Insufficient pre-positioned supplies, such as school tents and teaching/learning materials, to respond to likely scale of need.

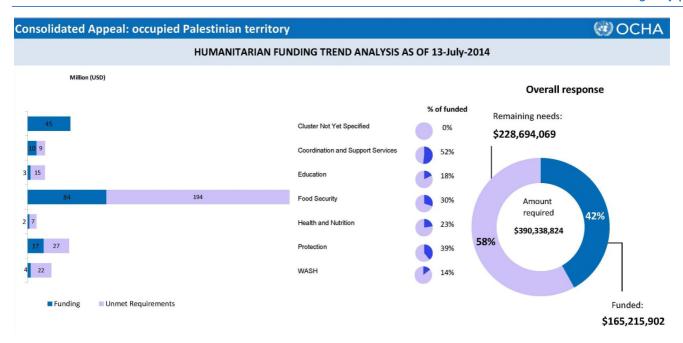
General Coordination

Today (14 July), the Palestinian Prime Minister held a briefing and discussion with a range of representatives from international organizations, including UN bodies, and national and international NGOs. The PM highlighted that the Palestinian National Consensus Government is doing its utmost to respond to the situation, such as the evacuation of wounded people and delivery of medical supplies, and requested the support of the international community in addressing current gaps.

Funding

A number of donors have already started working with clusters and partners to look into providing funding for urgent needs in the most critical sectors. Saudi Arabia has pledged 200 million riyals (US\$53.3 million) for medicine and medical equipment for the wounded. The aid will be channelled through the Palestinian Red Crescent Society. Yesterday, the Government of Norway noted the particular needs in shelter and health and has announced an extra contribution of NOK 30 million to respond to humanitarian needs in the Gaza Strip. Norway has urged other donors to respond.

The 2014 Strategic Response Plan (SRP) for the oPt has received US\$ 165 million (42 per cent) out of a total request of US\$390 million. Nearly 90 per cent of 1.9 million vulnerable people targeted in the SRP are in Gaza. The Emergency Response Fund (ERF), an additional mechanism available to fund interventions in Gaza, is in urgent need of replenishment to ensure the fund's ability to provide rapid and flexible support to affected civilian populations. Additionally, there is an urgent need for funding to cover the US \$22 million of UNRWA's Emergency Appeal shortfall.



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 on early June, characterized by an intensification of Israeli airstrikes and Palestinian shooting rockets at southern Israel. Tensions further increased following the abduction of three Israeli youths in the southern West Bank, on 12 June, which the Israeli government attributed to Hamas. Overall, in the period leading 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 firing.

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 longstanding access restrictions imposed by Israel. 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 an ongoing energy crisis, involving power outages of 12 hours per day.

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