



Situation in the occupied Palestinian territory

Humanitarian response in the Gaza Strip,

Flash appeal, We World coordination and operational capacity

..... 03rd of June 2021

SITUATION

From the 10th until the 21st of May, tensions erupted across all Palestinian territories and Israel, with intensive bombings over Gaza by the Israeli Army and rockets fired from Hamas and other armed groups into Israel. As soon as the ceasefire was declared on the 21st of May, humanitarian actors started to coordinate the Humanitarian Emergency Response and appeal in the Gaza Strip. On the 27th of May, the Humanitarian Coordinator for the oPt launched the inter-agency May 2021 Escalation Flash Appeal¹ requesting \$95 million to support Emergency Humanitarian Response and Early Recovery over the next three months. We World actively contributed to the identification of the needs, especially within the WASH Cluster.

In the Gaza Strip

Between the 10th-21st of May, escalations between Palestinian armed groups in Gaza and Israel Army Forces resulted in high casualties, as well as severe infrastructural and economic damages and losses.

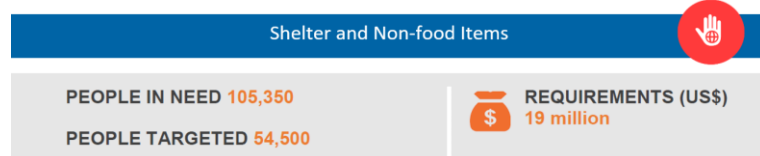
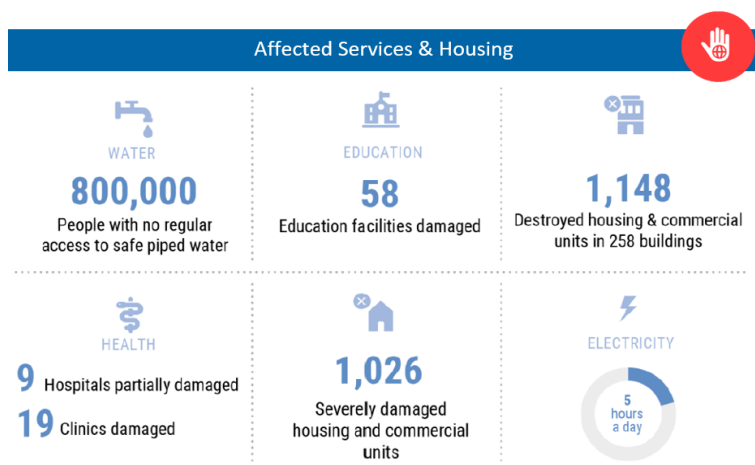
As of today, **256 persons have been reported dead** in the Gaza Strip². Among those victims, **66 children and 40 women**. Total reported injuries are over 2.000 (including over 600 children, 400 women). The already compromised humanitarian situation in Gaza dramatically worsened due to the latest escalation, with severe damage caused to homes, the supply of basic services and infrastructure (including main roads, hospitals, schools etc.). Among the 113.000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) at the peak of the escalation, 8.500 persons remain displaced today.

Following the conflict, Explosive Remnants of War (ERW)/Unexploded Explosive Ordnance (UXO) identification and removal operations have started, while UNMAS has launched an explosive ordnance risk education campaign,

Over 600.000 students' education was disrupted due to the conflict, adding to the repeated interruptions over the year due to COVID19 restrictions.

The health system capacity, already overwhelmed by the pandemic, further shrank.

On the Israeli side, 12 casualties in total have been reported as a consequence of missile strikes, including 2 children and 5 women. Homes, livelihoods and infrastructure have been damaged.



Infrastructure: Extensive damage is reported to residential and commercial buildings, schools and infrastructure, including main roads (some of which lead to the hospitals), electricity networks, water installations and agricultural lands. Overall, 15.000

housing suffered different degrees of damages, with 258 buildings, comprising 1.148 housing and commercial units, that are totally destroyed. Other 1.026 housing units suffered major damage.

Displacement: According to UNRWA, over 113.000 Internally Displaced People (IDPs) sought shelter at UNRWA education facilities during the conflict, of which 8.500 people are still displaced.

Health: 19 primary healthcare centres and 9 hospitals in the Strip were damaged. The risk of Covid-19 transmission has increased, the only centre for PCR testing suspended activities for three days during the conflict, while the only vaccination centre in northern Gaza is still not operative. As of 26th of May the number of recorded active Covid19 cases reached 2.358. The need of



¹ <https://www.ochaopt.org/fa2021>

² All data were issued by UN Agencies and relevant Local Authorities

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) for both children and adults in Gaza increased significantly, while health workers themselves are experiencing distress.

| WASH  | |
|--|--|
| PEOPLE IN NEED 1,310,000 |  REQUIREMENTS (US\$) 7.1 million |
| PEOPLE TARGETED 1,074,000 | |

main sewer pressure pipelines across all the Governorates, more than 100,000 cubic meters of poorly/untreated water has been currently discharged in the sea. Additionally, the average power supply across Gaza is 5-7 hours per day, and 500 WASH facilities are suffering operational challenges. The water supply per capita, previously corresponding to 82 l/c/d, dropped by estimated 20-41 l/c/d, depending on the areas.

Education: Over 100 education facilities³ suffered damages. Around 59 UNWRA schools (of which 2 are still hosting IDPs) were used as temporary shelters and will need rehabilitation works before re-starting education activities.

| Education  | |
|---|--|
| PEOPLE IN NEED 612,985 |  REQUIREMENTS (US\$) 8.2 million |
| PEOPLE TARGETED 480,000 | |

Access: Overall, the checkpoint closure was eased although it still represents a major challenge. Erez crossing re-opened for international staff while Palestinians in Gaza are still prevented from crossing, with the exception of urgent medical cases. The Kerem Shalom Crossing for goods remains open for specific basic commodities, including fodder and medical supplies. Fishing activities resumed after the Israeli authorities' announcement on the 25th of May. Egypt crossing re-opened as well.

In the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Israel

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, 29 Palestinians have been killed (2 of which following the ceasefire) and around 6,794 were injured by Israeli Security Forces and Israeli settlers since the beginning of the hostilities.

The episodes of settlers' violence and search-and-arrest operations by Israeli forces in the West Bank have been increasing following the ceasefire. Specifically, 22 attacks have been reported. In East Jerusalem and Israel, tensions and search-and-arrest operations/night raids against Palestinians and Arab Israeli citizens have been reported.

Demonstrations and unrest continue across the West Bank and East Jerusalem. The longstanding court cases over households at risk of forced evictions in Sheikh Jarrah, Batn al Hawa quarter, Silwan neighbourhoods located in East Jerusalem have been postponed indefinitely.

Israel's self-defence premise along with International Law violations have been increasingly criticised by international and human rights organisations. Moreover, following the escalation in Gaza, Ireland's Parliament passed a motion condemning the "de facto annexation" of Palestinian territories, setting EU precedent on annexation.⁴

WE WORLD INTERVENTION

We World's mission in Gaza currently includes 6 national staff, with 5 new employees recently hired. At the present, no expatriate staff are deployed in the Strip full time. All our Palestinian colleagues and their families are safe, even if the majority have had to leave their homes during the bombings and suffered minor damage to their properties.

We World in full coordination with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) and local authorities committed to contributing to the implementation of the Humanitarian Emergency Response. We World is permanently contributing to the UN OCHA coordination mechanism, including thorough sectorial assessments, especially in the WASH, Shelter and Health Clusters. We World is a member of the WASH Cluster, Strategic Advisory Group, focal point of the WASH Cluster for the Gaza Middle Area and leader of the WASH in Health Working Group. Thus, We World is currently playing a crucial role, performing a detailed damage assessment of the WASH infrastructures at municipality level and of 32 Health Care Facilities (HCFs), in coordination with the Ministry of Health, along with the

We World Advocacy & Appeal

Following the de-escalation, a [public statement](#) was released, together with bilateral lobby activities, to welcome the ceasefire, while calling for compliance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

We World launched a [fundraising campaign](#) in support of women and children in the Gaza Strip.

We World has a current capacity of intervention for 500,000 USD in the next three months

³ Including 58 severely damaged, 50 minor damaged

⁴ <https://euobserver.com/world/151963>

Health Cluster.

Beyond the necessary immediate Emergency Humanitarian and Early Recovery responses, We World is also committed in the medium-to-long term, to support the rebuilding of the social and economic fabric heavily damaged by the bombings. In July 2021 We World, in partnership with Save the Children and ILS LEDA, and with the support of the European Union, will initiate the project "*GREEN: Gaza Resilient Economy and Environment*", aimed at increasing the economic resilience of the Gazan population while preventing long-term aid dependency.

In 2020 and 2021, We World interventions in the Gaza Strip were funded by the European Union, AICS, UN OCHA and GLZ, and were focused on: a) improving water supply and water quality by intervening at infrastructural level; b) providing electricity supply through sustainable energy sources in Households and medical facilities; c) construction/rehabilitation of PWD adapted and gender sensitive sanitation facilities; d) innovative and sustainable wastewater management; e) improving the wastewater infrastructure systems.

On the 2nd of June We World, together with the members of the WASH Cluster, met the representatives of the Ministry of Water and the Palestinian Water Authority, in order to coordinate the efforts both in the assessment and operations phase, and present the organization's operational capacity during this phase.

Considering the May 2021 Escalation Flash Appeal and the following additional assessment, We World has currently an operational capacity for the next 3 months, able to absorb 500.000 USD for immediate interventions in the WASH, Shelter and Health sectors, related to the rehabilitation or reconstruction of infrastructures, as well as the distribution of drinking water and dignified hygiene kits at the household level.