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updated humanitarian
and early recovery appeal -
hostilities in gaza and mounting
tensions in the west bank

may-december 2021



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About UNRWA

UNRWA is a United Nations agency established by the General Assembly in 1949 and is mandated to provide assistance and protection to a population of some 5.7 million registered Palestine refugees. Its mission is to help Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank and the Gaza Strip to achieve their full potential in human development, pending a just solution to their plight. UNRWA services encompass education, health care, relief and social services, camp infrastructure and improvement, microfinance and emergency assistance. UNRWA is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions.

may-december 2021

Cover Photo: UNRWA sanitation workers clear the streets and collecting the rubble from the recent escalation in violence on the besieged Gaza Strip. © 2021 UNRWA Photo Mohammed Hinnawi

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introduction

Following a dramatic intensification in violence in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) in May 2021, including an escalation in hostilities leading to airstrikes on Gaza between 10 and 21 May, and clashes in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, on 15 May UNRWA issued a US\$ 38 million Flash Appeal to respond to the immediate humanitarian needs of affected populations.

The impact of the conflict on Palestine refugees has been devastating. UNRWA is issuing a revised appeal to address the humanitarian needs of Palestine refugees who remain displaced in Gaza, and those in the West Bank including East Jerusalem affected by the tensions and violence. This updated appeal incorporates the immediate emergency response actions implemented by UNRWA in Gaza and the West Bank between 10 and 21 May as described in the initial Flash Appeal, as well as the early recovery needs of Palestine refugees in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, until 31 December 2021. UNRWA will continue to monitor the situation and update its assessment of needs accordingly.

The response under this updated Appeal is directly related to the Agency’s strategic objective of mitigating the effects of humanitarian emergencies on Palestine refugees and providing services in a dignified and safe manner, in accordance with the rights of protected populations under International Humanitarian Law (IHL). UNRWA continues to coordinate closely with humanitarian clusters in the oPt. This appeal includes interventions on shelter repair and reconstruction activities and rehabilitation of UNRWA installations. These are not fully included in the oPt inter-agency appeal lead by UNOCHA, which has a shorter time frame than this humanitarian and early recovery appeal.¹

In accordance with international law, UNRWA renews its commitment to deliver humanitarian assistance to Palestine refugees in accordance with its mandate and in full respect of the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence as outlined in the General Assembly Resolution 46/182. UNRWA remains committed to providing assistance to people in need solely on the basis of need and vulnerability.

UNRWA remains deeply concerned about actions by the parties to the conflict during these recent hostilities that caused damage to its installations and violated its inviolability and neutrality. The Agency will continue to advocate for greater respect for international law, international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law (IHRL) with relevant stakeholders.

We underscore for all our partners that the activities presented in this appeal can only be implemented if the Agency’s Programme Budget and oPt Emergency Appeal for 2021 receive contributions in the amount required to sustain staffing and infrastructure essential to the delivery of health, education, mental health, relief, environmental health, and protection services as well as the coordination and management components of the response. In addition, the implementation of activities related to reconstruction in Gaza requires the smooth flow of goods and materials through the only designated entry point, Kerem Shalom Crossing.



An apartment building flattened by an Israeli airstrike in the besieged Gaza Strip.
© 2021 UNRWA photo by Mohammed Hinnawi

situational overview

Gaza

From 10 until 21 May, Gaza experienced the most intense airstrikes and violence since the 2014 conflict, with devastating impacts on the civilian population. As of 27 May, according to OCHA and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 256 Palestinians, including 66 children and 40 women were killed, of whom 128 are believed to be civilians.² Data on injuries and permanent impairments is sparse. A ceasefire is now in place but remains extremely fragile.

The humanitarian consequences of this latest round of hostilities in Gaza have been devastating, adding another layer of psychological distress onto an already traumatized population, and exacerbating the impact of the land, air and sea blockade, which enters its fifteenth year in June 2021, internal Palestinian political divisions and prolonged exposure to violence.

The ongoing crisis has occurred at a time when the population is struggling to cope with the effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which is adding to existing health, socio-economic and mental health strains. An alarming number of Gaza's citizens, particularly children, display physical and psychological signs of severe distress and are at risk of developing mental health disorders. Humanitarian responders, including UNRWA staff, have not been spared the mental stress resulting from the pandemic and the latest hostilities.

At the height of the escalation, 113,000 displaced people sought shelter and protection, including some 71,000 at 59 UNRWA schools (of which around 50 per cent were equipped as Designated Emergency Shelters (DEs)). These numbers have progressively decreased following the ceasefire. As of 23 May, UNRWA estimated that 7,500

Palestine refugees remained displaced. This includes 1,400 families (7,150 persons) sheltering with relatives and friends, and approximately 55 families (350 persons) who remain displaced in two UNRWA schools that are now functioning as temporary collective shelters. Many are unable to return to their homes and will need support over the period covered by this appeal. UNRWA is committed to ensuring that the two schools serving as DEs are available for the coming scholastic year and will support displaced families to find alternative accommodation.

Air strikes have also caused substantial damage to physical infrastructure, including homes. Overall, an estimated 20,000 housing units sustained some degree of damage across Gaza. UNRWA estimates that 70 per cent of these homes belong to Palestine refugees. In addition, 141 education facilities, nine hospitals and 19 primary healthcare centres also sustained some level of damage. This includes 28 UNRWA schools and six Agency health centres. These damages have exacerbated Gaza's chronic infrastructure

and power deficits, resulting in a decrease in the availability of clean water and sewage treatment capacity, and daily power cuts of 18-20 hours.

West Bank

Since April 2021, a combination of factors have contributed to increased tensions and an escalation in hostilities in the oPt and Israel. This has included the pending evictions of Palestine refugee families in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood of East Jerusalem, limitations placed on gatherings of Palestinians in and around Jerusalem's Old City during Ramadan, restricted access for Palestinian worshippers to Al Aqsa and raids on the compound by Israeli Security Forces (ISF), the excessive use of force against Palestinian demonstrators, including tear gas, skunk water and live ammunition, and violent arrests. Violence in East Jerusalem spilled over into Gaza, leading to eleven days of hostilities between armed groups in Gaza and Israeli forces, as well as inter-communal violence in urban areas throughout Israel and widespread demonstrations and clashes across the West Bank including East Jerusalem.

During May, UNRWA recorded 1,106 friction incidents between Palestinians and Israeli Security Forces and/or Israeli settlers, which led to violence. In at least 29 per cent of these incidents, live fire was used. According to UNRWA data, out of 160 locations in which incidents - including large demonstrations - occurred, live ammunition was used on at least one occasion in 111 locations (69 per cent), resulting in live ammunition injuries in 43 per cent of these locations. The highest number of live fire incidents occurring in demonstrations was recorded in the Nablus governorate.³

UNRWA recorded that the ISF used more live ammunition during the first 16 days of May 2021 than in the first four months of the year. The dramatic increase in the ISF's use of live ammunition resulted in at least 437 injuries to Palestinians. There was also a dramatic increase in Palestinian injuries from other non-lethal weapons, including plastic-coated metal bullets (PCMBs) and tear gas inhalation.

During the same period, UNRWA verified that 26 Palestine refugees were injured, with 17 injuries resulting from live ammunition. The actual number of injuries is likely to be higher, while some of these injuries may result in permanent impairments generating longer-term health care needs and possible negative consequences on the ability to work and access to livelihood.

All 24 Palestinian fatalities recorded between 1 and 16 May in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, were caused by live ammunition. This includes at least six Palestine refugees. UNRWA's preliminary data shows that the majority of fatalities (58 per cent or 14 fatalities) occurred during clashes or demonstrations, with the remainder during reported attacks. Twenty-three of the 24 fatalities have been attributed to the ISF, while the other fatality was attributed to the shooting of a Palestinian by an Israeli settler.⁴

UNRWA remains extremely concerned about the vulnerability of Palestine refugees and civilians to violence by armed Israeli settlers in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. In the first five months of 2021, UNRWA recorded 779 incidents of Israeli settler violence, with high rates of Palestinian injuries (155 injuries per month, up to 10 injuries per day during the escalation of tensions in May).

The risks to life and serious injury have significant humanitarian consequences. In addition to the immediate impact on physical health and the right to life, there are also negative consequences on the psychological well-being of affected individuals, their families and communities, as well as socio-economic impacts as those directly impacted are active in the labour market.

Almost 5,000 productive trees were also destroyed during the tensions and violence, greatly impacting the livelihoods of already vulnerable populations in rural areas and having a devastating effect on the local economy.

The risk of further violence remains high, due to a growing settler population and the expansion of settler homes and infrastructure on Palestinian public and private lands, coupled with a lack of accountability for settler violence and attacks on Palestinians and Palestinian property. Incidences of settler violence are also strongly correlated with movement and access restrictions imposed by the Israeli Authorities, directly hampering the access of these communities to vital services - including emergency healthcare, education and other basic services.

This is increasing the potential for a further deterioration of the overall security situation in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

humanitarian and early recovery needs

Gaza

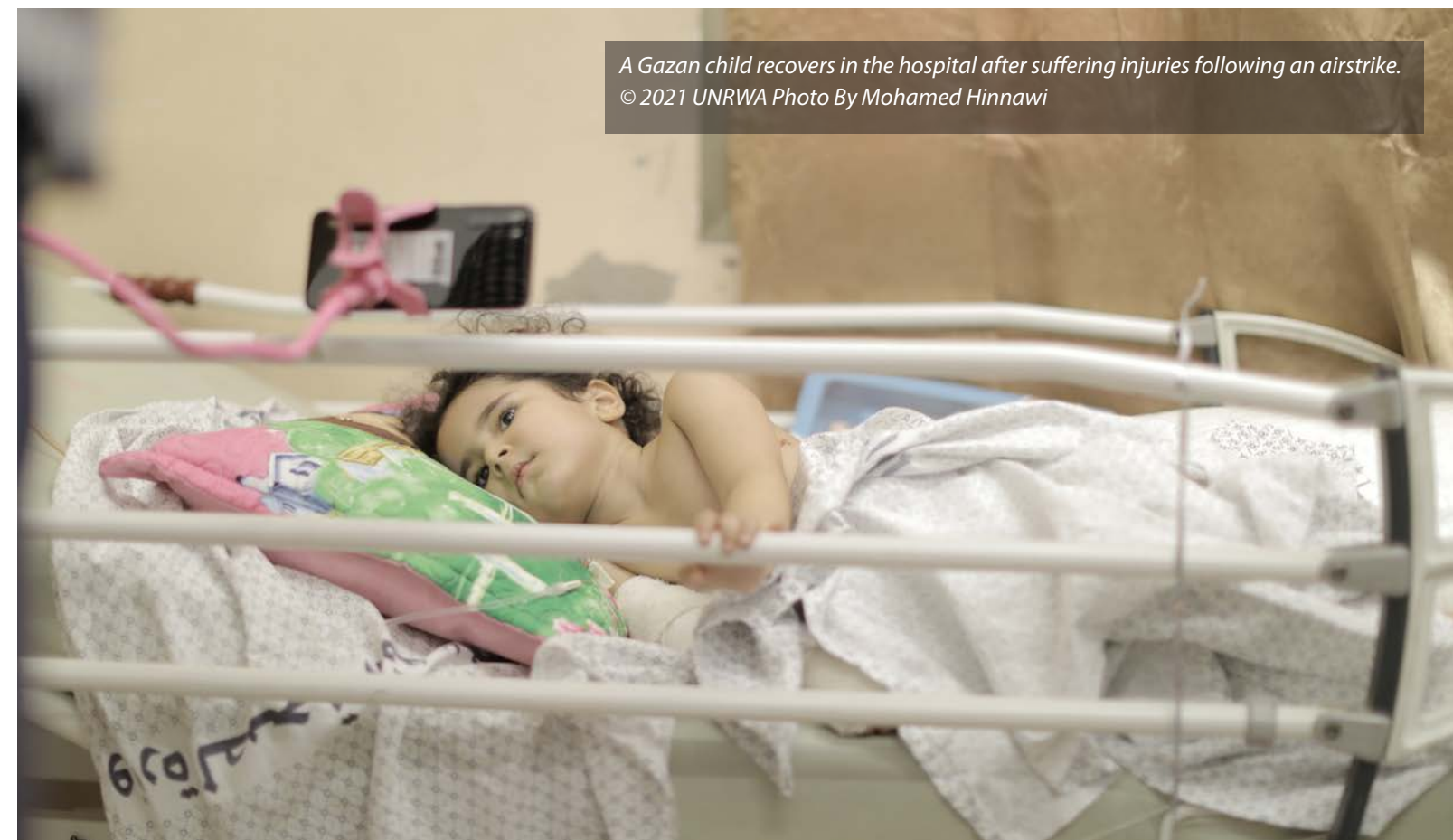
Gazans face the burden of having to rebuild their lives and homes in an already fragile and heavily constrained environment, affected by years of protracted humanitarian crisis.

As of 23 May, an estimated 7,500 Palestine refugees remain displaced, of whom around 1,400 families (7,150 individuals) are sheltering with relatives and friends, and approximately 55 families (350 individuals) remain in two UNRWA schools in Jabalia and Beach Camp. Exit strategies and alternative coping mechanisms will be developed for the families in these two collective shelters to ensure that the schools are available for the 2021-22 scholastic year.

According to the Agency's preliminary assessments, 2,300 shelters⁵ belonging to around 1,400 refugee families have been completely destroyed or damaged to the extent that they are uninhabitable and in need of complete reconstruction.

These families face the prospect of prolonged displacement. In addition to support for the reconstruction of their homes, these families will also need financial support (transitional shelter cash assistance) to temporarily subsidize their rental payments while they remain displaced. A further 14,000 refugee shelters are estimated to be in need of major or minor repair works.⁶

With up to 71,000 people seeking shelter at UNRWA installations at the height of the crisis, preliminary damage assessments demonstrate a need for upgrading of water and sanitation facilities in at least 59 UNRWA school locations. This figure includes schools previously equipped to serve as Designated Emergency Shelters (DES) in times of emergency as well as non-DES schools that hosted IDPs. There is also a need to repair 113 UNRWA installations (including Gaza Field Office and UNRWA HQ Gaza) impacted by the hostilities and to rehabilitate and refurbish DES and non-DES schools that were used to host displaced families, including works to water and sanitation (WASH),



*A Gazan child recovers in the hospital after suffering injuries following an airstrike.
© 2021 UNRWA Photo By Mohamed Hinnawi*

A woman sits inside her damaged home in Beit Hanoun, Gaza. © 2021 UNRWA
Photo By Mohamed Hinnawi



IT and security infrastructure and (solar) electricity supply.

Repairs of water and sanitation networks in Palestine refugee camps that were damaged during the hostilities is also needed. Due to the intensity of the hostilities, the risk of injury or death due to Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) has increased. There is a critical need for risk assessments and mitigation measures by UNRWA personnel as well as awareness-raising and risk mitigation for the general public.

Having witnessed death and injury, damage or loss of property, Gazans – especially children - face trauma and require psychosocial support, with coping mechanisms already eroded by years of blockade and previous experiences of violence. Children are in desperate need of recreational and stress alleviation activities in a safe environment, psychosocial assistance and referrals to more specialized mental health services, where needed. For children and women staying in collective shelters, the creation of protected places and the provision of educational support for school-aged children is needed to support their mental health and psychosocial wellbeing. In order to reduce barriers and support education, internet access will be installed across UNRWA DESs and tablets will be provided for displaced UNRWA students to facilitate their continued access to learning.

The COVID-19 pandemic had already exposed women and girls to greater risks of abuse and violence. The consequences of the recent hostilities, including displacement, stress and trauma further increase protection risks for vulnerable populations, including women, girls, persons with disabilities and the elderly. Prevention, detection, response and monitoring of protection concerns, including Gender Based Violence (GBV), during the emergency response and early recovery phases remains imperative, as is the provision of specific support to identified survivors.

West Bank

The ongoing tensions and confrontations are generating additional humanitarian and protection needs in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The recent violence has compounded

already existing access restrictions, which directly impact the economic wellbeing and livelihoods of vulnerable populations, and their ability to access essential services. In the area to the south of Nablus, access and movements were especially restricted, with the main (Huwwara) checkpoint closed entirely for several days amid heavy ISF presence and checks slowing traffic. According to Palestinian census data, over 30,000 refugees live within a 2km radius of this checkpoint, which lies on the main thoroughfare between Nablus and Jerusalem. Other checkpoints in the West Bank, which are critical for Palestinian movements, such as Beit El DCO Checkpoint, north of Ramallah, have also been affected, with negative repercussions on access and movements.

ISF operations have also increased dramatically. In May 2021 only, UNRWA recorded 1,238 ISF operations, compared to an average of 517 per month for the previous four months of 2021. Many of these ISF operations resulted in damages to multiple properties, including refugee homes.

Against this rapidly deteriorating situation across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, UNRWA seeks assistance to respond to increased demand for MHPSS for vulnerable refugees; procure essential medical supplies for emergency and critical care; provide recreational and psychosocial support, and summer programmes for vulnerable refugee children affected by the current tensions. Furthermore, UNRWA will deliver multipurpose cash assistance to refugee families whose properties have sustained damage in ISF operations and/or clashes, settler violence, forcible displacement and demolitions; and ensure that UNRWA staff are able to continue providing services to vulnerable refugees in need, in conditions of safety and security while working in an increasingly deteriorating security environment.

UNRWA will also continue to document violations, advocate for the protection and promote the rights of over 860,000 Palestine refugees in the West Bank including East Jerusalem.

funding requirements

| Intervention | Gaza | West Bank | Total |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Humanitarian assistance to displaced families in and outside collective shelters | 3,954,695 | | 3,954,695 |
| Emergency health, including COVID-19 prevention measures | 367,053 | 69,986 | 437,039 |
| Emergency multi-sectoral cash assistance | 5,578,525 | 164,793 | 5,743,318 |
| Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (incl. staff care) | 4,440,000 | 463,980 | 4,903,980 |
| Education in Emergencies | 488,400 | | 488,400 |
| Environmental Health | 366,300 | 22,200 | 388,500 |
| Protection | 909,090 | 530,580 | 1,439,670 |
| Emergency repairs and maintenance of UNRWA installations | 4,939,500 | | 4,939,500 |
| Transitional Shelter Cash Assistance (TSCA) | 3,108,000 | | 3,108,000 |
| Emergency shelter repair (major/minor repairs) ⁷ | 77,700,000 | | 77,700,000 |
| Emergency shelter repairs (reconstruction/repair of severely damaged shelters) | 51,282,000 | | 51,282,000 |
| Emergency preparedness | 7,048,500 | | 7,048,500 |
| Capacity and Management, including Security | 1,554,000 | 632,851 | 2,186,851 |
| Total | 161,736,063 | 1,884,390 | 163,620,453 |

intervention summary

Gaza

Humanitarian assistance to displaced families in and outside collective shelters

UNRWA will continue to assist up to 350 individuals staying in two collective shelters and unable to return to their homes. Families will receive bottled potable water and basic food parcels including bread, corned beef or tuna, dairy products and fresh vegetables and fruits, to cover their minimum caloric needs.

UNRWA will distribute NFIs to needy families, including those who have been displaced, and also requires NFIs to replenish buffer stocks as part of preparedness measures. In total, 7,000 NFI kits will be procured.

Emergency health

In order to reduce the risk of exposure to and spread of COVID-19 inside collective shelters, UNRWA will implement several preventive measures, including the provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to staff and IDPs. Agency health teams will continue to visit collective shelters on a regular basis and identified refugees in need will be referred to the nearest Health Centre to receive proper assistance. UNRWA will also ensure the continued availability of infection control and hygiene materials at collective shelters.

One-off multi sectoral cash assistance

To support the emergency humanitarian needs of most vulnerable families impacted by the hostilities, UNRWA will provide an estimated 21,000 vulnerable families with one time multi-sectoral cash assistance of NIS 800/family (equivalent to almost US\$ 250) to help cover their most immediate needs with the dignity of choice. The caseload includes displaced, poor and cash-strapped families, who will be prioritized through a multi-vulnerability assessment formula.

Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS) and Education in Emergencies (EiE)

UNRWA will implement MHPSS interventions to assist children and adults in mitigating the impact of the latest hostilities through activities facilitated by trained counsellors, aimed at strengthening their psycho-social resilience, coping capacities and mental well-being.

Children will also be provided with material support to facilitate their access to remote learning. In addition, UNRWA will equip its current 55 DES schools with a network of internet hotspots to allow access to remote education during possible future emergencies. Some students will also be provided with tablets to facilitate their remote learning.

Further psychosocial support to contribute towards children's physical and mental wellbeing will be provided in UNRWA schools by way of after-school activities and the organization of summer fun weeks targeting up to 150,000 students during July and August, integrating COVID-19 preventive measures. During the first semester of the 2021 / 2022 school year, UNRWA is planning to expand its MHPSS support in schools to continue to address trauma and psychosocial needs created by the impact of the recent hostilities.

Additional international staff capacity will be deployed to assist in the provision of MHPSS and protection services to refugees, especially women and children and persons with disabilities staying in collective shelters, as well as to respond to increasing needs in the wider community.

Finally, staff care, including MHPSS services for UNRWA staff, will also be provided.

Environmental Health (WASH)

UNRWA will ensure that the environment at the collective shelters is consistent with environmental health standards, including designated points for garbage collection and solid waste disposal mechanisms. Extra potable water capacity is being mobilized using bottled water. UNRWA aims to recover/recycle locally all water bottles to local vendors who repurpose plastic into other products.

In addition, UNRWA will assess damage and implement repair and upgrade works to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure in selected UNRWA locations sought out by IDPs during the escalation as well as the Agency's WASH infrastructure in support of refugee camps (e.g. water wells, pumping stations as well as water and sanitation networks).

Protection

UNRWA will seek to create a safe and dignified environment for persons staying in the DESs by employing mechanisms to prevent, identify and respond to abuse, including and especially GBV. The supervision and protection of children will be an area of increased focus. School counsellors will regularly meet children through group and individual sessions to provide MHPSS and to sensitize them and the wider population on reporting mechanisms for all forms of abuse, including Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). These sessions will also be used to refer detected cases of abuse, neglect or any protection/social issue to UNRWA social workers who will lead cross-programmatic case conferences, leading to internal or external referrals. MHPSS services will also be offered to all adults.

Trained and designated staff will be assigned to respond to reports of any manner of abuse and gender related violence and work closely with community members inside DESs to develop community-based self-protection mechanisms. Guidance to DES Managers on protection standards will be further emphasized through in-person monitoring by Protection teams as the security situation allows. Protection incidents will be monitored, documented and responded to and exposure to protection threats minimized as far as possible. Child and female friendly spaces will also

possible. Child and female friendly spaces will also be set up in collective shelters to maintain security and psychological well-being.

Due to the increased risk of death or injury from ERW, especially amongst children, training of trainers for risk assessments, risk education and rendering sites safe will be conducted in cooperation with the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS).

Safeguarding neutrality and ensuring neutrality is mainstreamed throughout the response will remain critical for the continued operational effectiveness and safety of staff, beneficiaries and UNRWA facilities. UNRWA will enhance staff capacity in relation to neutrality and will also hire additional staff for guarding and monitoring, to ensure the neutrality of its installations especially at locations designated as DESs.

Emergency repairs and maintenance of UNRWA installations

Following preliminary damage assessments, UNRWA will conduct detailed assessments into rehabilitation, repair and refurbishment needs across some 113 UNRWA installations, including the Gaza Field Office compound and UNRWA HQ in Gaza. As a key priority, 59 UNRWA schools that were used as temporary shelters and 40 that sustained collateral damage will need rehabilitation, repairs and refurbishment before they can safely re-open for regular operations.

Shelter (TSCA, reconstruction/severe, major and minor shelter repairs)

Under this appeal, UNRWA plans to support the reconstruction/repair of 1,400 refugee shelters that were completely demolished or severely damaged.

To alleviate hardship for families whose homes have become uninhabitable and to partially subsidize adequate temporary shelter solutions, UNRWA will provide transitional shelter cash assistance to 1,400 families for a period of up to six months.

Families facing major and minor repair works to their homes will be supported with one-off cash-grants depending on the individual home and the level of damage. Under this appeal, UNRWA plans to support minor/major repairs to 14,000 refugee

shelters (corresponding to 14,000 families).

Across all shelter interventions, UNRWA will continue to coordinate closely with the shelter cluster and the Ministry of Public Works and Housing (MoPWH) to ensure consistency of assistance.

Agency engineers and social workers will conduct damage assessments to shelters, classifying them into totally demolished/severe repair (uninhabitable), major repair and minor repair cases.

For reconstruction cases, UNRWA will help beneficiaries to complete the required administrative processes, including the importation of reconstruction materials via the residential stream of the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism (GRM). The Agency will provide guidance and referrals in coordination with key stakeholders (e.g. municipalities, governmental authorities and other humanitarian actors).

A self-help approach will be used for total reconstruction cases, provided in phases based on necessary documentation provided by the family (e.g. licenses, drawings etc.) and depending on reconstruction progress. The costing for such works is developed in close coordination with other key actors, including the MoPWH and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Construction activities in this appeal will be implemented in line with the Agency's environmental management strategies and tools to ensure responsible environmental and social management and improve energy efficiency.

Emergency preparedness

As the number of available UNRWA DESs was exceeded by the number of IDPs in need of safety and shelter during the recent escalation, the Agency will also assess the potential for upgrading and equipping additional UNRWA schools including with WASH, CCTV, internet, solar panels and batteries, to serve as designated emergency shelters (for an estimated number of 25 additional DES), in times of conflict and emergency.

In addition, UNRWA will conduct essential repairs and maintenance of its environmental health

infrastructure, to ensure services can be maintained even in times of emergencies. This includes essential works on wells as water and sanitation networks and ensuring more adequate and locally-based sanitation fleet capacity to handle more recurrent trips to temporary dumping sites.

Capacity and Management, including Security

UNRWA will continue to assist displaced families through a team of staff trained on emergency response. Lessons learned from previous conflicts and the ongoing pandemic response, including ensuring the neutrality of UNRWA installations and further mainstreaming of GBV risk mitigation, have been incorporated into UNRWA protocols.

Where needed, additional staff and material support will be deployed for information tracking (e.g. shelter damages assessments and interventions by social workers), monitoring, evaluation and quality assurance activities, as well as additional back-office and specialized surge support (e.g. MHPSS, protection, grant management), including by UNRWA HQ programmes and support departments.⁸

West Bank

Emergency health

Civil unrest in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, has resulted in an increased demand for emergency medical services for those injured and MHPSS for those traumatized by the ongoing confrontations and violence. In response, UNRWA will strengthen access to essential health services for vulnerable, remote and isolated refugees, including primary health care and emergency responses, through mobile, standby teams to support existing staff to respond to the increased needs.

Unconditional multi-sectoral cash assistance

In the West Bank including East Jerusalem, UNRWA will strengthen its assessment and preparedness capacity, and will provide multipurpose cash subsidies to an estimated 80 to 100 families whose properties have sustained damage in ISF operations and/or clashes, settler violence, forcible displacement and demolitions. Each family will



An Israeli Police checkpoint in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood of occupied East Jerusalem. © 2021 UNRWA Photo by Kazem Abu Khalaf

receive on average US\$ 1,300 (support will vary based on type of response).

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

UNRWA will enhance MHPSS service provision for refugees affected by violence, including GBV survivors and vulnerable persons with disabilities, women and girls.

Children have been seriously affected by the recent escalation in hostilities and violence, causing psychological distress and depriving them of a safe and secure space to access education. Following the temporary closure of schools due to heightened tensions between 16 and 19 May, UNRWA school counsellors have resumed their work in close coordination with teachers and School Principals to provide urgent psychological support services during the last few weeks of the school term,

and to identify vulnerable and affected children for inclusion in dedicated PSS interventions over the summer break and into the new school year.

To continue to support the psychosocial well-being of refugee children, UNRWA will run summer camps, targeting up to 5,185 students from grade 7 to 9 (ages 12 to 15) across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Additionally, in response to the steep increase in PSS needs among students in Gaza, the possibility of a joint summer camp with students from the West Bank including East Jerusalem and Gaza will also be explored.

Protection

UNRWA will continue to provide protection responses for vulnerable refugees affected by confrontations, settler violence and forcible displacement. Advocacy, monitoring and

documentation of Human Rights (HR) and IHL violations will also continue, with a focus on excessive use of force, displacement threats, and refugee communities highly vulnerable to violence perpetrated by ISF and/or Israeli settlers.

Environmental health

Under this appeal, UNRWA will repair / replace waste containers in refugee camps damaged during recent clashes and confrontations.

Capacity and management, including security

Given the deteriorating security situation in the West Bank, UNRWA will enhance its security measures in all areas across the West Bank, including the UNRWA compound in East Jerusalem, to ensure compliance with security recommendations and ensure the safety and well-being of the Agency's personnel.

Where needed, additional temporary staff and material support might be deployed for information tracking (e.g. assessments), monitoring, reporting and grant management, and support to operations.

footnotes

1 UNRWA remains an active participant in the shelter cluster and is part of coordinated damage assessments and the rapid damage and needs assessment (RDNA) that the World Bank is organizing in Gaza in coordination with UNSCO. UNRWA remains an active participant in the shelter cluster and is part of coordinated damage assessments and the rapid damage and needs assessment (RDNA) that the World Bank is organizing in Gaza in coordination with UNSCO.

2 [Response to the escalation in the oPt | Situation Report No. 3 \(4-10 June 2021\) | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - occupied Palestinian territory \(ochaopt.org\)](#)

3 UNRWA Protection and Neutrality Database

4 UNRWA Protection and Neutrality Database

5 An estimated 900 families own more than one shelter unit impacted by the hostilities. UNRWA will only provide support for one shelter unit per family.

6 Based on UNRWA estimates and initial assessments provided by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing.

7 Efforts are still underway in 2021 to reconstruct homes destroyed during the 2014 conflict. In accordance with the HCT approach recommended by the Shelter Cluster and presented in the oPt inter-agency flash appeal launched on 27 May 2021, families who lost their homes in the 2014 escalation of hostilities and remain displaced, and those who live in homes that were damaged in that context and are yet to be repaired, remain priorities and support will resume upon availability of funds. Financial requirements in this appeal do not include outstanding needs from 2014.

8 Costs of HQ support needs are included in the management and capacity budget lines.



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وكالة الأمم المتحدة لإغاثة وتشغيل
اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في الشرق الأدنى