

State of Palestine Consolidated Emergency Report 2016



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Abbreviations and Acronyms

CAAC	Children and Armed Conflict
CMAM	Community Management of Acute Malnutrition
CMWU	Coastal Municipalities Water Utility
CPT	Christian Peacemakers Team
CPWG	Child Protection Working Groups
DCI	Defence for Children International
EEAPI	Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme for Palestine and Israel
EiE	Education in Emergency
ERWs	Explosive Remnants of War
GOP	Government of Palestine
HAC	Humanitarian Action for Children
HACT	Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers
HCYS	Higher Council for Youth and Sport
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding practices
LTA	Long Term Agreements
MAP	Medical Aid for Palestinians
MENARO	Middle East and North Africa Regional Office
MHPSG	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Group
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys
MIRA	Multi-agency Initial Rapid Assessment
MoFP	Ministry of Finance and Planning
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoSD	Ministry of Social Development
MODA	Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis
NGO	Non-governmental organisations
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PCBS	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
PEFE	Palestine Education for Employment
PWA	Palestinian Water Authority
SRSG	Special Representative to the Secretary General
SoP	State of Palestine
SYFS	Save Youth Future Society
SRP	Strategic Response Plan
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees
WB	West Bank
WGGV	Working Group on Grave Violations
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The humanitarian needs in the State of Palestine (SoP) remained high in 2016, with the main drivers for humanitarian action being directly linked to the impact of the Israeli military occupation, which has entered its 50th year at the writing of this report. Territorial fragmentation and restrictions on Palestinians' movement negatively affect access to basic services. In Gaza, the 10-year blockade and three major escalations of hostilities over the past six years have increased deprivations and exacerbated the vulnerability of the 1.8 million Palestinians living in the Strip. The blockade has isolated Gaza from the rest of the world. Poverty and unemployment have driven more than a quarter of all households into food insecurity; an estimated one million people are in need of health and nutrition interventions; and 1.8 million people require some form of protection assistance.¹

In the West Bank, the tensions and violence that started in October 2015 spilled over into 2016, leading to a high number of Palestinian casualties recorded in the first two quarters of the year. These escalations led to a sharp increase in arrests and detentions, including of children, and increased restrictions on movement, roadblocks and incursions in schools. Settler violence continued to hinder children's access to education, and attacks on schools and forced incursions into schools by Israeli Security Forces became frequent. Significant numbers of West Bank children were also displaced as the Government of Israel carried out an increased number of home demolitions.²

In Gaza, children and families' resilience capacity continues to be eroded as the population has exhausted family coping mechanisms, which provided forms of support that households have historically relied upon. Families struggle to get by with one of the highest unemployment rates in the world at 41.7%, disproportionately affecting youth (60%) and women (65.3%). Additionally the living conditions of the 65,000 people who remain displaced as a result of the 2014 hostilities in Gaza, raise a range of humanitarian concerns among which the vulnerability of certain groups, particularly children. The restrictions imposed by Israel since April 2016 on the entry of building materials into the Gaza Strip, slowed the pace of reconstruction of homes destroyed or damaged during the 2014 conflict.

Against this backdrop, in 2016, UNICEF continued to work closely with partners focusing on the most vulnerable in Gaza, Area C of the West Bank and East Jerusalem. As part of the inter-agency 2016 Strategic Response Plan (January to December 2016) UNICEF appealed for USD 41,924,871. At end December 2015, around USD 21,314,605 million (51 percent of the appeal) was available for 2016.

In the health sector, UNICEF supported quality **health services** for children and women in affected communities through the provision of essential life-saving drugs and micronutrients. The Health and Nutrition programme also provided essential life-saving neonatal and maternal health care services.

In response to the water difficulties, UNICEF, through its **WASH** programme enabled sustainable access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation by repairing, upgrading and rehabilitating the damaged water networks in Gaza. In the water-scarce communities of the West Bank, UNICEF continued to provide tankered water. The programme also focused on improved hygiene practices through the provision of hygiene kits and community awareness campaigns.

In **education**, UNICEF in Gaza supported school-aged children to access formal and non-formal remedial learning sessions and provided educational supplies. In the West Bank, UNICEF reached the most disadvantaged adolescents with life-skills and stress relief activities, and supported the protective presence and/or accompaniment of children and teaching staff to schools in the most at risks areas including Hebron (H2 in the Old City) and East Jerusalem.

¹ Humanitarian Response Plan, 2017 UNOCHA 2016

² Defence for Children International, Year-in-review: Worst abuses against Palestinian children in 2016, Jan.1, 2017 http://www.dci-palestine.org/year_in_review_2016

UNICEF reached children and caregivers with **child protection** services, including psychosocial support and counselling through 28 family centers in Gaza. The monitoring and reporting on grave violations continued to be strengthened, together with advocacy for improved protection of Palestinian children in Israeli military detention.

UNICEF also supported the strengthening of national capacities towards emergency preparedness, through the development of contingency plans and support to capacity building programmes. Essential lifesaving drugs were prepositioned, first-aid training sessions were conducted in schools for children, teachers and school principals to improve their capacities to respond in emergencies.

With the purpose to ensure a harmonized, integrated and coordinated humanitarian response, UNICEF supported humanitarian clusters and working groups. It is chairing the WASH cluster and co-leads the education cluster. UNICEF also chairs the Child Protection and co-chairs the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Working Groups, as well as plays an active role in the health sector group. These mechanisms provide the fora for UNICEF's humanitarian response to be effective, coordinated, and meet the identified needs in a timely and consultative manner.

The Working Group on Grave Violations (WGGV), led by UNICEF, contributed to the Security General Annual Report on children and armed conflict. Four quarterly Global Horizontal Notes on Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC) were prepared and shared with the SRSG CAAC (in Quarter 3 and 4 of 2015, and Quarters 1 and 2 of 2016).

In Palestine, UNICEF systematically links development and humanitarian assistance, integrating risk factors into programming, and strengthening systems that can anticipate as well as absorb shocks in the event of conflict, violence or disasters. UNICEF ensures complementarity with national efforts in the most vulnerable communities, especially in Gaza, Area C of the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

In line with the country's inter-agency 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan, UNICEF is requesting USD 24,546,000 for the year 2017 to meet the humanitarian needs of children in the State of Palestine. Without additional funding, UNICEF will be unable to support affected communities with critical health, education, child protection and WASH services in highly vulnerable areas.

2. HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT

2.1 Overall Country Situation

The major drivers of humanitarian vulnerability in the State of Palestine remain characterized by the occupation, the systematic denial of Palestinian rights and continuing protection crisis with frequent outbreaks of violence. According to OCHA, one in two Palestinians, roughly 2.3 million people were estimated to need some form of humanitarian assistance in 2016. Some one million of the affected 2.3 million were children under 18 years of age.

In Gaza, damage to infrastructure has not yet recovered from the 2014 war, homes have not been fully reconstructed, explosive remnants of war (ERWs) continue to pose a serious threat, and the destruction of water and wastewater infrastructure has exposed children to



A student at Shejaiya School for Girls, which was half destroyed in the 2014 conflict. The school is being rebuilt as part of a 2016-2017 UNICEF-UNDP project. UNICEF SoP / Eyad El Baba

increased risk of waterborne illness. The coastal aquifer's water is contaminated by seawater seeping in and saline groundwater rising from deeper in the reservoir, the lack of wastewater treatment in the Gaza Strip is a grave issue, which is aggravated by electricity shortages so plants cannot not be operated.³ Chronic power deficits also disrupt basic services, including education, health and nutrition. Shortages of essential drugs continue to compromise an already exhausted health system, as healthcare services struggle to function without adequate stocks of lifesaving medicines and supplies. One in every four children in Gaza is in need of protection, including psychosocial support.

In the West Bank, limited access to safe, sufficient and affordable water also poses a major challenge for women and their families. While 95 per cent of the total population is connected to water networks, water availability, reliability or quality remains an issue, in that about 35,000 people are estimated to be without water network connections in vulnerable communities in Area C of the West Bank.

The water and sanitation conditions in the State of Palestine continued to pose a threat to the health and the well-being of children and people's livelihoods. Restrictions imposed on WASH infrastructural development by the blockade and the occupation have led to some 1.45 million people in Palestine (around 1.3 million people in the Gaza Strip and 150,000 people in the West Bank) being in need of humanitarian WASH related assistance.⁴ Additionally, in Gaza, low-lying areas face risk of flooding, which could affect up to 500,000 people, as well as 64 schools and 10 health centres.⁵

The restrictions imposed by Israel since April 2016 on the entry of building materials into the Gaza Strip, slowed the pace of reconstruction of homes destroyed or damaged during the 2014 conflict, and prolonged the vulnerability of more than 10,000 families who are still displaced.⁶ Some 900 people, a third of them children, sustained some form of permanent disability during the 2014 hostilities and about 100 underwent amputation of limbs.⁷

In 2016, it was estimated that at least 1.8 million Palestinians required protection measures due to experiencing or being at risk of conflict and violence, displacement, denial of access to livelihoods, administrative detention, psycho-social distress or exposure to explosive remnants of war. In the first quarter of 2016, the situation remained tense with 22 children killed and 441 injured, decreasing to 4 children killed and 186 injured in the second quarter, and 6 children killed and 190 injured in the third quarter. The worst affected areas included Hebron, East Jerusalem and Area C of the West Bank. UNICEF is facilitating the consultative development of a Child Protection strategy for these areas. There is a continuous need for the provision of mental health and psychosocial support services to children, due to the continued distress in children, as a result of growing up in a society permeated with restrictions, hardship, and the ongoing threat of a new escalation of conflict which leaves them with a deep sense of insecurity, fear and hopelessness.

The health sector is also affected by restrictions on the movement of patients, health staff, and widespread insecurity in the West Bank and Gaza. Restrictive planning and zoning policies in Area C hamper access of vulnerable Palestinian communities to quality essential health and nutritional services. In 2016, an estimated one million people were in need of humanitarian health and nutrition interventions; with 830,000 people in the Gaza Strip and 173,000 in the West Bank.

In Gaza, the Ministry of Health (MoH) is overburdened and under-resourced and the ongoing conflict has resulted in an increase in the maternal and neonatal mortality rates in the region including increased percentage of neonates that are at high risk of developmental delays and disabilities. The

³ http://www.btselem.org/gaza_strip/gaza_water_crisis

⁴ UNOCHA Humanitarian Response Plan Jan.2017,

http://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/humanitarian_response_plan_2017.pdf&chrome=true

⁵ Articles 13 December 2016. Preparedness for potential floods in Gaza, <http://www.ochaopt.org/publications/articles>

⁶ UNOCHA Article 13 december 2016 <http://www.ochaopt.org/publications/articles>

⁷ <https://www.ochaopt.org/publications/fact-sheets>, Gaza: two years since the 2014 hostilities, Aug.2016

severe fuel shortages and prolonged electricity cuts lead to delays in treatment. This has a direct impact on the health of patients, particularly those in need of critical care such as, Neonatal intensive Care Units (NICU), intensive Care Units (ICU), emergency and hemodialysis units, which need power to keep lifesaving equipment running.

Humanitarian needs in education remain high as the educational system, particularly in Gaza, faced chronic challenges of overcrowded schools and double shifts. Student performance is falling behind that of the West Bank. The education system is also affected by recurrent power outages, poor shelter and living conditions, and economic deprivation. In the West Bank, the increased number of attacks against education registered through mechanisms to monitor grave violations of child rights (127 from Jan-May 2016) demonstrate the continuous and critical need to increase the protection of children and teachers on their way to and in schools and provision of psychosocial support services to mitigate the effects of continued violence. The increased number of settlements, checkpoints and other types of physical obstructions that children and teachers have to cross daily to reach schools are key points of friction between the military and the Palestinian civilian population. As of 31 January 2017 there were 98 fixed checkpoints in the West Bank, including 59 internal checkpoints, located well within the West Bank. The figure for internal checkpoints includes 18 in the H2 Area in Hebron, where there are small Israeli settlement enclaves.⁸ In 2016, education-related incidents documented by the UN totalled 256.

The high unemployment rate of young people and lack of opportunities, coupled with violence they face daily, remains a significant challenge throughout Palestine, creating a feeling of hopelessness among the youth. This age group is among the most marginalized groups in the society. Many are living below the poverty line with limited access to basic social services and adequate opportunities to play active roles in the community life. In Gaza, these challenges are compounded with a high level of stress due to the isolation and lack of opportunities resulting from the 10 year blockade.

Increased demolitions are yet another major concern that have exacerbated the humanitarian needs in the West Bank. Demolitions in the West Bank communities of Area C and East Jerusalem have generated on-going displacement, affecting a significant number of children as the Government of Israel carried out a record-breaking pace of home demolitions.⁹ During 2016, the Israeli authorities demolished or seized 1,093 Palestinian-owned structures throughout the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, displacing over 1,600 Palestinians, around half of them children, and affecting the livelihoods of more than 7,000 others. These figures are nearly double those of 2015 and the highest since 2009, when OCHA began the systematic monitoring of demolitions.¹⁰ The vast majority of these structures were located in Area C and East Jerusalem.

Furthermore, in this bleak reality, the need to support vulnerable households to better cope with the prolonged nature of the humanitarian crisis and the recurrent cycle of natural and manmade shocks, has increased. Such dynamics are significantly magnified in the Gaza context, given the restrictions associated with the ten year blockade and its isolation from the world.

2.2 Purpose of the Response

UNICEF's commitment to humanitarian response derives from its commitment to a body of global norms and standards, both from intergovernmental forums and humanitarian partnerships. These norms and standards include: a) International human rights law and human rights principles, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; b) International humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions,

⁸ http://www.btselem.org/freedom_of_movement/checkpoints_and_forbidden_roads

⁹ Defence for Children International, Year-in-review: Worst abuses against Palestinian children in 2016, Jan.1, 2017
http://www.dci-palestine.org/year_in_review_2016

¹⁰ <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/record-number-demolitions-and-displacements-west-bank-during-2016>

which contribute to defining roles and responsibilities of humanitarian agencies in armed conflict, and; c) Humanitarian principles, derived from international humanitarian law and described in General Assembly resolutions, which are meant to be applied in all humanitarian action.

In this context, UNICEF focuses on humanitarian response and preparedness in the areas of Child Protection, WASH, Health and Nutrition, and Education and Adolescent interventions. It ensures complementarity with national efforts in reaching the most vulnerable communities, especially in the Gaza Strip, Area C of the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

In 2016, UNICEF and its partners continued to focus the humanitarian interventions on rebuilding the lives of affected children and families with the aim of alleviating suffering and building resilience.

Mutually reinforcing links: UNICEF continues to promote the linkage between humanitarian and development programming, as outlined in the UNICEF Palestine Country Programme Action Plan, building the continuum from life-saving support to resilience building. UNICEF's Country Programme and strategies are frameworks aligned to the Palestinian Government's Detailed Needs Assessment and Response for Gaza, the Humanitarian Response Plan and other relevant humanitarian and recovery strategies. UNICEF is an active member of the Humanitarian Country Team, the Advocacy Working Group, and the Task Force on East Jerusalem, consisting of humanitarian and development actors coordinating on policy, operational and advocacy issues.

UNICEF promotes **cross-sectoral programming and coordination** on a broad range of policy and operational issues, which includes ensuring the linkages between Education, Child Protection, Health, Nutrition and WASH programmes. For instance, the WASH programme supports access to water and emergency shelters in schools, linking it to the Education programme, and the Health and Nutrition programme through the implementation of good hygiene practices thereby promoting increased health practices and wellbeing.



A woman buys hygiene items as part of the joint UNICEF-WFP evoucher programme. UNICEF SoP / ElBaba

As part of its humanitarian action, UNICEF continued to partner with the WFP to implement the innovative **multi-sector emergency** e-voucher programme targeting vulnerable children and families still suffering from the adverse effects of the 2014 conflict in Gaza. In 2016, the programme reached about 13,000 households with water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) assistance and 8,083 children with education assistance. Out of those that benefitted from WASH assistance, about 4,000 households gained new knowledge about good nutrition and hygiene practices through 12-week awareness raising sessions.

The planned response in **Health & Nutrition** for 2016, was to ensure that 240,000 children in Gaza and the West Bank have access to life-saving drugs, essential drugs and consumables. Around 125,000 children and 125,000 women in Gaza and the West Bank were expected to benefit from micronutrient supplementation. The response plan also envisaged the provision of neonate care services for some 10,000 children through PHC services, in mobile clinics (WB) and postnatal outreach (Gaza).

The planned response in **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene** was to restore access to safe water and adequate sanitation in Gaza and Area C of the West Bank through the repair and rehabilitation of water

and wastewater networks, water tankering, and the provision of hygiene supplies to highly vulnerable families. The WASH programme envisaged reaching 96,436 people in humanitarian situations for improved access to water, as well as 58,818 people being reached for improved access to sanitation services. The programme also envisaged the provision of sanitation and hygiene items (hygiene kits and e-vouchers) to 53,600 beneficiaries. Additionally, some 141,468 people would have access to safe drinking water in water-scarce areas of the West Bank.

UNICEF's planned humanitarian response in the area of **Education** was to increase safe access to adequate learning space, and ensure remedial learning including after school recreational programmes for children living in Gaza and the West Bank. The programme planned to provide 90,000 children with school supplies and materials; ensure that 4,700 children and teachers in the West Bank benefitted from protective presence and/or accompaniment to school; and provide remedial education for some 20,000 children in Gaza.

Under its **Adolescents** programme, UNICEF's planned humanitarian response was to continue promoting resilience and positive coping mechanisms among adolescents, through ensuring that some 30,000 adolescents participate in life-skills building, stress relief and community based activities.

The **Child Protection** planned humanitarian response aimed at supporting community-based centres and Government led Child Protection Networks for the provision of child protection services, including psychosocial support, as well as the monitoring and documentation of grave violations against children. More specifically, child protection services were planned for 100,075 children and caregivers, and psychosocial support services were planned for 60,000 children and adolescents, the latter to be received through community based family centers and Government led CPN. It also envisaged the monitoring and documenting up to 2500 incidents of grave violations against children. In Gaza, the programme committed to reach 212,352 children and caregivers with ERW/UXO¹¹ risk education messages.

3. HUMANITARIAN RESULTS

3.1 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

The UNICEF **WASH** Programme supported national authorities to provide safe water and sanitation through water tankering and network repairs; increased storage capacity through the installation of water tanks, improved wastewater networks, and the provision of hygiene kits.

The close collaboration and coordination with the partners such as the PWA, CMWU, ACF, GVC and MAAN was critical to the achievement of the following WASH programme's results.

In 2016, over 53,123 people in humanitarian situations benefited from improved access to safe water, and a total of 9,968 people benefited from improved access to sanitation services. The programme successfully ensured the provision of sanitation and hygiene items (hygiene kits and vouchers) to 53,600 beneficiaries. In the water-scarce areas of the West Bank, 28,972 people in the most vulnerable locations benefited from access to safe drinking water.

While WASH-in-schools was not a main focus of the humanitarian response, data collected by UNICEF from 381 schools across Palestine reflect the fact that more needs to be done. Too many schools are still inadequately equipped with toilets, handwashing facilities and drinking water points, despite an encouragingly increasing number of such facilities in schools, compared to a baseline established in 2011. In addition, UNICEF and partners will continue in 2017 to implement innovative methods in addressing the water crisis, especially in Gaza and vulnerable areas in the West Bank.

¹¹ ERW stands for 'Explosive remnants of war'; and UXO, stands for 'unexploded ordnance'.

3.2 Child Protection



Children with their mothers during a child/ parents interaction activity facilitated by a staff from the mobile Family Centre in Juhor Ad Deek, Gaza Strip. UNICEF SoP / ElBaba

In 2016, UNICEF provided **child protection** services, including psychosocial support and counselling. In Gaza, these services were provided through 28 Family Centers. A total of 35,423 children and adolescents benefited from psychosocial support services and 47,645 children and caregivers received protection services through 28 community-based family centres in Gaza, and through Government-led Child Protection Networks in the West Bank.

Furthermore, in 2016, the child protection programme reached 162,384 children and caregivers

through ERW/UXO risk education messages.

UNICEF submitted Global Horizontal Notes (GHNs) to the SRSG Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC), which contributed to the Security General CAAC Annual Report. The 2015 Annual Report was published in April 2016. As chair of the Working Group on Grave Violations of child rights, UNICEF ensured the reports were consultatively compiled collecting, collating, analyzing data, and reaching consensus on the inputs to the report, using the database administered by UNICEF.

Between January and September 2016, 2,050 incidents were documented affecting 24,768 children. This included the killings of 32 children - 31 Palestinian children (2 girls & 29 boys) and 1 Israeli girl - and injury of 817 children (756 boys and 61 girls, out of which 4 boys and 2 girls were Israeli). In addition, 152 attacks on schools were documented. In relation to incidents of grave violations against children, the worst affected areas included Hebron, East Jerusalem and Area C. UNICEF is currently facilitating the consultative development of a Child Protection strategy for these areas.

3.3 Education and Programming for Adolescents

Humanitarian needs in education remain high as the educational system, particularly in Gaza, faces chronic challenges of overcrowded schools and double shifts. Student performance is falling behind that of the West Bank. Recurrent power outages, poor shelter and living conditions, and economic deprivation are also factors affecting the education levels and system in Gaza. UNICEF supports school-aged children to access formal and non-formal remedial/catch-up learning sessions and educational supplies. It also supported, in Gaza, the learning of 6,760 students in grades 5-6 who continue to face learning challenges as a result of the 2014 conflict, with remedial education and catch up classes.

In the West Bank between Jan-May 2016, 127 attacks against education were registered through the CAAC mechanisms demonstrating the continuous and critical need for increasing the protection of children and teachers on their way to/from schools and the provision of psychosocial support services through schools, to mitigate the effects of continued violence. In addressing these humanitarian needs, UNICEF facilitated access to schools for 4,667 students and teachers (4,334 children and 333 teachers) in the most vulnerable areas of the West Bank through protective presence and/or accompaniment to

school. Furthermore, the education response included the provision of supplies and materials for 71,705 children in Gaza.

In Gaza and the West Bank, UNICEF supported adolescents with life-skills and stress relief activities, as well as civic engagement and entrepreneurial learning programmes. UNICEF and its partners Alnayzak, Pal Vision, Maan, and Tamer provided adolescents with safe and stimulating spaces to develop initiatives related to building trust between community members and adolescents and improving social cohesion within and between communities. In 2016, some 18,122 (57 per cent females) disadvantaged adolescents in Gaza and the West Bank participated in life-skills building and community based activities.

3.5 Health and Nutrition

The Gaza's health system was still severely under threat two years after the 51 days of escalated violence, and the ongoing chronic shortages of staff and supplies due to the 10-year blockade continued to be a major concern. In August 2016, the number of zero stock drugs including life-saving reached 27% (131 items) and 336 items of medical disposables (37%), and 35% of laboratory material were not available in Gaza. In response to this crisis, UNICEF provided life-saving drugs, in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Partners ensuring that 408,020 children and women benefitted from emergency health care services and supplies.



A mother receives 'plumpy nut' nutritional supplement procured by UNICEF at a hospital in the Gaza Strip. UNICEF SoP / ElBaba

Despite concerted interventions to tackle the micronutrient deficiencies, this is still prevalent and remains a public health issue. In 2016, UNICEF supported the provision of quality health services for children and women in affected communities through the provision of essential drugs and micronutrients, thereby ensuring that 299,959 children and women received micronutrient supplements to address this grave situation.

The MoH in Gaza and UNICEF concentrated efforts on post-natal home visiting activities, with the support of partners, such as the Near East Council of Churches (NECC) and the Union of Health Worker Committees (UHCWC), targeting hard-to-reach locations and vulnerable communities. Since January 2016, some 7,481 high risk women and their new-borns (84 per cent of the annual target) benefited from home based interventions of mother and child care, infant and young child feeding practices counselling and curative care. Furthermore, some 6,177 children received life-saving neonate care services. The health programme also facilitated the provision of malnutrition screening and referral in case of malnutrition for children and women.

3.6 Results Table

Summary of Programme Results	Overall needs	Cluster Response		UNICEF and IPs	
		2016 Targets	Total Results	2016 Targets	Total Results
WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE					
# of people in humanitarian situation benefited from improved access to water	732,000	518,000	286,724	96,436	53,123
# of people in humanitarian situation benefited from improved access to sanitation services	600,000	358,000	33,503	58,818	9,968
# of beneficiaries provided with sanitation /hygiene items (hygiene kits / vouchers)	200,000	120,000	90,449	53,600	53,136
# of people in water-scarce areas in the West Bank benefited from access to safe drinking water	307,340	114,408	84,794	141,468	28,972
CHILD PROTECTION					
# of children / adolescents benefited from psychosocial support services.	282,000	94,542	127,837	60,000	35,423
# of children / caregivers receiving protection services through community based family centers and Government led CPN	210,000	200,000	83,093	100,075	47,645
# of incidents of grave violations against children monitored and documented	2,500	2,500	2,050	2,500	2,050
# of children / caregivers reached through ERW/UXO risk education messages	550,000	266,162	207,362	212,352	162,384
EDUCATION					
# of children benefited from provision of supplies and materials	400,118	121,025	347,516	90,000	71,705
# of children and teachers benefiting from protective presence / accompaniment to school	5,692	4,700	4,667	4,700	4,667
# of adolescents participating in life-skills building and community based activities	230,254	30,000	7,055	30,000	18,122
# of children benefited from remedial education	70,000	254,136	43,260	20,000	6,760
HEALTH and NUTRITION					
# of children and women benefiting from emergency health care services / supplies	1,400,000	272,263	408,020	240,000	408,020
# of children and women who have received micronutrient supplements	250,000	250,000	299,959	250,000	299,959
# of children provided with life –saving neonate care services	55,000	50,000	6,177	10,000	6,177

3.7 Factors for Success and Constraints

In a context of protracted humanitarian crisis, the programmes faced a series of **constraints** and challenges associated with the occupation, the Gaza blockade, intra-Palestinian divisions and the overall unstable political situation. Overall, this has been restricting the movement of people and goods, affecting people's daily lives.

The deficits in the availability of essential humanitarian materials and assets in Gaza, due to the blockade and introduction of the dual use list, is a major constraint to addressing the recurrent humanitarian needs. Twenty-three (23) WASH related items are listed as "dual-use" items' list, which are considered to be potentially usable for hostile purposes, hence the entry of these items into Gaza is restricted, causing delays in implementation, and adversely impacting the most vulnerable families.

Coordination with the authorities can, at times, be a cumbersome process, as can be seen in the case of WASH activities that require licenses and issuance of permits that are delayed as a consequence of these bureaucratic procedures.

The lack of electricity and fuel in Gaza frequently disrupts programme implementation in all sectors, including training and workshops.

Often, the limited availability of qualified personnel and the restriction of staff movement hinder programme implementation and humanitarian action. For instance, the restrictions on permits for health personnel to move in and out of Gaza pose additional constraints on health services and exacerbate already high levels of vulnerabilities.

Another challenge is the territorial fragmentation and geographical disconnect between Gaza and the West Bank, and within the West Bank along the administrative geographical divisions between areas A, B and C. This is compounded by internal political fragmentation.

Despite the many constraints, there are also **factors for success**. Long-term and consolidated partnerships with donors, both traditional and non-traditional, enabled UNICEF to secure essential funding to sustain its humanitarian response. UNICEF also diversified its partnerships, introducing best practices and innovation in SoP.

In addition, UNICEF SoP pursued the integration of humanitarian and development programming, including through child protection system strengthening, WASH activities in schools, the construction of a seawater desalination plant in Gaza, investing in education and life skills of adolescents, and the e-voucher programme, which started in July 2014 and continues to be used to help meet the needs of the affected and most vulnerable families in Gaza.

Through evidence-based advocacy, UNICEF has also been the voice of children, and supported youth engagement initiatives to raise awareness on children and adolescents' rights.

3.8 Gender

UNICEF ensures that all its programmes apply a gender lens in the design of its humanitarian programmes. The promotion of gender equality and women empowerment is integrated and reinforced in all programmes objectives and aims to improve the impact of programmes on the reduction of vulnerabilities and in advancing humanitarian action. Social risks such as discrimination, unequal distribution of resources and power in households exacerbate gender inequality. UNICEF interventions address the specific needs of girls and boys. The inclusion and participation of both boys and girls in its programmes is monitored, and results are disaggregated by sex when reporting. Programme agreements are reviewed by the office Gender Specialist. Through its multi-sector

response, UNICEF promoted equal access for girls and boys to services and initiatives supported in 2016. In addition, the office sought to empower girls through their participation in programme design and implementation. When facing social norms bottlenecks in the communities, UNICEF and its partners made special efforts to mobilize community members and promote behavior change, so that girls could participate in adolescent-led initiatives.

3.9 Partnerships

UNICEF maintained strategic partnerships with the Palestinian Authority (PA), in particular the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Palestinian Water Authority, and the Higher Council for Youth and Sports, in coordination with the Ministry of Finance and Planning (MoFP). UNICEF also maintained strong partnerships with national and international NGOs, and Civil Society to ensure outreach, especially in areas of restricted access to the PA.

The office continued to advocate and leverage resources for children through maintaining and expanding strategic partnerships with public and private donors. UNICEF used platforms for information sharing in relation to children's issues in Gaza, Area C and East Jerusalem. This enhanced dialogue with key donors around grave violations of child rights and issues of accountability.

3.10 Cluster / sector Coordination

UNICEF continued to promote inter-agency collaboration and inter-cluster coordination with a two-fold scope. First, to ensure that Cluster members effectively coordinate the humanitarian response, building on the lessons learnt and findings from past reviews. Second, to ensure policy and capacity building initiatives that are closely linked to national goals, including increased capacity and ownership.

UNICEF has been supporting and co-leading the **WASH Cluster** jointly with the PWA at the national level and in Gaza. UNICEF supported the development of the WASH related Humanitarian Needs Overview and the Humanitarian Response Plan, and provided information management support to the PWA and the WASH Cluster. UNICEF also led and finalized the updating of the WASH Cluster National Contingency Plan. The winterization response plan enabled the Cluster to provide timely response in early 2016 to around 80,000 people. Furthermore, WASH facilities have been installed in two Government schools Designated as Emergency Shelters (DES) in Gaza, drawing from lessons of the last conflict in 2014.

In its role as the co-lead of the **Education Cluster**, UNICEF invested considerable effort in strengthening government capacity to manage and coordinate its humanitarian response. UNICEF supported the MoEHE to mainstream education in emergencies into a standard Ministry function, improve their data and information management on violations against education and begin preparations of the first national contingency plan for the education sector since the PA was formed.

As part of the humanitarian cluster framework for coordination and collaboration on child protection, UNICEF chairs the **Child Protection** Working Groups (CPWG) in Gaza and the West Bank, the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Group (MHPSS), and the Working Group on Grave Violations against children. The CPWG in Gaza met monthly (12 times) and in the West Bank four times, bringing together 66 partners, and 26 partners respectively. This resulted in enhanced coordination and synergies around response to child protection needs.

Finally, UNICEF continued to closely cooperate with the MoH and WFP in co-leading the Nutrition Working Group under the Health and Nutrition Cluster, to build national capacity in nutrition emergency preparedness, including Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) in the West Bank and Gaza.

3. 11 Resilience

UNICEF's strategic approach continued to focus on integrating humanitarian and development programming, especially in strengthening systems across all sectors. This contributed to promote the sustainability of interventions, increased effectiveness, and strengthened resilience of children and families, as well as that of institutions that are expected to deliver essential services.



A girl with a disability stands on the Gaza Harbour as part of a global UNICEF campaign on climate change. UNICEF SoP / ElBaba

UNICEF programmes fostered resilience through its strategies to counter external shocks and cope with adversities, equipping families with the required tools, knowledge and skills.

4. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

UNICEF monitored the situation of children and women on a continued basis, using the established mechanisms and tools in coordination with the implementing partners. The Country Office also continued monitoring interventions through the humanitarian performance monitoring (HPM) system, which is updated on a monthly basis.

During monitoring visits to the field, UNICEF Staff systematically checked implementation progress, achievements of results and means of verification against the agreed framework, including the projects indicators. Recommendations in response to the field visit findings are documented and followed-up on. In 2016, findings from the monitoring activities were used to inform adjustments in programme design and implementation, so as to ensure the effective achievement of the desired results.

In line with the HACT framework, programmes are strengthened through conducting assurance activities (spot checks, audits, programme visits, partnership reviews) as well as ensuring due diligence by conducting a micro assessment of implementing partners to ascertain their capacities to deliver programmatically and financially soundly. Monitoring procedures include regular site visits to the field where implementation progress, achievements of results and means of verification are systematically checked against the agreed framework including the projects indicators. Recommendations in response to the field visit findings are documented and systematically followed up on.

UNICEF sought to strengthen its evaluation capacity by participating in a global Evaluation of Humanitarian Action Capacity Building Initiative. The initiative involves a practice “learning by doing” approach combining training with actual implementation of an evaluation activity. UNICEF's Humanitarian Action for Children undertaken between January 2014 and December 2015 was selected for this initiative. UNICEF's M&E specialist and the team leader from a local consultancy firm contracted to carry out the evaluation participated in the two capacity building training workshops held in Amman, Jordan. The local consultancy firm is supported by a senior international evaluation consultant engaged by the headquarters. Quality assurance support is being provided by both the headquarters and the Regional Office at all stages of the evaluation process. The data collection for the evaluation was concluded in January 2017. A draft report was subsequently developed and is undergoing a thorough

review process. The preliminary findings of the report indicate that UNICEF's response to the escalation of humanitarian crisis in Gaza in 2014 was largely successful; The package of core programs and interventions in the scale-up in Gaza were generally effective and implemented relatively efficiently, despite the extremely difficult security conditions, the ongoing closure of Gaza that restricts movement of goods and people, and the increase in occupation-related violence in the West Bank during the years under evaluation. The report is expected to be finalized in May 2017.

4. FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

As part of the inter-agency 2016 Strategic Response Plan (January to December 2016) UNICEF appealed for US\$ 41,924,871.

The UNICEF State of Palestine office promoted and maintained close engagement and institutional dialogue with multiple funding partners, in coordination with UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office (MENARO) and Headquarters. UNICEF reached out to a wide range of donors, including traditional government donors; National Committees for UNICEF and the private sector.

The Public Partnerships Division, Private Fundraising and Partnerships Division, the Office of the Executive Director, and the Emergency Programmes Office among others extended their support to mobilize funds to meet the urgent, life-saving needs of children and families in SoP.

As a result of these efforts, UNICEF was able to raise approximately US\$ 21,296,275¹² (51 percent of its appeal) against the appeal (table 1).

Table 1: 2016 Funding Status against the Appeal by Sector (in USD):

Sector	Requirements	Funds Available Against Appeal as of 31 December 2016*	% Funded
Health and Nutrition	9,317,700	3,781,699	41%
Education	9,763,664	2,768,955	28%
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	16,994,402	10,954,524	64%
Child Protection	3,569,000	3,312,657	93%
Cluster Coordination and Support Services	2,280,105	478,440	21%
Total	41,924,871	21,296,275	51%

* Funds available includes funds received against current appeal and carry-forward from previous year.

Thematic humanitarian funds received in 2016 amounted to US\$ 122,874 together with carry-over amounts of US\$ 1,804,908 have enabled UNICEF to timely respond to newly emerging needs. These contributions helped UNICEF provide timely support to affected and vulnerable children and families, and to ensure effective cluster coordination for a more efficient and effective humanitarian response. These funds remain valuable resources allowing for flexibility and swift adjustment of the planning and programming according to the changing humanitarian needs.

¹² Table 1 reflects programmable amounts.

Table 2: Funding received and available in 2016 by Donor and funding type (in US\$)

Donor Name/Type of funding	Programme Budget Allotment reference	Programmable Amount*
I. Humanitarian funds received in 2016		
a) Thematic Humanitarian Funds		
See details in Table 3	SM/14/9910	122,874
b) Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds		
Japan	SM/16/0067	7,000,000
European Commission / ECHO	SM/16/0365	554,939
Total Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds		7,554,939
c) Pooled Funding (i) CERF Grants: (ii) Other Pooled funds – N/A		1,475,933
UNOCHA	SM/16/0379	497,270
UNOCHA	SM/16/0623	480,551
UNOCHA	SM/16/0612	251,316
UNOCHA	SM/16/0381	246,796
d) Other types of humanitarian funds		N/A
Total humanitarian funds received in 2016 (a+b+c+d)		9,153,746
II. Carry-over of humanitarian funds available in 2016		
e) Carry over Thematic Humanitarian:		
Thematic Humanitarian Funds	SM/14/9910	1,804,908
f) Carry-over of non-thematic humanitarian funds		
USA USAID	SM150100	3,406,064
Canada	SM150426	3,358,917
Japan	SM150055	1,834,356
Spain	SM150508	504,317
The United Kingdom	SM130487	469,771
Belgium	SM150387	376,129
Canada	SM150213	226,769
French Committee for UNICEF	SM150176	80,629
UNICEF-United Arab Emirates	SM150097	45,440
The United Kingdom	SM120158	26,799
UNICEF-United Arab Emirates	SM150096	15,238
Estonia	SM140392	365
Total carry-over non-thematic humanitarian funds		10,344,794
Total carry-over humanitarian funds (e + f)		12,149,704
III. Other sources: N/A		

* Programmable amounts of donor contributions, excluding recovery cost.

** 2016 loans have not been waived; COs are liable to reimburse in 2017 as donor funds become available.

Table 3: Thematic Humanitarian Contributions Received in 2016 (in US\$)

Donor	Grant Number ¹³	Programmable Amount (in USD)	Total Contribution Amount
United States Fund for UNICEF	SM/14/9910/1228	68,550	71,978
United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF	SM/14/9910/1255	31,205	32,765
International On-line Donations	SM/14/9910/0748	17,268	18,131
Total		117,023	122,874

**Global thematic humanitarian funding contributions are pooled and then allocated to country and regional offices. For a detailed list of grants, please see the 2016 Annual Results Reports.*

5. 2017 FUTURE WORK PLANS

Within the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), at least 2 million Palestinians in SoP will be in need of humanitarian assistance in 2017, of which 1.6 million people are targeted (1.1 million people in Gaza Strip and 0.5 million in the West Bank). An estimated 911,000 are children under 18 years of age. The total required funds for humanitarian assistance stands at 547 million, to be disseminated along 95 partners.¹⁴

UNICEF is requesting US\$ 24,546,000 to meet the humanitarian needs of children in the State of Palestine in 2017. Without additional funding, UNICEF will be unable to provide critical health, WASH child protection and education services to affected communities. It is paramount that children and caregivers in highly vulnerable areas have access to protection services, and that their right to safe drinking water, essential drugs and education is not compromised.

The following are the 2017 humanitarian programme targets:

Health (US\$ 2,804,500)

- 45,000 children and 50,000 pregnant women in Gaza and vulnerable communities in the West Bank will benefit from emergency pediatric, neonate and maternal health care supplies;
- 1000 vulnerable children and their mothers will benefit from targeted outreach health care interventions;
- 500 vulnerable newborns will benefit from quality early newborn life-saving and effective interventions;
- 110 doctors and nurses will have enhanced skills on provision of maternal and child health, nutrition, life-saving interventions and counseling services (at least 70% are female);
- 2 neonate units will be equipped to provide quality neonate and intensive care services; one in North Gaza and one in East Jerusalem.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (US\$ 12,913,574)

- 129,277 people (with around 64,639 children) will benefit from increased access to water, adequate sanitation and hygiene;
- 25,431 of students and teachers with access to improved WASH facilities in schools.

¹³ International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) requires all grants to be listed in reporting.
<http://iatistandard.org/>

¹⁴ Humanitarian Response Plan 2017, UNOCHA oPt

Education and Programming for Adolescents (US\$ 3,985,600)

- 4,400 children and 300 teachers will benefit from protective presence, and accompaniment to ensure safe access to education;
- 40,000 children in the West Bank and Gaza will benefit from school uniforms will benefit from educational supplies and school uniforms;
- 5,000 children in grades 3 to 6 will benefit from catch up classes (2000) and participating in school based extracurricular activities (3000);
- 3,000 adolescents will benefit from life-skills programmes and community-based activities for emergency preparedness.

Child Protection (US\$ 3,439,800)

- 53,696 children will benefit from structured psychosocial and child protection interventions;
- 1,500 women and men who receive information on their rights and access legal services;
- 2,467 incidents of grave violations against children monitored and documented;
- 46,596 people (children and caregivers) receive ERW risk education, including children.

Cluster coordination (US\$ 1,402,500)

- WASH Cluster and sub-cluster coordination mechanism is maintained to ensure timely humanitarian response;
- Education Cluster will ensure a more effective response capacity by mobilising partners in line with the cluster lead arrangements at the country level;
- Child Protection sub-cluster coordination mechanism will be strengthened to timely coordinate with the Protection Cluster and/or other humanitarian actors to prevent unintentional harm to children;
- Monitoring and reporting of grave violations will be strengthened with improved protection of the rights of children in military detention.

6. EXPRESSION OF THANKS

On behalf of children and women in the State of Palestine, UNICEF is sincerely appreciative of the generous contributions made by governments, National Committees, Foundations, NGOs and other UN agencies that have made it possible to meet the needs of girls and boys in Palestine.

It is through such generous support, joint efforts and coordination that it is possible to respond to a protracted humanitarian crisis of such a scale and complexity. UNICEF would also like to extend thanks to partners across all countries for their tireless efforts in achieving results for children and focusing on saving lives, alleviating suffering and ensuring respect for children's rights.

Annex 1: Report Feedback Form

UNICEF is working to improve the quality of our reports and would highly appreciate your feedback. Kindly answer the questions below for the above-mentioned report. Thank you! Please return the completed form back to UNICEF by email to:

Name: Lara Abu-Shilbayeh, Programme and Planning Specialist
UNICEF State of Palestine
Email: labushilbayeh@unicef.org

**SCORING: 5 indicates “highest level of satisfaction” while
0 indicates “complete dissatisfaction”**

1. To what extent did the narrative content of the report conform to your reporting expectations? (For example, the overall analysis and identification of challenges and solutions)

5	4	3	2	1	0

If you have not been fully satisfied, could you please tell us what we missed or what we could do better next time?

2. To what extent did the fund utilization part of the report meet your reporting expectations?

5	4	3	2	1	0

If you have not been fully satisfied, could you please tell us what we missed or what we could do better next time?

3. To what extent does the report meet your expectations in regard to the analysis provided, including identification of difficulties and shortcomings as well as remedies to these?

5	4	3	2	1	0

If you have not been fully satisfied, could you please tell us what we could do better next time?

4. To what extent does the report meet your expectations with regard to reporting on results?

5	4	3	2	1	0

If you have not been fully satisfied, could you please tell us what we missed or what we could do better next time?

5. Please provide us with your suggestions on how this report could be improved to meet your expectations.

6. Are there any other comments that you would like to share with us?

Thank you for filling this form.