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Humanitarian Action for Children

State of Palestine

Children and families in the State of Palestine are exposed to conflict, violence and displacement, as well as the denial of access to livelihoods and basic services, including safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and health care. Across the State of Palestine, an estimated one in every two Palestinians—approximately 2.5 million people—will require humanitarian assistance in 2018.¹ Child protection concerns are widespread and children face high levels of violence, are victims of grave violations of their rights, and suffer from poverty and lack of opportunities. Over the past 10 years, the situation in Gaza has been exacerbated by the Gaza closure and three major escalations in hostilities. In 2017, daily power outages lasting for up to 20 hours devastated public infrastructure and disrupted the delivery of basic services. The signing of the Palestinian reconciliation agreement between the West Bank and Gaza in October 2017 has not yet yielded improvements for children. In the West Bank, children's access to services and opportunities are limited by territorial fragmentation, the separation wall and movement restrictions. Children in certain areas in the West Bank, including Area C and East Jerusalem, are experiencing home demolitions, forced evictions and detentions.

Humanitarian strategy

UNICEF and partners will continue to foster synergy between humanitarian and development assistance in the State of Palestine, while emphasizing emergency preparedness. UNICEF will support neonatal emergency health care, postnatal care, and early childhood development, focusing on children with developmental delays and disabilities. Given the deterioration in the water and sanitation situation and the ongoing energy crisis, UNICEF will provide safe drinking water through solar power, water tank rehabilitation and network upgrades. Households will be supported with drinking water taps, latrines, sewage connections and hygiene promotion activities. UNICEF will also support flood mitigation activities in high-risk areas. Strengthening child protection systems will remain a priority, including through case management and referrals, psychosocial support, legal aid and counseling, focusing on adolescents and addressing negative coping mechanisms. Monitoring and reporting on grave child rights violations will inform evidence-based advocacy for improved child protection. UNICEF will support children crossing checkpoints in the West Bank with protective accompaniment to ensure safer access to schools. Children will also benefit from educational supplies and remedial learning, as well as emergency preparedness activities targeting adolescents. UNICEF will continue its coordination role in the areas of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education and child protection.

Results from 2017

As of 31 October 2017, UNICEF had US\$11.8 million available against the US\$24.5 million appeal (48 per cent funded).² Over the course of the year, UNICEF supported quality paediatric, neonatal and maternal health services through the provision of essential drugs and home-based counselling to mothers. Despite limited funding, UNICEF and partners improved access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation for vulnerable households through the rehabilitation of water and sanitation structures. West Bank communities suffering from water scarcity benefitted from water tanks provided by UNICEF. In response to the electricity crisis in Gaza, UNICEF repaired WASH facilities and their associated generators and installed solar panels. The distribution of hygiene kits through e-vouchers is currently underway, as is water disinfection. Though limited funding challenged achievement of the targets, UNICEF provided child protection services, psychosocial support and case management support, including for gender-based violence, through 20 family centres in Gaza. More than 5,900 adolescents participated in life-skills and stress-relief activities, and more than 8,500 children and teachers in Area C of the West Bank received protective accompaniment. UNICEF cooperated with partners to assess the needs of vulnerable children, monitor grave violations of children's rights, and use the resulting evidence to inform advocacy.

Total people in need:
2.5 million

Total children (<18) in need:
1.1 million

Total people to be reached:
729,000

Total children to be reached:
652,000

2018 programme targets:

Health and nutrition

- 250,000 children benefitted from emergency health care supplies, including micronutrient supplementation
- 10,000 newborns and their mothers provided with life-saving health care services

WASH

- 155,521 people provided with improved access to safe water
- 36,794 people provided with adequate sanitation and hygiene
- 35,933 children provided access to WASH facilities in their schools, including hygiene awareness and menstrual hygiene management
- 400,000 people benefitted from preparedness activities against the risks of floods

Child protection

- 51,686 children provided with access to child protection services, including psychosocial support
- 56,596 people with access to information on unexploded ordnance

Education

- 39,000 school-aged children in Gaza, including adolescents, received essential school supplies
- 5,000 school-aged children in Gaza, including adolescents, benefitted from catch-up classes
- 8,100 school-aged children in the West Bank accessing schools through protective accompaniment
- 5,000 adolescents benefitted from life-skills building and emergency preparedness training

	Sector 2017 targets	Sector total results	UNICEF 2017 target	UNICEF total results
HEALTH AND NUTRITION				
Children and women benefitting from emergency health care services/supplies	535,443	86,839	95,000	86,839
Vulnerable children and their mothers who benefit from targeted health care outreach interventions	535,443	16,255	16,625	16,255
Children provided with life-saving neonatal care services	500	3,902	500	3,902
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE				
People who benefitted from improved access to water	209,000	58,835	85,644	26,747
People who benefitted from improved access to sanitation services	121,000	32,372	20,486	2,550
People attending sessions on positive hygiene behaviours		29,320	23,147	3,162
Students and teachers with access to improved WASH facilities in schools	25,826		25,826	
CHILD PROTECTION				
Children benefitting from structured child protection interventions, including life-skills programmes	176,000	73,767	53,696	10,030
Children, women and men who receive information on their rights and access legal services.	1,500	495	1,500	495
Incidents of grave violations against children monitored and documented	2,467	2,800	2,467	2,800
People (children and caregivers) who received exploded remnants of war risk education	175,000	62,637	46,596	8,220
EDUCATION				
Children who benefitted from the provision of supplies and materials	292,852	310,729	40,000	13,000
Children and teachers benefitting from protective presence/accompaniment to school	4,700	8,537	4,700	8,537
Adolescents participating in life-skills building and community-based activities	3,000	5,919	3,000	5,919
Children in Grades 3 to 6 benefitting from catch-up classes	66,984	3,296	2,000	3,296

Results are through 31 October 2017 unless otherwise noted.

Funding requirements

In line with the country's inter-agency 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan, UNICEF is requesting US\$25,805,400³ to meet the humanitarian needs of children in the State of Palestine in 2018. Without this funding, UNICEF will be unable to support affected communities with critical health and WASH services. Funding is also urgently needed to ensure that children and caregivers in highly vulnerable areas have access to education and protection services.

Sector	2018 requirements (US\$)
Health and nutrition	2,769,900
Water, sanitation and hygiene	15,919,500
Child protection	2,338,700
Education	3,798,100
Cluster/sector coordination	979,200
Total	25,805,400

¹ All figures provided in this appeal are based on the draft 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan/Humanitarian Needs Overview documents for the State of Palestine, which was published in December 2017. The number of people in need of safe water was 1.46 million according to the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan for the State of Palestine.

² Available funds include US\$7.9 million raised against the current appeal and US\$3.9 million carried forward from the previous year.

³ The funding request is aligned with the draft State of Palestine Humanitarian Response Plan for 2018 for all sectors, except for the additional funds requested for health.

Who to contact for further information:

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