

# Alert / Update

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## Occupied Palestinian Territory

# Gaza and West Bank Post War Crises – Follow on response to PSE141

Geneva, 13 May 2015

### 1. Brief description of the humanitarian situation

Following the summer 2014 war on Gaza, the fragile humanitarian situation which left 2,209 people dead and more than 10,000 injured continues to deteriorate, seven months after the end of the war. This is coupled with the longstanding blockade. A key driver of the deterioration is the slow progress on rehabilitation and reconstruction of homes; of infrastructure and assets destroyed during the hostilities, compounded by limited resources and efforts to restore destroyed livelihood opportunities. Adding on to this is the devastating impact of exposure to conflict-related violence in Gaza on the psychosocial well-being of children, adolescents and families.

### 2. Why is an ACT response needed?

In the previous ACT appeal (PSE141) ACT members provided: cash relief for needy families, psychosocial support for women, children and students at selected vocational training centres, water and hygiene education, support to hospitals including primary health care centres among other activities.

An ACT response is critical, as existing national systems are overwhelmed and unable to fully respond to the ever increasing needs resulting from the 2014 war and almost 8 years of the on-going Israeli blockade which is impacting daily and negatively on Gaza. The July 2014 war has resulted in one of the largest waves of displacements in the Gaza strip with more than 100,000 still displaced. A recent report issued by the Association of International Development Agencies (AIDA): “Charting a New Course: Overcoming the Stalemate in Gaza” provides a clear picture about the dire situation in Gaza. <http://www.actionaid.org/sites/files/actionaid/bp-charting-new-course-stalemate-gaza.pdf>

The Ministry of Health (MoH) has cut short primary healthcare and cancelled non-urgent surgeries to cope with severe shortage of essential drugs and medical supplies. The sole Israeli-controlled commercial crossing has reduced entry of humanitarian assistance and goods by 70% leaving the entire population vulnerable to food insecurity, which according to UN, stands at 72% of population. Lack of response warns of a complete collapse of overwhelmed systems. The provision of basic healthcare services, making medicine, food and fuel available to people would definitely contribute to easing the crisis in coordination with other key stakeholders.

The recent conflict in Gaza has put further stress on an already struggling economy in the West Bank with falling income per capita, impacting unemployment and poverty rates. Area C in the West Bank has been the most affected area with more than 66% of population being directly affected by food insecurity. Displacement and protection are main issues facing the population not only in Area C of the

West Bank, but also Palestinians living in East Jerusalem. Failure to intervene now would lead to further deterioration of the prevailing humanitarian situation.

### **3. Planned activities**

The ACT Palestine forum (APF), through its members, is planning to support the most needy people in health, education, shelter and water sectors. All APF response will be coordinated and supported by the APF Forum Coordinator, members and partners.

List of proposed interventions and activities:

- Continuous support to Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza through the Norwegian Church Aid (Fuel , medicine, Medical Care and Psychosocial )
- DSPR /MECC support to Gaza and West Bank (Access to Primary health care, cash grants, educational opportunities, psychosocial support) In the west Bank Area C (Sanitary Units, Fodder for livestock, water support and water cisterns for the isolated communities).
- IOCC support to Gaza (Shelter for displaced, Livelihood/Food Security and agriculture support/Cash for Work and Psychosocial Support in coordination with local CBOs and Partners.
- DSPR /MECC APF coordination

The ACT Palestine Forum is meeting regularly to coordinate the response of its members and their local partners. This alert was developed based on a coordinated effort between the different APF members and after consulting with their local partners.

### **4. National and international response**

More than 70% of the population now depends on various forms of aid from international and national organizations. The ACT Palestine Forum (APF) will coordinate its efforts to respond to the growing needs, especially in the Gaza Strip and support those under constant threat of displacement in the West Bank.

### **5. Constraints**

Constraints include: closure of crossings, unavailability of supplies in the local market, lack of fuel and lack of medicine and medical supplies.

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