

## Occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt)

Amman, 18 May 2021

**SITUATION**

As of 17 May 2021, a total of 198 Palestinian people were killed in Gaza, including 58 children and 35 women, and 1,300 people injured, including 313 children and 206 women according to the Palestinian Ministry of health<sup>1</sup>. On the Israeli side, 10 people in Israel, including one soldier, have been killed and hundreds have been injured. As the conflict is escalating between Israel and the Hamas, airstrikes on Gaza and rocket attacks on Israel have continued for nine consecutive days with most of the victims reported to be civilians.

According to OCHA reports<sup>2</sup>, more than 47 education facilities, including schools, an UNRWA vocational training centre and a higher education facility have been affected since the start of the escalation. Furthermore, 132 buildings (commercial and residential) have been destroyed, 316 housing units have been severely damaged, and rendered uninhabitable, about 206 housing units have suffered major damage, and 6,268 housing units have sustained minor damages leaving over 2,500 people homeless. The damage also include infrastructure, including roads, electricity network and water installations and agricultural lands. Large agricultural areas and several agricultural facilities such as farms, greenhouses, water wells, have been damaged or disrupted, decreasing agricultural production. All fishing activity remains prohibited off the Gaza coast, in which is a main source of living for many families. WASH Infrastructure has also been severely affected, including wastewater networks, pipelines, sewage evacuation vehicles, four water wells and a wastewater pumping station due to damages, lack of power and difficult access.

As of today, more than 42,000 people were internally displaced people (IDPs) and were forced to find shelter in 50 UNRWA schools, with another 16,000 people staying with host families. This overcrowding puts them all under an increased risk of COVID-19.

The situation in the other parts of the oPt have also suffered due to instability especially in the different parts of East Jerusalem and West Bank. Al Aqsa mosque premises witnessed Israeli forces and settlers' continuous raids; Israeli security forces also prevented people from practicing their worship practices, evoking reactions from worshipers which extended all over the West Bank and Palestinian cities in Israel and Gaza. As a result, a total of 20 people killed and 4.733 injured were reported to date. Since early April 2021, Palestinians in Jerusalem have protested against the possible forced eviction of four refugee families residing in Sheikh Jarrah. While for the most parts, protests have been peaceful, clashes erupted between the Israeli police and activists. The legal battle continued for years between the Palestinian residents of these homes and the Israeli courts continue.

The ongoing insecurity situation is hampering efforts to implement an optimum response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the critical vaccination programme both in Gaza and WB.

This conflict came amidst and on top of the pandemic crisis and it's economic predicament that will surly exacerbates the already fragile health and economic situation in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip.

**NEEDS**

With many years of the Israeli blockade, Palestinian political divisions and recurrent escalations, the COVID-19 pandemic and the fragile economic situation in both Gaza and WB. The conflict affected persons find themselves in a desperate situation, with many unmet vital humanitarian needs such as access to:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	sufficient food
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	safe shelter and basic non-food items
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	basic health services and facilities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	safe drinking water, as well as sanitation and hygiene infrastructure
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	livelihood activities

1 <https://www.moh.gov.ps/portal/en/> Accessed on 18/5/2021

2 [Escalation in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and Israel | Flash Update #7 As of 12:00, 17 May 2021 | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - occupied Palestinian territory \(ochaopt.org\)](#)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	protection services
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	adequate nutrition

The dire situation is further compounded for the conflict affected people with vulnerabilities affecting more the women, girls and children. There is a pressing need to provide immediate assistance to alleviate the plight and to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are covered first.

Health needs are the most required at this point due to the big number of victims and injuries. Health services have been particularly affected by the power cuts, severe shortages of drugs, medical equipment and fuel. The psychosocial and health conditions, mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS), child protection services and legal , especially of children living in Gaza, legal aid are a major concern which needs to be addressed.

Poverty and food insecure rates are very high mainly as a result of Covid prevention measures, but also with this escalation resulting in losing their productive assets.

800,000 people are unable to access clean water due to infrastructure and water sources damage.

Over 5,000 housing units have been either destroyed or severely damaged and needs rehabilitation/reconstruction.

According to HNO 2021<sup>3</sup>

- Over 2.1 million Palestinians across the oPt, 60 per cent in the Gaza Strip and 40 per cent in the West Bank, experience or are at risk of conflict, violence and forcible displacement/transfer.
- Over 2 million Palestinians across the oPt are severely, or moderately, food insecure and will require food assistance, and/or support in maintaining their farming, herding or fishing livelihoods.
- 504,000 Palestinians across the oPt, the vast majority of whom are school children, will be in need of humanitarian assistance to access education.
- Over 1.6 million Palestinians across the oPt are suffering from insufficient access to WASH services.

#### **STAKEHOLDERS**

The following national and international entities are present and doing their best to respond to the crisis:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National government	Organize sectoral meetings with UN and INGOs during humanitarian response and are one of the main sources of data and information on urgent and basic needs; also lead advocacy interventions on behalf of communities.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UN Agencies	UNOCHA- providing humanitarian updates and launch special appeals e.g.: Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC), participate in respective sector interventions, update centralized assessments to share with relevant stakeholders. UN agencies play a big role in coordination, i.e.: OCHA, WHO, UNICEF
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INGOs	Provide funding and lead humanitarian interventions in the different areas; liaise with other INGOs in sectoral needs and interventions to avoid overlap; participate with other INGOs in UN lead cluster meetings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Red Cross Red Crescent Movement	Provide protection space to humanitarian workers; provide interventions related to shelter and safety provision in affected areas.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National NGOs	Attend humanitarian related cluster meetings; liaise with other local and INGOs during interventions to avoid overlap of geographical and sectoral coverage, they take a big role in implementation.

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/hno\\_2021.pdf](https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/hno_2021.pdf)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Civil society groups	Work with humanitarian intervention team in promoting rights and the respective parties; providing data and information as needed during humanitarian interventions.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affected communities	Establish community led mechanisms; actively participate in updating needs assessment; feedback to stakeholders on needs and quality of intervention,

The ACT Alliance emergency response is currently being coordinated by the ACT Palestine forum in cooperation with UNOCHA and through the cluster coordination mechanism. To ensure that the humanitarian response is well coordinated and complementary, the ACT forum takes part in meetings with relevant sector stakeholders, among them UN organisations and establish an open line of communication with crisis affected persons and communities to ensure a humanitarian response based on participation and feedback.

**ACT Alliance**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance has been working in Gaza and the West Bank since 2000, now helping/planning to help people affected by the conflict.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Palestine Forum works in areas affected by the conflict, and is assessing the impact of the disaster to better understand the needs and vulnerabilities.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Palestine Forum members are currently monitoring the situation and is preparing a rapid needs assessment to have an in-depth context analysis and better understanding of existing vulnerabilities.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Palestine Forum members are monitoring the situation and emergency teams are ready/preparing to respond according to the results of a contextual analysis and rapid needs assessment.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the ACT forum has identified a gap in WASH, Food Security and Nutrition, Protection, Shelters & NFIs, and Health and has resolved that if funded, it will have the capacity to properly bridge the identified gap.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The ACT Palestine forum is planning on submitting a funding proposal to provide health, protection, psychosocial and cash interventions to ensure that the conflict affected persons' basic needs are met with regards to the current deteriorating conditions.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Palestine forum is ready to respond, providing urgent health- medicine and medical supplies and protection livelihoods intervention to affected persons in the coming months.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Furthermore, ACT Alliance will engage in advocacy on the national and international level to ensure that the voices of those affected by the conflict are amplified.

Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Humanitarian Affairs, f Niall O'Rourke ([Niall.orourke@actalliance.org](mailto:Niall.orourke@actalliance.org)) and Director of operation, Nancy Ette ([Nancy.ette@actalliance.org](mailto:Nancy.ette@actalliance.org)), with copy to the Finance Officer, Marjorie Schmidt ([Marjorie.schmidt@actalliance.org](mailto:Marjorie.schmidt@actalliance.org)).

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