



OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY CONSOLIDATED HUMANITARIAN APPEALS PROCESS 2010

BACKGROUNDⁱ

Many Palestinians living under Israeli occupation continue to face a human dignity crisis, characterized by the erosion of livelihoods, the continued denial of basic human rights and forced dependence on international aid. Nearly 40 percent of the Palestinian population is food-insecure. Most Palestinians cannot exercise their basic human rights to free movement, employment, basic services, and self-determination. Serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, by all parties to the conflict, continue to take place in a disturbing climate of impunity.

In the Gaza Strip in particular, the blockade imposed by Israel in June 2007 continues. Humanitarian needs were worsened by the extensive loss of life and destruction of property and infrastructure during Israel's three-week-long "Cast Lead" military offensive starting in December 2008. The blockade, which includes heavy access restrictions for people and goods, remains the main impediment to a meaningful reconstruction and recovery effort in Gaza. The current operational environment in Gaza hampers the provision of principled and effective humanitarian assistance.

UNFPA AREAS OF CONCERN AND PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS FOR 2010

INTERVENTION AREA		AMOUNT REQUESTED
GENDER EQUALITY		US \$ 398,000
OPT-10/ER/27333/1171	Cash assistance for women heads of households in rural areas affected by barriers and the closure	398,000
YOUNG PEOPLE		US \$ 695,500
OPT-10/ER/27353/1171	Access to productive employment for youth in the occupied Palestinian territory	695,500
SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH		US \$ 2,298,500
OPT-10/H/27377/1171	Ensuring continuous supply of reproductive health supplies	497,500
OPT-10/H/27383/1171	Ensuring access to emergency obstetric care in the southern Gaza Strip	1,547,000
OPT-10/H/27388/1171	Ensuring access to basic reproductive health services in isolated communities in the southern areas of the West Bank	254,000
MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT		US \$ 995,100
OPT-10/H/28373/1171	(MHPSS) Support reproductive health, psychosocial and legal services to protect women in Gaza and Hebron from mental health problems and gender-based violence	481,500
OPT-10/H/28368/1171	(MHPSS) Psychosocial Support to Palestinian Women	513,600
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE		US \$ 249,000
OPT-10/P-HR-RL/27301/1171	Protection of marginalised Palestinian women, girls and families by advocacy and networking with local NGOs in the Gaza Strip	94,000
OPT-10/P-HR-RL/27322/1171	Helping young women in crisis cope with gender-based violence	155,000
TOTAL		US \$ 4,636,100

GENDER EQUALITY

Lack of access to economic and social opportunities in rural communities of the West Bank and Gaza has severely affected Palestinians, and women in particular. Approximately 85 percent of female headed households in Jenin and Tulkarem are economically inactive, while in Gaza 94 percent of women have never had a job. It should be emphasized that in difficult economic situations, women are more exposed to family pressure and other forms of violence. The combination of limited access to basic services and insufficient income has had a negative effect on women and their families, which face increased poverty and more exposure to precarious living conditions.

Gender equality in analysis and programming is necessary for a more inclusive and better targeted humanitarian response. Therefore, UNFPA is requesting US \$398,000 to help generate earning opportunities for female headed households in rural areas with limited work opportunities. Cash assistance through cash-for-work and micro-grants, will increase the earning potential and reduce poverty levels of such households. This in turn will help reduce exposure to gender-based violence by increasing women's participation within the community.

Project activities include:

- Organize cash-for-work activities for 100 vulnerable women in Gaza, Jenin and Tulkarm;
- Provide cash assistance to 400 women through micro-grants (500\$ each) for small businesses;
- Encourage self-empowerment provide a forum for interaction in order.

YOUNG PEOPLE

Palestinian youth, who represent 27 percent of the total population, have no productive outlets for their energies and are at high risk of mental disturbances, self-destructive behaviour and negative influences. These young people bear the brunt of the unemployment crisis and need opportunities for developing specific vocational skills they can utilize as adults.

Rampant unemployment in the West Bank and Gaza leaves virtually no productive outlet for Palestinian youths, who represent the most unemployed demographic within Palestinian society. In collaboration with the local NGO Sharek Youth Forum, UNFPA is requesting US \$695,500 to increase youth participation in early recovery activities, improve their employability prospects and reduce their social and economic marginalization.

Project activities include:

- Provide cash-for-work for 50 youth-led community initiatives, utilizing marginalized and disadvantaged youth, including refugees;
- Conduct training and provide support for youth on social and job skills during working hours;
- Provide technical training to young people for the development of income-generating activities and business plans;

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

The blockade imposed on Gaza has heavily impacted the health sector. Data derived from a UNFPA survey of maternity wards indicated that during the December 2008 Israeli offensive there was a significant increase in maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity in Gaza. The scope and intensity of the fighting was cited as the primary cause, leading to stress induced complications and limiting

women's access to medical facilities. As a result of the high volume of traumatic injuries sustained among Gazans, maternity wards were converted into trauma centers, effectively denying women with potentially life-threatening obstetric emergencies access to treatment.

WHO reported that medicine shortages were constant during 2008, and supplies have only recently been replenished by donors and NGOs. The formation of dual state healthcare systems as a consequence of the Palestinian political divide and Gaza's isolation have strained the capacity of the Ministry of Health to coordinate activities. Restrictions on movement in the West Bank continue to cause delays in accessing medical care, which precludes women from receiving obstetric services and contributes to maternal morbidity. These and other stresses resulting from the blockade have led to pervasive mental health issues within Palestinian society.

Compounded by logistics and funding difficulties, medical supplies for the West Bank and Gaza have been in short supply. UNFPA is seeking US \$497,500 to ensure that reproductive health commodities within the occupied Palestinian territories are sufficiently available and that improvements are made to the logistical capacities of the Ministry of Health.

Project activities include:

- Procure and supply the Ministry of Health with essential reproductive health drugs and disposables based on their needs;
- Provide capacity building for Ministry of Health staff on logistics management.

Nearly a decade of conflict has severely affected medical infrastructure in Gaza and maternity centers in particular. High birthrates, devastated facilities and a shortage of commodities have strained the ability of maternities to provide referral-level care. UNFPA is asking donors for US \$1,547,000 to ensure the availability of quality antenatal, safe delivery and postnatal care to 160,000 women of reproductive age and newborns living in Southern Gaza.

Project activities include:

- Provide basic rehabilitation to two maternities and newborn departments;
- Supply two hospitals and 15 primary health care centres with equipment and medical supplies;
- Provide 50 hospital staff and 40 community-based health professionals with training on emergency obstetric care;

A lack of health information and services in isolated parts of Gaza and the West Bank has left approximately 200,000 women of reproductive age and newborns without sufficient medical care. In order to increase accessibility to reproductive health services for 25 communities in Bethlehem, Hebron and Gaza, UNFPA is requesting US \$254,000.

Project activities include:

- Supply 25 health care centres in Hebron and Bethlehem with basic medical equipment;
- Provide training on reproductive health and rights to 25 community-based health promoters;
- Develop and distribute information, education and communication materials addressing the importance for women to use reproductive health services.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Recent assessments of the psychosocial well-being of the Palestinian population show that severe stress and other mental health problems are on the rise. The ongoing political division, trauma due to direct exposure to conflict, the blockade imposed on Gaza, restrictions of movement in the West Bank and limited opportunities are permanent stress factors for much of the population. Several assessments in Gaza conducted after operation “Cast Lead” indicate a correlation between psychological distress and an increase in incidents of physical and psychological abuse in the home.

Survey data suggests that large portions of the Palestinian population living within in Gaza and West Bank meet numerous indicators for psychosocial distress. This is particularly acute among women in the community who have difficulty accessing reproductive health services. Within the framework of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, UNFPA is requesting US \$481,500 to provide psychosocial support to 30,000 women in Gaza and Hebron through the provision of clinical, psychosocial and legal services.

Project activities include:

- Provide quality, comprehensive reproductive health, clinical, legal and psychosocial services to women in Hebron, Jabalia, Gaza city, Khan Younes and Bureij areas;
- Provide community outreach services to women, including psychosocial and legal counseling and gender based violence awareness;
- Strengthen skills of staff for psychosocial counseling and the management of gender based violence cases, including referral mechanisms;
- Ensure that women with specific needs receive adequate referral services.

Violence in the occupied Palestinian territory has increased and is often directed towards women and girls who lack access to mental health services. To address the psychosocial needs of 50,000 women and girls in the municipalities of Nablus, Jenin and Jericho, UNFPA is requesting US \$513,000. With the assistance of local NGOs, UNFPA will use the funds to provide health and education services, counseling and psychosocial support.

Project activities include:

- Ensure capacity building of staff within municipality community centers and integrate counseling and psychosocial activities into their services;
- Train 90 social workers on counseling and psychosocial support;
- Conduct 3,500 outreach sessions providing psychosocial support to women and men.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

In crisis situations, women and girls are often subjected violence, including gender based violence. According to recent studies on the psychosocial consequences of operation “Cast Lead”, 15 percent of women claim an increase in gender-based violence, particularly among displaced families. Men also reported suffering from psychological problems, including fear, anxiety and stress that has led to an increase in verbal and physical violence towards wives and children.

Women are often not aware of their rights, such as those entitled to them by UN Security Council Resolution 1325. In addition, vocational rehabilitation centers run by the Ministry of Social Affairs may

not have the capacity, access to qualified guidance counseling, or specialized services necessary for addressing gender-based violence. Therefore, a huge need exists to protect these women from gender-based violence and enable them to face economic and social difficulties.

In order to address a rise in gender-based violence in the aftermath of operation “Cast Lead”, UNFPA is requesting US \$94,000 for use in developing the capacity of the WISAL network of NGOs in Gaza. These funds will allow WISAL to conduct outreach sessions on gender-based violence for the estimated 80,000 women of reproductive age living in the Gaza Strip.

Project activities include:

- Train 20 NGOs in the Gaza Strip on women’s rights, including UN resolution 1325;
- Conduct 5,200 outreach sessions by 50 social workers from the WISAL network within the Gaza strip;
- Through the WISAL network, organize and conduct a Gaza-wide campaign to prevent violence against women.

In the midst of soaring unemployment and economic instability in the West Bank, many unwed girls and young women are at greater risk of gender-based violence in the home. In order to ensure that the Ministry of Social Affairs is able to provide vocational training for these young women, UNFPA is requesting US \$155,000 for use in community outreach and gender-based violence awareness programmes.

Project activities include:

- Build the capacity of 40 vocational trainers to communicate on issues such as life skills, prevention of gender-based violence and reproductive health rights;
- Raise awareness of young female students on life skills and reproductive health rights, in addition to enhancing their basic literacy skills;
- Establish a dialogue between these women and their families.

ⁱ Please see [Volume 1](#) of the oPt CAP for more information on the crisis, its humanitarian consequences and overall sector response plans.