

Consolidated Emergency Report 2018



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Ahmad, 14 years old, collecting his family clothes before the storm in the middle of El Saftawy neighbourhood in Jabalia camp

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	2
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT	4
HUMANITARIAN RESULTS	8
FINANCIAL ANALYSIS	18
FUTURE WORK PLAN	20
EXPRESSION OF THANKS	21
ANNEXES	21

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AoR	-	Area of Responsibility
APD	-	Area Programme Document
CSOs	-	Civil Society Organizations
EPI	-	Expanded Programme on Immunization
ERW	-	Explosive Remnants of War
GMR	-	Great March of Return
HRP	-	Humanitarian Response Plan
HWTS	-	Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage
IASC	-	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
MHPSS	-	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
MoH	-	Ministry of Health
PWA	-	Palestinian Water Authority
SoP	-	State of Palestine
UNRWA	-	The United Nations Relief and Works Agency
US	-	United States
WASH	-	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	-	World Food Programme
WHO	-	World Health Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Around 2.5 million Palestinians need humanitarian assistance. Long-term humanitarian needs in the State of Palestine remain largely attributable to the ongoing conflict. Poverty has increased, with over 29 per cent of Palestinian families living below the poverty line, with over 50 percent poverty in Gaza. Palestinians are subject to a series of internal barriers, contributing to delays in the movement of goods and services and creating pockets of extreme vulnerability. In Gaza, the “Great March of Return” protests, which began on 30 March, highlighted deteriorating living conditions there. The violent response to the protests resulted in over 25,000 injuries, including 4,300 children injured and 51 child fatalities. The socio-economic and humanitarian situation in Gaza is dire for children, resulting in increased vulnerabilities and negative coping strategies such as child labour and early marriage. Restrictions on the movement of people and goods into and out of Gaza are negatively affecting trade, employment and supply of services. The significant shortfalls in donor support to the Palestinian Authority and UNRWA, which grew in 2018, have put at risk the achievements made in children’s health, education and well-being. Funding shortfalls have also eroded community resilience and capacities to respond to shocks.

In the West Bank, the Palestinian Authority cannot operate in either East Jerusalem or Area C, and children living in those areas face protection challenges and limited access to services. The old city of Hebron (H2), Area C and East Jerusalem are acutely affected areas due to movement restrictions, confrontation with security forces, settler violence, threats of demolitions and the absence of services.

In 2018, UNICEF continued to foster synergies between humanitarian and development assistance. Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programmes strengthened preparedness and provided a direct response in Gaza by increasing water and sanitation services and facilities, reducing vulnerability to flooding and providing WASH facilities in health centres. In Area C, WASH interventions focused on communities unconnected to water networks. In health and nutrition, UNICEF continued to strengthen the health care system by supporting urgently needed age-appropriate, life-saving interventions in Gaza that were strained in 2018 due to the high number of trauma cases. In education, in difficult parts of the West Bank, UNICEF assisted children to reach schools safely, as well as in Gaza supporting enhanced reading and numerical skills for children at risk of dropout, including remedial and catch-up classes for adolescents. UNICEF supported integrated psychosocial support and child protection services, with a focus on those injured during the “Great March of Return” in Gaza and those living in high-risk areas in the West Bank.

As of 31 December 2018, UNICEF had US\$18.8 million available against the US\$25.8 million appeal (73 per cent funded). In 2018, more than 283,000 children under 5 years old and women benefited

from improved health and nutritional services. Health facilities in Gaza received 509 pallets of drugs, covering over 235,000 high-risk pregnant and lactating women, newborn children and young children. With UNICEF support, over 41,000 people in humanitarian situations accessed an improved water source including through support to emergency desalination in Gaza and summer water trucking in Area C. In response to the acute psychosocial needs in Gaza, particularly as a consequence of the Great March of Return, UNICEF-supported family centres reached 296 injured children who were visited at home and received psychological first aid. In addition, more than 6,000 children benefited from structured child protection interventions. A UNICEF-funded initiative with UNRWA enabled over 50,000 crisis-affected children to take part in structured afterschool activities, providing them with relief from significant stress. Across the West Bank, nearly 5,900 children and teachers, including 293 children and 15 teachers in the Hebron H2 area, benefited from protective presence/ accompaniment to and from school. However, the significant under-funding and late humanitarian funding in 2018 meant that some education, child protection and WASH programmes were not implemented or were delayed.

2018 saw continuing shrinking operational space for the United Nations and other humanitarian actors. Civil society organizations and to some extent the UN have faced multiple attacks and attempts to undermine their credibility. In addition, movement of personnel and supplies in and out of Gaza was restricted, with severe limitations in staff movement permits, including denials of exit permits. 2018 also saw increased restriction on import of supplies into Gaza, including due to closures of the Kerem Shalom crossing (the only entry point for goods) for multiple days. All of these movement restrictions have adversely impacted on UNICEF activities, by limiting the interaction of staff in Gaza with outside stakeholders, and by limiting the scope of work that UNICEF can undertake through supply items which are not permitted entry to Gaza.

HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT

According to the 2017 census, there are almost 2.1 million children in the State of Palestine (SoP) (49% girls). Palestinian children continued to face human rights, protection, and humanitarian issues in 2018, including challenges in accessing services because of where they live, or as they are part of marginalized groups especially children living with disabilities. 2018 has seen an increase in child vulnerability due to factors including the Great March of Return, deepening of poverty in Gaza, and the intra-Palestinian divide between the West Bank and Gaza. Alongside this long-running issues remain including the occupation and blockade, rights violations in East Jerusalem, Hebron H2 and Area C.

The intra-Palestinian divide impacts children negatively, with the Palestinian Authority (PA) maintaining restrictive measures against Gaza since April 2017, including the reduction of fuel subsidies, the partial withholding of salaries and allowances to PA employees, including teachers. This led to a decline in the PA's monthly allocations for Gaza from \$125 million in 2016 to \$96 million to-date¹. Mediation efforts by the United Nations, Egypt, and others in 2018 to reach an agreement between Fatah and Hamas on the return of the PA to Gaza, are yet to bear fruit.

Basic social services have come under increasing strain as a result of declining revenue streams to Gaza, putting children at considerable risk. The humanitarian situation in Gaza is acute, with electricity and clean water in short supply, medical facilities overwhelmed, and the population facing significant income loss. Meanwhile, service continuity for vulnerable communities remains heavily dependent on external aid.² In 2018 the support provided by the Government of Qatar in Gaza has alleviated some of the communities' needs, including but not limited to increasing electricity supply.

Acute economic problems are a key concern nationally, with significant hardships for vulnerable families. Unemployment in Palestine peaked at over 32 percent in the second quarter of 2018, with unemployment at 54 percent in Gaza.³ In 2018 the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics estimated that over 29 percent of the Palestinian population live below the poverty line, with a poverty rate of 53 percent in Gaza⁴. Almost 60 per cent of individuals living in households whose heads are unemployed live in poverty.⁵ The Gaza economy is in 'free fall' according to the World Bank, with over 70 percent of young people and 78 percent of women unemployed⁶.

Significant donor cuts, including the decision by the United States administration to end its funding to the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine refugees, have also challenged the sustainability of essential services to children. Funding rates for humanitarian activities were low, with the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) only 46 percent funded (\$249 million received against requirement of \$539.7 million)⁷. As an example, WASH, a typically relatively well-funded sector, received only 27 percent of the humanitarian appeal requirement in 2018. This was partially due to the United States withdrawal of humanitarian funds, and with other donors focused on the UNRWA funding crisis and the immediate consequences of the Great March of Return (GMR).

¹ UNSCO Report to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, September 2018

² Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) 2019

³ IMF, Report to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, September 2018

⁴ HRP 2019

⁵ PCBS, Poverty Profile 2017

⁶ Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2019

⁷ Financial Tracking System, Online Database, 2018

Protection of children remains critical, with a continued prevalence of conflict-related child rights violations. Between January and December 2018 UNICEF documented over 2,973 incidents of child rights violations affecting 36,554 children, including the killing of 59 and injury of 2,762 children. Palestinian children in Israeli detention continued to describe ill treatment, for example being blindfolded during arrest or put in solitary confinement.

Protests against the dire situation in Gaza – the “Great March of Return” - were met by a violent response by Israeli Forces, with distressing impacts on children. These protests intensified to a peak in mid-May and continued throughout 2018. The OCHA Protection of Civilians Database recorded 261 fatalities and 25,641 injuries in Gaza, and the United Nations is verifying the Palestine Ministry of Health (MoH) reported figures of 4,300 children injured. The United Nations verified that 51 children were killed, and 1,335 children were injured in Gaza between January and December related to the Great March of Return. Major escalations between Gaza factions and Israel occurred between May and November 2018, with more rockets fired from Gaza into Israel than at any time since the 2014 war, and extensive air strikes in Gaza by Israel. The Great March of Return was also marked by some violent acts by protestors, with some protestors attempting to breach the fence or launch incendiary kites into Israel. Despite advocacy efforts, children were targeted and exposed, and in some cases used in violence.

In the West Bank, the Palestinian Authority cannot operate in either East Jerusalem or Area C, and children living in those areas face protection challenges and limited access to services. The old city of Hebron (H2), Area C and East Jerusalem are acutely affected areas due to movement restrictions, confrontation with security forces, settler violence, threats of demolitions and the absence of services. In East Jerusalem settlement tenders were announced after two years without tenders, and Israeli authorities have continued demolition of structures leading to heightened child vulnerability. A Bedouin Palestinian community, Khan Al Ahmar, located between two Israeli settlements in Area C has been issued with 42 demolition orders threatening nearly every structure (approximately 140 in total) in the community including a school serving 170 children.⁸

Between January and December 2018 three attacks on schools, and 118 incidents of other interference were verified.⁹ Settler attacks on schools and military presence in or around schools as well as school closures have been observed in the West Bank.¹⁰ Access to schools is also obstructed by 61 checkpoints in the West Bank¹¹. These incidents are increasing the need for protection of

⁸ UNICEF field monitoring reports.

⁹ Children and Armed Conflict Database 2018

¹⁰ Children and Armed Conflict Database 2018

¹¹ CAAC database, 2017

students on their way to school as well as mental health and psychosocial support to school students affected by the incidents.

The 2017 census showed that only 10 percent of people in Gaza have access to an improved water source. In Gaza salt water intrusion into underground aquifers makes 96 percent of the coastal aquifer water unfit for human consumption. For drinking water, people either purchase expensive desalinated water from tankers or depend on small energy-intensive home desalination units. Access to electricity remained a critical barrier to sustained access to clean water in Gaza, with a chronic energy deficit resulting in a maximum of five hours of electricity each day, before the short-term financial support from Qatar in October 2018. Further 270,000 Palestinians in Area C in the West Bank are affected by restrictions on construction of WASH-related infrastructure.¹² Demolitions and uprooting, by Israeli military authorities, of piped water systems serving Palestinian communities in Area C continue to limit people's access to water. In April 2018, a military order was issued allowing for the demolition of new unlicensed structures in Area C within 96 hours of the issuance of a removal notice.

The rise in poverty in Gaza has increased children and pregnant and lactating women's vulnerabilities and is thought to contribute to a deterioration in nutrition status. Preliminary results from the 2018 nutrition needs assessment in Gaza indicated that a large proportion of the most vulnerable population have sub-optimal food consumption scores and highlights a deterioration in dietary variety and meal-frequency. Relatively high levels of bottle-feeding put infants at risk of contamination from unsafe water given the severe shortages of clean drinking water in the Gaza Strip. The assessment showed that non-exclusively breastfed children were two-times more affected by diarrhoea and acute respiratory infection than exclusively breastfed children.

Violence against children in homes and schools is a widespread concern with over 60 percent of students having witnessed physical violence in or around schools and over 90 percent of children having experienced psychological aggression or physical punishment at home.¹³ The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) data indicates that more than three quarters of children in basic education are exposed to violence at school, rising to over eight in ten boys. The use of physical, verbal and psychological violence against children is widely accepted as part of child rearing and discipline in Palestinian society. Furthermore, the quality of education is severely affected with over 60 per cent of schools running double shifts¹⁴ due to damaged school infrastructure from the Gaza conflict and population growth. This has a dire impact on school drop outs and educational achievement. In the West Bank, tear gas and rubber bullets are frequently fired at students, and Israeli

¹² HNO 2018

¹³ MICS, 2014

¹⁴ UNICEF Strategy Note 2018-2022

forces make regular incursions into school grounds. Frequently, children must pass through one of 61 checkpoints, where they are subjected to bag and/or body searches, and at times harassment and detention. Students also risk confrontation, intimidation and violence while walking past settlements or buildings occupied by settlers. The Hebron H2 household survey conducted by OCHA in August 2018, found that 88 per cent of children in H2 cross checkpoints to attend their schools, and most parents reported that their major education related concern is soldier's harassment and settlers' violence against their children, and 60 per cent of families reported that their children are facing harassment by soldiers at a higher frequency compared to the period before October 2016. These children can be exposed to conflict-related violence and delays, which can lead to higher school drop-out rates. Access restrictions to education affect both boys and girls. However, the impact is often gender specific. Boys are often more directly affected as they are more likely to be involved in clashes and demonstrations, and to be arrested. Girls however are often doubly disadvantaged. As females, they often have more limited access to the formative opportunities boys have. In an unsafe environment, girls are more often kept at home than boys, due to both security and socio-cultural reasons. Girls in particular face a high risk of school dropout due to the fear of parents for their safety during the school commute. There is little or no accountability for perpetrators of violations, and as such a sustained need for protective presence, advocacy and reporting to address this increasing trend of attacks against education across the West Bank.

HUMANITARIAN RESULTS

1. Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

There are many barriers facing vulnerable Palestinians' access to water resources and WASH services, with the Palestinian Authority lacking full access and control of natural resources, and vulnerable communities facing demolition of critical infrastructure in Area C in the West Bank. In 2018, UNICEF with the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) and partners supported vulnerable communities to access improved safe water and safe sanitation.

UNICEF supported several assessments used to inform the Sector and Cluster planning and to develop interventions. Based upon WASH needs for the most vulnerable populations identified in the Humanitarian Needs Overview, and sector assessments, UNICEF is implementing risk mitigation interventions. Risks faced include water contamination in Gaza including through salt water intrusion into the aquifer, and lack of infrastructure and demolitions in Area C. UNICEF interventions included rehabilitation and development of infrastructure for water supply and wastewater, emergency preparedness, focus on renewable technologies and strengthening communities' resilience capacities.

UNICEF supported the installation of water storage tanks for 3,300 households in Gaza to improve household resilience and their access to water. To ensure that families reduce the spread of water-borne diseases UNICEF in collaboration with partners, provided 15,900 vulnerable households with family hygiene kits through the joint UNICEF-WFP e-voucher program and through distribution of hygiene kits. UNICEF also worked closely with partners to review the contingency plan for Gaza including capacity mapping for partners.

In remote areas of Area C of the West Bank, approximately 21,000 most vulnerable people were reached through the provision of safe drinking water through trucking. UNICEF and partners also supported water treatment, storage capacity and improved hygiene behaviours for several of those unconnected communities in the South Hebron Hills and connected over 400 households (approximately 2,200 people) to a water network. An assessment was carried out to around 93 unconnected households and unserved communities in Hebron governorate to identify households practicing Open Defecation and support them with dedicated activities. Interventions include the installation of innovative household water treatment and safe storage (HWTS) units based on gravity driven membranes (GDM) in 30 households, 7 health clinics and 13 primary schools in Hebron Area C. Interventions also include the establishment of a water quality lab in Hebron and lab personnel training. Hygiene awareness sessions to promote proper hygiene practices, water consumption and best practices to use and maintain the filters.

UNICEF leads the WASH Cluster in cooperation with the Palestinian Water Authority and supports national capacity to deliver safe water and sanitation services. UNICEF is working with WASH Cluster partners to develop a harmonized WASH needs assessment tool for use by all partners, and Information Education and Communication (IEC) material to be used in case of emergency. Several consultation meetings and workshops with the WASH cluster partners were conducted to throughout 2018. UNICEF continues to provide strategic support for the Cluster's information management function. UNICEF has also enhanced reporting skills for 25 sector partners through training on the common reporting mechanisms including Humanitarian Response Plan aspects such as the Gender and Age Marker, and the Cluster 4Ws. This support has ensured improved coordination of reporting amongst WASH Cluster partners.

Table 1: WASH Humanitarian Performance Monitoring

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	Cluster Response		UNICEF	
	2018 Target	Total Results	2018 Target	Total Results
# of people in humanitarian situation who benefited from improved access to water	539,000	296,203	155,521	32,810
# of people in humanitarian situation who benefited from improved access to sanitation services	224,000	40,475	46,889	26,019

# of people attending sessions on positive hygiene behaviors	189,000	28,868	96,175	22,143
# of students and teachers with access to improved WASH facilities in schools	172,000	41,590	39,360	0

2. Child Protection

UNICEF and partners supported the protection of children from violence, exploitation and grave violations including through strengthening of child protection systems, linking humanitarian programming with development outcomes to respond to the Great March of Return, and ensuring documentation and concomitant programmatic responses for grave violations, led by evidence generated.

In response to the upsurge of violence, UNICEF and partners collectively reached 2,138 injured children (139 girls) out of the 4,379 injured (50 percent) during the Great March of Return with Child Protection services. Of these 259 (22 girls) were referred for specialist case management services and 544 (32 girls) for structured psychosocial support services. UNICEF identified and reached 322 injured children through the Family Centres including with home visits and Psychological First Aid. Of these children 23 required structured psychosocial support and 116 (16 girls) received specialist case management support. UNICEF and partners reached 338 children with disabilities (137 female) through Family Centres.

In total the Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AoR) members in the Gaza Strip reached a total of 58,616 children (27,718 girls and 30,898 boys) with the provision of Child Protection services including mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), life skills education and counselling services. Additionally, 2,713 children (948 girls and 1,765 boys) received individual case management services. Structured psychosocial support services were provided to 81,382 caregivers (24% males).

As part of this response UNICEF and local partners in Gaza reached 7,760 children (4,021 females and 3,739 males) with targeted interventions including individual counselling, group counselling, life skills, child/parent interaction sessions and other psychosocial support group activities. Out of the total reached 1,410 children (52% girls) were reached with urgent individual case management support. There were 3,637 caregivers who attended awareness raising sessions on the protection of their children, and 7,877 children and their caregivers were reached with risk education sessions on Explosive Remnants of War.

Child protection and MHPSS partners improved coordination through the Child Protection coordination group with active reporting from 24 partners in Gaza and 12 in the West Bank. This has strengthened inter-sectoral referral pathways between Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and line ministries. Draft MHPSS standards and a capacity development plan were consultatively developed

in line with Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) guidelines. Awareness of and access to MHPSS improved with the distribution of ten thousand flyers distributed to all six main hospitals in Gaza, the fliers provided information on available partners' services.

As part of services for vulnerable children, UNICEF in partnership with UNRWA, reached more than 54,000 children in Gaza with structured recreational, mental health and psychosocial support after school activities contributing to improve their well-being at a time of great stress and vulnerability.

In the West Bank 910 pupils (371 girls) were reached in 10 UNRWA schools through "Know your Rights" awareness sessions. These sessions informed the pupils on their rights when arrested or detained by Israel authorities. UNICEF and partners reached 30 school counsellors through the Training of Trainers (14 female), and mentoring sessions provided to 10 counsellors (5 female).

UNICEF, through local partners, reached 1,248 children (683 girls), 45 teachers and counsellors, 137 parents and caregivers and 43 community leaders with child protection services in East Jerusalem. UNICEF and partners also provided legal support to 397 children, women and men who required legal assistance. Additionally, 2,061 children participated in psychosocial support sessions in the West Bank and East Jerusalem to help them to overcome the stress of being in contact with security forces.

The late receipt of funding affected the coverage of child protection services through family centres in the Gaza Strip, with only 32% of the planned number of children reached due to the late receipt of funding in the year. Another key concern remains the risk of responder fatigue and burnout due to the heavy workload particularly in Gaza during the Great March of Return.

Child Protection partners in the West Bank, through the Child Protection working group regularly convened to coordinate their response to conflict related violence affecting children, including in Khan Al Ahmar community at immediate risk of demolition. The Child Protection area of responsibility contributed to the emergency response planning and coordinated the efforts of Child Protection actors on the ground in collaboration with the Education Cluster. Technical support to humanitarian sub-cluster coordination resulted in strengthened coordination and effectiveness of humanitarian service provision. As part of the cluster contingency plan and emergency preparedness, UNICEF with other stakeholders organized a Child Protection Minimum Standards (CPMS) training for members of CPWG/ MHPSS working groups. The training improved the knowledge, confidence and overall capacity of the members in applying the CPMS to strengthen the quality of child protection programming in emergencies. In the West Bank, 28 participants from NGOs, CSOs, and community-based organisations participated, and in Gaza 30 protection actors including the Ministry of Social Development participated. UNICEF facilitated a rapid assessment of the impact of the energy crisis

on children in Gaza. The assessment identified child protection and mental health effects and the needs of children and caregivers in Gaza as a result of the prolonged crisis. A technical committee was also established to undertake a Child Protection Rapid Assessment through the CPWG.

Table 2: Children Protection Humanitarian Performance Monitoring

Child Protection	Cluster Response		UNICEF and IPs	
	2018 Target	Total Results	2018 Target	Total Results
# of children benefiting from structured child protection interventions including life skills programs.	155,246	61,329	51,386	10,218
# of women and men who receive information on their rights and access legal services.	1,300	397	1,300	397
# of people (children and caregivers) who receive ERW risk education, including children.	25,000	9,362	25,000	7,877

3. Education and Adolescents

In 2018 UNICEF continued to support the education system in areas affected by crisis including Gaza, Hebron and Area C. UNICEF worked with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) and partners to support vulnerable children to continue attending quality education.

In Gaza in 2018, UNICEF and partners, distributed emergency education supplies (stationery, student kits, and school bags) to 14,792 vulnerable and underserved students. In total, Education Cluster partners supported the provision of emergency education supplies to 333,243 students in Gaza. UNICEF provided 4,500 children from grades 3-5 in Gaza with an opportunity to improve their literacy and numeracy skills through participating in UNICEF's remedial education program. With support from the Education Cluster, 57,061 students benefited from catch up/remedial education which was supported by UNICEF and Education partners in Gaza. Remedial Education Programs in Gaza target children at risk of drop out, with the aim of supporting them to catch up with their peers.

Children and teachers in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, face severe and chronic protection challenges getting to and from school every day. They cross Israeli settlements, military check points and go through closed military zones where they can experience harassment and even violence. They walk for long distances on dangerous and busy roads and the lack of safe access to education has significant and negative consequences to their education and may eventually result in a decrease in school hours, an increased risk of dropping-out and displacement or separation of families as they seek alternative solutions to get their children to school. In the first half of 2018 44 education-related violation incidents were documented affecting 11,588 children. Almost half of these incidents took place in Hebron Governorate. UNICEF with partners supported 5,943 children and 178 teachers with protective presence on their way to and from schools in the H2 area of Hebron city and other vulnerable locations in Area C of the West Bank during 2018. Protective presence support meets an

immediate humanitarian need for safe access to education for children living in the most vulnerable areas of the West Bank. The Ministry of Education and Higher Education also views this intervention as critical, and it continues to be viewed by parents and communities as an effective measure to increase their children's sense of safety and to ensure uninterrupted school attendance. The results of the OCHA 2018 household survey in Hebron, confirms that parents are more likely to send their children to school when protective accompaniment or presence is available. Children and parents have expressed an increased sense of safety on days when protective presence is provided and have noted that both soldiers and settlers are less likely to use violence when international volunteers are present.

In the West Bank in 2018, 80 youth volunteers were selected from three at risk communities who received 70-hours of training by UNICEF on disaster risk management systems, life skills, identifying, responding to and mitigating manmade and natural disasters.

The Education Cluster co-led by UNICEF promoted safe access to school in both Gaza and the West Bank for vulnerable children. As part of this an emergency education response plan for the Khan Al Ahmar village, was prepared by the Education Cluster. Under this plan UNICEF will deliver education support to affected students in case their education is disrupted due to displacement. UNICEF purchased pre-positioned school supplies in the event that such a response in Khan Al Ahmar is warranted. The Education Cluster also updated its contingency planning documents, as part of the preparedness measures for any escalation in the Gaza Strip. Part of the risk analysis incorporated into the contingency planning are the constraints faced by schools due to the shortage of education operational budgets resulting in their inability to provide basic education supplies, the electricity crisis in Gaza and threats to UNRWA funding.

Table 3: Education and Adolescents Humanitarian Performance Monitoring

Education and Adolescents	Cluster Response		UNICEF and IPs	
	2018 Target	Total Results	2018 Target	Total Results
# of children who benefited from provision of supplies and materials	329,000	333,243	39,000	14,792
# of children and teachers benefiting from protective presence / accompaniment to school	8,500	6,121	8,500	6,121
# of adolescents participating in life-skills building and community-based activities	12,529	80	5,000	80
# of children in grades 3 to 6 benefitting from catch up classes	63,997	57,061	5,000	4,500

4. Child Health and Nutrition

In 2018, UNICEF and its partners responded to the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable women and children in Gaza and improved access to adequate health and nutritional care services to over 283,460 children and women benefiting from lifesaving medical supplies including essential drugs, medical consumables and first aid kits and trauma bags. UNICEF through its Supply and Logistics section completed offshore procurement of essential drugs comprised of 5,830 boxes of a combination of drugs including but not limited to Benzylpenicillin, Dexamethasone injection, Gentamicin, Phytomenadi, Hydrocortisone, Metronidazole injection, and Sodium chloride compound injection. In addition to the offshore procurement arrangement for essential drugs, UNICEF finalised local procurement of medical consumables such as complete flexible breathing system tubes, central venous pressure catheter, infusion administration sets with air ventilation and injection port, and central venous pressure catheter sets including paediatric radiopaque polyethylene catheters. Essential drugs and medical consumables were purchased and distributed to a total of 60 maternal and neonatal health facilities that were facing stock out of medical supplies.

Additionally, UNICEF provided 320 first aids kits and trauma bags for prepositioning in Gaza and the West Bank (310 kits and bags for Gaza; and 10 bags for the West Bank). Support, including provision of essential supplies such as first aids kits and trauma bags, has ensured that essential lifesaving health and nutrition services are accessible, available and acceptable for high-risk pregnant and lactating women, new-borns and young children despite the violent events in Gaza and the West Bank.

UNICEF invested in improving new-born survival through technical and financial support to the refurbishment of the Neonatal Intensive Care Units in Gaza and the West bank, and procurement of medical equipment. Refurbishment of the neonatal intensive care unit in Al Naser hospital and provision of two incubators and 16 baby cots and mothers' chairs was supported to ensure provision of essential neonatal health care and promotion of exclusive breastfeeding and rooming in the neonatal intensive care unit. UNICEF and partners completed the second phase of the rehabilitation of the neonate unit in Beit Jala hospital in the West Bank, and the technical handover was completed in October 2018. The renovated neonate unit, is expected to serve and ensure lifesaving services for 1,000 neonates annually.

In 2018, UNICEF procured 11 solar refrigerators for UNRWA primary health care clinics where 70 percent of vaccines for Gaza are stored for the immunization programme. Additionally, UNICEF procured and installed a cold chain alarm system in the national central cold room. This intervention was critical because of the discontinued supply of electricity in vaccines cold chain which could

jeopardize the effectiveness of the vaccines and threatened immunization programme for around 500,000 children under the age of five.

UNICEF coordinated the Nutrition sub-cluster working group activities in Gaza. With support from the UNICEF Headquarters Nutrition Unit and the Global Nutrition Cluster Rapid Response Team, in vulnerable areas of Gaza UNICEF supported a Nutrition Needs Assessment in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP) and an international NGO. Preliminary findings showed a deterioration of the nutrition situation among women and young children. The coping strategies of the most vulnerable population in Gaza revealed a deterioration of diet in terms of variety and daily intake. An alarming and unforeseen deterioration is related to the nutritional status of pregnant and lactating women. According to the data, 18 percent of pregnant women and 14 percent of lactating mothers are malnourished. This calls for urgent action under the nutrition sub-cluster working group and the development of an action plan to address the nutritional needs of most vulnerable mothers and young children. In 2018, UNICEF supported over 18,700 children under-five screened for malnutrition. As a result, sub-cluster partners supported 237 children to be treated for severe acute malnutrition, and around 2,700 children treated for moderate acute malnutrition.

Table 4: Child Health and Nutrition Humanitarian Performance Monitoring

Health and Nutrition	Cluster Response		UNICEF and IPs	
	2018 Target	Total Results	2018 Target	Total Results
# of children <5 and women benefiting from improved health and nutritional services from hospitals, clinics and outreach teams	200,000	283,460	200,000	283,460
# of high risk pregnancies and lactating mothers receiving post-natal home visits	150,000	6,636	6,500	6,636
# of neonates receiving quality lifesaving services	10,000	6,411	3,000	6,411

RESULTS ACHIEVED FROM HUMANITARIAN THEMATIC FUNDING

Humanitarian Thematic Funding provided UNICEF with flexible funding for programming including e-vouchers and Family Centres in Gaza, and water trucking in Area C of the West Bank. The flexibility provided through this humanitarian thematic funding allowed UNICEF to respond to urgent needs as required, which was essential given the significant changes to humanitarian needs over the course of 2018.

E-Vouchers: UNICEF and WFP began implementation of an e-voucher programme to provide most vulnerable families in the Gaza Strip with blankets, clothing and hygiene kits during winter 2018/19. Gaza was targeted due to the sharp deterioration in the living conditions of many people living there in 2018. The initiative targeted vulnerable families, particularly those living in flood prone areas, and

families caring for children with disabilities and children injured during the Great March of Return. UNICEF and WFP targeted over 1,800 households with blankets and children's clothing; 2,000 households with school uniforms including jackets and rain boots; and over 3,600 households with hygiene kits and hygiene promotion, upon project completion in early 2019. Based on their level of need, families receive e-vouchers of between US\$ 47 and US\$ 106 on their electronic assistance cards. The cash top-up allowed them to buy items from contracted local retailers.

Family Centres: UNICEF in partnership with local NGOs designed community level child-friendly Family Centres in Gaza. These centres supported over 2,500 children and 1,800 caregivers in 2018 to access psychosocial, educational, health and protection services in their neighbourhoods. The centres also operated as an emergency response mechanism during crises, including during escalation of the conflict in 2018. Global Thematic Funding contributed essential funding to support the Family Centres at the end of 2018 when other funding options weren't available.

Water trucking in Area C: UNICEF through a non-governmental organization supported vulnerable communities in Area C to access sufficient, safe, and affordable water for personal and domestic uses. In 2018, 58 most underserved communities and groups in Area C were identified through assessment, which found local water sources are unsafe, and that women and children spent considerable time fetching water exposing them to risks. Global Humanitarian Thematic funding contributed to support 15,000 people to access safe drinking water through water trucking to these most vulnerable communities.

ASSESSMENT, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

UNICEF State of Palestine employs several methods to measure project and programme performance and progress, including review of programme reports, programmatic visits, field visits, surveys and evaluation. The UNICEF monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan has not only generated evidence at the programme level for informed decision making but has also provided information for accountability and performance improvement. During field monitoring visits, UNICEF staff systematically verify progress on the implementation of activities, achievements of results related to the Humanitarian Monitoring Performance (HPM) and project indicators. In 2018, findings from monitoring activities were used to inform adjustments in programme design and implementation, and to ensure the effective achievement of the desired results. Recommendations from the field visit findings are documented and systematically followed-up.

In 2018, UNICEF continued to assess its programmes and their contribution to the realization of the rights of children and women in the State of Palestine. The Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

(IMEP) was monitored through the M&E Working Group and reviewed by the Programme Management and Country Management Teams monthly.

As part of the IMEP, UNICEF has implemented several baseline studies, surveys and evaluations to contribute to the generation, analysis and use of evidence. These activities included:

- Rapid assessment of vulnerabilities, resilience, coping mechanisms, and service delivery gaps to mitigate impact of occupation and settler violence on children in Hebron Governorate;
- Nutrition needs assessment in Gaza;
- Evaluation of the Family Centres in Gaza for the Child Protection programme, to assess the effectiveness of community-level child protection service delivery; and
- Evaluation of the Post-Natal Home Visit programme for the Health and Nutrition programme, to assess the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of the programme and identify good practices;
- Evaluation of the Al-Fakhoura programme, Investing in Education and Building Resilience in Gaza which aimed at determining the extent to which the project achieved its planned outcomes.

UNICEF has implemented the Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfer (HACT) modality to ensure thorough programmatic and financial monitoring of partners' implementation. HACT has allowed the country office to ensure accountability, generate learning and informing timely decision-making with implementing partners. In further strengthening risk management and mitigation, in 2018 the SoP conducted five micro-assessments, two audits, six spot-checks, 45 programmatic visits and an additional 104 site visits. To ensure an innovative and pragmatic response to managing results and gathering information, UNICEF rolled out the e-tools system as a unified platform for many of UNICEF processes, ultimately focusing on driving results and better management of partnership data.

To ensure the strengthening of long-term capacity gaps of implementing partners, UNICEF trained partners in West Bank and Gaza on: HACT, Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and Monitoring & Evaluation. UNICEF provided monitoring and data management support to national and international implementing partners to increasingly engage them in and lead their internal M&E processes to achieve quality results in UNICEF funded projects.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

• **Table 1: Funding status against the appeal by sector**

Appeal Sector	SoP - UNICEF HRP 2018 Funding Requirements				
	Requirements (USD)	Funds Available *		Funding Gap	
		Funds Received Current Year	Carry-Over	USD	%
WASH	15,919,500	7,600,997	3,344,726	4,973,777	31%
Education	3,798,100	954,344	448,946	2,394,810	63%
Child Protection	2,338,700	2,840,318	75,042	-576,660	-25%
Health and Nutrition	2,769,900	2,622,701	432,061	-284,862	-10%
Cluster Coordination	979,200	488,424	0	490,776	50%
Total	25,805,400	14,506,785	4,300,775	6,997,840	27%

Table 2: Funding received and available by donor and funding type

Table 2 - Funding Received and Available by 31 December 2018 by Donor and Funding type (in USD)		
Donor Name/Type of funding	Programme Budget Allotment reference	Overall Amount*
I. Humanitarian funds received in 2018		
a) Thematic Humanitarian Funds		
See details in Table 3	SM/18/9910	3,393,023
b) Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds		
European Commission / ECHO	SM/18/0286	2,001,125
Belgium	SM/18/0450	1,082,954
Switzerland	SM/18/0584	929,645
United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF	SM/18/0265	694,444
SIDA – Sweden	SM/18/0404	506,912
Japan	SM/18/0073	555,556
Spain	SM/18/0331	321,502
The United Kingdom	SM/18/0376	214,115
Total Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds		6,306,253
c) Pooled Funding		
(i) CERF Grants		
(ii) Other Pooled funds - including Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF), Humanitarian Response Funds, Emergency Response Funds, UN Trust Fund for Human Security, Country-based Pooled Funds etc		
CERF		574,691
UNOCHA	SM/18/0230	574,691
Humanitarian Response Fund		1,575,354
UNOCHA	SM/18/0511	742,006

UNOCHA	SM/18/0322	604,788
UNOCHA	SM/18/0512	228,559
d) Other types of humanitarian funds		
N/A		0
Total humanitarian funds received in 2018 (a+b+c+d)		11,849,320
II. Carry-over of humanitarian funds available in 2018		
e) Carry over Thematic Humanitarian Funds		
Thematic Humanitarian Funds	SM/14/9910	289,967
f) Carry-over of non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds		
The United Kingdom	SM/17/0538	4,668,473
Poland	SM/17/0576	162,514
Norway	SM/17/0563	785,253
French Committee for UNICEF	SM/17/0130	105,403
USA USAID	SM/1/50100	221
Canada	SM/17/0412	195,423
The United Kingdom	SM/17/0501	9,563
Japan	SM/17/0047	416,226
European Commission / ECHO	SM/17/0315	3,816
UNOCHA	SM/17/0406	321,373
Total carry-over non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds		6,668,274
Total carry-over humanitarian funds (e + f)		6,958,240**
III. Other sources (Regular Resources set -aside, diversion of RR - if applicable)		
N/A		0
Total other resources		0

Table 3: Thematic Humanitarian contributions received in 2018

Thematic Humanitarian Contributions Received in 2018 (in USD): Donor	Grant Number [1]	Programmable Amount	Total Contribution Amount
		(in USD)	(in USD)
German Committee for UNICEF	SM/18/9910/0007	423,392	444,562
Denmark	SM/18/9910/0050	1,404,444	1,502,755
French Committee for UNICEF	SM/18/9910/0260	326,531	342,857
United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF	SM/18/9910/0267	30,447	31,969
Allocation from global Thematic Humanitarian*	SM/18/9910	1,208,209	1,292,784
Total		3,393,023	3,614,927

*Global Thematic Humanitarian Funding contributions are pooled and then allocated to country and regional offices. For a detailed list of grants, please see the 2018 Humanitarian Action Annual Results Reports.

**This includes US\$ 2,657,465 worth of additional funds received during 2018 against 2017 original allocation

FUTURE WORK PLAN

Within the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) at least 2.5 million Palestinians in the State of Palestine will need humanitarian assistance in 2019, out of whom 1.1 million are children under 18 who will continue bearing the plight of the protracted crisis.

UNICEF is requesting US\$ 21,057,222 to continue responding to the worsening humanitarian situation and sustain capacities for crisis response and disaster readiness in the State of Palestine, including the needs outlined in the HRP. Humanitarian needs include US\$11.2 million to reach 360,000 vulnerable people with WASH projects; US\$ 2.8 million to reach 94,000 women and children with lifesaving Health and Nutrition interventions; US\$ 2.9 million to reach 80,000 children with integrated psychosocial support and child protection services; and US\$ 3.4 million for to assist children to safely access quality education opportunities through Education interventions.

The objective of humanitarian WASH interventions in the State of Palestine is to contribute to the increase of Palestinian children and families use of affordable, sustainable and safely managed water and sanitation services, and adopt improved hygiene practices. Over the past year, UNICEF State of Palestine has been scaling-up its support to the most vulnerable communities, to improve their access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene practices. Humanitarian funding would allow for further expansion of this work, and the reach of UNICEF SoP's program to additional people. Without responding to communities' humanitarian WASH needs for quality, sustainable water resources and sanitation, progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals will be held back.

With UNICEF support, the Ministry of Health and NGOs will address identified gaps and improve access to adequate lifesaving maternal and child health and nutrition interventions through both responsive and remedial activities in Area C, H2 and Hebron. UNICEF will continue partnering with the MoH, WHO, UNFPA, and NGOs and other Health and Nutrition Cluster agencies to address identified needs and improve access to adequate lifesaving maternal and neonatal health care services. The Health and Nutrition cluster has an objective to ensure the availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of essential lifesaving health services to the most vulnerable communities in the West Bank including through health system strengthening, preparedness and community resilience building. UNICEF in partnership with cluster members aims to improve the quality and accessibility of Hebron residents to essential and lifesaving health care services. This will include both responsive and remedial interventions to meet the needs of children, especially neonates, and pregnant and lactating mothers. It will address critical gaps in the health response for women and children in West Bank, especially in Hebron (H2 and Area C) communities, including the need for the maternal and child health, and neonate services. In addition, the proposed activities are aligned with

the UN strategy for Hebron and responds to the latest multi-sectoral needs assessment conducted by OCHA, and the neonate services assessment recently completed by WHO.

Given the deteriorating and volatile situation in H2 Hebron and other high-risk areas UNICEF in collaboration with the Education Cluster members, will continue to provide protective presence for children and teachers to ensure their safe access to the schools in response to overall protective presence response gaps as reported by all service providers in the 2018 HRP needs assessment. As many children have fallen back in their studies due to the irregularity of the school attendance and the psychosocial effects of the conflict in Gaza, UNICEF will continue supporting remedial education for the vulnerable children to enable them to catch-up in their studies. Child protection humanitarian services are heavily under-resourced and unable to meet the burgeoning needs. At the end of 2018 out of a cluster target of 321,159 a total of 61,329 (20%) were reached by members of the Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AoR). As a result, affected children are at risk of developing mental health illnesses, dropping out of school and adopting negative coping mechanisms, including child labour and marriage, and engaging in violence during the ongoing Great March of Return demonstrations. UNICEF has used humanitarian funds to strengthen protection systems, including operationalisation of child protection Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) by both development and humanitarian partners. In 2019 protection partners will work to improve scale and efficiency of critical life-saving humanitarian child protection interventions to reach these children and ensure they get back into school and onto the learning curve and fulfil their potential.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

On behalf of the children and women in the State of Palestine, UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to the timely contributions made by the governments, National Committees, Foundations, NGOs and other UN agencies that have maintained their support to meet the needs of the girls and boys affected by crises across the State of Palestine.

The support, joint efforts and coordination of the different stakeholders enabled timely response to the complex emergency. The flexibility of the thematic funding support has contributed to the timely achievement of results against the various programme targets. UNICEF extends special thanks to all the partners for their contributions and efforts to the achievement of the results for children focusing on saving lives and ensuring the upholding and respect of children's rights.

ANNEXES

The following Annexes will be attached as separate documents:

- a. Human Interest Story
- b. Case Study
- c. Two-pagers – non-Thematic Funding contributions
- d. Donor Statements (As of 31 December 2018)