



The Humanitarian Monitor

occupied Palestinian territory

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Overview- Key Issues

Update on Gaza

a) Violence

During April, 70 people were killed in the Gaza Strip in direct conflict related incidents, 21 of whom were children. The largest single-incident casualty toll took place during the IDF ground operation in Juhor ad Dik area northeast of Al Bureij Camp on 16 April, during which seven children (aged 12, 13, 14(2), 15(3) years) were killed by IAF missiles, and 12 others were injured, two of whom died of their wounds on 20 April. The same day another two children were killed and two were injured by flechette rounds that struck a Reuters press vehicle on Salah Ed-Din road in Central Gaza.

b) Fuel and cooking gas crisis

During April, fuel supply (including benzene, diesel and industrial gasoline) allowed by Israel to Gaza was further reduced to 7.8 million litres, while the monthly average between October 2007 and March 2008 was 14.6 million litres. Fuel shortage is affecting different sectors in Gaza, including health, agriculture and water and sanitation. These sectors require about 26.3 million litres of fuel a month. The problem further worsened with Gaza experiencing a shortage in cooking gas; only 2.2 million kg of cooking gas entered Gaza during April, whereas its monthly need is 7.5 million kg. Compared with March, April saw a drop of about 60% in the quantity of cooking gas supplied to Gaza.

Impact of fuel and cooking gas shortage

Sewage dumping in the Mediterranean Sea

As electricity cuts are difficult to back-up, due to fuel shortage, the CMWU (Coastal Municipalities Water Utility) was forced (since 24 January) to pump sewage into the Mediterranean Sea, in order to avoid flooding in residential areas. The CMWU, which received only 20.2% of its fuel needs between January and April 2008, pumps approximately 80,000 m³ of sewage (about 30,000 m³ of raw sewage and 50,000 m³ of partially treated sewage) every day into the sea, which creates a potential public health hazard.

(For more details on wastewater pumping stations, please see the Water and Sanitation section)

WHO facilitated the collection of seawater samples from 13 risky areas in the five governorates of the Gaza Strip. Two microbiological tests were carried out to examine the presence of human faecal (Faecal Coliform) and animal faecal (Faecal Streptococcus). Results revealed that three areas in Gaza and one area in Rafah governorates (30.8%) are polluted with Faecal Coliform and Faecal Streptococcus; and three areas in Gaza city (23.1%) are polluted only with Faecal Coliform.

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Impact on MoH (Ministry of Health) hospitals

During April, the MoH hospitals in the Gaza Strip had to limit their services due to power cuts and shortage in fuel, which feeds their emergency generators and vehicles. This resulted in the following:

- Nasser, Gaza European and Yousef Najar hospitals in the southern Gaza Strip and Aqsa Martyrs' Hospital in the Middle Area had to suspend all elective surgical operations for two weeks;
- Shifa and Nassr hospitals had to reduce the capacity of laundry rooms by 50% for one week;
- Ten out of the 44 MoH ambulances were not functioning for two weeks, including one mobile clinic that provides primary health care services to 13 different areas in the Gaza Strip. Fifty six MoH and PRCS ambulances only had their fuel tanks partially filled.

(For more information, please see the health section herein)



Impact on agriculture

a- Poultry farmers were forced to kill 165,000 chicks due to their inability to keep them warm and healthy due to the shortage in cooking gas.

b- Many farmers stopped irrigating their crops due to the difficulty of pumping water from agricultural wells, 70% of which run on diesel. Some farmers were forced to harvest crops prematurely, while others' crops dried.

c) Gaza Crossings

During April, the number of truckloads allowed into Gaza (1,991) fell by 42% compared with March 2008 (3,399 truckloads) and by 84%, compared with the same month in 2007 (12,378 truckloads). Of the 1,991 truckloads, 259 trucks delivered humanitarian aid goods. The vast majority of imported commodities in April remained limited to food, hygiene and medical supplies, with a 34% decrease in the total amount of imported basic food commodities compared to March 2008. No exports have been allowed since December 2007.

d) Availability of drugs in the Gaza Strip (WHO)

During April, more drugs were available at central drug stores in the Gaza Strip. The number of drug items at zero¹ level dropped to 23 drug items of 416 essential items on the drug list in April, compared with 55 items in March 2008.

e) Access of Palestinian patients through Erez (WHO)

During April, 1,077 patients from Gaza applied for permits to cross Erez for treatment in specialized health services in the West Bank (including E. Jerusalem), Israel, Egypt and Jordan. Of the total number, 709 patients or 65.8% were granted permits, whilst 54 (5.0%) had their applications denied and 314 (29.2%) were still being processed.²

f) Availability and prices of basic commodities

All basic food commodities were available in the market during April despite localized shortages of fresh meat, frozen meat and frozen fish.

The price of rice increased by 11 % compared to March 2008 due to reduced imported quantities from Egypt. A significant increase occurred in the prices of some vegetable, esp. lemon, by 15% compared to March 2008, while

a decrease in the price of the other vegetables occurred, such as cucumber and potato, due to the availability of large quantities in the market due to harvest season.

The price of chicken, frozen fish and frozen meat remained stable. The price of fresh meat remained stable at 44-45 NIS/kg.

The price of animal feed was stable during April.

Increase in child casualties

During April, a total of 24 Palestinian children were killed in direct conflict related incidents in the oPt. This brings to 76 the total number of Palestinian children killed in 2008, constituting 81% of all children killed during the entire year of 2007.³ In the Gaza Strip, 62% of child deaths resulted from IAF firing missiles on localities in Gaza North and Deir al Balah governorates and 24% from tank shells fired during IDF incursions into the Gaza Strip.

In the West Bank, two 15-year-old boys were killed; one was run over by an Israeli settler bus near Salim village (Nablus), and the other was found dead near Hamra settlement (Nablus). It remains unknown whether he was killed by an Israeli settler or a Palestinian. In addition, one boy was killed in an explosion in a house in Jabaliya (North Gaza) when a household member was preparing an explosive device. (*For more details, see Child Protection section herein*).

Humanitarian access was more difficult during April

Access for humanitarian staff was reported to be more difficult in April than in previous months. New additional Israeli restrictions at crossings and checkpoints into East Jerusalem and across the Barrier, including searches of UN cars, resulted in 179 reported access incidents with UN staff resulting in a loss of 3,228 work-hours during April. The UN lost more staff hours in March and April 2008 than all lost staff hours for 2007. Access for humanitarian goods in most areas continued. However, in certain cases, needing detours because of roadblocks and closures.

The following UN Agencies, local and international NGOs and organisations participate in sector working groups and regularly provide information to the Humanitarian Monitor: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Office for the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), Al Haq, Badil, Save the Children (UK), Defence for Children International – Palestine Section (DCI-PS), Oxfam GB, Palestine Hydrology Group (PHG), ACF-E, AAA, ACP, ACAD, and members of the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM).



Overview- Regional Focus

West Bank including East Jerusalem

Water shortages in Bethlehem governorate in the southern

During April, Bethlehem governorate witnessed a water shortage due to a reduction in the supply of water by the Mekorot Israeli Water Company, as usual during this period of the year. This was compounded by the increase in water demand by households and poor infrastructure of wells administered by the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA). According to the Water Supply and Sewage Authority in Bethlehem, pumps at the PWA Al Mattalah reservoir of Bethlehem are in urgent need of replacement at a cost of 100,000 USD, currently unavailable. This is affecting 22,000 residents of Al Duheisha Camp, Ad Doha, Al Khadr and parts of Beit Jalah.

Mekorot supplies water to the governorate through three connections. One connection (Al-Walajah) only supplied half the normal amount, affecting water supply to 16,000 residents in Beit Jalah. Another connection (Herodeon) provided 40% of the usual amount of water, affecting 7,200 people living in several eastern communities of Bethlehem governorate. No change was recorded regarding supply from the other connection (Ish Al Ghurab). These reductions led to a decrease in the water pressure, which prevented the water from reaching those houses located in high altitude areas.

Quantities of water delivered by the PWA to Bethlehem governorate did not change during April. However, areas covered by the PWA were negatively affected due to the overall increase in water demand, common at this time of the year. Supply by the PWA remained constrained by the fact that four of its seven wells are not functioning.

Continuing raids and confiscation of property of institutions associated with the Islamic Charitable Society in Hebron city in the southern West Bank

On 30 April, the IDF raided the Hebron Girl's Orphanage in Hebron city. Material amounting to approximately 45,000 USD was confiscated from the sewing workshop in the orphanage, including all sewing machines office equipment rolls of fabric and others. The equipment was later found in the Hebron garbage dump.

In the past two months, raids on the two orphanages in Hebron city have affected an estimated number of 240 boys and girls, who live in the two orphanages. Following confiscation orders against institutions associated with the Islamic Charitable Society, institutions were either closed or threatened with closure. Approximately, 3,000 people depending on the services provided by the charity are

affected by the closure of some institutions. *(For more information on previous raids on orphanages in Hebron, please refer to the March 2008 Humanitarian Monitor).*

Talks were held during April between the Palestinian Ministry of Civil Affairs and the Israeli authorities to prevent the transfer of ownership over these institutions to the IDF. The case has also been taken to the Israeli High Court of Justice. The confiscation of the properties of the charity is likely to result in the eviction and displacement of 240 orphans and around 30 families living on the premises of the charity. Already one of the 30 families living in the building owned by the charity has left out of fear.

Gaza Strip

Update on fishing

The total catch of sardines in April, which is the high season, was only 75 MT (Metric Tonnes), 74% less than the catch during April last year. This decline was mainly due to the shortage of fuel in the Gaza Strip, the continuing restriction on access of fishermen to the sea and the increased pollution from sewage dumping. While sardine catch takes place mainly beyond 12 nautical miles from the coast, the Israeli authorities allowed fishermen to venture out only up to six nautical miles from the coast. The current situation threatens the livelihood of 3,000 fishermen and severely reduces the availability of affordable animal protein in the Gaza Strip.



Protection of Civilians

Protection of Civilians Analysis

During April, 76 Palestinians were killed and 200 injured in the oPt in the conflict with Israel. After a significant increase in March, deaths among Palestinians declined, but the monthly average is still 130% higher than in 2007. The number of injuries follows a similar trend as a 30% increase was recorded in April compared with the monthly average of 2007.

Of those killed in the Gaza Strip, 14% were killed in armed clashes between the IDF and Palestinian militants (including one child), 56% were killed by IAF (Israeli Air Force) air strikes (including 13 children and one woman) and 26% were killed by IDF tank shells, flechette rounds or live ammunition (including seven children). The remaining 4% were three Palestinian militants, who detonated their vehicles at Kerem Shalom Crossing.

In the West Bank, two Palestinians were killed in an exchange of fire with the IDF in Qabatiya (Jenin) and one by an IDF undercover unit in Balata Camp (Nablus). This makes April 2008 the month with the second lowest death toll in the West Bank since June 2005; the lowest was in November 2006.

During April, eight Israelis were killed, four of whom were IDF killed in the Gaza Strip, two in a Palestinian militant attack on Nitzani Oz industrial area west of Tulkarm (West Bank) and another two in an attack on Nahal Oz Crossing (Gaza Strip). In addition, 30 Israelis were injured in April. With 20 IDF soldiers injured in the Gaza Strip, April marks the highest number of IDF soldiers injured since July 2005.

Palestinian internal violence resulted in the death of one Palestinian in a family feud in the West Bank and another one for unclear reasons in the Gaza Strip. Out of the 26 internal injuries, 46% were due to factional violence (West Bank) and 23% were due to family feuds (Gaza Strip).

Killing of civilians: a mother and four children

On 28 April, an IAF missile fired at Palestinian militants in Beit Hanoun (North Gaza) left eight people dead. Amongst those killed were 41-year-old Myassar Abu Me'tiq and four of her children: Salih (6) Rodayna (4), Hana' (3) and Mosad (8 months). Her seven-year-old daughter, Shayma', and her stepdaughter, Asma, were severely injured. At the time of the attack, Myassar was pregnant and the fetus died with her.

The militants were allegedly withdrawing from a nearby site from where they had fired at IDF forces operating south of Erez Checkpoint. The details as to how the civilians were killed are unclear; according to an IDF investigation, the missile caused "a secondary and large explosion due to the blast of explosives [carried by the militants] in the proximity of a home." Palestinian and Israeli human rights organisations also investigating the incident cast doubt on the secondary explosion and argued that it was more likely that the explosion of the IAF missile itself that led to the death of the mother and her four children.

The principle of distinction and the principle of proportionality

Under customary international humanitarian law, all parties in conflict are bound to distinguish between civilians and combatants and between civilian objects and military objectives. As stated in of the Protocol Additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflict (Protocol I, 1977), "the civilian population as such, as well as individual civilians, shall not be the object of attack" (art. 51, para. 2); as well, "attacks shall be limited strictly to military objectives" (Art. 52 para. 2)

Customary international humanitarian law also prohibits disproportionate attacks, even if directed at legitimate targets. Disproportionate attacks are those "which may be expected to cause incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians, damage to civilian objects, or a combination thereof, which would be excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated." (Art. 51 para. 4 of Protocol I, 1977).



Protection of Civilians

"Protection encompasses all activities aimed at ensuring full respect for the rights of the individuals in accordance with international human rights law, international humanitarian law and refugee law."^a

	Total 2005 (monthly average)	Total 2006 (monthly average)	Total 2007 (monthly average)	May-07	Jun-07	July-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08
Number of Palestinian deaths - direct conflict¹															
West Bank	216 (18)	678 (57)	396 (33)	8	10	6	10	7	10	1	4	9	6	8	3
Gaza Strip				54	30	23	37	30	27	25	58	80	67	104	70
Israel				1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	1
Number of Palestinian injuries - direct conflict															
West Bank	1260 (105)	3194 (266)	1843 (153)	94	76	38	92	79	81	77	53	111	58	122	45
Gaza Strip				187	86	29	62	56	71	50	84	182	143	215	155
Number of Israeli deaths - direct conflict															
oPt	48 (4)	25 (2)	13 (1)	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	2	1	0	3	6
Israel				2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	8
Number of Israeli injuries - direct conflict															
oPt	484 (40)	377 (31)	322 (27)	10	18	3	54	18	13	6	14	11	12	36	27
Israel				20	1	4	2	69	0	0	6	9	23	18	3
Number of Palestinian deaths - internal violence²															
West Bank	12 (>1)	146 (12)	490 (41)	7	5	4	1	4	8	1	3	0	2	7	1
Gaza Strip				63	188	11	11	8	16	11	12	9	4	3	1
Number of Palestinian injuries - internal violence															
West Bank	130 (11)	871 (76)	2726 (227)	25	25	18	7	24	13	64	2	45	4	19	17
Gaza Strip				308	841	56	119	139	109	116	107	22	19	21	9
Average weekly IDF searches, arrests and detentions in the West Bank³															
Search Campaigns	Ave Weekly (61)	Ave Weekly (109)	Ave Weekly (102)	124	101	86	98	91	78	89	71	94	103	113	114
Arrests and Detentions	Ave Weekly (74)	Ave Weekly (101)	Ave Weekly (96)	105	78	65	93	84	73	88	83	92	94	115	90

For more information please contact OHCHR, (02) 2965534 or OCHA, (02) 582 9962 (Isra' Muzaffar)



Child Protection

Child Casualties *(Continued from Key Issues)*

During April, a total of 24 Palestinian children were killed and 38 injured in direct conflict related incidents. Of the injured children, 68% were in the Gaza Strip and 32% in the West Bank. Of the children injured, 37 were injured by the IDF and one child was physically assaulted by an Israeli settler. Furthermore, a five-year-old girl was injured when a rocket fired from the Gaza Strip towards Israel hit a Palestinian house in Beit Lahiya. Another boy had his arm broken when he fell while running away from a group of Israeli settlers, who were chasing him (Hebron). This brings to 256 the total number of children injured in 2008, representing 74% of the number of children injured in 2007.

April 2008 represented the fourth highest monthly total since January 2005. This follows another significantly high total during March 2008 when the number of Palestinian children killed in March was 12% greater than that of April.

One Israeli child was injured by a rudimentary rocket fired from Gaza towards the Western Negev.

Children in detention

By the end of April, an estimated number of 327 Palestinian children were held in Israel Prison Services (IPS) facilities (ie. different prisons throughout Israel) and IDF detention and interrogation centers, 323 of whom were boys and four were girls.

Of the total number of children detained, 17 were detained for interrogation in IDF facilities and 12 were in administrative detention - incarceration without charge or trial and the remaining were held in IPS facilities.

Compared with March, the total number of Palestinian children detained by Israel increased by 0.6%, whilst the number of children in administrative detention decreased by 7.6%.

Displacement

The Israeli authorities demolished one house in Beit Hanina and two in 'Anata (Jerusalem) due to the lack of a building permit; this resulted in the displacement of 29 Palestinians, including 14 children.



Child Protection

“Child protection includes strategies and activities aimed at the protection of children (under 18) against abuse, exploitation and violence.”^b

Children under 18 continue to be victims of Israeli-Palestinian violence and of conflict within the Palestinian community. UN Security Council Resolution 1612, adopted on 26 July 2005, makes explicit the need for protection of children in armed conflict. This section's indicators are used to monitor the rights of children for protection as stated in this Resolution.

	Total 2005 (monthly average)	Total 2006 (monthly average)	Total 2007 (monthly average)	May-07	Jun-07	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-07
Number of Palestinian children killed - direct conflict⁴															
West Bank	52	127	43	0	1	2	2	3	1	0	0	2	0	2	0
Gaza Strip	(4)	(11)	(4)	9	3	1	6	2	2	2	0	4	10	26	21
Number of Palestinian children injured - direct conflict⁵															
West Bank	129	470	265	22	14	14	21	29	24	17	6	38	12	41	12
Gaza Strip	(11)	(39)	(22)	10	4	1	2	3	9	0	0	27	17	52	26
Number of Israeli children killed - direct conflict⁶															
oPt	3 (<1)	1 (<1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Israel	3 (<1)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Number of Israeli children injured - direct conflict⁷															
oPt	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Israel	0	7 (<1)	3(<1)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	1	1
Number of Palestinian children killed - indirect conflict⁸															
West Bank	5 (<1)	2 (<1)	1(<1)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gaza Strip	3 (<1)	6 (<1)	1	1	5	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Number of Palestinian children killed in Palestinian internal violence⁹															
West Bank	0	2 (<1)	2(<1)	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gaza Strip	0	11 (<1)	36(3)	3	4	1	1	1	5	1	2	0	1	1	0
Number of Palestinian children held in detention by Israeli authorities¹⁰															
West Bank	n/a	n/a	357	357	384	375	328	335	319	324	311	327	307	324	327

For more information, please contact UNICEF, (02) 584 0400 (Christine Gale).



Violence and Private Property

Increase in incidents involving settlers in the Northern West Bank

The number of incidents involving Israeli settlers reported throughout the northern West Bank increased during April 2008. During this month, there were 25 incidents compared to 17 in March 2008. Most incidents involved armed groups of settlers attacking individual Palestinians working on their land or driving their cars.

During April, eight of the reported Palestinian casualties were caused by various incidents involving settlers, including seven injuries and the killing of a 15-year-old Palestinian boy, Sherif M. Shtayyeh from Salim village in Nablus, when an Israeli settler drove over him in a bus when he was leading his herd across the bypass road near his village. His donkey and ten sheep were also killed.

Attacks on Palestinian property by Israeli settlers were reported throughout the northern West Bank. These attacks included incidents of shooting at sheep and at water tanks belonging to Palestinians, and throwing stones towards Palestinian houses and vehicles. In addition, more than one thousand olive trees in Jit village (Qalqiliya governorate) and 200 olive trees in Deir Istiya (Salfit governorate) were uprooted by the Israeli settlers. A further Palestinian plant nursery near Deir Sharaf village (Nablus governorate) was vandalised by Israeli settlers.

April 2008 recorded the second highest number of settler incidents in Nablus and Qalqiliya governorates since April 2007. Of the total incidents occurred in the two governorates, 17 were carried out by Israeli settlers against Palestinians. Two incidents were carried out by Palestinians against settlers. One incident was carried out by Israeli settlers against IDF soldiers during the evacuation of a settlement outpost near Qedumim settlement in Qalqiliya governorate. One incident was carried out by Israeli settlers, who threw stones at a United Nations vehicle in Nablus governorate.⁴

The large majority of settler attacks against Palestinians in Nablus and Qalqiliya in April either resulted in casualties or in damage to Palestinian land and other property. In contrast, October 2007 incidents primarily involved preventing the access of Palestinians, mainly when they marched to the evacuated settlement of Homesh and obstructed the access of Palestinians to their agricultural land during the olive harvest.



Violence and Private Property

“The civilian population and individual civilians shall enjoy general protection against dangers arising from military operations...The civilian population as such, as well as individual civilians, shall not be the object of attacks. Acts or threats of violence, the primary purpose of which is to spread terror among the civilian population are prohibited.”^c

	Total 2005 (monthly average)	Total 2006 (monthly average)	Total 2007 (monthly average)	May-07	Jun-07	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08
Incidents involving Israeli settlers¹¹															
Total number of incidents	n/a	235 (20)	291 (24)	15	17	37	30	21	47	34	24	28	24	50	51
Leading to Palestinian casualties	n/a	63 (5)	76 (6)	5	6	7	10	9	5	7	3	9	1	12	11
Leading to Israeli Settler casualties	n/a	28 (2)	25 (2)	0	0	0	4	1	2	3	4	1	8	4	2
Leading to international casualties	n/a	11 (<1)	4 (<1)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of rockets fired into/towards Israel¹²															
From the Gaza Strip	1 194 (100)	1 786 (149)	1 331 (111)	323	140	96	92	97	56	114	155	267	207	347	149
Number of IDF artillery shells															
Into the Gaza Strip	509 (42)	14 111 (1175)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of IAF air strikes															
In the Gaza Strip	n/a	573 (48)	173 (14)	65	14	13	14	10	11	14	26	33	26	91	35
Number of Mortars fired from the Gaza Strip¹³															
Towards Israel	n/a	n/a	1 071 (97)	45	69	116	135	122	110	118	342	256	98	147	174
Towards IDF troops	n/a	n/a	178 (16)	0	27	17	17	9	19	34	55	52	145	87	443
Physical structures demolished - West Bank¹⁴															
Structures demolished	n/a	201	190 (16)	8	7	9	17	29	21	7	1	69	42	42	3
Of which residential (occupied)	n/a	56 (5)	90 (7)	4	2	5	11	5	19	3	0	31	20	20	3
Physical structures demolished - Gaza Strip															
Structures demolished	n/a	246 (21)	24 (2)	16	2	1	1	0	0	3	1	1	14	11	11
Of which homes demolished	n/a	127 (11)	7 (<1)	1	1	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	7	5	9

For more information, please contact OCHA, (02) 582 9962 (Mai Yassin or Isra' Muzaffar)



Access

“Everyone has the right of freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.”^d

	Monthly average 2005	Monthly average 2006	Monthly average 2007	May-07	Jun-07	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08
IDF Physical obstacles in the West Bank*¹⁵															
Staffed	62	74	86	86	85	86	86	88	87	87	87	87	87	88	88
Unstaffed	410	445	467	467	471	455	477	475	474	476	476	482	493	n/a	519
Total	472	518	552	553	556	541	563	563	561	563	563	569	580	n/a	607
Average weekly Random or 'Flying' checkpoints	73	136	113	141	105	107	100	104	70	74	50	61	85	88	71
Curfews imposed by IDF¹⁶															
No. Incidents - West Bank	9	4	5	5	8	0	3	2	5	17	11	19	11	15	9
Total hours under curfew - West Bank	126	40	73	48	79	0	27	77	27	362	93	177	239	360	96
No. Incidents - Gaza Strip	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total hours under curfew - Gaza Strip	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Access incidents reported by humanitarian organisations¹⁷															
Access incidents reported in the West Bank	n/a	79	40	34	38	47	46	41	36	41	47	47	63	139	179
Average reported time to exit the Gaza Strip via Erez, in minutes.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ambulances incidents in the West Bank and access for medical referrals from the Gaza Strip to West Bank and Israel¹⁸															
Ambulance access delays reported at West Bank checkpoints	n/a	10	28	36	39	44	37	27	22	28	n/a	24	25	24	n/a
Ambulance access denial reported at West Bank checkpoints	n/a	9	23	24	32	40	27	20	19	25	n/a	32	38	26	n/a
MoH medical referral requests (via Erez)	n/a	459	735	737	413	872	985	715	1103	n/a	1041	776	841	1036	1077
Actual no. of medical referrals receiving permits to cross (via Erez)	n/a	416	599	664	369	777	787	591	850	n/a	669	542	664	683	709
Actual no. of medical referrals who approached Palestinian side to cross via Erez (number reported being denied passage on Israeli side)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	789 (27)	656 (16)	602 (6)	645 (5)	651 (5)	664 (n/a)	622 (54)
Access for Palestinians to East Jerusalem and Israel from oPt¹⁹															
West Bank (total closure days)	n/a	n/a	3	2	0	0	0	12	6	0	0	5	0	8	11
Gaza Strip (total closure days)	n/a	17	n/a	1	17	31	31	30	31	30	31	30	29	31	30
Movement of people from/to Gaza Strip - daily average²⁰															
Workers to Israel - Erez	1029	378	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Traders to Israel - Erez	107	42	n/a	318	262	0	n/a	0	5	n/a	n/a	163	13	27	n/a
Rafah - daily crossing out	n/a	423	n/a	304	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rafah daily crossing in	n/a	424	n/a	294	125	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

For more information, please contact OCHA, (02) 582 9962 (Ray Dolphin)

* OCHA is in the process of conducting a comprehensive update of its closure survey. New figures will be issued in April.



source: OCHA, January 2008



Access

“Everyone lawfully within the territory of a State shall, within that territory, have the right to liberty of movement and freedom to choose his residence.”^e

	Monthly average 2005	Monthly average 2006	Monthly average 2007	Jun-07	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08
Functioning of the Gaza Strips crossing points - percentage of days open/scheduled days open²¹														
Rafah crossing	n/a	57%	n/a	18%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Karni crossing	n/a	71%	n/a	46%	26%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Sufa crossing	n/a	60%	n/a	15%	100%	95%	68%	32%	n/a	46%	48%	79%	23%	70.3%
Nahal Oz energy pipelines	n/a	n/a	n/a	92%	100%	96%	100%	96%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Movement of goods through Karni crossing - daily average²²														
Karni import - commercial truckloads incl. humanitarian supplies	n/a	156	n/a	84	13	10	19	24	25	18.3	33	20	10	13
Karni export - commercial truckloads incl. humanitarian supplies	n/a	17	n/a	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other imports into the Gaza Strip - total²³														
Sufa import - aggregates (construction materials) truckloads	3 527	1 598	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nahal Oz import - Fuel truckloads	n/a	583	n/a	n/a	523	474	396	472	403	364	n/a	n/a	n/a	129

For more information, please contact OCHA, (02) 582 9962 (Ray Dolphin).

An overview of the removal of '61' closures in the West Bank

In April, the Government of Israel (GoI) announced that 61 (initially 50) closures or physical obstacles in the West Bank were removed in order to ease the lives of the Palestinians. Following the announcement, OCHA monitored the removal of the closures and identified that only 44 closures were actually removed, while six were still in place and 11 could not be found within a 400 metre-radius of the GPS (Global Positioning System) location provided by the IDF. Of the 44 closures:

Only five closures were significant (i.e. facilitating access to services and land, or located between towns).

- Nine were of minimal significance,⁵
- Seventeen were of no significance,⁶
- Thirteen were 'questionable' regarding the circumstance of their original installation⁷.

Overall, the removal of 44 of the 61 obstacles announced has had little or no impact on movement and access and has not reduced the fragmentation within the West Bank.⁸

The Taybeh (Rimmonin) partial checkpoint,⁹ which controls Palestinian access to Jericho area, was not included on the IDF "61 removals" list, however it was reported in the media as "removed". Practically, besides for the removal of some road blocks, the checkpoint continued to function as usual, i.e. it was only staffed part-time and occasional spot checks of travelers were performed.

Gaza Strip

On the access of Palestinian patients through Erez (Continued from Key Issues) (WHO)

According to the Palestinian Liaison Officer at Erez Crossing, 622 patients have actually crossed Erez during the periods of 1-17 and 29-30 April. During the period of 18 – 27 April, only urgent cases were allowed to cross Erez due to the Israeli holiday. On 28 April, 71 patients were denied access due to the closure of the Erez Crossing during the Israeli military operation in Beit Hanoun.



Socio-economic Conditions

Unemployment, poverty and socio-cultural changes as reported by UNRWA According to PCBS first quarter 2008 Labour Force Survey:

The labour force participation rate decreased by 1.9%. Women's participation in the labour force continued to be on a downward trend, recording a further 5.2% drop.

Unemployment (relaxed definition) did not show any significant change (+ 0.1 percentage points). While in the West Bank rates decreased slightly (- 0.2 p.p.), they showed a 0.2 p.p. increase in Gaza.

According to ILO (International Labour Organization) standards, unemployment increased by 0.4 p.p., which is mainly driven by increasing rates in Gaza (from 29% in Q4 2007 to 29.8% in Q1 2008).

Unemployment in urban areas increased by 0.5 p.p without any major difference between the WB and Gaza. Diverging trends were recorded inside refugee camps, with a 2.3 p.p. increase in unemployment in Gaza as opposed to a 7.8 p.p. decrease in the WB. Unemployment increased in rural areas with higher rates in Gaza (+ 1.6 p.p.) compared to the WB (0.4 p.p.).

The highest unemployment rates were recorded in Khan Yunis (38.8%) and Deir al Balah (33.1%) governorates, in Gaza and in Hebron (28%), Jenin (25.7%), and Tubas (23.6%) governorates in the WB.

Despite a minor decrease, unemployment remained highest among young people. 37.3% of Palestinians aged 15-19 were unemployed (39.9% in Gaza and 36.3% in the WB, with a considerable drop in the first group compared to Q4 2007), and 36.8% of those aged 20-24 (47.1% in Gaza and 30.8% in WB respectively).

Female unemployment was estimated at around 21.7%, which remained unchanged compared with Q3 2007. Women, who completed over 13 years of school, were the most affected group (33.8% unemployment rate), while unemployment among men with an equivalent education level was considerably lower (15.7%).

The proportion of wage employees in the WB increased from 59.7% in Q4 2007 to 64.2%, while a 4 p.p. decrease was recorded in Gaza (from 62.5% in Q4 2007 to 58.5%). Figures suggest a 3.1 p.p. drop in unpaid family workers in the WB, as opposed to 4.6 p.p. increase in Gaza.

Employment in Israel and Israeli settlements from the WB continued to increase from 14% in Q4 2007 to 16% in Q1 2008.

Opening of UNRWA's Microfinance and Microenterprise Branch in Qalqiliya city

On 16 April, the UNRWA Microfinance and Microenterprise Department (MMD) opened its tenth branch in the oPt in Qalqiliya city. There are already six branches operating in the West Bank and three in the Gaza Strip. Expected to operate in the second quarter of 2008, the new branch in Qalqiliya city will be extending its services to micro-entrepreneurs and low-income workers in the Qalqiliya governorate, with the aim to sustain jobs, reduce unemployment and poverty, build households' assets, empower women and provide economic opportunities for young people. In its first semester of operation, UNRWA MMD envisages to provide about 100-125 loans per month and increase them to 150-175 afterwards. With an expected portfolio of approximately 1,250-1,500 active loans at an outstanding value of about one million USD, the new branch will eventually benefit an indirect number of 4,000 Palestinians living in the governorate.

During 2007, UNRWA MMD disbursed 10,065 loans in the West Bank and Gaza amounting to \$13.3 million, corresponding to 69% of the overall lending of all Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) in the oPt. This is remarkable considering the increasing number of Palestinians, who were excluded from the credit market for not having regular sources of income or salaries.

Wageworkers and low-income employees, who have very limited access to credit through the banking sector, will have access to UNRWA's consumer loan product, conceived as a cost-efficient and sustainable financial option to support households' assets, improve families' education and health care and have the ability to cope with short-term emergencies.



Socio-economic Conditions

“Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment”^f

	Q1 1999	Q1 2000	Q1 2001	Q1 2002	Q1 2003	Q1 2004	Q1 2005	Q1 2006	Q3 2006	Q4 2006	Q1 2007	Q2 2007	Q3 2007	Q4 2007	Q1 2008
Unemployment rate - relaxed definition - % - PCBS²⁴															
West Bank	22.9%	16.9%	32.5%	35.0%	40.3%	31.0%	28.8%	27.2%	25.3%	23.4%	24.3%	22.6%	25.20%	25.90%	25.70%
Gaza Strip	27.9%	21.8%	48.8%	46.4%	37.3%	35.1%	38.0%	39.6%	41.8%	39.6%	35.4%	32.3%	37.60%	35.30%	35.50%
oPt	24.7%	20.2%	37.7%	38.7%	39.3%	32.3%	31.7%	31.1%	30.3%	28.4%	27.9%	25.7%	29.10%	28.80%	28.90%
Households in poverty - based on consumption - % - PCBS²⁵															
Poor	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	27.7%	38.8%	29.1%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Deep poor	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	16.8%	23.8%	18.1%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Number of Palestinians employed in Israel and in the settlements - PCBS²⁶															
West Bank	107067	105501	105501	57000	43281	49750	65255	59846	69478	68100	68100	63700	66800	n/a	n/a
Gaza Strip	25758	25380	2580	2000	6295	5849	0	852	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a
oPt	132825	130881	107630	59000	49576	55999	65255	60698	69478	68100	68100	63700	66800	n/a	n/a
Economic dependency ratio - PCBS²⁷															
West Bank	n/a	n/a	5.7	6	6.6	5.7	5.6	5	5	5	5.0	4.7	4.9	n/a	n/a
Gaza Strip	n/a	n/a	9.1	8.8	7.5	7.5	8.2	8	9	8	7.3	6.9	7.4	n/a	n/a
oPt	n/a	n/a	6.6	6.8	6.9	6.3	6.3	6	6	6	5.7	5.3	5.6	n/a	n/a
Evolution of consumer price index (CPI) - PCBS²⁸															
West Bank	19.9%	24.8%	26.0%	32.0%	39.7%	44.2%	49.2%	54.3%	55.3%	57.0%	57.0%	55.7%	59.3%	64.1%	70.7%
Gaza Strip	21.9%	24.7%	22.8%	23.2%	26.4%	32.0%	33.8%	38.1%	41.5%	40.7%	42.0%	41.9%	46.1%	53.0%	60.0%
oPt	20.7%	20.7%	24.2%	28.4%	36.2%	41.4%	46.1%	51.0%	53.1%	52.9%	53.5	53.1%	56.9%	62.2%	68.3%
Evolution of daily wages in NIS - PCBS²⁹															
West Bank	57.7	61.5	60	57.7	60	62.8	60	70	69.2	67.3	70.0	69.2	70.0	70.0	76.9
Gaza Strip	45.0	48.2	60	50	50	50	55.8	65.4	65.4	61.5	66.9	57.7	57.7	60.7	57.7
oPt	51.35	54.8	55	53.85	55.6	57.7	57.7	69.2	69.2	65.4	69.2	65.4	67.3	69.2	70.0

For more information, please contact UNRWA, (02) 589 0500 (Valentina Debernardi)

PCBS Labour Force Survey Q1 2008

Dependency on PA employment increased:
160.000 PA employees in oPt

Represents:

- 22.9% of the employed people in the oPt
- 16.3% of the employed people in the West Bank
- 38.7% of the employed people in the Gaza Strip

PCBS Poverty Consumption-based Yearly Figures

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	oPt
1998	14.5%	33%	20.3%
2001	16.2%	41.9%	23.6%
2004	19.8%	37.2%	25.6%
2005	22.3%	43.7%	29.5%
2006	24%	50.7%	30.8%

Poverty can be defined by using either of two indices: Consumption-based poverty, and Income-based poverty. For clarifications on definitions, please see footnote # 25.

Deep Poverty in the oPt Consumption-based (PCBS)

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	oPt
1998	8.4%	21.6%	12.5%
2001	12.0%	35.4%	19.5%
2004	11.6%	26.0%	16.4%
2005	13.1%	27.9%	18.0%
2006	13.0%	34.8%	18.5%

Source: PCBS, Poverty in Palestine (Aug 2007)



Health

“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”⁸

On the impact of fuel shortage on MoH hospitals in Gaza (Continued from Key Issues)

- Only about one quarter (27.5%) of the fuel tanks' capacities were filled for operating emergency generators;
- 162 patients currently treated in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), Cardiac Care Unit (CCU) and Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU), and 412 patients with kidney failure receiving kidney dialyses sessions are at high risk if electricity cuts continue;
- The central drug stores ran out of fuel needed for emergency generators for one day;
- The number of visitors to out-patients-departments (OPD) dropped remarkably in most of the MoH hospitals by around one third (29%);
- 676 out of 4,743 health staff working at MoH hospitals came to work late in the last two weeks of April, and 223 of the health personnel were forced to take their annual leave due to a lack of fuel for public and MoH transport.

Results of the rapid nutritional assessment in the Gaza Strip (UNICEF)

Preliminary results of a “Rapid Nutritional Assessment” conducted by UNICEF at household level by end of March/ beginning of April on a sample of 754 children under five in North Gaza and Khan Yunis governorates, revealed the following: 10.3% of the surveyed children were either moderately or severely stunted (moderate stunting: 6.2%, and severe stunting: 4.1%). This forms an increase compared with previous years; estimated at about 8% in 2002 and 7% in 1996. In addition, 17.3% and 16.6% regularly received vitamin A and D supplementation, and iron supplementation respectively (both are low percentages indicating inadequate supply of drugs and lack of public awareness); and 14.5% of the mothers of the surveyed children exclusively breastfed their children for exactly six months.

On the availability of drugs in the Gaza Strip (Continued from Key Issues)

No significant change was detected in the availability of medical supplies in April compared with March. The number of medical supply items at zero stock reached 140 items of 596 essential items on the medical supply list in April, compared with 142 items in March. At the level of the UNRWA and MoH Primary Health Care Clinics (PHC), Solk polio vaccine was not available for one month.

Emergency preparedness (UNICEF)

In light of the current critical situation in the Gaza Strip and in line with the emergency preparedness, UNICEF managed to pre-position 31 Emergency Medical Kits; each kit serves 1,000 persons, 38 Midwifery Kits; each serves 50 deliveries, 25 Obstetric Care; each serves 50 persons, and 400 First Aid Kits, each serves five persons.



Health

“A positive mental health is a state of emotional and social well-being in which the individual realises his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively or fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community.”^h

	May-07	Jun-07	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08
Number of primary health care consultations by service provider³⁰												
MoH - West Bank	53833	151.293	137.597	144.668	157267	147942	151637	187851	120246	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNRWA - West Bank	175466	158420	153433	162,627	158.625	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	162878
NGOs-West Bank	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
MoH - Gaza Strip	228046	216294	225021	204728	186780	188620	183092	172120	164927	185944	n/a	n/a
UNRWA - Gaza Strip	350374	324193	386560	370,756	352782	344883	346932	350073	332193	335733	n/a	358582
NGOs - Gaza Strip	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Proportion of deliveries by service provider³¹												
MoH - West Bank	18.20%	39.0%	48.70%	47.60%	39.40%	45.30%	51.70%	53.30%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
MoH - Gaza Strip	76.10%	78.10%	88.30%	89.90%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
NGOs - West Bank	53.6%	41.9%	34.0%	27.70%	29.40%	16.8%	29.50%	20.50%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
NGOs - Gaza Strip	9.90%	9.20%	2.70%	2.70%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Private hospitals and clinics- West Bank	23.0%	14.70%	15.20%	20.10%	22.30%	27.40%	15.40%	22.10%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Private hospitals and clinics- Gaza Strip	9.90%	9.20%	8.60%	6.90%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Home - West Bank	5.23%	3.33%	2.19%	4.53%	8.92%	10.22%	3.40%	4.20%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Home - Gaza Strip	0.10%	0.10%	0.30%	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNRWA - Gaza Strip	0.0%	0.0%	0.10%	0.50%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Pharmaceutical items out of stock (416 drugs and 596 consumables)³²												
Drugs - West Bank	25.7%	44.7%	n/a	n/a	n/a	18.8%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Consumables - West Bank	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Drugs - Gaza Strip	28.6%	19.5%	15.60%	15.63%	14.7%	21.9%	n/a	25.20%	20.40%	19.20%	13.20%	5.5%
Consumables - Gaza Strip (at zero level)	22.8%	22.5%	n/a	26.68%	30.03%	31.50%	26.30%	34.06%	22.15%	n/a	n/a	23.50%
Consumable - Gaza Strip (at less than three months)	31.6%	32.0%	n/a	51.17%	49.33%	50.67%	51.70%	61.24%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Malnutrition among children 9 - 12 months³³												
Underweight - West Bank	2.84%	4.0%	3.37%	3.29%	3.33%	2.08%	2.16%	1.97%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Anemia - West Bank	45.0%	50.0%	50.08%	47.20%	51.96%	48.72%	43.92%	41.47%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Underweight - Gaza Strip	3.85%	4%	4.10%	4.60%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Anemia - Gaza Strip	72.2%	n/a	72.30%	69.2%	70.39%	67.15%	63.20%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Number of consultation for diarrhoea in refugee children 0-3 years at UNRWA clinics³⁴												
West Bank	1068	921	1032	1312	1007	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	883
Gaza Strip	1765	1574	1693	1,596	1325	1232	1374	1123	1037	1166	n/a	n/a
Number of new cases attending community and hospital mental health services³⁵												
UNRWA- West Bank	151	173	171	155	n/a	161	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNRWA- Gaza Strip	25	20	3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
MoH- West Bank					n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
MoH- Gaza Strip	191	147	156	129	106	129	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
NGO- West Bank					n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
NGO- Gaza Strip	46	35	50	35	40	30	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

For more information please contact WHO, (02) 582 3537 (Dr. Katja Schemionek)



Food Security & Agriculture

“Food security exists when all people, at all times, have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and lead an active and healthy life.”

Availability and prices of basic commodities and other factors affecting food security

West Bank

The market survey in West Bank shows that all basic food commodities are available in the market despite a sharp increase in the price of rice by 18%, in comparison with March 2008, while the prices of the remaining basic food commodities remain stable. It is worth mentioning that the food consumer price index increased by 4.8% in oPt during the first quarter of 2008.

Update on Social Hardship Cases

An approximate number of 40,000 Social Hardship Cases (SHCs) in the West Bank and Gaza Strip did not receive their monthly cash assistance from MoSA this month.

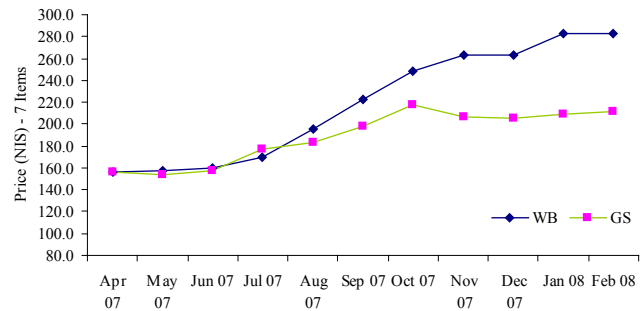
Summary points taken from the Preliminary findings of the joint WFP/FAO/UNRWA Rapid Food Security Survey in West Bank and Gaza Strip, April 2008

The survey, administered to refugees and non refugees households in West Bank and Gaza Strip, consisted of 2133 quantitative household interviews, 300 semi structured qualitative interviews and seven focus groups, revealed the following:

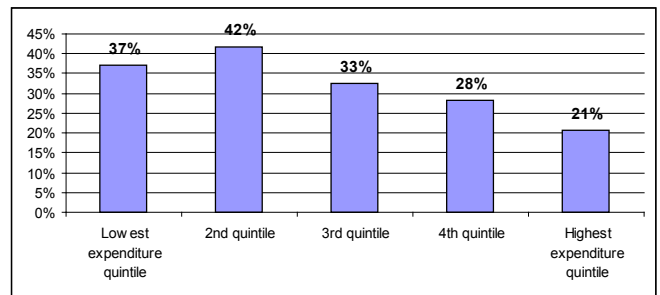
- 7.3% of the households reported that one member within their household has lost his/her job during Jan-Mar 2008, 58.2% of whom reported that the main breadwinner was the one who lost his/her job. Given the public sector stability over that period, the loss is concentrated in the private and self-employment sectors.
- The average monthly household income decreased by 9% during Jan-Mar 2008. In the case of the lowest quintile (poorest 20 percent of the population), the income dropped by 24%.
- 44.8% of the surveyed households have received some type of in-cash and/or in-kind assistance during the first three months of 2008. The proportion of the households receiving assistance, however, is significantly higher in Gaza (75.8%) than in the West Bank (22.9%). However, 29% of the poorest quintiles of the households didn't receive any type of assistance.
- Out of the households that received assistance, 87.8% received food assistance followed by health care (59%) and cash assistance (49.4%)
- Out of the poorest 20% of the households, 63% are relying extensively or totally on humanitarian aid.
- Almost all the surveyed households (96.8%) reported having been affected by the recent increase in food prices.

Moreover, about 20% of the households reported being affected by shocks, including salary and wage cuts, loss of assistance, deterioration\loss of business and changes in tightening of closures.

Evolution of the 7-items food basket prices (Apr 07 – Feb 08), by region - WFP



- Expenditure has deteriorated for all population groups, however, the lowest expenditure groups faced higher drops. (see chart below).



- The share of food expenditure over total household expenditure reached 60%; 56% in West Bank and 66% in Gaza Strip. The ratio was very high for lowest expenditure quintile standing at 73%.
- Purchase of food on credit and suspension of payment of utility bills continue to be among the most frequently used coping mechanisms by Palestinian household. Survey results show that 49.1% and 31.8% of the surveyed households respectively, have used these mechanisms in the past month to cope with their economic conditions.
- However, some retailers have put a ceiling on the credit sales they extend to customers, stopped extending credit to customers who do not pay large proportions of their debt at the end of each month, and/or reduced the number of items that could be purchased on credit to what they consider to be essential.



Agriculture

	Monthly Average 2006	Monthly Average 2007	May-07	Jun-07	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan -08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08
Arable land requisitioned, levelled and reclaimed in dunums - West Bank³⁶														
Requisitioned	484	131	260	60	155	30	50	500	20	60	0	0	0	30
Levelled	n/a	126	60	130	720	25	75	33	2	6	26945	100	30	50
People affected	n/a	265	650	170	370	125	182	470	32	77	n/a	60	21	196
Reclaimed	n/a	83	50	55	10	90	42	156	150	70	71	110	98	230
Arable land requisitioned levelled or reclaimed in dunums - Gaza Strip														
Requisitioned	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Levelled	n/a	1623	2000	1330	9100	1600	1400	2750	0	1300	6000	100	850	1723
People affected	n/a	657	490	300	400	1400	2520	1020	0	1750	n/a	150	670	3192
Reclaimed	n/a	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	170	200	40	611	190
Greenhouses land destroyed and rehabilitated in dunums - West Bank³⁷														
Destroyed	n/a	30	60	26	100	0	0	20	7	2	4797	7	25	4
People affected	n/a	111	420	90	140	0	0	117	35	14	n/a	30	84	28
Rehabilitated	n/a	76	50	57	10	134	176	148	285	30	60	39	226	12
Greenhouses land destroyed and rehabilitated in dunums - Gaza Strip														
Destroyed	n/a	3	0	15	0	12	4	0	0	0	4561	0	0	23
People affected	n/a	13	0	80	0	42	14	0	0	0	n/a	0	0	28
Rehabilitated	n/a	6	0	0	10	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0
Number of trees destroyed³⁸														
Trees destroyed in the West Bank	n/a	318	200	300	80	375	30	1500	140	0	2059	500	3150	700
People affected	n/a	62	50	94	20	90	21	130	28	0	n/a	180	49	714
Trees destroyed in the Gaza Strip	n/a	2883	0	0	0	3600	5000	16000	0	10000	n/a	400	n/a	11940
People affected	n/a	292	0	0	0	1100	420	230	0	1750	n/a	150	n/a	2303
Agricultural produce trading in/out the Gaza Strip - metric tonnes³⁹														
Import	12901	13983	17101	11270	16401	9526	2911	580	4753	13902	n/a	n/a	14049	4526
Export	1370	2691	1495	422	0	125	0	0	37	238	n/a	n/a	0	0

For more information please contact FAO, (02) 532 1950 (Rana Hannoun or Azzam Saleh)



Food Security

	Benchmark	Monthly average 2006 ⁴⁵	Monthly average 2007	Jun-07	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08
Retail price of basic food commodities - West Bank, in NIS⁴⁰														
Wheat flour 50 kg	-	91.0	128.7	100	108.1	133	157	180	190	190	205	205	184.5	184.5
Olive oil 1 Kg	-	18.6	19	15.8	17.75	17.75	20.6	22	25	25	23.8	23.8	22.5	22.5
Rice 1 kg	-	3.6	4.3	4	4.28	5	4.3	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.9	4.9	5.1	6
Veg. oil 1 kg	-	5.5	6.4	5.8	6.163	6.163	7.2	7.5	7.4	7.4	8.7	8.7	9.4	9.4
Chickpeas 1 kg	-	4.8	4.9	4.6	4.5	4.5	5	5	5.4	5.4	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6
Refined sugar 1 kg	-	3.7	3.3	3.1	3.51	3.51	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	3	3
Milk powder 1 kg	-	23.2	25.5	26	26	26	25.7	25.7	28	28	32.1	32.1	32.6	32.6
Basket of 7 items	-	150.5	192.1	159.3	170.3	195.923	223	248	263.6	263.6	283.1	283.1	262.7	263.6
Price of basic food commodities - Gaza Strip, in NIS⁴¹														
Wheat flour 50 kg	-	82.9	104	111	98	104.6	118.4	134.6	130	130	135.0	135	130.75	130.5
Olive oil 1 Kg	-	23.1	24.09	22.85	22.85	22.65	23.05	26.6	27	27	27.0	27	27	27
Rice 1 kg	-	3.3	3.57	3.7	4	4	4	4	3.50	3.50	3.3	3	3.5	3.875
Veg. oil 1 kg	-	5.5	6.28	6	6	6	6.62	7	7	7	6.8	6.75	6.5	7.5
Chickpeas 1 kg	-	5.3	5.36	4.9	5	5	5	5.8	5.80	5.90	5.7	5.7	5	5
Refined sugar 1 kg	-	4.2	3.09	3.36	3.07	2.66	2.66	2.66	2.66	2.66	2.6	2.6	2.53	2.5
Milk powder 1 kg	-	33.4	35.14	41.17	38.81	38.81	38.81	37.38	31.10	28.8	29.0	31.7	29	31.5
Basket of 7 items	-	157.1	178.6	157.7	177.7	183.72	198.54	218	207	205	209.4	211.8	204.28	207.88
Availability of basic commodities - Gaza Strip⁴² (against benchmark of quantities needed per day)														
Wheat - mT	450 mt/day/pop	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wheat - days	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sugar - mT	111 mt/day/pop	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sugar - days	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rice - mT	72 mt/day/pop	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rice - days	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Veg. oil - mT	44 mt/day/pop	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Veg. oil - days	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Quantities of food imported in the Gaza Strip - metric tonnes⁴³														
Wheat - mT	450 mt/day/pop	-	7338	3673	5250	6194	5238	10529	18381	11473	8784	13341	12644	4478
Rice	72 mt/day/pop	-	1382	952	916	1979	549	2222	2422	1592	3916	2091	1200	2361
Veg. oil	44 mt/day/pop	-	1437	579	963	2124	958	1862	3228	1860	3054	311	2991	1302
Sugar	111 mt/day/pop	-	3350	2952	2570	4208	4151	4576	2817	5250	4984	2496	4692	6115
Veg. and fruits	-	-	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Commodities	-	-	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	-	-	13512	8156	9699	14505	10942	19189	26848	20175	20738	18239	21527	14256
Fishing catch in the Gaza Strip⁴⁴														
		Total												
mT	2,323 (in 2005)	1604.2	2704.7	309.5	219.0	316.5	99.6	149.1	135.2	82.4	62.7	246.0	4.0	75.0

For more information please contact FAO, (02) 532 1950 (Rana Hannoun or Azzam Saleh) or WFP, (02) 540 1340 (Salah Lahham)



Water & Sanitation

“The Human Right to Water entitles everyone to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic uses.”¹

	Baseline Pre-Intifada	Average 2006 ⁵²	Average 2007	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08
West Bank per capita use of water per day - in litres⁴⁶													
Minimum	-	20.3	18.8	20	16	19	19	20	13	18	n/a	n/a	n/a
Maximum	-	207.2	178.3	147	220	192	192	197	215	196	n/a	n/a	n/a
Average	90	65.3	60	63	67	66	64	63	65	62	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gaza Strip - Per capita use of water per day - in litres⁴⁷													
Minimum	-	37.0	24.3	31	26	24	22	17	25	14	n/a	n/a	n/a
Maximum	-	116.5	90.5	84	75	81	101	106	159	122	n/a	n/a	n/a
Average	95	80.5	57.8	63	55	57	60	53	66	52	n/a	n/a	n/a
Price of tankered water in the West Bank in NIS⁴⁸													
Minimum	-	7.3	8.5	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	n/a	n/a	n/a
Maximum	-	22.5	22.8	23	30	27	27	27	25	20	n/a	n/a	n/a
Average	11.4	14.0	14.0	15	16	15	15	15	15	14	n/a	n/a	n/a
Price of tankered water in the Gaza Strip in NIS⁴⁹													
Minimum	-	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	n/a	n/a	n/a
Maximum	-	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	n/a	n/a	n/a
Average	-	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	n/a	n/a	n/a
Percentage of HH connected to water network paying the bills⁵⁰													
West Bank	-	35.5%	35.2%	33.0%	36.0%	35.0%	33.0%	34.0%	34.0%	35.0%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gaza Strip	-	4.2%	36.3%	2.0%	2.0%	3.8%	5.0%	6.0%	5.0%	5.0%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Percentage of HH monthly income spent on sanitation services⁵¹													
West Bank	-	2.2%	2.9%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gaza Strip	-	4%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cost recovery of water bills by village councils and Municipalities in the West Bank⁵³													
Minimum	-	0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Maximum	-	16.7%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Average	75.0%	13.5%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cost recovery of water bills by village councils and Municipalities in the Gaza Strip⁵⁴													
Minimum	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Maximum	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Average	75.0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

For more information please contact UNICEF, (02) 583 00 13/14 (Dr. Samson Agbo) or PHG, (02) 296 63 15/6 (Eng. Basema Bashir)

There is an increasing threat of the sewage flooding the streets when the current fuel reserve at the CMWU is used up, especially in the Zaiton quarter of Gaza and in North Gaza; where 250,000 people are potentially at risk. About 95% of water wells and Wastewater pumping stations, besides the treatment and discharge systems, have remained not functioning due to insufficient fuel supply and continuing power outages. Also, about 15 water wells that will be serving 250,000 people are not working due to the inability of connecting them to the electricity; 125 water well (connected to electricity) partially operating and only 5% of the wells have between 100-500 liters reserve. Twenty five of the Wastewater Pumping Stations have less than 500 liters of fuel as emergency back up stock enough for five days; whilst another 12 stations, including the Gaza Treatment plant, do not have any fuel at all, and are dumping raw sewage to the sea.

Similarly, 85% of the Water and Wastewater sector's operation cars and sewage suction trucks have been idle for shortage in fuel and thus CMWU is unable to maintain the sector's facilities and networks operation.

The required monthly one tonne of hydrochloric acid (HCL) to operate the desalination plant for brackish water in the middle area, which serves about 100,000 people, is yet to be delivered since the past 9 months. The current use of citric acid, as a substitute, risks damage to the pump filter membranes in the long run.



Education

"All children deserve a quality education founded on a rights-based approach and rooted in the concept of gender equality."^k

	# of Schools	May 07	Jun-07	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08
Number of schools with at least one day of disruption - West Bank⁵⁵													
Bethlehem	100	106	1	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0
Hebron	207	214	0	n/a	n/a	15	4	0	0	0	11	0	0
South Hebron	159	160	0	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jenin	113	116	1	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jericho	20	17	0	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jerusalem	37	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jerusalem suburbs	55	56	0	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Nablus	196	187	0	n/a	n/a	11	5	0	0	13	0	0	0
Qabatya	103	77	0	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Qalqilia	67	69	0	n/a	n/a	0	0	14	0	0	6	10	8
Ramallah	159	161	0	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	3	2	0	6	0
Salfit	57	58	0	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	3
Tubas	-	39	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
Tulkarm	107	110	0	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total West Bank	1,380	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Number of schools with at least one day of disruption - Gaza Strip⁵⁶													
Gaza	151	152	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gaza North	60	66	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Khan Younis	64	35	3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Middle Area	37	63	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rafah	34	37	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total Gaza Strip	346	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

For more information please contact UNICEF, (02) 583 0013 (Shao Potung) and UNESCO, (02) 295 9740 (Frosse Dabit).

According to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education:

- During the month of April, a total of 3306 children's schooling was disrupted for at least one day. Due to an Israeli military imposed curfew, eight schools in Qalqilyah were closed on 15, 24, and 28 April affecting 2728 students. Additionally, three schools in Salfeet were closed on 22 April affecting 578 students.



The Institutional Response to the Crisis

Humanitarian and development assistance to the oPt

FUNDED in \$ million	The UN and the CAP	ICRC	INGOs	PNGOss	ECHO	Other EC Commitment	USAID
2005	193.3	30.6	n/a	n/a	35	241	386
2006	273	34.5	n/a	n/a	104.4	225	176
2007	272.5	57.4 (appeal)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	29.8*
2008	182.7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Source: Relief web, ICRC, ECHO, USAID websites.

*Available up till April

The CAP

In \$ million	CAP 2007 - revised May 2007			CAP 2008			CAP 08 % Funded (as of 27 May 2008)	CAP 07 % Funded (as of 27 May 2008)
	Requirements in \$ million	Number of Projects	Level of Funding in \$ million as of 27 May 2008	Requirements in \$ million	Number of Projects	Funding in \$ million		
Agriculture	11.3	14	6.7	22.2	26	2.1	9%	47%
Coordination and support services	14.2	7	17.3	18.3	8	53	29%	100+%
Economic Recovery and Infrastructure	198.1	17	57.4	158	17	31.3	20%	35%
Education	9.1	4	7.3	7.9	6	0	0%	84%
Food	149.7	8	149.9	156.1	9	49.1	31%	100+%
Health & Psychosocial	35.7	30	28.1	40.1	26	8	20%	70%
Protection	1.7	4	0.5	8.7	15	2.5	29%	66%
Water and Sanitation	35.0	19	5.0	42.9	17	0.3	1%	15%
Shelter and non-food items	0.0	-	0.4	-	-	0	-	18%
Multi-Sector	0.0	-	0.1	5.5	1	0	0%	100%
Sector not yet specified	-	-	-0.2	2	1	81.4	100+%	-
Mine action	-	-	-	0.2	1	0	0%	-
Total	454.7	103	272.5	461.9	127	182.7	40%	64%

Source: OCHA, Financial Tracking System (FTS).

The PA operating budget

\$ million	2005		2006		2007				2008	
	\$ million	%	\$ million	%	Q1 2007 (\$million)	%	\$ million	%	Q1 2008 (\$million)	%
Clearance revenues collected by Gol	894	40	344	24	105	17	1318	51	278	33
Domestic revenues	476	22	378	26	289	46	323	12	101	12
External finances for budgetary support	349	16	738	51	219	35	1012	39	526	63
Total other financing, incl. Palestinian Investment Fund Dividend	477	22	-25	-2	15	2	-54	-2	-74	-9
TOTAL	2196	100	1435	100	628	100	2599	100	831	100

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Finance, www.pmf.ps, Monthly and annual financial reports for selected years

The PA (Palestinian Authority) fiscal situation recovered in 2007, following a significant decline in 2006, which resulted from the sanctions Israel and the international donor community imposed on the Hamas-led government in the aftermath of the January 2006 elections. The recovery took place in the second half of 2007, in response to the resumption of the clearance revenues, including VAT and customs, which the Government of Israel collects monthly on behalf of the PA. A further improvement was observed during the first quarter of 2008 following an increase in external aid income.



Temporary International Mechanism (TIM)/ PEGASE

\$ million	Confirmed Pledges in million \$US	Total disbursed as of 31 Mar 2008
TIM window 1/ ESSP	96.03	55.30
TIM window 2	206.98	202.40
TIM window 3	713.40	677.10
Total	1016.41	934.80

TIM ended as of 31 March 2008, PEGASE data will be available by next month

Window II : "Window II of the TIM is entirely funded by the European Commission to ensure access to electricity, health care, and sanitation."

1) Emergency Fuel Supply

Sector	Number of facilities	Note: The TIM gradually phased out its Emergency fuel distribution programme, which ended on 22 May 2007
Hospitals and Health Centers	45	1.4
Water System	103	2.1
Waste Water System	75	0.8
General Power Generators	6	0.8
Um Nasir Disaster Relief	29	0.01
Total	258	5.1
Total Cost in US\$ million as of 11 Oct 2007		5.3

After the partial repair of the Gaza power plant in November 2006, the TIM gradually phased out its emergency fuel distribution programme, which ended on 22 May 2007.

2) Support For Electricity production and distribution

	Cost in US\$ million as of 30 Mar 2008	Fuel received in million litres as of 31 Mar 2008
Gaza Power Plant	167.0	140
Electricity Production Gaza	8.2	
Electricity Distribution Gaza	5.1	
Electricity Distribution West Bank	12.5	
Total Cost in US\$ million as of 31 Mar 2008		192.8

3) Access to Quality Healthcare

Cost in US\$ million (one-time payment in 2006)	
East Jerusalem hospitals referral costs in US \$million	4.3

Window III : "Window III of the TIM is funded by the EC, EU Member States and other donors. It provides relief to approximately one million vulnerable and poor members of Palestinian society affected by the current crisis through direct cash assistance."

Type	Num of Beneficiaries	Num of Allowances Received	Total Amount Received in US\$ as of 31 Mar 2008
Low-income Healthcare provider workers	12000	19	105.6
Low-income public service providers	59000	17	426.4
Pensioners	6700	17	45
Social Hardship Cases Scheme for the Poor	40000	7	80.4
Social Hardship Cases Beneficiaries of Food for work/training programme	39000	1	11
Civil Police Employees	16000	2	9

Note the Civil police allowance is a one-time contribution provided by the Netherlands.

Source: Temporary International Mechanism, Implementation Progress Update. Based on figures provided by TIM; originally in Euro Currency. As of 29 Mar, 1 Euro=1.58 USD.



Sources and Rationale

The following four factors have been identified by the United Nations Country Team as having the greatest impact on the current humanitarian situation: (1) Lack of protection for civilians and increasing violence; (2) Political, geographic, institutional and social fragmentation of the oPt; (3) Closure, lack of access, separation, restrictions and their effects on livelihoods; and (4) the impact of Israeli settlements and settlement expansion on Palestinian livelihoods, the availability of resources and a reduction in space for development.

OCHA has been monitoring and reporting monthly on protection and access concerns in the oPt since 2002. However, following a sharp deterioration in the humanitarian situation in 2006, UN agencies and NGOs participating in the 2006 Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) have produced this monthly report monitoring developments and key humanitarian indicators in the following sectors: protection, child protection, socio-economic conditions, health including psychosocial support, food security, agriculture, education and water and sanitation. This report also includes information related to movement restrictions and humanitarian access including monitoring the 2002 Bertini Commitments.

The present Humanitarian Monitor uses UN Security Council resolutions, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international humanitarian law (IHL), the Agreement on Movement and Access (AMA) as the standard for monitoring protection and access indicators. Sectors have also set out guiding humanitarian principles as the baseline for monitoring and developed indicators that can capture the humanitarian situation in a protracted crisis like the oPt.

The Humanitarian Monitor uses a combination of measurable humanitarian indicators, verified field observations and reports on the socio-economic and humanitarian situation in the oPt to analyse the humanitarian situation. These methods can provide different accounts of the situation. The humanitarian indicators reveal longer-term changes and trends from one month to another. Field observations illustrate signs of strain that may indicate future changes in the situation more generally. Reports provide information on specific topics or give larger overviews on the situation in the oPt.

The following sector groups and organisations contribute to the Humanitarian Monitor:

Sector	Sector Lead
Protection	OHCHR/OCHA
Socio-Economic	UNRWA
Health	WHO
Child Protection and Psychosocial	UNICEF
Food	WFP
Agriculture	FAO
Education	UNICEF
Water and Sanitation	UNICEF
Coordination and Security	OCHA

See page 2 for individual contributors.



Table Definitions

Protection of Civilians

1. Number of Palestinian and Israeli casualties (fatalities and injuries) - direct conflict. Source: OCHA. Casualties included within this figure relate directly to the conflict with Israel and the occupation of the oPt including in IDF military operations, artillery shelling, search and arrest campaigns, Barrier demonstrations, targeted killings, settler violence etc. The figures do not include events indirectly related to the conflict such as casualties from unexploded ordnance, etc. or events when the circumstances remain unclear or are in dispute. The figures include all reported casualties of all ages and both genders.
2. Number of Palestinian casualties - internal violence. Source: OCHA. Casualties included within this figure are caused by factional violence, family feuding, during internal demonstrations (that are linked to the conflict/occupation) and shooting of alleged collaborators with Israel. These incidents began to be comprehensively reported from May 2006 and earlier figures will be under-reported.
3. Number of search and arrest campaigns and arrests and detentions. Source: OCHA. These indicators refer to operations by the Israeli security forces to search houses or other properties throughout the oPt or arrests/detentions that take place at checkpoints or during demonstrations (i.e. no search). During these operations individuals are often detained or arrested. Detentions (without arrest) typically last for a few days but can last be extended up to a period of three months or longer. Since Israel's unilateral disengagement from the Gaza Strip the vast majority of these operations occur in West Bank towns and villages.

Child Protection

4. Number of Palestinian children killed - direct conflict. Source: OCHA. This indicator is used to monitor UN Security Council Resolution 1612, adopted on 26 July 2005 and relative to the protection of children in armed conflict. Children are killed in incidents related directly to the conflict and occupation of the oPt. These include casualties caused in IDF military operations, artillery shelling, search and arrest campaigns, demonstrations, targeted killing and Israeli settler violence.
5. Number of Palestinian children injured - direct conflict. This indicator is used to monitor UN Security Council Resolution 1612. Children are injured in incidents directly related to the conflict and occupation of the oPt. These include injuries caused in IDF military operations, artillery shelling, search and arrest campaigns, demonstrations, targeted killing and Israeli settler violence.
6. Number of Israeli children killed - direct conflict. Source: OCHA. This indicator is used to monitor UN Security Council Resolution 1612.
7. Number of Israeli children injured - direct conflict. Source: OCHA. This indicator is used to monitor UN Security Council Resolution 1612.
8. Number of Palestinian children killed - indirect conflict. These are children killed in incidents indirectly related to the conflict and occupation of the oPt such as in incidents involving unexploded ordnance (UXO), traffic incidents in the oPt with Israeli vehicles, Palestinian homemade rockets (Qassams, etc.) missing their target, deaths in prison, deaths from probable underlying medical conditions that occurred during military operations or where access to medical care was denied.
9. Number of Palestinian children killed in Palestinian internal violence. Source: OCHA. This indicator is used to monitor UN Security Council Resolution 1612. Children are killed in incidents by factional violence or family feuding, internal demonstrations and shooting of alleged collaborators with Israel. These incidents began to be comprehensively reported from May 2006; earlier figures will be underreported. Figure does not include the number of children killed as a result of reckless handling of explosives.
10. Number of Palestinian children held in detention by Israeli authorities. Source: Defence for Children International (DCI) from 1 January 2007. This indicator reflects the general level of tension in the West Bank. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child states that deprivation of liberty of children should always be a last resort and for the shortest appropriate period.

Violence & Private Property

11. Incidents involving Israeli settlers. Source: OCHA. This indicator shows the level of tension between Palestinians and Israeli settlers in the West Bank. An incident is any event involving an aggressive action perpetrated by either Israeli settlers or Palestinians towards each other or others in the community (such as international observers) and that may - but not necessarily - lead to a death or an injury. The aggressive action can be an incident involving a car, such as the stoning of a car or driving it in a dangerous manner; any type of harassment such as intimidation and physical threats, stoning people, chasing people etc. that do not cause any casualty; an incident related to property damage to a private house, land, livestock, etc.; and any incident involving the entry into a private or prohibited property. This figure also included incidents when the IDF restrict Palestinian access due to Israeli settler presence or activity.
12. Number of Palestinian homemade (Qassam, etc.) rockets, IDF artillery shells and IAF airstrikes in and from the Gaza Strip. Source: OCHA Gaza Field Office relying on secondary sources from UNRWA reporting and the Palestinian DCL. These indicators show trends and the level of conflict existing in the Gaza Strip. This number includes rockets that detonated in the Gaza Strip.
13. Prior to July 07, the figure for mortars fired "in the Gaza Strip" included mortars known to be fired towards IDF troops in the Gaza Strip. In July 07, these figures were broken down.
14. Number of physical structures demolished in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Source: OCHA. A structure is demolished when it is completely destroyed, damaged to such an extent that it will have to be demolished before rebuilding can commence, damaged beyond use and includes structures where the owner chose to demolish his structure which was under a demolition order issued by Israeli authorities. The majority of demolitions in the West Bank occur when the Israeli authorities demolish a structure for reportedly being built without a permit although some demolitions occur in other contexts such as during military incursions or due to the construction of the Barrier. In the Gaza Strip, demolitions usually occur during IAF air strikes or ground incursions. A residential (occupied) structure is any form of inhabited shelter/residence including seasonal shelters, during the time of the olive harvest for example.

Access

15. IDF physical obstacles in the West Bank. Source: OCHA field monitoring. The movement of Palestinians in the West Bank is restricted by a series of physical obstacles such as checkpoints, roadblocks, trenches, earthmounds, etc. that severely restrict Palestinians' freedom of movement. 'Flying' or random checkpoints further disrupt Palestinian movement as they are often deployed on key transit roads during morning and evening peak travelling times. Delays of more than one hour are regularly reported at flying checkpoints and their unpredictable nature means that Palestinians are unable to make travel plans. The annual total of curfew incidents is less than the aggregate of monthly incidents for that year because some curfew incidents began at the end of one month and continued into the next month and were, thus, counted as one incident in each of the two months. In 2007, there are three such incidents.
16. Curfews imposed by IDF. Source: OCHA field monitoring. The duration of a curfew is counted once for each curfew incident. A single curfew affecting multiple neighbouring locations is counted as one incident. A curfew that is lifted and re-imposed in the same place on a single day is counted as two incidents. A single curfew incident may last for several days.
17. Access incidents reported by humanitarian organisations. Source: ACIS forms collected by OCHA and UNRWA Operations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The UN Security Council Resolution 1405 adopted in 2002 "emphasizes the urgency of access of medical and humanitarian organisations to the Palestinian civilian population." In addition, the Government of Israel committed to "fully facilitate the assistance activities of international organisations..." (Bertini Commitments, 2002). In discussions between UNSCO and the IDF it was agreed that internationals should not wait any longer than 20 minutes at Erez crossing.
18. Incidents of ambulances delays and denials in the West Bank and medical movement from the Gaza Strip. Source: Palestinian Red Crescent Society and WHO. Incidents reported by PRCS ambulance crews at IDF checkpoints throughout the West Bank. Only delays in excess of 30 minutes are reported. For medical movement, Palestinians from the Gaza Strip referred for medical treatment by the MoH in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Israel must travel through Erez crossing while those seeking medical treatment abroad must cross through Rafah. Referral patients crossing Erez require a permit from the Israeli authorities. Figures for November 2007 inclusive only of the 13-30 November period.
19. External access to/from the oPt - closure days. Source: Ministry of Labour, closure reports, AMA bi-weekly reports and OCHA. These are the days when Palestinians from the West Bank cannot access East Jerusalem or Israel regardless of a valid permit. Normally (1) staff of international organisations, (2) medical staff, (3) humanitarian cases and (4) Palestinians with legal issues (needing to attend a court in Israel etc) are excluded from this comprehensive closure. In the Gaza Strip, these are days when Erez crossing is closed for all Palestinian access as reported in the bi-weekly AMA report.
20. Movement of people from/to the Gaza Strip - daily average. Source: OCHA Gaza Field Office; Erez is the only crossing point for Palestinian workers and traders to enter Israel from the Gaza Strip. The Rafah crossing is the Gaza Strip's only international crossing point with Egypt.
21. Functioning of the Gaza Strips crossing points - percentage of days open/scheduled days open. Source: AMA bi-weekly report. In terms of scheduled days open: (1) Karni is scheduled to be open six days per week; (2) Sufa is scheduled to open five days per week though at times opens on an additional day to allow the import of non-aggregates; and (3) Nahal Oz energy pipelines are scheduled to operate six days per week.
22. Movement of goods through Karni crossing - daily average. Source: AMA bi-weekly report. The daily average number of trucks is calculated on the basis of scheduled days open at Karni crossing point. Karni crossing is the main transit point for imports/exports into/from the Gaza Strip as well as humanitarian supplies. According to the 15 November 2005 Agreement on Access and Movement (AMA) signed between the GoI and PA, a minimum of 150 truckloads should be exported every day throughout 2006, to reach 400 per day by 31 December 2006.
23. Other imports into the Gaza Strip - total. Source: IDF, and Paltrade. This indicators reflects the total number of truckloads of aggregates (through Sufa) and fuel (through Nahal Oz energy pipelines) into the Gaza Strip each month.



Socio-economic Conditions

24. Unemployment rate – relaxed definition. Source: PCBS labour force surveys. In the context of a protracted crisis, the standard unemployment definition might be somehow deficient, as a considerable number of people are simply no longer seeking employment. A “relaxed definition” of unemployment is applied here, by adding to the total number of unemployed people according to International Labour Organization (ILO) standards the number of people currently not engaged in active job search (commonly defined as “inactive”).
25. Households living on poverty – consumption based. Source: PCBS. The poverty line is the level of income below which one cannot afford to purchase all the resources one requires to live. The official Palestinian (relative) poverty line is based on the average consumption of essential goods (food, clothing, housing, housekeeping supplies, utensils and bedding, personal and health care, transportation and education) by a six-member family. For 2006, PCBS estimates it at NIS 2,300 (\$518). The subsistence (absolute or deep) poverty line is calculated to reflect a budget for food, clothing and housing for a six-member family and stands at NIS 1,837 (\$419) in 2006 (PCBS).
26. The number of Palestinians employed in Israel and in the settlements. Source: PCBS labour force surveys. In 2000, around 146,000 Palestinians from the oPt were employed in Israel and Israeli settlements. This figure represents roughly 3% of the Palestinian labour force and demonstrates how vital for Palestinians’ livelihoods is the ability to have access to Israel for working opportunities.
27. Economic dependency ratio. Source: PCBS labour force surveys. No. of population divided by No. of employed. The higher the ratio, the more the inactive population is dependent on the active one.
28. Evolution of Consumer Price Index (CPI). Source: PCBS. Measures changes in prices of purchased goods and services at given time intervals, providing a measure of inflation. Source: PCBS, CPI press releases, quarterly and annually, available from 1996.
29. Evolution of daily wages. Source: PCBS labour force survey. Total net wages paid to all employees divided by total workdays in a given period (median value would be considered). To be looked at in conjunction with changes in CPI to determine purchasing power.

Health

30. Number of primary health care consultations by service provider. Source: Primary Health Care (PHC) Directorates; Mother and Child Health Department, UNRWA Epidemiology Department. Compiled by WHO. The number of consultations by service provider indicates the availability of the Ministry of Health (MoH) and UNRWA (free) services, the availability of and recourse to alternative private paying services. It also shows how economical constraints may affect people’s choice to health services providers. NGOs in the Gaza Strip include Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS) and Union of Health Workers Committees (UHCWC), which are the main non-governmental providers of health services.
31. Proportion of deliveries by service provider. Source: Birth certificates showed at PHC during BCG immunization, compiled by WHO. This indicator shows the public services’ capacity to provide obstetric services, as well as the burden on these services. It also indicates the availability of and recourse to alternative private paying services. It shows how financial barriers may affect people’s access choice to health services.
32. Number of pharmaceutical items out of stock. Source: MoH Central Drugstore, compiled by WHO. Out of stock means ‘less than one month’s stock’. There are 416 drug items and 596 consumables that should always be available at central level in stock for more than three months to ensure an adequate response to pharmaceutical needs. This indicator shows the quality of care as well as the donors’ response.
33. Malnutrition among children 9-12 months in the Gaza Strip and 0-24 months in the West Bank. Source: On underweight in the Gaza Strip, data source is MoH newly developed national Nutrition Surveillance system in June 2006, where indicator is - 2SD. On Anemia in the Gaza Strip, the same source has been used since June 2006, whilst MoH PHC directorate has been used as a source for the data on Anemia between January and May 2006. Although data on both sources is for children 9-12 months and collected during measles immunization, trend cannot be defined when using the data from the two systems, as the methodology of data collection substantially differs. However, this new data should be more reliable than the previous ones, showing a more accurate prevalence. In the West Bank, data from the new surveillance system is not available yet, and the 5th percentile has been used as cut off point instead of -2SD for the Underweight. Also, the limit of West Bank data is that they are clinic based and it may not give a representative picture for all the children 0-2 years. Underweight is the weight for age ratio which indicates acute malnutrition. Anemia is deficiency in Iron micronutrient, where the level of hemoglobin is less than 11 mg/l. Indicators of malnutrition are used as early warning for a humanitarian crisis generally linked to food intake, poor living conditions, poor water and sanitation conditions. These indicators allow monitoring the impact of the ongoing economic crisis.
34. Number of consultation for diarrhoea in refugee children between the ages of 0-3 years at UNRWA clinics. Source: UNRWA, Epidemiology Department, West Bank and Gaza Strip Field Offices. This indicator enables follow up of environmental health status and the quality and effectiveness of environmental programmes. Monthly figures are compared to the corresponding month in the previous year in order to check for seasonal patterns of disease.
35. Number of new cases attending UNRWA community mental health services, MoH community and hospital mental health services and Gaza Community Mental Health Program (GCMHP) in Gaza Strip and in the West Bank. Source: UNRWA, Epidemiology Department, West Bank and Gaza Strip Field Offices, MoH, Palestinian Health Information centre and PHC directorate in the West Bank and Gaza Strip compiled by WHO. This indicator shows how the crisis affects the psychological status of the Palestinians. It also indicates the quality of the Palestinians’ access to psychosocial care.

Agriculture

36. Arable land requisitioned, levelled or reclaimed in dunums - West Bank and Gaza Strip. Sources: Ministry of Agriculture, Palestinian Agriculture Relief Committees, compiled by FAO. Requisitioned land is public or private arable land either confiscated or made unavailable to Palestinian farmers by the IDF for any reason (Barrier construction, settlements, roads, military areas, etc.). Levelled land is public or private land that has been deforested or devoid of inhabitation by the IDF. It, however, remains accessible to farmers and can be re-used once the levelling is completed. Reclaimed land is that land, which is originally non-productive, and is transformed into farming land, under a private or NGO/UN-led initiative. Most of the time, this land is privately owned.
37. Greenhouses’ land destroyed (greenhouses and land they are on) and rehabilitated or constructed in dunums - West Bank and Gaza Strip. Sources: Ministry of Agriculture, Palestinian Agriculture Relief Committees, compiled by FAO.
38. Number of trees destroyed (uprooted, burnt or cut by Israeli authorities or settlers). Source: FAO; Ministry of Agriculture Directorates, Palestinian Agriculture Relief Committees.
39. Agricultural produce trading in or out of the Gaza Strip - the quantities of plant or animal produce that are imported to or exported from Gaza (metric tonnes). Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Gaza Strip, Directorates of Agricultural Marketing.

Food Security

40. Retail price of basic food commodities – West Bank, in NIS. Source: WFP, Market Monitoring System. The VAM Market Price Survey is the primary means by which WFP collects commodity prices in the local markets. The prices are collected during the first week of each month from retail shops in all governorates of the oPt.
41. Retail price of basic food commodities – Gaza Strip, in NIS. Source: WFP, Market Monitoring System. The VAM Market Price Survey is the primary means by which WFP collects commodity prices in the local markets. The prices are collected during the first week of each month from retail shops in all governorates of the oPt.
42. Availability of basic commodities - Gaza Strip. Source : Ministry of National Economy, collected by WFP. Basic commodities refers to commercial food only (humanitarian stocks excluded). The availability of each item is comparable to the estimated daily quantity of each item needed to cover the needs of the total population of the Gaza Strip.
43. Quantities of food imported in the Gaza Strip. Source : Paltrade, collected by WFP. Basic commodities refers to commercial and humanitarian food being imported every month into the Gaza Strip. Each commodity is compared to the estimated need in that specific commodity.
44. Fishing catch in the Gaza Strip. Source: Ministry of Agriculture, collected by WFP. Fish is the cheapest available animal protein source in the Gaza Strip. In addition, it contributes to the livelihoods of fisherfolk and their families. According to the Oslo Accords, the Palestinians are granted a fish catch area within 20 nautical miles off the Gazan coastline. The Gol agreed under the 2002 Bertini Commitments to a fishing zone of 12 nautical miles. Fisherfolk are presently able to fish up to 6 nautical miles off the Gaza Strip coastline except at a 1.5 and 1 nautical mile exclusion zone to the north and south respectively.
45. 2006 averages cover only data from 1 April - 31 December 2006.



Water & Sanitation

46. Per capita use of water per day – in litres - West Bank. This is the average volume of water used per day per person (including domestic agriculture, domestic livestock and all loss).
47. Per capita use of water per day – in litres – Gaza Strip. This is the average volume of water used per day per person (including domestic agriculture, domestic livestock and all loss).
48. Price of tankered watered in the West Bank- in NIS. Prices are indicated in NIS to limit distortion due to frequent fluctuations of the exchange rate between the shekel and the dollar.
49. Price of tankered watered in the Gaza Strip - in NIS. Prices are indicated in NIS to limit distortion due to frequent fluctuations of the exchange rate between the shekel and the dollar.
50. Percentage of HH connected to water network paying their bills. These figures reflect the percentage of HH from which the municipality, due to capacity limitations, is able to collect payment.
51. Percentage of HH monthly income spent on sanitation services
52. 2006 averages cover only data from 1 June - 31 December 2006.
53. Cost recovery of water bills by village councils and Municipalities in the West Bank
54. Cost recovery of water bills by village councils and Municipalities in the Gaza Strip.

Education

55. Number of schools with at least one day of disruption – West Bank. Source: MoEHE, collected by UNICEF. The indicator "Complete disruption" indicates that all students and teachers were unable to reach their schools and, therefore, the school was closed on that day. "Partial disruption" indicates that some students and/or teachers were unable to reach their schools and, therefore, some classes were not in session.
56. Number of schools with at least one day of disruption – Gaza Strip. Source: MoEHE. This indicator shows access to schools for students.

Sources of Sector Quotations

- a. Protection of Civilians: Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC)
- b. Child Protection: UNICEF
- c. Violence: Protocol I Additional to the Geneva Conventions, Article 51
- d. Access: Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 13
- e. Access: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 12 (1)
- f. Socio Economic: Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 23
- g. Health: WHO Constitution, 1948
- h. Health: WHO
- i. Food Security: FAO/WHO/WFP
- j. Water and Sanitation: United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, General Comment No. 15 (November 2002)
- k. Education: UNICEF

End Notes

1. Items at zero level mean a stock of 0-1 month, which is below the security level.
2. Applications are considered to be processed if no answer is received two weeks after applying.
3. The 76 casualties occurred due to incidents of direct conflict, indirect conflict, disputed circumstances, internal conflict and the reckless handling of weaponry. About 86% of Palestinian child deaths in 2008 are due to Palestinian Israeli conflict.
4. This distribution is slightly higher than the monthly average for the period between April 07 and April 08 of settler attacks against Palestinians (73%) and lower than that of Palestinian attacks against settlers (24%).
5. This category includes obstacles blocking paths to small olive groves, to a route where an additional obstacle was located further along, or to a route rarely travelled on by Palestinians.
6. This category includes obstacles blocking access to a closed military zone or to a settlement, or which were in the middle of a field.
7. For example, OCHA collected testimonies in three localities where earth mounds were put into place in order to be removed again on the same day; in other cases it was 'questionable' as to how long the removed earth mound had been in place given that the soil was very fresh or plants were still growing on the road underneath, where the earth mound had been placed.
8. Since OCHA does not document closure obstacles with minimal or no significance, only ten of the 61 obstacles announced appeared in OCHA's maps, five of which were removed on this occasion and five are still in situ.
9. A partial checkpoint is often unstaffed but can be staffed by the IDF in order to restrict movement.