



Overview- Key Issues

Update on Continued Closure of Gaza Crossings

The quantity of commercial and humanitarian goods allowed into the Gaza Strip continues to decline. The amount of goods entering Gaza has decreased by 73% (not including aggregates) since before the mid-June closure of Karni crossing, from an average of 253 truckloads per day in April to an average of 74 in October. On 28 October, Israel officially announced the permanent closure of Sufa crossing which had been used as the principal temporary alternative crossing (accounting for 76% of the inflow of supplies into Gaza) since the closure of Karni. The only crossing point left open for humanitarian aid and commercial supplies is Kerem Shalom. While Karni had the capacity to process over 750 truckloads per day, Kerem Shalom currently has the capacity to process only approximately 50 truckloads per day. The Israeli Civil Liaison Administration (CLA) confirmed to OCHA that Kerem Shalom crossing is currently being expanded. The prospective capacity of the crossing is 70-80 truckloads per day. The crossing is scheduled to be open 5 days per week, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. The use of Kerem Shalom as the only crossing point for goods has significant cost repercussions for humanitarian agencies. For example, logistic and supply arrangements cost three times as much through Kerem Shalom as through Karni.¹ (*For more information, see OCHA, Gaza Humanitarian Situation Report, October 2007. For more details on Gaza crossings, see Access section herein.*)

Death of two patients at Erez Checkpoint during October (WHO)

Two Palestinian patients died in October after their passage through Erez checkpoint was delayed. On 22 October, a 77-year-old patient with a stomach hemorrhage arrived at Erez in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) ambulance at 4:00pm. After being delayed for two hours, the patient was denied access. Coordination for passage was approved again on 23 October and the patient arrived at Erez at 10:00am. Aside from the usual 30 minutes needed for coordination at Erez to cross into Israel,² no additional delay was reported. However, according to the Palestinian Liaison Officer at the checkpoint, at 11am the patient's body was returned to the Palestinian side, after dying on the Israeli side of the checkpoint.

- On 18 October, a 21-year-old male cancer patient reached Erez at 4:00pm. The patient was being transported by an ICU ambulance and escorted by his father. The patient's entry to the Israeli side of the checkpoint was delayed for 2 ½ hours, after which, the Israeli side requested that the father cross before the patient and indicated that the

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patient must cross the checkpoint using a walker, rather than be transported by ambulance. After walking to the end of the tunnel that connects the Palestinian side to the Israeli side, the patient was denied passage. His father was arrested on the Israeli side and held for nine days. On 28 October, a second coordination for the patient was approved and the patient was admitted to an Israeli hospital. The patient died the same night at the hospital in Israel.

Israeli Sanctions on Gaza

The Government of Israel began implementing part of a proposed series of economic sanctions on the Gaza Strip on 28 October. The decision to impose electricity sanctions was temporarily halted by the Attorney General pending further legal review. On 28 October, Israel began limiting fuel supplies entering Gaza. A 47% decrease in regular diesel and a 9% decrease in industrial gasoline were reported since the start of the sanctions. Diesel is used by ambulances and service vehicles, while industrial gas is needed for the Gaza Power Plant. Though the fuel sanctions are not heavily felt by Gazans yet, any sustained and prolonged reductions will have severe implications for the lives of the civilian population as power outages ensue. (*For more information, see OCHA, Gaza Humanitarian Situation Report, October 2007. For more information on the potential impact of the sanctions on health, see Health Sector section herein.*)



Suspension of elective surgical operations at Shifa Hospital due to lack of nitrous oxide gas

According to WHO, elective surgical operations in Shifa hospital were suspended on 21 October as a result of the lack of nitrous oxide gas required to conduct surgical interventions. Shortage of the gas was reported in other Ministry of Health (MoH) hospitals as well. As a result, other anesthetic drugs were used to perform emergency surgical operations.³ Nitrous oxide gas is supplied to MoH hospitals through the World Bank-funded ESSP project. The delivery of gas from the Israeli medical company-Maxima to the Palestinian MoH in Gaza through Kerem Shalom crossing point depends on the prior reception of empty gas cylinders which are sent out of Gaza a month earlier. Due to a communication problem, the filled cylinders were not allowed to re-enter the Gaza Strip. After the urgent intervention of WHO and OCHA with the Israeli authorities, the gas was transported through Kerem Shalom on 22 October and reached the Palestinian delivery focal point and was distributed to MoH hospitals on 23 October.

The deepening livestock crisis in the West Bank and Gaza Strip

FAO reports that Palestinian shepherders in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are facing a major livelihood crisis. The cost of fodder has increased dramatically and continues to rise. A ton of barley today has reached 2,200 NIS (almost double the price in January 2007 and triple that of January 2006). Water prices have also increased, for personal and livestock consumption, reaching up to 100 NIS per cubic meter in isolated areas. A long dry season and overgrazed pastures, due to protracted Israeli land seizure and land use restrictions, further exacerbate the situation. The drastic increase in production costs, mainly due to water and feed prices, is forcing many farmers to resort to distress sales of sheep, even reproductive female sheep, jeopardizing the sustainability of the flock and forsaking the selective breeding they have conducted for generations. (For more details, see *Food Security and Agriculture section herein.*)

Increasing food prices

The WFP market survey shows a significant increase in the price of essential food commodities, meat, dairy products, fuel and electricity in the West Bank and Gaza Strip over the past three months. From August – October, the price

of wheat flour increased by 35% (29% in the Gaza Strip and 39% in the West Bank). During the same period, dairy products increased by 6% and fuel by 3%. The market graph below shows a comparison of nominal prices of selected food commodities between August – October 2005 and August – October 2007 in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It shows the impact of high international prices coupled with closures. Increased prices are affecting almost all staple commodities, which significantly affects the purchasing power of the population. The steep price increases in cereals are due to the rise in international prices (linked to crop failure and biofuel production). While within the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the internal price fluctuation is linked to the closure regime and related market fragmentation. Increased food prices come as Palestinian households are coping with a drop in income: preliminary findings of a rapid assessment carried out by WFP on non-refugee households' showed a 22% drop in income amongst non-refugee households in October, compared to pre-June 2007. (For more details, see *Food Security and Agriculture section herein.*)

Wheat Flour (Haifa, 60kg sack)
comparison between 2005 - 2007



The following UN Agencies, local and international NGOs and organisations participate in sector working groups/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) and members of the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM).



Overview- Regional Focus

West Bank including East Jerusalem

Closure of 'Asira Ash Shamaliya Checkpoint

'Asira Ash Shamaliya checkpoint closes the main route that connects nine villages to the north of Nablus (with an approximate population of 23,000) to services in Nablus city. On 23 November 2006, the checkpoint was closed to Palestinians. Access continued to be allowed for ambulances and humanitarian organizations until 29 August 2007, at which time the IDF closed it for everyone except ambulances evacuating critical cases. On 26 October 2007, the IDF closed a gate north of the checkpoint, preventing all movement through the checkpoint, including ambulances evacuating critical cases. Prior to the closure of the checkpoint, the nearest hospital, Al Itiyhad, used to be only 5.5 km away from 'Asira Ash Shamaliya village, via the old 'Asira ash Shamaliya - Nablus road. Ambulances are now forced to make a 22-km detour via narrow side roads through the Al Badhan area (northeast of Nablus).

Olive Harvest in the West Bank during October⁵

In the northern West Bank in preparation for the olive harvest, the IDF handed out 12 military orders (valid from 24 September to 15 December) considering some areas planted with olive trees near the settlements around Nablus as closed military areas for Palestinians and Israeli settlers. According to the IDF, these orders were designed to enable coordinated Palestinian access to these areas on designated days for harvesting the olive crop. In general, coordination went smoothly and Palestinians were able to harvest their crop. In some areas, additional days were needed and coordination was granted.

Also in the northern West Bank, there were multiple reported incidents of harassment, primarily by Israeli settlers, of Palestinians attempting to harvest their olive crop. The IDF denied farmers access to their land close to the Barrier in the Jenin area and arrested a Palestinian man near Yanoun village (Nablus area), accusing him of approaching too closely the fence of Itamar settlement. Five incidents of Israeli settlers preventing Palestinians access to their land occurred in the Nablus area. In four of the cases the Israeli police or the IDF intervened and the Palestinians were able to access their land. Furthermore, settlers attacked Palestinian farmers from Tell village (Nablus area) picking olives, injuring a 50-year-old Palestinian with a stone. Two incidents of settlers harassing Palestinians picking olives occurred in the Qalqiliya and Nablus areas; settlers stole olives and threw out the harvested olives. In general, this year's harvest proceeded smoother than last year's in the northern West Bank, given renewed coordination this year between the Palestinian and the Israeli District Coordination Liaison Officers. Given the poorer quality of the harvest, however, less time was needed for harvesting than last year.

In the central area (Ramallah and Jerusalem periphery), Palestinians access into their olive fields behind the Barrier and near settlements proceeded smoothly following prior coordination with the Israeli Civil Administration. Only in Al Mazr'a al Qibliya village, coordination for farmers to access their land close to the Talmon settlement was delayed for 12 days following confrontations with settlers on 26 October. As a result, 21 Palestinians were detained: 12 were released a few days later and five are still in custody at Ofer military detention camp, including the Mayor of the village. No settlers were arrested.

Humanitarian access in the West Bank

Access restrictions in the West Bank continue to increase. This impedes the ability of humanitarian agencies to access their beneficiaries and impacts Palestinian commercial import and export trade. Examples of restricted access include: the IDF has recently required that national staff of UN agencies obtain permits to enter the closed area between the Barrier and the Green Line in the northern West Bank. This is contrary to internationally recognized rules for UN access. As a result, UN agencies have been unable to assist beneficiaries in this area; in the West Bank, there have been an increasing number of incidents of delayed or denied access for humanitarian agencies, particularly at entry points to Jerusalem;⁴ the new Tarqumiya commercial crossing in the Hebron governorate opened on 28 October and goods now cross using the back-to-back system. Business people from Hebron are already reporting increased delays with imports and exports. Combined, these increasing restrictions harm the West Bank economy, leading to greater poverty, and decrease access for humanitarian organizations.

Gaza Strip

Cash Availability in Gaza

The Israeli decision to declare Gaza a "hostile territory" has had repercussions on the monetary transfer process, and accordingly the availability of cash and the ability to invest. The Israeli government has formed a "ministerial committee" under the direct supervision of Prime Minister Olmert that will approve any money transferred into Gaza, based on details given about the use of the money. Following the initial announcement by the Israeli Discount and Hapoalim banks to cut ties with Gazan banks, both banks agreed to postpone the cut until 15 November and 23 November respectively.⁶ The Israeli Postal Bank (a governmental institution with immunity from prosecution) is under consideration to become the alternative bank to clear financial transactions with Gazan banks, including money transfers. However, it will require time to expand its capacity. (For more information, see OCHA, *Gaza Humanitarian Situation Report, October 2007*.)



Protection of Civilians

Protection of civilians analysis

The number of Palestinians killed in Israeli-Palestinian conflict-related incidents was 37 (including 1 woman), which is the same as September and is higher than the combined death toll for the first three months of 2007. In line with the trend observed since April 2007, the majority of deaths (73%) occurred in the Gaza Strip. In the West Bank, Nablus and Jenin governorates represented the majority of deaths (80%). Injuries amongst Palestinians due to the direct conflict increased by 13% between September and October (152 vs. 135). Of those injured, 10 were identified as women. The Gaza Strip accounted for 88% of this overall increase, but injuries in the West Bank still constituted the majority (53%). Two IDF soldiers were killed in Khan Younis governorate in October, bringing the number of Israelis killed in 2007 to 10. Thirteen Israelis were injured, nine of whom (69%) were IDF soldiers. Of the injured IDF soldiers, one was injured by an Israeli settler in the West Bank.

In October, direct conflict deaths and injuries were, respectively, 35% and 25% higher than deaths and injuries resulting from internal conflict (37 vs. 24; 152 vs. 122). Still, deaths emanating from internal violence doubled (24 vs. 12 in each of September and August) as a result of a two-fold increase in fatalities in each of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Those killed include nine women. In the West Bank, October marked the highest hitherto recorded monthly figure for internal deaths (8). By contrast, internal conflict-related injuries fell by 25% compared to September (122 [none identified as women]) vs. 163, which can be primarily attributed to a 21% decrease in injuries due to internal violence in the Gaza Strip.

Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

In August and October, the entire al Hadidiya and Qassa communities, nearly 300 persons, were displaced:⁷

- On 29 October, the army displaced 180 persons, mostly refugees, from Qassa village, located near the Tarqumiya checkpoint between the Barrier and the Green Line in southern Hebron. The Israeli army bulldozed 18 tents and shacks and physically removed people to the eastern side of the checkpoint. The community lost access to grazing land and water resources for their livestock, the main source of their livelihood. According to the IDF, Qassa residents were removed because they were illegally present on the land and had built without permits. However, after being present in the area for some 40 years, residents only received an order to evacuate after the Barrier was constructed in the area. A second evacuation order arrived once construction of the Tarqumiya commercial checkpoint was completed. The displacement occurred the day after the terminal

became operational. In July 2004, the International Court of Justice ruled that the Barrier, where it is built in the Occupied West Bank, and its associated regime contravene international law, violating Palestinians' right to self-determination, among other rights.

- The displacement of Qassa villagers follows the August displacement of the Bedouin community of Al Hadidiya in the Jordan Valley. On 13 August, the Israeli army bulldozed the homes of at least 100 people from the Al Hadidiya community. These demolitions, and similar operations in April 2007, occurred after a November 2006 Israeli High Court ruling to evict the Bedouin families on the basis that they posed a security threat to settlers of the Ro'i settlement. This ruling overturned two previous decisions by the Court in favour of the community's right to remain in the area, after its designation as a 'closed military area' in 1997. The Israeli settlers living in the Ro'i settlement, a few metres from the Al Hadidiya village, are able to continue residing in the area without IDF interference, though the settlement was established some 30 years after the village. The displacement of Al Hadidiya residents violates the principle of non-discrimination and the rights to freedom of movement and to choose one's place of residence.
- These instances of displacement, along with others in the oPt, raise the question of Israel's obligations under international humanitarian and criminal law, in particular, Articles 49, 53 and 147 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, among others.

Femicide

During the last week of October 2007, four cases of femicide were reported in the oPt. Two of the women killed were sisters who were found dead in their family home in Qalqiliya. Their brother confessed to killing them in the name of "family honour". Two other women, both aged 29, were killed during the same week: one east of Qalqiliya and the other in Gaza city. All four femicides were justified by the perpetrators or generally considered as having been committed to protect so-called "family/male honour". Two were committed following the women's request to enjoy their internationally recognized human rights to own property and to inheritance. With the killing of these women, October has the highest reported monthly number of women killed in the oPt under the pretext of "family/male honour" in 2007. These figures reflect only a fraction of the full extent of the phenomenon as many cases go unreported. So-called "honour killings" violate the fundamental right to life enshrined in international human rights law. "Honour killings" often also violate other human rights, such as the right to own property and to freedom of opinion and expression.



Protection of Civilians

“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)	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06	Jan-07	Feb-07	Mar-07	Apr-07	May-07	Jun-07	July-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07
Number of Palestinian deaths - direct conflict¹															
West Bank	216 (18)	678 (57)	12	17	12	8	11	7	9	8	10	6	10	7	10
Gaza Strip			48	121	3	3	2	2	10	54	30	23	37	30	27
Israel			1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Palestinian injuries - direct conflict															
West Bank	1260 (105)	3194 (266)	86	159	51	89	251	141	109	94	76	38	92	79	81
Gaza Strip			94	332	22	15	5	12	6	187	86	29	62	56	71
Number of Israeli deaths - direct conflict															
oPt	48 (4)	25 (2)	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Israel			0	2	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Israeli injuries - direct conflict															
oPt	484 (40)	377 (31)	16	19	10	10	35	14	22	10	18	3	54	14	13
Israel			3	11	2	2	0	1	0	20	1	4	2	69	0
Number of Palestinian deaths - internal violence²															
West Bank	12 (>1)	146 (12)	5	1	4	2	0	0	1	7	5	4	1	4	8
Gaza Strip			27	14	25	54	48	16	16	63	188	11	11	8	16
Number of Palestinian injuries - internal violence															
West Bank	130 (11)	871 (76)	29	1	45	12	5	2	10	25	25	18	7	24	13
Gaza Strip			257	35	130	249	285	102	88	308	841	56	119	139	109
Average weekly IDF searches, arrests and detentions in the West Bank³															
Search Campaigns	Ave Weekly (61)	Ave Weekly (109)	118	145	122	108	135	127	126	124	101	86	98	91	78
Arrests and Detentions	Ave Weekly (74)	Ave Weekly (101)	81	133	101	121	155	121	88	105	78	65	93	84	73

For more information please contact OHCHR, (02) 2965534 or OCHA, (02) 582 9962 (Catherine Cook or Mai Yassin)



Child Protection

Ten Palestinian children were killed in October, compared to eight in September and 11 in August. The number of children killed in internal conflicts (6) exceeds the number of children killed in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (3) this month. This brings the total number of Palestinian children killed since the beginning of the year to 88.

Three of the children killed this month were girls. A 7-year-old girl died from injuries she sustained on 19 October when the IDF opened fire during a search and arrest campaign in Tulkarm. Two girls, three and 13 years of age, were killed and two other children were injured in an explosion in their house in Khan Younis. The cause of the explosion is unknown. No Israeli child has been killed in 2007.

Throughout the month, 33 Palestinian children were injured in the conflict with Israel. The majority of injured children were in the West Bank (24 or 73%), primarily during military operations in the northern West Bank. There was, nonetheless, a three-fold increase in children injured by the IDF in the Gaza Strip compared to September (9 vs. 3).

Five of the 38 injured children this month, or 13%, were girls. This is in comparison to September where no girls were either killed or injured. A total of 317 children have been injured in 2007. Of those, 69% were injured by the IDF, 14% by Palestinians in internal violence and due to the reckless handling of explosives, and 8.5% by Israeli settlers. One settler-related injury was reported in October, in contrast to six reported injuries in September; a two-year-old girl was run over on 11 October by a settler car on the main road leading to the settlement of Kiryat Arba, near the H2 area of Hebron City. No Israeli child has been injured this month.

Children in Detention: Focus on Girls

As of 1 November, there were 319 Palestinian child political prisoners in Israeli prisons and detention and interrogation centres. Twelve (12) additional Palestinian children were being held in administrative detention.

Palestinian girls are a minority of the Palestinian child prisoner population held in Israeli custody. This year, there have been a total of four Palestinian girls who have been held, or are being held, in Israeli custody. Currently, there are two female prisoners, both 16 year old, and both charged with possession of a knife. They are detained in Hasharon Prison, in the Telmond Compound in Israel, where they are held in a separate section for Palestinian prisoners. Girl prisoners share a cell with adult Palestinian female prisoners. When punished, children are held in solitary confinement in a cell that is located within the Israeli criminal offenders section.

As the cell door is a barred iron gate, female child prisoners being held in solitary confinement can see and be seen by the Israeli criminal offender population (some of whom are drug and sex offenders). While imprisoned, Palestinian girls have no access to educational programmes, though programmes are provided for boys detained in Hasharon.

Access to School

A large-scale Israeli military operation in Beit Hanoun caused disruptions, closures and damages to UNRWA schools in the area, barely a month after schools began the new academic year. On at least two occasions, schools were evacuated. Towards the end of October, UNRWA's preparatory girls' school was damaged by rocket fired by an Israeli aircraft. The western gate of the school was damaged and so were dozens of windows, according to UNRWA. Many children attending UNRWA schools in the central Gaza area of Deir al Balah were forced to leave or prevented from entering schools by unidentified, masked men. This affected all schools in Al Bureij Camp, half of the schools in An Nuseirat Camp, and all but one school in Al Maghazi Camp. The situation caused widespread disruptions or closures for at least two days in early October.



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)	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06	Jan-07	Feb-07	Mar-07	Apr-07	May-07	Jun-07	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07
Number of Palestinian children killed - direct conflict⁴															
West Bank	52 (4)	127 (11)	1	5	2	3	0	1	1	0	1	2	2	3	1
Gaza Strip			5	23	1	1	1	0	2	9	3	1	6	2	2
Number of Palestinian children injured - direct conflict⁵															
West Bank	129 (11)	470 (39)	20	58	18	12	30	11	31	22	14	14	21	29	24
Gaza Strip			2	8	2	1	0	2	2	10	4	1	2	3	9
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	0	0
Number of Israeli children injured - direct conflict⁷															
oPt	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Israel	0	7 (<1)	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Number of Palestinian children killed - indirect conflict⁸															
West Bank	5 (<1)	2 (<1)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Gaza Strip	3 (<1)	6 (<1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	2	0	1
Number of Palestinian children killed in Palestinian internal violence⁹															
West Bank	0	2 (<1)	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Gaza Strip	0	11 (<1)	3	1	3	10	4	3	1	3	4	1	1	1	5
Number of Palestinian children held in detention by Israeli authorities¹⁰															
West Bank	n/a	n/a	348	340	380	382	398	384	381	357	384	375	328	335	319

For more information, please contact UNICEF, (02) 583 0013 (Steinunn Björvinsdóttir and Asmahan Nasser).



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)	Nov -06	Dec -06	Jan -07	Feb -07	Mar-07	Apr -07	May -07	Jun -07	Jul -07	Aug -07	Sep -07	Oct -07
Incidents involving Israeli settlers¹¹														
Total number of incidents	n/a	235 (20)	30	17	10	20	15	21	15	17	37	30	22	47
Leading to Palestinian casualties	n/a	63 (5)	6	2	2	4	7	11	5	6	7	9	9	5
Leading to Israeli Settler casualties	n/a	28 (2)	2	2	1	3	2	4	0	0	0	4	1	2
Leading to international casualties	n/a	11 (<1)	2	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Palestinian Qassam rockets fired into/towards Israel¹²														
From the Gaza Strip	1 194 (100)	1 786 (149)	283	73	46	79	73	60	323	140	96	120	97	56
Number of IDF artillery shells														
Into the Gaza Strip	509 (42)	14 111 (1175)	248	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of IAF air strikes														
In the Gaza Strip	n/a	573 (48)	93	0	2	0	1	3	65	14	13	17	10	11
Number of Mortars fired¹³														
In the Gaza Strip	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	9	2	3	45	76	133	164	122	110
Towards IDF troops	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	17	17	9	19
Physical structures demolished - West Bank¹⁴														
Structures demolished	n/a	201	35	4	18	54	8	11	8	7	10	17	29	21
Of which residential (occupied)	n/a	56 (5)	14	3	14	17	2	7	4	2	5	11	5	19
Physical structures demolished - Gaza Strip														
Structures demolished	n/a	246 (21)	38	0	0	0	0	0	16	2	1	1	0	0
Of which homes demolished	n/a	127 (11)	32	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0

For more information, please contact OCHA, (02) 582 9962 (Catherine Cook or Mai Yassin)



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	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06	Jan-07	Feb-07	Mar-07	Apr-07	May-07	Jun-07	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07
IDF Physical obstacles in the West Bank¹⁵															
Staffed	62	74	83	84	82	82	84	84	86	86	85	86	86	88	87
Unstaffed	410	445	459	456	445	446	466	465	453	467	471	455	477	475	474
Total	472	518	542	540	527	528	550	549	539	553	55	541	563	563	561
Average weekly Random or 'Flying' checkpoints	73	136	111	143	138	114	156	163	175	141	105	113	100	104	70
Curfews imposed by IDF¹⁶															
No. Incidents - West Bank	9	4	1	2	2	2	3	4	4	5	10	0	4	3	6
Total hours under curfew - West Bank	126	40	3	12	26	28	91	21	20	48	79	0	27	27	27
No. Incidents - Gaza Strip	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total hours under curfew - Gaza Strip	0	18	0	144	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	62	79	38	38	n/a	28	42	34	38	47	46	41	36
Average reported time to exit the Gaza Strip via Erez, in minutes.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	53	47	81	44	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	7	2	n/a	15	26	11	25	36	39	44	37	27	22
Ambulance access denial reported at West Bank checkpoints	n/a	9	9	4	n/a	16	25	9	14	24	32	40	27	20	19
MoH medical referral requests (via Erez)	n/a	459	379	509	434	506	595	681	515	737	413	872	985	715	1103
Actual no. of medical referrals receiving permits to cross (via Erez)	n/a	416	344	455	399	452	540	596	460	664	369	777	787	591	850
Access for Palestinians to East Jerusalem and Israel from oPt¹⁹															
West Bank (total closure days)	n/a	n/a	4	11	4	0	0	5	13	1	0	0	0	10	0
Gaza Strip (total closure days)	n/a	17	0	0	1	0	0	4	4	1	17	31	31	30	31
Movement of people from/to Gaza Strip - daily average²⁰															
Workers to Israel - Erez	1029	378	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Traders to Israel - Erez	107	42	28	93	172	243	290	352	157	318	262	0	n/a	0	5
Rafah - daily crossing out	n/a	423	250	140	289	138	240	410	383	304	200	0	0	0	0
Rafah daily crossing in	n/a	424	220	155	199	270	139	309	345	294	125	0	0	0	0

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





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	Nov-06	Dec-06	Jan-07	Feb-07	Mar-07	Apr-07	May-07	Jun-07	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07
Functioning of the Gaza Strips crossing points - percentage of days open/scheduled days open²¹														
Rafah crossing	n/a	57%	20%	32%	26%	25%	48%	37%	26%	18%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Karni crossing	n/a	71%	92%	96%	100%	92%	92%	96%	85%	46%	26%	0%	0%	0%
Sufa crossing	n/a	60%	77%	92%	100%	96%	29%	16%	43%	15%	100%	95%	68%	68%
Nahal Oz energy pipelines	n/a	n/a	100%	88%	100%	100%	96%	100%	96%	92%	100%	96%	100%	96%
Movement of goods through Karni crossing - daily average²²														
Karni import - commercial truckloads incl. humanitarian supplies	n/a	156	191	196	220	232	218	253	210	84	13	10	19	24
Karni export - commercial truckloads incl. humanitarian supplies	n/a	17	31	40	46	52	44	51	25	12	0	0	0	0
Other imports into the Gaza Strip - total²³														
Sufa import - aggregates (construction materials) truckloads	3 527	1 598	1652	2422	3455	3257	1034	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0
Nahal Oz import - Fuel truckloads	n/a	583	548	532	539	714	601	n/a	n/a	n/a	523	474	396	472
Economic/access data for the West Bank are being investigated by OCHA														

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

West Bank and Gaza Crossings

- Tarqumiya commercial crossing in the Hebron governorate opened on 28 October. Goods now cross using the back-to-back system, forcing merchants and humanitarian agencies to incur greater costs.⁸
- Karni crossing, the primary crossing for imports and exports of commercial and humanitarian goods, remains closed since 12 June.
- Rafah crossing, the principal crossing point for Gazans into and out of the Gaza Strip, also remains closed since mid-June (10 June). More than 1,500 Palestinians are now estimated to be stranded on the Egyptian side of the border with Gaza. Approximately 6,000 have submitted requests to the Palestinian Civil Affairs Department for passage out of Gaza and are waiting for the crossing to open or for the alternative Erez-Nitzana route to resume. The Israeli CLA has been unable to confirm to OCHA when this alternative route will be used again.
- Erez crossing continues to be closed to all Palestinians (including workers since March 2006), except for those who have obtained previous coordination with the Israeli DCL, including a limited number of patients, traders and humanitarian workers. According to the Palestinian Liaison Officer at Erez checkpoint, at least 27 patients who had received a permit from Israeli authorities for treatment in Israel and/or the West Bank and attempted to cross Erez were denied passage after being questioned by the Israel Security Agency (*Shabak*).



Socio-economic Conditions

Unemployment, poverty and socio-cultural changes

The recent rise in prices of food commodities is having a major impact on Palestinian families, particularly affecting the poorest segments of the society. In Nablus city people are frequently seen at night roaming in the vegetable market to collect left over vegetables, despite poor hygienic conditions. Groceries and bakeries in the city reported a general tendency of clients to decrease quantities of items purchased and attempts to negotiate even the price of basic food items, including bread. Refugee families in Askar camp are reportedly selling relatively new items (e.g. furniture and electrical appliances) and replacing them with low quality substitutes in order to buy essential food items. A small trader operating in the area reported that while in the past a 30kg bag of flour distributed by UNRWA could be purchased for NIS 25-30, during the last food distribution, beneficiaries refused to sell flour even for NIS 75 a bag.

UNRWA social workers reported that about 30 women from Askar camp have been recently found in Nablus begging for money, as a last resort to sustain their families. According to social workers, similar cases were rarely recorded in the past.

A substantial reduction in monetary and in-kind assistance from charity institutions, particularly, religious ones, was witnessed in Nablus refugee camps compared to the end of Ramadan last year, thus leading to increased pressure on local committees and UNRWA social services in the area. In addition, a drop in traditional donations during Ramadan was observed as many people were unable to give a part of their income to poor and needy families, despite the religious importance of the act.

Palestinian charities and social institutions in East Jerusalem (mostly providing legal consultations, social services and legal assistance to women, education support, and youth activities) are facing increasing difficulties in their operations and delivery of services. Institutions are increasingly subject to regular controls and visits to their installations by the Israeli authorities; in addition, working permits applications for staff are frequently rejected, strongly affecting the institutions' operational capacity. Jerusalem Municipality social workers in Silwan, Ras al Amud and Jabal al Mukaber are currently dealing with about 350 cases each and reportedly are unable to meet the increasing needs of Palestinian families (approximately 150 new applications for social assistance are recorded in East Jerusalem on a weekly basis). Many East Jerusalemite families have accumulated up to NIS

20,000 in debt due to inability to pay Arnona municipal tax and utility bills. Child allowances, which range between NIS 100-150 per child/per month depending on the number of children, often represent the only regular source of income for the poorest families. Municipality social workers noticed that, though faced with increasing socio-economic distress, Palestinian living in the West Bank can still rely on traditional support and community solidarity, while in East Jerusalem community ties have weakened substantially.

According to social workers from the Jerusalem Municipality, the number of women solely responsible for supporting and raising their children in East Jerusalem is on the rise. In addition to women who are in this situation as a result of general poverty and unemployment, some are divorcees or widows and others are married to men in jail. As a result, more women are now attempting to enter employment sectors traditionally devoted to men (e.g. obtaining licenses for driving taxis; receiving vocational training for video-shooting) or employment that entails regular interaction with the public (e.g. assisting the elderly).

Al Khadr village, west of Bethlehem

In Al Khadr, a rural village west of Bethlehem traditionally relying on grape production, the unemployment rate now exceeds 40%. According to the Municipality, most of its land (20,000 out of 22,000 dunums) is located to the west of the Barrier and hardly accessible to residents, mostly farmers. Since the construction of the Barrier, access and cultivation of land is only possible through the gate to Efrat settlement and this is dependent upon daily coordination with the IDF. Being unable to ensure continuity of cultivation of their land, farmers recently decided to replace traditional grape vineyards with olive trees, which are more likely to survive in the absence of regular farming activities. However, some years are required before olive trees become productive and this year Al Khadr residents did not have any harvest.

An order requisitioning land for Barrier construction was received by the Municipalities of Al Khadr and Artas on 18 September. The order requisitions 321 dunums of land, for alleged military use and security reasons.



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 1998	Q1 1999	Q1 2000	Q1 2001	Q1 2002	Q1 2003	Q1 2004	Q1 2005	Q1 2006	Q2 2006	Q1 2007	Q2 2007	Q3 2007
Unemployment rate - relaxed definition - % - PCBS²⁴													
West Bank	23.5%	22.9%	16.9%	32.5%	35.0%	40.3%	31.0%	28.8%	27.2%	24.2%	24.3%	22.6%	25.20%
Gaza Strip	30.7%	27.9%	21.8%	48.8%	46.4%	37.3%	35.1%	38.0%	39.6%	38.7%	35.4%	32.3%	37.60%
oPt	26.0%	24.7%	20.2%	37.7%	38.7%	39.3%	32.3%	31.7%	31.1%	28.6%	27.9%	25.7%	29.10%
Households in poverty - based on consumption - % - PCBS²⁵													
Poor	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	27.7%	38.8%	29.1%	36.9%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Deep poor	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	16.8%	23.8%	18.1%	25.9%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Number of Palestinians employed in Israel and in the settlements - PCBS²⁶													
West Bank	74213	107067	105501	105501	57000	43281	49750	65255	59846	57683	68100	63700	66800
Gaza Strip	21899	25758	25380	2580	2000	6295	5849	0	852	0	0	0	0
oPt	96112	132825	130881	107630	59000	49576	55999	65255	60698	57683	68100	63700	66800
Economic dependency ratio - PCBS²⁷													
West Bank	n/a	n/a	n/a	5.7	6	6.6	5.7	5.6	5.4	5	5.0	4.7	4.9
Gaza Strip	n/a	n/a	n/a	9.1	8.8	7.5	7.5	8.2	8.4	8	7.3	6.9	7.4
oPt	n/a	n/a	n/a	6.6	6.8	6.9	6.3	6.3	6.2	6	5.7	5.3	5.6
Evolution of consumer price index (CPI) - PCBS²⁸													
West Bank	10.9%	19.9%	24.8%	26.0%	32.0%	39.7%	44.2%	49.2%	54.3%	54.7%	57.0%	55.7%	59.3%
Gaza Strip	12.6%	21.9%	24.7%	22.8%	23.2%	26.4%	32.0%	33.8%	38.1%	40.0%	42.0%	41.9%	46.1%
oPt	11.3%	20.7%	20.7%	24.2%	28.4%	36.2%	41.4%	46.1%	51.0%	52.1%	53.5	53.1%	56.9%
Evolution of daily wages in NIS - PCBS²⁹													
West Bank	57.9	57.7	61.5	60	57.7	60	62.8	60	70	69.2	70.0	69.2	70.0
Gaza Strip	45.0	45.0	48.2	60	50	50	50	55.8	65.4	67.3	66.9	57.7	57.7
oPt	53.9	51.35	54.8	55	53.85	55.6	57.7	57.7	69.2	69.2	69.2	65.4	67.3

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

PCBS Labour Force Survey Q2 2007

Dependency on PA employment increased:
160.000 PA employees in oPt

Represents:

22.9% of the employed people in oPt
16.3% of the employed people in the West Bank
36.1% 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

Availability of drugs in Gaza (WHO and UNFPA)

The availability of drugs decreased at central drug stores in the Gaza Strip. The number of drug items on the Essential Drug List (EDL) at zero⁹ level increased in October to reach 91 drug items, compared to 61 items in September. However, the number of drug items at a stock of 1-3 months improved, with only 48 items reported at that level compared to 64 in September. Deterioration of the drug supply is especially alarming because of the lack of commitments from donors, thus far, to address the shortage. A crisis is expected in 2008 with some US\$ 42 million in drugs and consumables needed. In response, UNFPA is providing medications and RH commodities to the value of US\$ 1 million. The status of medical supplies in the central drug stores in the Gaza Strip has not changed during October. The number of medical supply items at zero stock reached 188 items in October, compared to 181 in September; whilst the number of medical supply items at 1-3 month stock was at 114 in October, compared to 113 items in September.

Impact of Gaza sanctions on health (WHO)

The average monthly consumption of fuel in MoH health facilities during the normal situation in Gaza (an average of 4-6 hours of electricity cut off per week) is 85,200 litres, at a cost of 367,212 NIS. If the sanctions result in an increase of the interruption in electricity to an average of 8-12 hours/week, the average monthly consumption of fuel will be increased to 70,400 litres. This amount will double if the electricity cut off reaches 20 hours/week. If the sanctions are implemented, the provision of immunization, diagnostic and dental services and the sterilization of tools needed for dressings will be affected in PHC facilities. Diagnostic services including intensive care unit (ICU) equipment, laboratory and x-ray, operating rooms, oxygen extractors, laundry rooms, air conditioning system and water pumps will also be affected at hospitals' level

Situation in Gaza remains of concern from both an accessibility and quality point of view (UNFPA)

- About 20 maternal deaths were reported in 2007 in Gaza. This number represents a 250% increase from 2006, reflecting a significant indicator of deteriorating health in Gaza.
- After years of reduced support for the maintenance of infrastructure and equipment at Ministry of Health (MoH) maternity facilities, reproductive health (RH) services began showing signs of severe shortages in resources needed to respond to the growing needs of women. The condi-

tion of medical equipment in hospitals has reached alarming levels and transportation difficulties are deepening the shortage of spare parts. UNFPA is currently working with the Maintenance and Engineering Directorate to assess the function of medical equipment at Palestinian hospitals and maternity facilities.

Ensuring vaccine security and efficacy in the West Bank and Gaza has become a real concern (UNICEF)

Increasingly difficult access to, and limited mobility between, the West Bank and Gaza is impacting the ability to ensure vaccine security and efficacy. In response, UNICEF has taken the decision to procure two cold rooms that will be fitted in place soon to increase vaccine storage capacity in the MoH warehouses in Gaza and the West Bank by 80 cubic meters. Also, UNICEF has conducted a “Vaccine Stock Management Assessment”, including Cold Chain System Assessment at the level of the central warehouse, the district stores and peripheral levels in both the West Bank and Gaza. The assessment, which was conducted in close cooperation and coordination with the MoH and UNRWA, sought to ensure an intact vaccine storage and cold chain system, particularly in the context of the potentially compromised integrity of the cold chain system. The assessment represent a significant milestone towards ensuring sustained and effective protection of Palestinian children and women in OPT against infectious diseases. Strengthening vaccine management, procuring the needed supplies and fitting the central MoH warehouses with an effective alarm system will ensure safe and efficiently managed vaccine cold rooms that hold the strategic oPt vaccine supply.

Maintaining an efficient “Nutrition Surveillance System” covering children under 5 is vital (UNICEF)

Nutrition surveillance is exceedingly crucial in monitoring children's nutritional status, especially in a progressively deteriorating socioeconomic situation and deepening vulnerability of children in the oPt. Accordingly, UNICEF jointly with WHO and the MoH, have trained a group of 70 trainers from the staff of the MoH, UNRWA and many local NGOs from the West Bank on introducing the new-WHO Standard Growth Monitoring Charts in maternal and child health (MCH) services in the oPt. Substantial progress in including the new growth charts in the MCH handbook, supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), that will be used at the national level has been achieved.



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

	Nov -06	Dec -06	Jan -07	Feb -07	Mar -07	Apr -07	May-07	Jun-07	Jul- 07	Aug- 07	Sep-07	Oct-07
Number of primary health care consultations by service provider³⁰												
MoH - West Bank	39 294	143 242	173 742	101 197	53090	49270	53833	151.293	137.597	144.668	n/a	n/a
UNRWA - West Bank	166 495	168 816	155 727	150 728	168 155	156246	175466	158420	153433	162,627	158.625	n/a
NGOs-West Bank	75459	87469	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
MoH - Gaza Strip	198 606	198 023	207 953	207215	212 903	235922	228046	216294	225021	204728	186780	n/a
UNRWA - Gaza Strip	307 015	285 569	326 234	304 836	328282	336433	350374	324193	386560	370,756	352782	n/a
NGOs - Gaza Strip	16 397	14 633	17 552	18 592	19 627	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Proportion of deliveries by service provider³¹												
MoH - West Bank	11.7%	37.3%	64.6%	39.50%	48.20%	15.80%	14.60%	43.80%	54.60%	54.50%	55.40%	n/a
MoH - Gaza Strip	69.1%	69.6%	72%	82%	68%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
NGOs - West Bank	55.8%	42.9%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	13.20%	26.50%	25.40%	n/a
NGOs - Gaza Strip	16.5%	14.4%	12%	7%	20%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Private hospitals and clinics- West Bank	32.6%	18.8%	31%	56.80%	46.50%	73.70%	73.40%	52.05%	25.90%	14.90%	15.90%	n/a
Private hospitals and clinics- Gaza Strip	16.4%	15.7%	15.8%	10.8%	12.0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Home - West Bank	7.88%	4.98%	5.52%	6.18%	4.69%	4.28	5.74%	5.47%	6.32%	4.10%	3.30%	n/a
Home - Gaza Strip	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.18%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNRWA - Gaza Strip	0.2%	0.1%	n/a	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	n/a	n/a
Pharmaceutical items out of stock (416 drugs and 596 consumables)³²												
Drugs - West Bank	19.7%	19.7%	n/a	19.7%	n/a	26.7%	25.7%	44.7%	n/a	n/a	n/a	18.8%
Consumables - West Bank	n/a	23.0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Drugs - Gaza Strip	16.8%	16.8%	14.7%	17.8%	24.0%	24.0%	28.6%	19.5%	15.60%	15.63%	14.7%	21.9%
Consumables - Gaza Strip (at zero level)	13.6%	n/a	9.7%	25.5%	31.2%	36.2%	22.8%	22.5%	n/a	26.68%	30.03%	31.50%
Consumable - Gaza Strip (at less than three months)	17.34%	24.2%	13.4%	23.3%	40.2%	49.8%	31.6%	32.0%	n/a	51.17%	49.33%	50.67%
Malnutrition among children 9 - 12 months³³												
Underweight - West Bank	4.0%	3.8%	5.5%	6.2%	4.7%	4.3%	5.7%	5.5%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Anemia - West Bank	48.1%	44.6%	50.5%	53.3%	44.6%	45.69%	45.0%	50.0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Underweight - Gaza Strip	5%	n/a	2.9%	2.3%	2.6%	3.2%	3.85%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Anemia - Gaza Strip	66.7%	66.73%	67.8%	67.5%	71.9%	7.23%	72.2%	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	966	867	786	793	888	637	1068	921	1032	1312	1007	n/a
Gaza Strip	1 389	1 314	1 025	942	991	1224	1765	1574	1693	1,596	1325	1252
Number of new cases attending community and hospital mental health services³⁵												
UNRWA- West Bank	n/a	134	132	34	n/a	193	151	173	171	155	n/a	161
UNRWA- Gaza Strip	n/a	35	27	58	n/a	47	25	20	3	n/a	n/a	n/a
MoH- West Bank											n/a	n/a
MoH- Gaza Strip	n/a	n/a	136	136	182	187	191	147	156	129	106	129
NGO- West Bank											n/a	n/a
NGO-Gaza Strip	49	33	42	67	71	58	46	35	50	35	40	30

For more information please contact WHO, (02) 582 3537 (Dr. Rajesh Sreedharan)



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.”

- The market survey in the Gaza Strip shows that all basic food commodities are available in the market and that there was a significant increase in the price of wheat flour and olive oil. The price of wheat flour rose by 14% and olive oil by 15% compared September. There are localized shortages of dairy products and vegetable oil. The market survey in the West Bank shows that all basic food commodities are available in the market and that there was a significant change in the prices compared to last month. The market survey shows a increase in the price of wheat flour and rice, by 15% and 4% respectively. The price of wheat flour and rice has increased by 87% and 14%, compared to January 2006. Traders attributed this increase to the increase of prices on the international market and closure.
- The fishing catch in October 2007 was 149.1 tonnes, compared to 158.6 tonnes for the same month last year. No fish has been exported from Gaza to Israel since June 2007. As a result, the fishing sector loses two metric tonnes (mt) of fish exports, at a value of US\$ 32,000, per day.¹⁰ Twelve (12) mt of fresh fish and 185 mt of more affordable frozen and salt fish were imported to the Gaza Strip in October.
- The total of imported basic food commodities into the Gaza Strip increased from 10,942mt to 19,189mt this month.

Field observations from Gaza:

- Markets visit showed that more poor people are buying food on credit and have switched to least preferred and less nutritionally rich food. Additionally, both poor customers and small petty traders are becoming increasingly in debt.
- Frozen meat & frozen fish is available in the market, but the price rose to 18 NIS for 1 kg, up from 16-17 NIS.
- The price of chicken is stable, between 10-11 NIS for one kg.
- The price of bread, dairy products and red meat increased significantly in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Increasing Food Prices (continued from Key Issues section)

According to the latest FAO Food Outlook report, global cereal prices are expected to remain at high levels for the coming year due largely to production problems in several major exporting countries and very low world stocks (the lowest in 25 years according to FAO). In September 2007, wheat flour prices reached 160NIS per 60kg bag, an increase of 45% compared to the same month in 2006. The high cost of wheat flour is raising the price of bread.

During the last three months the retail price of fresh meat increased significantly in the West Bank by 17% (from 47 to 55 NIS/kg), while in Gaza it increased 12.5%, from (40 to 45 NIS/kg). At the same time, the median daily wage dropped from 69.2 NIS per day in June 2006 to 65.4 NIS in June 2007, placing additional strain on the purchasing power of poor households. In addition, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 6.2% between Sept 2006 and 2007, 7.84% in Gaza and 5.7% in the West Bank. The high food prices mentioned above are further eroding poor households' liquidity. Basic food price increases, combined with this widespread reduction of income, is progressively forcing impoverished Palestinian households to employ "negative" coping strategies, i.e. entering into debt, selling assets and reducing their food intake (quality and quantity), which is leading to increased food insecurity levels.

The deepening livestock crisis in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (continued from Key Issues section)

As many farmers resort to distress sales of sheep, in the face of increased production costs, markets are unable to absorb this influx and prices are plummeting, further deepening herders' cash income crisis. Breeders can no longer buy on credit, as traders are also swept into the crisis and are heavily indebted themselves. This lack of available income for sheepherders will, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, have immediate effects on the health of flocks (due to the inability to provide adequate amounts of feed and/or veterinary services). Although, it is currently the reproductive season and pregnant ewes require Chlamydia, Enterotoxaemia and Toxoplasmosis immunizations along with higher quantities and quality of feed, ewes are underfed and breeders cannot afford vaccines, greatly increasing the risk of abortion. An interagency assessment of South Hebron conducted in October 2007, found increased abortions were reported as one of the major problems of herders. If the situation continues, breeders will have fewer lambs to sell in the markets, and their livelihoods will be further threatened.

Immediate interventions should focus on fodder and water issues, but longer term strategies should be put in place to protect these threatened livelihoods. Coordination among agencies to harmonize interventions is of paramount importance in order to avoid disparities, inequalities and subsequent tension among beneficiary herder communities.



Agriculture

	Total oPt 2006	Nov-06	Dec-06	Jan-07	Feb-07	Mar-07	Apr-07	May-07	Jun-07	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07
Arable land requisitioned, levelled and reclaimed in dunums - West Bank³⁶													
Requisitioned	5 811	1 328	385	20	221	152	40	260	60	155	30	50	500
Levelled	n/a	n/a	n/a	110	216	105	30	60	130	720	25	75	33
People affected	n/a	n/a	n/a	190	497	210	203	650	170	370	125	182	470
Reclaimed	3 654	662	620	50	50	200	60	50	55	10	90	42	156
Arable land requisitioned levelled or reclaimed in dunums - Gaza Strip													
Requisitioned	6 516	1 100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Levelled	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	2000	1330	9100	1600	1400	2750
People affected	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	490	300	400	1400	2520	1020
Reclaimed	1 635	365	240	105	126	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenhouses land destroyed and rehabilitated in dunums - West Bank³⁷													
Destroyed	20	0	0	0	0	10	130	60	26	100	0	0	20
People affected	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	56	350	420	90	140	0	0	117
Rehabilitated	453	5	108	13	0	0	7	50	57	10	134	176	148
Greenhouses land destroyed and rehabilitated in dunums - Gaza Strip													
Destroyed	614	35	0	0	0	0	2	0	15	0	12	4	0
People affected	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	14	0	80	0	42	14	0
Rehabilitated	40	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	10	0	0	0
Number of trees destroyed³⁸													
Trees destroyed in the West Bank	n/a	n/a	n/a	340	600	150	100	200	300	80	375	30	1500
People affected	n/a	n/a	n/a	70	140	35	70	50	94	20	90	21	130
Trees destroyed in the Gaza Strip	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3600	5000	16000
People affected	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1100	420	230
Agricultural produce trading in/out the Gaza Strip - metric tonnes³⁹													
Import	83 884	23 576	24 168	43 276	15 738	15501	16834	17101	11270	16401	9526	2911	580
Export	3 342	2 007	n/a	14 192	5 096	5188	5503	1495	422	0	125	0	0

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



Food Security

	Benchmark	Monthly average 2006	Nov-06	Dec-06	Jan-07	Feb-07	Mar-07	Apr-07	May-07	Jun-07	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07
Retail price of basic food commodities - West Bank, in NIS⁴⁰														
Wheat flour 50 kg		91.0	95.7	95	96.4	96.4	97.2	97.2	98.6	100	108.1	133	157	180
Olive oil 1 Kg		18.6	16.3	15	17.5	17.5	16.7	16.7	16.8	15.8	17.75	17.75	20.6	22
Rice 1 kg		3.6	3.7	3.7	4.	4	3.9	3.9	4.1	4	4.28	5	4.3	4.5
Veg. oil 1 kg		5.5	5.6	5.6	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.9	5.8	6.163	6.163	7.2	7.5
Chickpeas 1 kg		4.8	4.3	4.3	4.6	4.6	5.3	5.3	4.3	4.6	4.5	4.5	5	5
Refined sugar 1 kg		3.7	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.51	3.51	3.3	3.3
Milk powder 1 kg		23.2	23.2	23.2	23.7	23.7	24.1	24.1	25	26	26	26	25.7	25.7
Basket of 7 items		150.5	152.5	150.5	155.5	155.5	156.3	156.3	157.9	159.3	170.3	195.923	223	248
Price of basic food commodities - Gaza Strip, in NIS⁴¹														
Wheat flour 50 kg		82.9	88.5	86.6	86	86.5	83.4	82.9	82.8	111	98	104.6	118.4	134.6
Olive oil 1 Kg		23.1	24.1	24.1	25	24.4	22.5	22.8	22.5	22.85	22.85	22.65	23.05	26.6
Rice 1 kg		3.3	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.7	4	4	4	4
Veg. oil 1 kg		5.5	5.8	5.8	6.1	6.3	5.8	5.9	5.7	6	6	6	6.62	7
Chickpeas 1 kg		5.3	4.6	4.6	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.1	4.9	5	5	5	5.8
Refined sugar 1 kg		4.2	3.6	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.36	3.07	2.66	2.66	2.66
Milk powder 1 kg		33.4	34.5	35.7	34.8	35.8	31.7	32.4	31.8	41.17	38.81	38.81	38.81	37.38
Basket of 7 items		157.1	164.3	163.5	164.5	165.4	155.5	155.7	154.1	157.7	177.7	183.72	198.54	218
Availability of basic commodities - Gaza Strip⁴² (against benchmark of quantities needed per day)														
Wheat - mT	450 mt/day/pop	-	7 960	11 870	11 700	10 865	8400	6800	10565	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wheat - days	-	-	11	26	26	24	19	15	23	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sugar - mT	111 mt/day/pop	-	1 505	1 560	1 750	1 995	2045	1930	2075	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sugar - days	-	-	14	14	16	11	18	17	19	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rice - mT	72 mt/day/pop	-	1 385	1 495	1 535	1 655	1725	1900	1670	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rice - days	-	-	19	21	21	23	24	26	23	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Veg. oil - mT	44 mt/day/pop	-	1 065	1 105	1 050	1 240	1220	1220	1305	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Veg. oil - days	-	-	65	26	24	29	28	28	30	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	-	7 517	10 159	3 348	7 244	6208	4622	5898	3673	5250	6194	5238	10529
Rice	72 mt/day/pop	-	450	600	1 474	2 032	757	826	857	952	916	1979	549	2222
Veg. oil	44 mt/day/pop	-	631	618	754	268	1848	1277	1519	579	963	2124	958	1862
Sugar	111 mt/day/pop	-	808	1 057	2 669	2 471	2034	3213	3292	2952	8570	4208	4151	4576
Veg. and fruits	-	-	438	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Commodities	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	-	-	9 844	12 434	8 263	12 015	10847	9938	11566	8156	9699	14505	10942	19189
Fishing catch in the Gaza Strip⁴⁴														
		Total												
mT	2,323 (in 2005)	1604.2	130.0	0.0	46	120.97	247.8	291.76	687.0	309.5	219.0	316.5	99.6	149.1

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	Feb 07	Mar 07	Apr 07	May 07	Jun-07	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07
West Bank per capita use of water per day - in litres⁴⁵											
Minimum	-	20.3	18	20	24	21	20	20	16	19	19
Maximum	-	207.2	147	147	152	152	138	147	220	192	192
Average	90	65.3	50	52	56	59	58	63	67	66	64
Gaza Strip - Per capita use of water per day - in litres⁴⁶											
Minimum	-	37.0	18	18	22	24	29	31	26	24	22
Maximum	-	116.5	71	71	76	76	79	84	75	81	101
Average	95	80.5	51	49	51	55	57	63	55	57	60
Price of tankered water in the West Bank in NIS⁴⁷											
Minimum	-	7.3	5	5	8	8	8	10	10	10	10
Maximum	-	22.5	17	21	17	20	23	23	30	27	27
Average	11.4	14.0	13	13	14	14	14	15	16	15	15
Price of tankered water in the Gaza Strip in NIS⁴⁸											
Minimum	-	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35
Maximum	-	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35
Average	-	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35
Percentage of HH connected to water network paying the bills⁴⁹											
West Bank	-	35.5%	35.0%	37.7%	36%	38%	35%	33.0%	36.0%	35.0%	33.0%
Gaza Strip	-	4.2%	2.0%	1.5%	2%	2%	2%	2.0%	2.0%	3.8%	5.0%
Percentage of HH monthly income spent on sanitation services⁵⁰											
West Bank	-	2.2%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%
Gaza Strip	-	4%	4.0%	4.2%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%
Cost recovery of water bills by village councils and Municipalities in the West Bank⁵¹											
Minimum	-	0%	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
Average	75.0%	13.5%	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 Strip⁵²											
Minimum	-	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
Average	75.0%	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 (Hubert Oribon) or PHG, (02) 296 63 15/6 (Eng. Basema Bashir)

Blockage at the Israeli border of essential consumables (diesel, chlorine, spare parts, water pipe material, etc.) needed for the construction and rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities in the Gaza Strip is still ongoing. This situation has hindered the efficiency of water production and distribution facilities, and also the operations of sanitary land fills. Analysis of water and sanitation data for the month of October 2007 indicates the following trends:

- An average of 64 l/c/d was supplied in the West Bank and 60 l/c/d in Gaza Strip.
- Compared to the average supply of September 2007, there is no significant change in the per capita use of water per day (September 2007: 66 l/c/d in West Bank and 57 l/c/d in Gaza Strip).
- The number of households connected to a water network and paying their bills has slightly decreased in the West Bank (33% against 35% in September 2007 and an average of 35% for the year 2006) and has increased in the Gaza Strip (5% against 3.8% in August 2007 and an average of 4% for the year 2006).
- The average price of water tankered to the unserved communities remains the same: 35 NIS per cubic meter in the Gaza Strip and 15 NIS per cubic meter in the West Bank. These averages do not show the wide range of prices, particularly in the West Bank, where people in remote areas may pay three times the average price. (For example, in the southern Hebron governorate, water tankered to some remote areas reaches 100 NIS per cubic meter). This is due to: remoteness, the extended distances that trucks must travel due to road closures and seasonal fluctuations.
- Since February 2007, there has been no change in the percentage of monthly income households spend on sanitation services.



Education

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

	# of Schools	Nov 06	Dec 06	Jan 07	Feb 07	Mar 07	Apr 07	May 07	Jun-07	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07
Number of schools with at least one day of disruption - West Bank⁵³													
Bethlehem	100	100	n/a	0	0	0	85	106	1	n/a	n/a	0	0
Hebron	207	207	n/a	0	72	0	150	214	0	n/a	n/a	15	4
South Hebron	159	159	n/a	0	0	0	112	160	0	n/a	n/a	0	0
Jenin	113	113	n/a	0	0	0	92	116	1	n/a	n/a	0	0
Jericho	20	20	n/a	2 (curfew)	1	0	12	17	0	n/a	n/a	0	0
Jerusalem	37	37	n/a	0	0	0	All	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	0	0
Jerusalem suburb	55	55	n/a	0	0	0	16	56	0	n/a	n/a	0	0
Nablus	196	196	n/a	0	0	2	149	187	0	n/a	n/a	11	5
Qabatya	103	103	n/a	0	0	0	61	77	0	n/a	n/a	0	0
Qalqilia	67	67	n/a	0	0	0	10	69	0	n/a	n/a	0	0
Ramallah	159	159	n/a	0	0	2	113	161	0	n/a	n/a	0	0
Salfit	57	57	n/a	0	1	0	19	58	0	n/a	n/a	0	0
Tubas	-	-	n/a	0	0	n/a	n/a	39	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
Tulkarm	107	107	n/a	0	n/a	0	66	110	0	n/a	n/a	0	n/a
Total West Bank	1,380	100.0%	n/a	0.14%	5.4%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Number of schools with at least one day of disruption - Gaza Strip⁵⁴													
Gaza	151	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	80	152	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gaza North	60	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	39	66	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Khan Younis	64	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	19	35	3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Middle Area	37	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	44	63	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rafah	34	34	n/a	0	n/a	0	29	37	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total Gaza Strip	346	9.8%	n/a	0.0%	n/a	0.0%	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 (Megumi Watanabe).

According to MoEHE, numerous schools in the oPt experienced partial disruption due to IDF operations and internal conflict in October. In the Gaza Strip, internal Palestinian unrest and repeated IDF incursions, especially into areas close to the Green Line, are affecting childrens' learning and their belief that schools are safe. These violent incidents create psychological wounds that need special attention. However, due to the general shortage of educational toys, drawing equipment and teachers' stationery in the Gaza Strip, several national NGOs reported that many of their educational/psychosocial activities have come to a halt. Moreover, MoEHE reports that it is experiencing major challenges due to the shortage of educational supplies. For example, the shortage of paper is preventing the reprinting of books, for the second semester, and the printing of exam sheets.

- According to MoEHE, one student was killed while 16 school staff were arrested in two different incidents in the West Bank. A school principal and six teachers were among the arrested.

- On 3 October, schools in Al Bureij Camp (Central Gaza) were interrupted when students were either prevented from entering the school or forced to leave by masked men. The situation improved and a number of schools resumed their operations the following day.
- On 4 October, classes at Burqa Secondary School (Ramallah) were disrupted and students left the school at 9am after the IDF entered the school, fired gas canisters and arrested a teacher and the school attendant. The IDF entered the school allegedly because students had thrown fire bombs at IDF jeeps patrolling the village.
- On 4 October, unknown gunmen threw two home-made explosives into the schoolyard of Nuseirat Elementary school in Central Gaza. No injuries or damage were reported.
- On 10 October, five morning shift UNRWA schools in Beit Hanoun were evacuated due to an IDF incursion.
- On 16 October, four schools in the Nablus directorate were partially disrupted due to IDF operations. Learning/teaching were disrupted in all boy's schools in Nablus directorate due to a funeral ceremony on 17 October.



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	220.4	57.4 (appeal)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	29.8

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

The CAP

Sector	CAP 2006 - revised May 2006			CAP 2007 - revised May 2007			CAP 07 % Funded (as of 17 Nov)
	Requirements in \$ million	Number of Projects	Level of funding as of 30 Dec 06	Requirements in \$ million	Number of Projects	Funding in \$ million	
Agriculture	36.9	11	4%	11.3	14	1.8	13%
Coordination and support services	10.3	5	63%	14.2	7	15.7	104%
Economic Recovery and Infrastructure	154.3	14	53%	198.1	17	59.5	37%
Education	8.3	4	48%	9.1	4	7.3	84%
Food	96.4	7	100% +	149.7	8	131.2	89%
Health & Psychosocial	53.8	31	47%	35.7	30	25.4	63%
Protection	-	-	-	1.7	4	0.2	23%
Water and Sanitation	23.5	20	27%	35.0	19	3.2	9%
Shelter and non-food items	-	-	-	0.0	-	0.3	17%
Multi-Sector	-	-	-	0.0	-	0.1	100%
Sector not yet specified	0	-	-	-	-	4.6	-
Total	394.8	92	69%	454.7	103	249.3	59%

Source: OCHA, Financial Tracking System (FTS).

The PA operating budget

\$ million	2005		2006		2007	
	\$ million	%	\$ million	%	\$ million	%
Clearance revenues collected by Gol	894	32	344	19	1033	37
Domestic revenues	476	20	395	22	294	10
External finances for budgetary support	349	15	738	41	1000	35
Total other financing, incl. Palestinian Investment Fund Dividend	276	12	-34	-2	0	0
Net Lending	344	15	376	21	500	18
TOTAL	2339	100	1819	100	2827	10

Source: reports from World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Temporary International Mechanism, UN Agencies.



Temporary International Mechanism (TIM)

\$ million	Confirmed Pledges in million \$US	Total disbursed as of 09 Nov 2007
TIM window 1/ ESSP	72.10	31.00
TIM window 2	176.40	145.82
TIM window 3	504.24	478.19
Total	752.74	655.01

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	Fuel received in million litres
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		5.5

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 11 Oct 2007	Fuel received in million litres as of 11 Nov 2007
Gaza Power Plant	191.1	102
Electricity Production Gaza	8.0	
Electricity Distribution Gaza	5.0	
Electricity Distribution West Bank	12.1	
Total Cost in US\$ million as of 11 Oct 2007		216.1

3) Access to Quality Healthcare

Cost in US\$ million as of 11 Nov 2007	
East Jerusalem hospitals referral costs in US \$million	5.0

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 11 Nov 2007
Low-income Healthcare provider workers	12000	15	77.2
Low-income public service providers	59000	13	297.1
Pensioners	6600	13	32.0
Social Hardship Cases Scheme for the Poor	36000	5	52.9
Social Hardship Cases Beneficiaries of Food for work/training programme	39000	1	10.6
Civil Police Employees	16000	2	8

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.



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 working sector groups and organisations contribute to the Humanitarian Monitor:

Sector	Sector Lead	Participants
Protection	OHCHR/OCHA	OCHA, WHO, UNRWA, UNIFEM, Badil, Save the Children-UK, Al Haq
Socio-Economic	UNRWA	UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, WFP, CHFI, Mercy Corps
Health	WHO	UNICEF, UNFPA, UNRWA
Psychosocial & Protection Against Violence	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNFPA, WHO, UNRWA, DCI, Save the Children-UK, Save the Children (Sweden), MAP UK
Food	WFP	FAO, UNRWA, ACF-E, CARE, CHFI, CISP, CRS, GVC, ICRC, MC, OXFAM-GB
Agriculture	FAO	ACF-E, PHG, ACPP, ACAD, Allod Charitable Society
Education	UNICEF	UNESCO, OCHA, UNRWA, UNIFEM, OHCHR
Water and Sanitation	UNICEF	UNDP, UNRWA, WHO, UN-HABITAT, ICRC, PWA, PHG, OXFAM-GB, ACF-E, CARE, ACPP, CMWU, WBWD.
Coordination and Security	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	OCHA, United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO), UNDSS
Other sources and contributors		TIM, EUBAM, World Bank, IMF, AIDA, LACS, PNGO



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, targeting 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. Since Israel's unilateral disengagement from the Gaza Strip the vast majority of these operations occur in West Bank towns and villages. 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.

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) 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 (that are linked to the conflict/occupation) and shooting of alleged collaborators with Israel. These incidents began to be comprehensively reported from May 2006: earlier figures will be underreported.
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.
12. Number of Palestinian homemade (qassam) 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 Qassam 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. Beginning in July 07, this figure is featured separately.
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 the 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.
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.
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; Palestinian Passport and Border Police; EU Border Assistance Mission (BAM). 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. It is operated by the PA under the supervision of the EU BAM. The Gol is remotely monitoring Rafah operations and can refuse people's passage. Rafah cannot operate if the EU BAM team are not present and EU BAM staff are dependent on Gol-operated Kerem Shalom crossing opening to access Rafah.
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 Gol 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: UNSCO. 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 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 Q2 2006, PCBS estimates it at NIS 2,143 (\$477). 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 1,732 (\$385) in 2005 (PCBS). PCBS sample size does not allow disaggregating data for the Gaza Strip and West Bank.
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. Each monthly figure should be compared to the previous month and to that of the same month in the previous year(s). NGOs in the Gaza Strip include Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS) and Union of Health Workers Committees (UHWK), 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. Each monthly figure should be compared to that of the same month in the previous year(s).
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 allows to follow up the environmental health status, 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 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 (most often on the ground of security reasons). It however remains accessible to the farmers and be re-used as a field once the levelling is completed. People affected are those owners whose land has been requisitioned or levelled and therefore loss all or part of their livelihoods. People affected refers strictly to owners in this document although a wider range of people are actually affected such as workers employed and traders. Affected: workers, traders, retailers, etc. Reclaimed land is that land which is originally non-productive and is transformed in farming land under a private or NGO/UN-led initiative. This land is most of the time privately owned.
37. Greenhouses land destroyed and rehabilitated in dunums - West Bank and Gaza Strip. Sources: Ministry of Agriculture, Palestinian Agriculture Relief Committees, compiled by FAO. Destroyed refers to the total destruction of a greenhouse, i.e. the greenhouse itself and the land it is installed on. Rehabilitated refers to the reconstruction of greenhouses done by their owners or under NGO/UN financed projects. People affected are those owners whose greenhouse(s) has been destroyed and who therefore see their livelihoods affected.
38. Number of trees destroyed. Source: FAO; Ministry of Agriculture Directorates. Destroyed trees are those trees belonging to Palestinians that are being uprooted, burnt, or cut by Israeli authorities or settlers. Trees are mainly olive trees but can include any type of fruit-trees (orange, almond, avocado, etc), and represent an important source of revenue for their owner. People affected are those directly affected by the loss of land or trees, i.e. the owner and its family although the number of people affected is actually far greater included extended family members and labourers.
39. Agricultural produce trading in/out 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 fishermen and their families. According to the Oslo Accords, the Palestinians are granted a fish catch area within 20 nautical miles off the Gaza coastline. The Gol agreed under the 2002 Bertini Commitments to a fishing zone of 12 nautical miles. Fishermen 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.



Water & Sanitation

45. 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).
46. 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).
47. Price of tankered watered in the West Bank- in NIS (1 USD equals approximately 4.2 NIS). Prices are indicated in NIS to limit distortion due to frequent fluctuations of the exchange rate between the shekel and the dollar.
48. Price of tankered watered in the Gaza Strip - in NIS. (1 USD equals approximately 4.2 NIS). Prices are indicated in NIS to limit distortion due to frequent fluctuations of the exchange rate between the shekel and the dollar.
49. Percentage of HH connected to water network paying their bills.
50. Percentage of HH monthly income spent on sanitation services
51. Cost recovery of water bills by village councils and Municipalities in the West Bank
52. Cost recovery of water bills by village councils and Municipalities in the Gaza Strip.

Education

53. Number of schools with at least one day of disruption – West Bank. Source: MoEHE, collected by UNICEF. This indicators shows access to education.
54. 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
- h. Health: WHO Constitution, 1948
- 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. The Israeli CLA has since announced that Sufa crossing may reopen, due to the limited capacity of Kerem Shalom. As of publication, however, Sufa remains closed.
2. A Palestinian ICU ambulance, stationed at Erez to transport urgent cases, proceeds from the Palestinian side of Erez until the end of the tunnel, where the patient is then transported onto an Israeli ambulance that delivers the patient to hospital in Israel or East Jerusalem.
3. The continued use of the alternative drugs would have caused severe complications, such as lower blood pressure, reduction in heart beats, interrupted blood circulation, and increased recovery post-operation. In some cases, these complications can be life threatening, such as for patients with head traumas, liver disease or for pregnant women undergoing a C-section.
4. Between August and October, there was a monthly average of 43 access incidents reported by NGOs and UN agencies in the West Bank, resulting in a monthly average of 521 staff hours lost. By comparison, in the first three months of 2007 there were an average of 37 incidents per month reported and an average of 141 staff hours lost per month. Not recorded is the staff time involved when a vehicle is turned back and staff have to drive to another checkpoint.
5. The olive harvest in the southern West Bank did not begin until 1 November.
6. As of the publishing of this report, no change was reported in terms of the proposed cut of ties between the Israeli Discount and Hapoalim banks and Gazan banks.
7. This is in addition to those Palestinians displaced as a result of other house demolitions by the Israeli authorities during those months.
8. A "back to back" terminal At Taybeh in the northern West Bank was opened in July 2007. Before At Taybeh became a "back-to-back" crossing, according to the Nablus Chamber of Commerce, it cost 200 NIS and took roughly half an hour to cross, per truck. It now takes 4-6 hours and costs 800-1200 NIS per truck (Nablus to an Israeli destination).
9. Items at "zero level" mean a stock to cover a 0-1 month period, which is below the security level.
10. The fish caught for export from Gaza is normally very high in quality. Even when sold at lower prices, it is too expensive for many Gazans to afford. Varieties of fish that are unavailable in Gaza due to fishing restrictions on Gaza fisher folk are imported. Frozen fish, which is much less expensive, is also imported.