The humanitarian needs of Palestine refugees in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) are characterized by a common underlying requirement for political resolution to the conflict. Enduring and diverse challenges to the ability of Palestinians to enjoy their right to life, liberty and security give rise to food insecurity, affect psychosocial well-being and mental health, erode family coping capacities and degrade the social fabric of society. Key drivers aggravating the humanitarian emergency today include the recently resumed Israeli prohibition on the import of building materials into Gaza, continued movement and access restrictions in both the West Bank and Gaza, demolitions and displacements in East Jerusalem and Area C, rising food insecurity in West Bank refugee camps and throughout Gaza, and the closure of Gaza’s tunnel trade with Egypt. With international assistance, the detrimental effects of the humanitarian crisis on Palestine refugees may be mitigated and even reversed. Without assistance, the prospect is bleak indeed.

The 2014 Emergency Appeal addresses the priority emergency needs of Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, including East Jerusalem, pursuing three strategic objectives: to mitigate the increase of food insecurity among already food-insecure refugees and those facing acute shocks; to promote, protect and uphold the rights of refugees facing acute crises, violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law (IHRL) and barriers to accessing services; and to ensure effective implementation of the Agency's humanitarian response in coordination with relevant stakeholders. The emergency requirements are separate from UNRWA core services and amount to US$ 300,000,262.

The implementation of the strategic objectives is outlined in intervention plans by geographic field, in recognition of the unique operating contexts in Gaza and the West Bank. The intervention plans constitute a holistic approach tailored to the complex needs and challenges of the emergency, and comprise five main sectors and clusters of emergency aid: food security, protection, health and nutrition, education, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).
Food insecurity in Gaza has reached 56 per cent of refugee households, while another 14 per cent are vulnerable to food insecurity. Unemployment rates have increased to 32.7 per cent and real wages remain severely depressed. In light of the recent tunnel closure on the border with Egypt and a new freeze on the import of construction materials, at the time of writing, more labourers are left without work while food prices are on the rise, bringing vulnerable households closer to the brink of food insecurity. UNRWA seeks to prevent the deterioration of food security among the most vulnerable refugees. The Agency will address the lack of access to food, pursuing a three-pronged approach: emergency food assistance, emergency cash assistance and emergency cash-for-work.

Emergency food assistance
The Agency seeks to meet the most basic food requirements of 790,000 food-insecure refugees. Direct food distributions, tailored by household size, will ensure the abject poor receive 76 per cent and the absolute poor 40 per cent of required daily caloric needs. Food intake for 240,000 children will be improved by guaranteeing one small meal per school day through the school feeding programme. The nutrition of pregnant women and infants under 2 years old will be optimized by providing timely, safe, appropriate and high-quality complementary food. For the implementation of these activities, the Agency requires US$ 101,132,980.

Emergency cash assistance
A total of 303,000 abject poor refugees, living on less than US$ 1.50 per capita per day, will be targeted with an unconditional emergency cash transfer to bridge the remaining ‘post-assistance’ gap in essential food needs. To temper effects of ‘back to school’ costs on household food expenses, families will be provided with NIS 100 (US$ 28) each semester per child attending UNRWA schools. Families who experience direct material loss as a result of military operations, affecting food purchases, will be provided with tailored cash compensation. A total of US$ 44,805,360 is needed for implementation.

Emergency cash-for-work
Food insecurity in Gaza, driven by a lack of economic access to food, will be countered by the creation of 49,191 cash-for-work opportunities. UNRWA will target the poorest households, prioritizing abject and absolute poor refugees, and maintain a focus on the inclusion of female refugees and youth. Cash-for-work opportunities include 33,486 unskilled, 14,944 skilled and 761 professional positions, representing 17,988 full-time job equivalents. The Agency requires US$ 66,179,864 for implementation.

Operations support
Agency neutrality and integrity will be safeguarded by the deployment of a team of operations support officers (OSOs) who will regularly visit all UNRWA installations to ensure they are used only for humanitarian purposes and to train staff. The team will facilitate staff access to restricted areas, promote beneficiary access to services, provide gender and protection analysis and brief visiting delegations on violations of refugee rights. In total, the Agency requires US$ 1,998,000 for implementation.

Emergency education
To mitigate the effects of poverty, conflict and pervasive violence, UNRWA will ensure a minimum degree of equal access to necessary learning materials, helping students to fulfil their educational potential. Through unified testing, the Agency will identify underperformance, provide targeted support and mitigate drop-out factors, as well as probe for learning difficulties due to medical issues. Summer learning will bridge underperforming students into the next year, while UNRWA TV will ensure continued access to education when it is unsafe to leave home. The Agency requires US$ 7,825,500 to implement.
Unexploded ordnance-risk education
In order to counter the high incidence of unexploded ordnance (UXO)-related injuries and deaths, particularly among children, the Agency will roll out UXO risk education in all UNRWA schools, imparting life-saving knowledge. UNRWA will engage all teachers and provide adapted comprehensive training materials. In total, US$ 1,000,000 is required.

Gaza summer fun weeks
The Agency seeks to strengthen the resilience and coping capacities of 130,000 refugee boys and girls affected by conflict and pervasive violence through the provision of a protected environment with relief and psychosocial support activities during the summer school break. Implementation of activities, designed to support children’s mental, physical and emotional well-being and integrate basic life skills, requires US$ 3,000,000.

Emergency water and sanitation
To avoid a critical deterioration in refugee public health, the Agency will monitor environmental health conditions and respond to emergency threats. Essential water supply and wastewater treatment utilities, as well as waste collection operations, will be kept functioning through the provision of a stop-gap emergency fuel supply and emergency repair of water and sanitation networks in refugee camps. Clearing of unofficial solid waste sites and vector control will reduce the population’s exposure to disease transmitters and vector breeding grounds. US$ 5,664,000 is needed for the emergency response.

Emergency shelter and shelter repair
Refugee families displaced or affected by military activity or natural disaster face obstacles to their enjoyment of the right to adequate housing. The Agency will assist 600 eligible families with transitional shelter cash assistance. An estimated 1,000 newly affected and displaced families in 2014 will be provided with basic living materials and tailored support to repair their shelters according to minimum humanitarian standards. The activities require US$ 3,219,000 for implementation.
FOOD SECURITY

Palestine refugees face levels of food insecurity 5 percentage points higher than non-refugees in the West Bank. Food insecurity is driven by a lack of economic access to food. The food-insecurity rate is particularly high in camps, at 35 per cent, reflecting a drop overall in assistance to the West Bank. Unemployment rates are also higher among refugees, and particularly among females and youth, while real wages are declining. Because they dedicate more than half of household spending to food, food-insecure and vulnerable households are particularly susceptible to food price increases and income shocks. The Agency will mitigate the deterioration of food security among already food-insecure and vulnerable refugees, as well as those facing acute shocks, through a two-pronged approach: emergency food/voucher assistance and emergency cash-for-work.

Emergency food/voucher assistance
UNRWA will pilot electronic food voucher assistance to meet the most basic food requirements of 10,000 food-insecure refugee households living in urban settings, outside camps. The voucher enables recipients to purchase their food basket based on household preferences, choosing from a list of basic staples and fresh foods sourced primarily from producers in Palestine. Thus, the voucher programme provides secondary benefits to the local economy. Fifteen thousand food-insecure refugee households in more rural or remote settings, where access to markets is limited, will be targeted with in-kind food parcels tailored to household size. The parcel represents approximately 43 per cent of their required daily caloric needs. Furthermore, logistical support will be provided to the World Food Programme (WFP) in targeting vulnerable Bedouin and herder households in Area C communities with regular emergency food parcel distributions. Full implementation of the activities requires US$ 13,895,601.

Emergency cash-for-work
To improve economic access to food and restore coping capacities among food-insecure and vulnerable refugee households in 19 refugee camps, the Agency will provide targeted emergency cash-for-work opportunities. Prioritizing the most food-insecure households, 16,470 male and female refugees will be engaged in a variety of jobs conducive to an improved camp environment. Women will receive 35 per cent of the jobs, with the Agency considering their interests and addressing obstacles to female participation, such as working hours and child care. Youth will make up 20 per cent of the programme participants. The Agency will require US$ 23,502,604 to fully implement the activities.
PROTECTION AND ACCESS TO SERVICES

Community mental health
UNRWA will target 49 vulnerable Bedouin communities to increase their resilience, coping capacities, mental health and psychosocial well-being. Six mobile mental health teams will make regular community visits, providing individual, family and group counselling sessions. The teams will conduct community awareness-raising sessions and group psychosocial activities, and provide referrals for individuals requiring specialized follow-up. Fourteen Bedouin community committees will be strengthened in their psychosocial response capacity and supported in crisis and emergency response. These activities require US$ 393,111 to implement.

Emergency health
Six UNRWA mobile health clinics will target 56 communities in isolated localities and facing access and movement restrictions. The clinics will enable access to quality preventative and curative services for 121,022 people. Accompanying mental health workers will provide psychosocial support to an estimated 7,800 individuals, with counselling and referrals as needed. Emergency health activities require US$ 981,879 for implementation.

Operations support
OSOs will continue to safeguard Agency neutrality and integrity by regularly visiting all UNRWA installations to ensure they are used for humanitarian purposes only and to train staff on neutrality issues. The team will monitor and track access incidents affecting Agency personnel, vehicles, and supplies, negotiating access as needed. Visiting delegations will be provided with accurate data on IHL/IHRL violations, access incidents and infringements of humanitarian space, encouraging them to seek accountability. The implementation of activities requires US$ 2,825,815.

Protection
The Agency will systematically and consistently report protection incidents and monitor violations of IHL/IHRL affecting refugees. Data will be aggregated and analysed, brought to the attention of relevant authorities and inform advocacy initiatives to the international community. Palestine refugees who are victims of administrative home demolitions or incursions leading to damaged or demolished property will be provided with emergency cash assistance within 48 hours through the crisis-intervention model. At-risk vulnerable communities will receive targeted self-help assistance, including support to identify initiatives that may mitigate protection threats and enhance resilience through a partnership model. The Agency needs US$ 1,805,447 to implement the activities.
Coordination and management
The scale and scope of the emergency intervention in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, requires a dedicated set of resources and structures for effective implementation, and to avoid jeopardizing or interrupting service provision. This includes essential field staff for day-to-day operations, and procurement and support services. Agency staff will engage in bilateral and multilateral coordination with other humanitarian actors at field and senior levels and participate in common needs analyses. Efforts will be directed at ensuring up-to-date and improved vulnerability profiling, project progress monitoring and harmonized reporting. Agency headquarters will support field offices across emergency programmes with dedicated resources. To ensure the effective implementation and management of the emergency response, the Agency requires USD 11,678,101.
# Budget Requirements

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<th>Programme Interventions</th>
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<th>West Bank</th>
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emergency appeal 2014 - oPt

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