Lack of economic access to food continued to cause high levels of insecurity in Gaza during the first half of 2017. Under the Emergency Appeal, UNRWA provided food assistance to 890,844 Palestine refugees, while 9,533 people received temporary employment opportunities through the Job Creation Programme, supporting 45,758 dependents.

As of December 2016, more than 1,300 families had completed or were in the process of rebuilding homes destroyed during the 2014 conflict, with support from UNRWA. Due to the scale of damage and destruction, UNRWA continued to allocate resources for Transitional Shelter Cash Assistance (TSCA) and shelter repairs during the first half of 2017. In total, 4,492 families received TSCA and 2,935 received cash grants to support shelter repairs. An estimated US$ 100 million is still needed to complete the remaining repair caseload and around US$ 140 million to complete the reconstruction caseload. Priority has been given to reconstruction of totally destroyed shelters and provision of winterization support to vulnerable households.

Training of staff on protection was slower than anticipated during the first half of the year, due to delays in finalization of materials. These have now been completed and UNRWA is confident it will reach its target by the end of the year.

The schooling of over 260,000 Palestine refugee pupils was supported through the provision of educational materials.

Emergency Appeal targets have been set under the assumption that the general context will remain unchanged, in terms of political instability, economic volatility and the continuation of the blockade. However, the deepening electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip presents a major risk to the provision of services and puts the economy and coping mechanisms under further stress. While the impact of the decision by the Palestinian Authority to withhold the payment of electricity fees for Gaza is difficult to assess at this point, it is likely to further accentuate the vulnerability of Palestine refugee families. This in turn could see an increase in demand for UNRWA services, at a time when funding is severely constrained.
MID-YEAR ACHIEVEMENTS
Despite challenging circumstances, UNRWA has continued to provide services to vulnerable Palestine refugees in Gaza.

Food
- 890,844 refugees receiving emergency food assistance
  - Achievement: 98%
  - Planned: 911,548

Cash-for-Work
- 55,291 refugees benefiting from short-term CfW
  - Achievement: 15%
  - Planned: 424,023
  - 49.7% of skilled contracts awarded to women

Livelihoods
- 215 self-employment opportunities for skilled women created
  - Achievement: 107.5%
  - Planned: 200

Health
- 11,085 students receiving a comprehensive medical examination
  - Achievement: 96%
  - Planned: 11,600

Education
- 262,112 PR students provided with educational materials
  - Achievement: 100%
  - Planned: 262,112

WASH
- 289 WASH facilities supported by UNRWA
  - Achievement: 100%
  - Planned: 289
  - 51% WASH facilities provided with 2,162,050 litres of fuel
  - 6% of families receiving shelter repair assistance

Shelter
- 4,492 refugee families receiving TSCA
  - Achievement: 69%
  - Planned: 6,521
  - 2,935 families receiving shelter repair assistance
  - 4,055 families receiving winterization support

Protection
- 280 UNRWA staff members trained on protection
  - Achievement: 28%
  - Planned: 1,000

The information provided reflects estimates at the mid-year point and is intended to provide a snapshot of UNRWA emergency programme delivery during the first half of 2017. A full accounting of results and expenditure will be provided through standard UNRWA Emergency Appeal reporting.

1 Funding levels reflect contributions towards the Agency’s 2017 Emergency Appeal.
2 This includes shelter repair and Transitional Shelter Cash Assistance.