



The escalation of violence in the Gaza Strip has entered its fourth week, resulting in over 200,000 Palestinians being displaced from their homes and taking refuge in 85 UNRWA designated emergency shelters (DES). The numbers of displaced continue to rise, and over the last eight days UNRWA has had to increase its DES facilities by 23 per cent; at a rate of two additional facilities each day. In recent official statements, both the Commissioner-General and the Director of UNRWA's Operations in Gaza have called on the international community to end hostilities. Pending a peaceful resolution, and in view of the rapid deterioration of the situation and the resulting increase in humanitarian needs, UNRWA is revising the scope of its emergency response and updating its Flash Appeal for the second time.

Based on these developments, UNRWA now requires a total of US\$ 187,600,000 in order to provide emergency assistance for a revised scenario of up to 250,000 people being displaced during a period of up to eight weeks. A portion of this funding will also be needed to start early recovery activities including shelter and installation repair upon cessation of hostilities. The increase in funding required for these activities (US\$ 72.6 million on the previous total) is based on the rising number of those internally displaced and an extension of the period of assistance provision. Throughout this period, and until a cessation in hostilities is reached, UNRWA will continue to provide food, non-food items (NFIs) and psycho-social support at designated emergency shelters. The Agency will also continue to provide assistance to those seeking

refuge outside of UNRWA operated shelters through the distribution of NFIs, provision of conditional cash assistance, and through ensuring that primary health centres and essential water utilities remain operational

Financial support to this appeal is essential for UNRWA to continue the provision of emergency assistance to the hundreds of thousands of civilians displaced by the hostilities. UNRWA maintains that the recurring conflict in Gaza can only be addressed by a political resolution.

## SITUATIONAL OVERVIEW

The continuation and expansion of violence in Gaza and the subsequent influx of IDPs to UNRWA shelters has required the Agency to expand its emergency operations. While DESs were originally equipped to accommodate 500 people, these facilities are now accommodating more than 2,000 people. Despite this increase, UNRWA is striving to ensure that the displaced population receives basic food and non-food commodities, and that distribution activities continue despite facing increasing challenges resulting from the continued deterioration of the security situation on the ground.

With nearly 97 UNRWA installations damaged to date, including health centres, distribution centres and schools – including those which are currently in active use as humanitarian shelters for the displaced – the Agency remains committed to mitigating the effect of the military operation on individuals by providing basic items such as food rations, drinking water and hygiene kits. While the primary purpose of this assistance is to ensure that

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basic levels of physical safety and health are maintained, UNRWA also strives to contribute to the mental and social wellbeing of the affected population.

The Agency's dedicated staff also continue, where possible, to provide primary services to Palestine refugees. UNRWA health clinics continue to receive patients, including non-registered patients; sanitation labourers continue to collect solid waste in the camps and DES, which is essential to preventing the spread of disease; and logistics staff continue to distribute the quarterly food basket to food-insecure families.

The humanitarian pause observed during the holiday at the end of Ramadan (Eid al-Fitr) provided a brief respite to the Gaza population, allowing families to visit their homes, or the remains of their homes, and to pay respect to the deceased. However, the military operation resumed shortly thereafter with increased violence triggering a new wave of IDPs into the shelters.

The movement of people away from the areas of intense combat, especially those in Gaza City and North Gaza, has resulted in further overcrowding in UNRWA designated emergency shelters (DES) as well as numerous displaced persons seeking refuge in alternative premises that were not prepared to receive IDPs (non-UNRWA schools). Furthermore, as reported by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the

shutdown of Gaza's sole power plant after it was hit and damaged is expected to have a significant impact on the availability of food and access to basic services. Further power cuts are now expected across the Gaza Strip, most significantly limiting electricity to two hours per day in Gaza city where UNRWA facilities are hosting over 49,000 IDPs, and completely cutting off power in the Middle Area where UNRWA schools are hosting over 23,000 IDPs.

## RESPONSE

In response to the worsening humanitarian situation and the lack of an imminent resolution to the hostilities, UNRWA has been compelled – yet again – to increase its estimations regarding the number of conflict-affected individuals in need of emergency assistance to 250,000 people (marking a five-fold increase from the 50,000 persons initially estimated), during a period of eight weeks. The initial three weeks, including the days prior to the ground invasion, saw over 85,000 people displaced to UNRWA shelters. While the number of shelters open at the moment of launching this revised Flash Appeal is 85, UNRWA anticipates that as the number of IDPs increases, it will be necessary to open new facilities potentially reaching up to 113 shelters – significantly more than the initial plan of operating a maximum of 92 shelters.

UNRWA remains committed to coordinating its efforts with other UN agencies and partners, and acknowledges



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the invaluable support – in the form of in-kind donations and volunteer work – contributed by the Gaza community itself.

The table below summarises the emergency response and scope of interventions undertaken by the Agency, including new components and the extended duration of the response. Some notable revisions to the Flash Appeal first updated on 21 July include:

- Overall increase in the number of internally displaced persons, the number of shelters accommodating them and the duration of hostilities.
- Provision of support (food, NFI, water, and power) to select non-UNRWA managed shelters.
- Inclusion of logistics and transport costs necessary to ensure efficient and timely food and NFI distributions, including both the cost of importing items to Gaza and distributing them within Gaza, recognising a more challenging operational environment than originally envisaged.
- Expanded and enhanced interventions for those displaced in UNRWA shelters, such as Psycho-social support or Cash-for-work, to cope with the increased

demand on shelters and the increase in protection concerns – physical, mental and emotional – including those resulting from direct shelling of DES facilities on multiple occasions.infrastructure.

- Expanded WASH components to cover the additional resources required to provide reliable access to water in the shelters (e.g. specific equipment and drilling of boreholes) and improved sanitation services (e.g. the establishment of showering facilities) in view of the prolonged stay of IDPs.

The levels of assistance per family and other assumptions set out in greater detail in the initial Flash Appeal remain unchanged. Similarly, the estimated scope of interventions to repair or reconstruct refugee homes and UNRWA facilities damaged directly as a result of this conflict have not been adjusted as part of this revision. New assessments are not yet possible due to the severely restricted movements caused by the security situation. UNRWA will undertake a thorough assessment once conditions permit and will revise the funding required for particular components at that time.



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NEEDS	RESPONSE	SCOPE OF INTERVENTION	FUNDING REQUIRED (US\$)
Individuals staying at DES needing food assistance to meet their minimum caloric requirement	Food in Designated Emergency Shelter (DES)	Distribution of daily food rations for up to 85,000 persons for 21 days and 250,000 persons for an additional 1 month	73,200,000
Families displaced by the emergency requiring hygiene and basic household items, including materials for emergency shelter repairs	Non Food Items (NFIs)	Distribution of NFIs up to 41,700 displaced families and the DES providing shelter to them	20,600,000
Shelters damaged during the emergency in need of repairs or reconstruction	Shelter Repair	Repair of minor, major and total damages for up to 8,800 shelters (estimated figure, pending final assessment)	60,000,000
Palestine refugee families needing assistance covering the extraordinary expenses resulting from the emergency	Conditional Cash Assistance	Provision of cash assistance to about 5,500 households	3,800,000
Health services needing additional supplies for a timely response to increasing number of injuries	Health	Ensuring that primary health clinics continue providing services to IDPs and affected population, with sufficient stock of essential drugs, medical supplies and generator fuel	3,200,000
Children and adults under strain as result of the hostilities needing assistance rebuilding coping capacities	Psycho-Social Support (PSS)	Provision of psycho-social support at each DES during the emergency (i.e. up to 113 DES); and reinforcements in schools across the Gaza Strip and CBOs for a four-month period following cessation of hostilities	4,600,000
Emergency response and early recovery operations requiring additional labour	Cash-for-Work	Engagement of unskilled and skilled labourers to support emergency response services (e.g. DES, local authorities, CBOs), and early recovery activities (e.g. rubble removal)	5,800,000
Damaged and non-functioning water and sanitation infrastructure in need of repair or replacement	Environmental Health (WASH)	Ensuring sufficient potable and non-potable water supply to the DES, and maintaining their sanitation conditions; clearing transitional dump sites, supporting local WASH facilities with fuel, undertaking repair to water supply and sanitation networks serving refugee camps	15,000,000
Damaged UNRWA installations needing minor to major repairs	UNRWA Installation Repair	Minor repairs and maintenance, major repairs, and reconstruction implemented in at least 150 installations (estimated figure, pending final assessment)	1,600,000
<b>Total Funding Required (US\$)</b>			<b>187,600,000</b>



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