Highlights

- The relaxation of movement restrictions in mid-June combined with continued community level transmission has resulted in a sharp increase in the spread of COVID-19 in the West Bank. As of June 30, there were 2,698 confirmed cases in Palestine with case numbers continuing to rise.
- Despite the COVID-19 crisis and a shortfall in non-COVID related humanitarian funding, UNICEF has supported the continuation of essential services for most vulnerable children and caregivers. For example, UNICEF facilitated the delivery of 12 incubators for seven health facilities in Gaza in this quarter.
- UNICEF distributed essential hygiene and cleaning materials to disinfect and clean the 850 school premises used as examination centres to promote the safety of students and invigilators during the administration of the grade 12 examinations for 79,800 students.
- The threat of annexation of areas of the West Bank has been a significant concern since the signing of the Israeli coalition agreement in April 2020. This threat has engendered fiscal hardship for the Palestinian Authority, compounding the socio-economic impact from COVID-19.
- UNICEF is advocating with donors to support the national immunization program with the financial crisis threatening vaccine stockouts.
- As of 30 June 2020, 80% of humanitarian funding needs remained unmet with only US$3.8 million available against the 2020 humanitarian action for children appeal. UNICEF has received a further US$ 10.7 million (67%) against its 2020 COVID-19 humanitarian appeal in the State of Palestine.

UNICEF Response and Funding Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Safe Water</th>
<th>Funding status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal &amp; Neonatal</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Nutrition</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* This is a summary table of response, with selected indicators only, with funding for the year. For full results see Annex A.
Funding Overview and Partnerships
The 2020 UNICEF State of Palestine Humanitarian Appeal is for US$ 19.6 million, with US$ 3.8 million (20 per cent) of the requirement available. In 2020 UNICEF has received US$ 1.9 million from the Government of Japan and the UNICEF Global Thematic Humanitarian Fund. There were also US$ 1.9 million carried forward from 2019.

UNICEF State of Palestine has a complementary appeal for US$ 16.1 million under the COVID-19 response under the UNICEF Coronavirus (COVID-19) Global Response Appeal against which US$ 10.7 million (67 per cent) has been received to date. Donors which have contributed are the Government of Canada, Education Cannot Wait, the Government of Japan, OCHA Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and OCHA the Humanitarian Pooled Fund (HPF), the Government of Poland, the United Kingdom/ DFID, and UNICEF Global Thematic Education Funds.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs
The COVID-19 crisis continues to exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and limit children’s access to critical services such as basic health care, water and sanitation, education, as well as protection. The relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions in mid-June and issues with compliance around public health regulations resulted in a sharp increase in virus spread in the West Bank. As of June 30, there were 2,698 confirmed cases (2,626 in the West Bank and 72 in Gaza), from this caseload 8 people are deceased in Palestine. Going into July 2020 the number of cases of COVID-19 was continuing to increase across the West Bank.

Amid the COVID-19 crisis, there were continued cases of settler violence in the West Bank resulting in casualties or property damage, in particular these cases were documented in March and April. Meanwhile there was relative calm in the Gaza Strip, with the Great March of Return protests remaining suspended.

The coalition agreement for the formation of the Israeli government in April 2020 included an intent to annex parts of the West Bank, with the possibility to start discussions on annexation from 1 July 2020. This plan has led to significant tension within Palestinian society, and the Palestinian Authority (PA) have both suspended all coordination with the Israeli government, including security cooperation and refused to accept the Clearance Revenue taxes from the Israeli government which make up over 60 per cent of PA revenues. As such the PA is going through a severe financial crisis exacerbated by the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 crisis.

COVID-19 Response
The UNICEF State of Palestine response to the COVID-19 crisis supports the national response led by the Palestinian Authority and is aligned with the COVID-19 Inter-Agency Response Plan, revised on April 25. These plans provide an important bridge between the public health and the broader socio-economic recovery responses of the PA. The UNICEF health and nutrition response to COVID-19 has supported national authorities to access essential supplies and equipment including equipment for personal protection and intensive care as well as sustaining essential services such as for the treatment of children with Severe Acute Malnutrition. UNICEF with WHO leads the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Task Force producing and disseminating messages including on social distancing, hygiene, protection and prevention measures. UNICEF is supporting quarantine centres with drinking water and hygiene kits in coordination with OCHA and the clusters. Most vulnerable households have been reached with hygiene materials through the e-voucher programme with WFP. Support to schools included the provision of hygiene kits in coordination with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the Education Cluster. In partnership with UNESCO, UNICEF supports continuity of learning through provision of online learning materials and technical support to improve the infrastructure of the online platform. Through its partners, UNICEF reaches children with psychosocial and protection services, including case management, group and individual counselling, life skills education, child parent interaction and expressive arts. In Social Protection, UNICEF has supported national institutions to generate evidence for policy action including through direct technical support to the Ministry of Social Development (MOD) in developing their COVID-19 Emergency Response Plan and to the MOD and the Prime Minister’s Office in the development of a Social Impact Assessment of COVID-19. More information on the UNICEF State of Palestine COVID-19 response can be found in the UNICEF Global and MENA COVID-19 SitReps: https://www.unicef.org/appeals/Novel%20Coronavirus_sitreps.html.

1 https://www.ochaopt.org/content/protected-settler-attacks-against-palestinians-rise-amidst-outbreak-covid-19
2 Detailed results of UNICEF response to the COVID-19 crisis are found on MENA Coronavirus Situation Reports at https://www.unicef.org/appeals/Novel%20Coronavirus_sitreps.html
Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
With the deterioration of the water and sanitation situation and the ongoing energy crisis in the Gaza Strip only 10 percent of the population have direct access to clean and safe drinking water. While in Area C in the West Bank access to water remains precarious due to military regulations, UNICEF continues to work with national partners to support vulnerable communities to access to sustainable WASH systems and services. In the reporting period in the West Bank UNICEF, with the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) and the Yatta Municipality, supported rehabilitation works to provide a reliable, safe and affordable water supply to around 5,000 people in Talet Al-Somoud neighborhood in Yatta city. This project also aims to decrease water losses and protect the water supply system from any potential contamination. In Gaza, UNICEF with a local partner, has completed repairs for five sewage pumping stations in Jabalia indirectly benefitting 200,000 people.

However, humanitarian achievements have been limited due to limited funding availability for non-COVID-19 humanitarian action. Constraints have also remained around the operating environment with challenges in receiving approvals for the entry of materials into Gaza, the lack of liquidity of contractors and capacity limitations of the local market to respond to immediate WASH priorities.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF as the WASH Cluster Lead Agency in the State of Palestine has led the development of the COVID-19 WASH Response Plan with 24 cluster partners and the PWA. The plan aims to limit the impact of the pandemic through the provision of safe water, sanitation and hygienic conditions for institutions and vulnerable people living in the West Bank and Gaza, including through alignment of Cluster Partners’ priority actions.

Moreover, the WASH Cluster is developing the following structures and tools to improve its humanitarian response including in response to COVID-19: i) WASH area focal points have been appointed among cluster partners to promote decentralised coordination; ii) a WASH Cluster COVID-19 task force was formed to develop technical guidance and provide technical support for partners; and iii) the cluster has led and contributed to different needs assessments regarding access to WASH services during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Child Protection

With the deteriorating economic situation across the State of Palestine, social vulnerability has been heightened with increased reports of violence including sexual violence. Between January and June 2020, UNICEF and its local partners in Gaza reached 4,971 vulnerable children through community level family centres. Of these, 4,139 children (54% boys) were provided with structured psychosocial support (PSS) including individual counselling, group counselling, life skills, child/parent interaction sessions and other group PSS activities. In Gaza the remaining 832 children (41% girls) benefited from individual case management. In addition, 1,335 children received various non-structured interventions including recreational activities and psychological first aid. A further 1,177 caregivers attended awareness raising sessions on protection of their children, and 3,751 children and their caregivers (39% males) were reached with Explosive Remnants of War risk education sessions.

In East Jerusalem, between January and April UNICEF, through a local partner, reached 54 children affected by conflict-related violence (24 boys and 30 girls) with structured PSS group activities. Across the West Bank and Gaza, 189 service providers (35 men and 154 women) were trained in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) guidelines.

As the lead in the Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CPAoR) and MHPSS Working Groups, UNICEF coordinated the child protection response in Gaza and the West Bank. Between January and June 2020 five CPAoR partners in the West Bank reached 143 children affected by conflict-related violence (134 boys), with structured PSS activities including individual counselling. In Gaza, 14 CPAoR and MHPSS partners reached 9,057 children (4,932 boys) with CP services including remote MHPSS, life skills education and counselling support services. Additionally, 1,114 children (701 boys) accessed remote and in-person individual case management support services. At least 1,376 children with disabilities (749 boys) were reached. Structured PSS were also provided to 8,144 caregivers (4,675 female).

The capacity of partners to respond to child protection needs has been deleteriously impacted by COVID-19 movement restrictions and measures including quarantining of people, and the shutdown of educational facilities. Public service providers and organizations responding have been required to take steps to prevent the spread of the virus including scaling down or suspending services and activities. This has lowered the number of beneficiaries targeted, including by limiting group activities and shifting service delivery from in-person to remote online support.

Education and Adolescents

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in school closures since the 6th of March 2020. As a result, over 1.2 million children enrolled in schools in Palestine are in need of safe access to quality education. A total of 6,900 students and teachers are estimated to be in need of support for safe access to education including during their daily commute to schools. In response, UNICEF reached 658 children (168 girls) and 32 teachers (22 female) in the H2 area of Hebron with protective
presence for safe access to schools through a partner in the first quarter of the year. Furthermore, systems are being put in place to reach a further 4,500 children and 360 teachers through a package including training of school management committees, recreational activities and provision of PSS to children.

During the reporting period, UNICEF continued to support the educational response to meet the needs of children following the sudden closure of schools on 6th March 2020 due to the COVID-19 crisis, which affected 1.4 million school-aged and kindergarten children (51% girls). UNICEF interventions included direct support for 12,418 adolescents to access life skills education through an on-line platform, and 137 school-aged children in quarantine centres were provided with learning materials. In preparation for the school re-opening in August UNICEF has worked with partners including the Ministry of Education to develop a multi-sectoral back to school plan, with UNICEF directly targeting 200 most vulnerable schools.

As co-lead of the Education Cluster, UNICEF continued to coordinate donors and the Education Cluster partners for the mobilization of resources and implementation of a holistic emergency response including for the COVID-19 response planning. Four task forces have been established to support the MoE to implement the main objectives of the response plan, namely: i) Distance Learning; ii) Provision of MHPSS; iii) Hygiene Promotion and renovation of schools’ WASH facilities; and iv) Distribution of school hygiene kits.

Health & Nutrition

Across the State of Palestine, humanitarian health-related needs continue to be exacerbated by insufficient access to health care resulting from the chronic depletion of medical supplies, insufficient human resources, and COVID-19 related access restrictions. In the face of these challenges, UNICEF with health cluster partners, implemented health and nutrition activities to support the provision of integrated essential health and nutrition services for most vulnerable communities through outreach and facility-based activities. This included health and nutrition education awareness-raising to reach pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and families of children under five, coupled with provision of supplementary micronutrients to anemic children. To ensure a continuum of nutrition services for anemic young children in Khan Younis governorate in Gaza, UNICEF provided supplementary micronutrients to 25,000 anemic children, including iron syrups delivered to five primary health centres.

In coordination with the health cluster partners, in Gaza UNICEF procured and facilitated delivery of essential and lifesaving medical equipment such as six double wall incubators and six conventional incubators for seven health facilities including Al Shifa hospital, Al Nasser pediatric hospital, Gaza European hospital, and Kamal Odwan hospital. During the second quarter, 15,713 vulnerable people, including 6,578 high-risk women and 9,135 newborns and young children, received quality health care services from these maternity hospitals, clinics and neonatal intensive care units. Furthermore, towards the upgrade of the Khan Younis maternity ward and neonatal health care unit UNICEF provided medical supplies, medical equipment and equipment for renewable energy and telemedicine, including infusion pumps, patient and delivery beds, and an electrical surgical unit.

Additionally, in Gaza UNICEF supported local NGOs to maintain the provision of essential ante-natal and postnatal care. This included treatment and follow-up services for high-risk women and young children including through telephone counseling. UNICEF is supporting the introduction of hotlines for promotion and protection of appropriate nutrition among PLWs, infants and young children. During the reporting period, about 4,993 high-risk PLWs and 1,302 children accessed continued essential health and nutrition care services, including counseling on Infant and Young Child Feeding.

In the face of the closure of twenty-three MoH clinics in Gaza amid the COVID-19 crisis, UNICEF continued to coordinate the Nutrition Technical Working Group under the Health Cluster and leveraged partners’ resources to meet nutrition service gaps. Nutrition interventions included UNICEF support through a local partner in Gaza for treatment of 363 children suffering from severe (SAM) and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) (182 boys and 181 girls), 140 SAM and 223 MAM.

Furthermore, UNICEF and WHO are advocating with donors to support the national immunization program with the PA financial crisis threatening vaccine stockouts for the routine immunization programme by the end of 2020.

Risk Community and Community Engagement

In March 2020, UNICEF in cooperation with WHO, MoH, other public and private sector partners established a national task force to assist government efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19 in the State of Palestine. The task force is leading the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) plan. In the reporting period, the RCCE team developed messaging to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and correct misinformation. Towards the end of June, the task force focused on messaging to address and contain a significant spike in COVID-19 cases. The messages are shared across multiple channels via the UN, through over 30 partners, social media, radio and national TV stations, as well as through 3 million SMS messages targeting marginalised and high-risk communities, billboards, and distribution of 350,000 risk communication brochures. To date, more than 1,200 RCCE COVID-19 posts have been shared on social media platforms achieving more than 15.3 million content views.
In April 2020, in line with UNICEF’s global COVID-19 call to release children in detention, UNICEF sent letters to duty bearers in Israel and Palestine calling for the immediate release of all children detained in prisons including Palestinian children. The call was also published via posts on social media.

Additionally, UNICEF provided visibility to the delivery of life-saving equipment and COVID-19 testing kits on different social media platforms as well as the distribution of hygiene kits and brochures to 12th grade testing centres in the West Bank and Gaza. The following is a list of the posts shared:

- Delivery of medical equipment
- Celebrating World Health Day
- Acknowledging our donors support DFID, Canada, Poland, Switzerland
- Delivery of COVID-19 testing kits
- Distribution of hygiene kits to 12th grade testing centers
- World Hand Hygiene Day
- Delivery of oxygen concentrators
- Delivery of hygiene kits to Gaza

Supply and Logistics
During the reporting period procurement for the COVID-19 response was the main supply and logistics priority. This included the placement of offshore orders for personal protective equipment and intensive care unit equipment as well as local procurement of hygiene kits, and waste management material/equipment. An important achievement was the provision of hygiene materials for 850 exam centres to allow adolescents to sit the 12th grade Tawjihi exams.

Owing to the political situation and the lack of coordination between the PA and Israel, the approval process for supply donations has been impacted since the middle of May 2020. A new process for supply donations is currently being tested with the Logistics Cluster serving as an intermediary between the PA and Israel for humanitarian supplies as a temporary measure.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy
UNICEF is part of the UN and the Humanitarian Country Teams and regularly coordinates its actions with other organizations and local stakeholders. Within these partnerships, UNICEF leads the WASH Cluster, and with Save the Children co-leads the Education cluster. Within the Protection Cluster, UNICEF leads the Child Protection Working Group and the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Group. UNICEF co-leads the Nutrition Working Group under the Health Cluster in Gaza and at the national level in close collaboration with the World Health Organization. UNICEF and partners continued to foster synergies between humanitarian and development assistance in the State of Palestine, while emphasizing emergency preparedness.

Next SitRep: 20 October 2020

UNICEF State of Palestine: http://www.unicef.org/oPt
UNICEF State of Palestine on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/unicefstateofpalestine
UNICEF State of Palestine on Twitter: https://twitter.com/UNICEFpalestine

Who to contact for further information:
- Etona Ekole, Special Representative OIC UNICEF State of Palestine
  Tel: +972 (0)2 584 0400
  Email: eekole@unicef.org
- Matthew Dalling, Deputy Representative OIC UNICEF State of Palestine
  Tel: +972 (0)2 584 0400
  Email: mdalling@unicef.org
- Iain Murray, Chief of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation UNICEF State of Palestine
  Tel: +972 (0)2 584 0419
  Email: imurray@unicef.org
## Annex A: Summary of Programme Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>UNICEF and IPs</th>
<th>Cluster / Sector</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2020 Target 03</td>
<td>Total Results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WATER, SANITATION &amp; HYGIENE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># people in humanitarian situation benefited from improved access to water (direct or through operations and maintenance of systems)</td>
<td>280,000</td>
<td>50,000(^5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># people in humanitarian situation benefited from improved access to sanitation and hygiene services (direct or through operations and maintenance of systems)</td>
<td>259,495</td>
<td>71,026(^6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># students and teachers with access to improved WASH facilities in schools</td>
<td>18,000</td>
<td>650(^7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># people in humanitarian situation who benefitted from hygiene promotion activities and hygiene materials/kits</td>
<td>11,480</td>
<td>23,721(^8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># people benefit from strengthened preparedness and response capacity of flood-prone communities in Gaza</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>200,000(^9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHILD PROTECTION</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># beneficiaries receiving legal awareness sessions</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># beneficiaries who received ERW risk education sessions</td>
<td>15,606</td>
<td>3,751(^10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># children benefiting from structured psychosocial services and child protection interventions</td>
<td>14,352</td>
<td>4,193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># children benefiting from specialized individual case management</td>
<td>2,880</td>
<td>832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUCATION</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># students and teachers benefiting from protective presence and accompaniment to/from school</td>
<td>6,900</td>
<td>690(^11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># students and teachers benefiting from the provision of material support, additional learning inclusive child-friendly spaces and teaching/learning supplies</td>
<td>78,000</td>
<td>79,937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># students benefiting from remedial education services</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>0(^12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># students, parents and school staff benefiting from school-based psychosocial support services(^13)</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>0(^14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEALTH AND NUTRITION</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># women in reproductive age, pregnant and lactating women receiving quality maternal services</td>
<td>26,750</td>
<td>11,160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># neonates receiving quality lifesaving and health services in NICUs</td>
<td>10,420</td>
<td>10,535</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^3\) The overall need per cluster is aligned to the needs reflected in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2020 published by UNOCHA. The relevant targets reflected in 2020 HAC were rounded down.

\(^4\) The change reflected the change reported data as per the first SitRep for 2020.

\(^5\) The coverage of WASH projects activities has been hindered due funding availability.

\(^6\) The coverage of WASH projects activities has been hindered due funding availability.

\(^7\) The coverage of WASH in Schools projects activities has been hindered due COVID-19 pandemic resulting in schools’ closure.

\(^8\) The coverage of this activity was expanded after additional funding was made available to respond to the hygiene needs of affected people during flooding in the rainy seasons.

\(^9\) The coverage of this activity was expanded after additional funding was made available to rehabilitate critical WASH facilities in Gaza.

\(^10\) Reporting under this indicator will be made available end of Q4 with new partnerships in place.

\(^11\) The coverage of Education projects activities has been hindered due COVID-19 pandemic resulting in schools’ closure.

\(^12\) The coverage of Education projects activities has been hindered due COVID-19 pandemic resulting in schools’ closure.

\(^13\) This indicator has been included in the HAC under Child Protection.

\(^14\) The coverage of Education projects activities has been hindered due funding availability.
# children under the age of five (boys and girls) benefited from targeted nutrition and health interventions | 42,300 | 6,845 | 1,665 | NA | NA | NA

# women in reproductive age, pregnant and lactating women receiving quality nutrition services | 39,100 | 6,947 | 4,993 | NA | NA | NA

# people directly benefitting from awareness sessions and health education | 5,300 | 1,642 | 363 | NA | NA | NA

## Annex B: Funding Status*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Funds available</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Received Current Year</td>
<td>Carry-Over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>2,510,007</td>
<td>537,262</td>
<td>1,121,214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>10,661,197</td>
<td>350,023</td>
<td>159,202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>3,255,160</td>
<td>577,182</td>
<td>100,107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Nutrition</td>
<td>2,243,147</td>
<td>324,873</td>
<td>403,248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cluster Coordination</td>
<td>935,999</td>
<td>117,853</td>
<td>156,163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>19,605,510</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,907,192</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,939,934</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>