

GAZA

CHILDREN ON **THE EDGE**

unicef 

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Fifty days of the most intense fighting in the history of Gaza have wreaked havoc in the lives of children and families. Apart from an initial wave of support during the conflict primarily for shelter and food, resources have been lacking for other critical needs of children, including safe water and sanitation, education, protection, health and nutrition. The costs of inaction are increasing by the day.

WHY UNICEF

Alignment. All proposed UNICEF interventions are aligned with the UN Support Plan and the National Early Recovery and Reconstruction Plan.

Field presence. With long-standing presence, expertise, and capacity on the ground in Gaza, UNICEF has the ability to implement and scale-up quickly, in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders, including technical experts, communities, and children themselves.

Complementarity. Certain UNICEF-supported interventions, such as the repair of water and sewage networks, serve the whole population, including refugees. Other UNICEF programmes target the most vulnerable children and families, or all children in public, non-UNRWA schools (50% student population in Gaza).

Scale. UNICEF has the ability to operate and implement at scale. During the conflict, 90 tons of vaccines and medical supplies were brought into Gaza. For the new school year,

Why we must act now: Children have a limited window of opportunity to avoid the worst consequences of this conflict. For example, if the stress and trauma children have experienced are not quickly addressed through psychosocial support, their ability to cope and recover will be compromised. The cycles of vulnerability, despair, and violence may not only continue, but worsen.

UNICEF procured 130,000 school bags, trained 12,000 teachers, counselors and others in psychosocial support, reaching over 230,000 children.

Multi-dimensional approach. UNICEF's multi-sectoral programmes successfully bridge both development and humanitarian objectives, through an integrated approach achieving synergies among sectors where strategic and appropriate.

Partnerships & coordination. UNICEF programmes in Gaza are implemented through civil society organizations and private sector contractors, and have built capacity and networks over the years with specialized skills providing the support children need.

Operations. With well-established operations and programme implementation modalities, UNICEF has been both procuring locally as well as importing goods and materials for humanitarian relief and development projects in Gaza.

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I WANT MY FATHER AND SISTER TO BE ALIVE AGAIN,” SAYS 10-YEAR-OLD SHAIMA, WHO LIVES IN THE HARD-HIT NEIGHBORHOOD OF SHUJE'YAH, IN EASTERN GAZA CITY. SHE LOST HER FATHER ADEL AND SISTER DIMA IN THE SHELLING TEN DAYS INTO THE CONFLICT.

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EDUCATION. CREATING A SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT, WITH BETTER SCHOOLS, PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT, REMEDIAL EDUCATION, SUPPLIES, INCLUSIVE EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES.

\$11.3m
2015-2016

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\$35.4m
2015-2016

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE PROVIDING SAFE WATER, IMPROVED SANITATION AND HYGIENE SUPPORT TO AFFECTED CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

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SITUATION

At least 187 government schools were damaged during the conflict, severely, completely or partially. Schools that were used as shelters, also require rehabilitation in order for them to be ready for regular use. In addition, there are severe shortages of education supplies ranging from teaching aids to school furniture.

KEY RESULTS TO DATE

- **230,000** children in government schools in Gaza provided with psychosocial support, recreational activities, and school supplies. Over **44,000** children reached with more intensive psychosocial support.
- **15,000** vulnerable schoolchildren provided e-vouchers for uniforms and shoes.
- **10,000** children reached with remedial education.

RESPONSE PLANS 2015-16

- Repairs to **60** schools, furniture, WASH upgrades **\$3.2m**
- Safe, inclusive child-friendly school designs **\$0.5m**
- Early childhood and pre-school education **\$1.2m**
- Capacity development of teachers on child protection and school-based PSS **\$1.4m**
- Remedial/catch-up learning and inclusive education for **10,000** children with disabilities **\$3m**
- Recreational and learning activities for adolescents, young people **\$0.8m**
- Innovative, social entrepreneurship skills of **30,000** adolescents and young people **\$1.2m**

SITUATION

Damaged water, sewage, and water wells, as well as frequent and prolonged power outages, are exacerbating the already overloaded system in Gaza. The population is risking health with unsafe water sources, with waterborne diseases posing a particularly grave risk to children.

KEY RESULTS TO DATE

- **900,000** benefiting from repairs to water and sewage networks
- **50,000** supplied with drinking water by water tankers.
- **71,000** supplied with domestic water through water filling stations.
- **84,000** reached with hygiene kits, hygiene promotion, jerry cans and e-voucher supplies.

RESPONSE PLANS 2015-16

- Sea water desalination plant for **300,000** - **\$22.5m**
- Repairs to **2** and installation of **10** new brackish water desalination units for **65,000** - **\$2m**
- Repairs to wells, water and sewage network for **150,000** - **\$3m**
- **8** generators and/or solar energy sources for network back-up for **150,000** - **\$0.7m**
- WASH interventions for **6,000** vulnerable families **\$1.2m**
- WASH upgrades in at least **100** public schools **\$5m**
- Hygiene promotion including kits for **15,000** - **\$1m**

\$14.2m
2015-2016

CHILD AND SOCIAL PROTECTION. STRENGTHENING THE PROTECTIVE ENVIRONMENT WITH PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT; IMPROVED CHILD PROTECTION/JUSTICE SYSTEMS, AND MONITORING OF GRAVE VIOLATIONS.

SITUATION

373,000 children require direct and specialized psychosocial support, as a result of extreme levels of stress, trauma, and anxiety. 18,000 homeless families need long-term support to rebuild their lives. 450,000 children at risk from explosive remnants of war.

KEY RESULTS TO DATE

- 1,000,000 people reached with local radio messages on ERW/UXO.
- Over 22,000 IDP or injured children and 23,000 adolescents received psychosocial support.
- Over 1,200 children have used the Child Protection Helpline.

RESPONSE PLANS 2015-16

- Strengthening child protection systems for 60,000 highly vulnerable children **\$5m**
- Strengthening justice system for children **\$3m**
- Monitoring and reporting on grave violations / CAAC **\$0.8m**
- Strengthening integrated and multi-sectoral social protection and inclusion systems **\$4m**
- Technical assistance for scaling up Social Protection programmes **\$0.7m**
- Support to PCBS to produce evidence on children and women affected by the conflict **\$0.7m**

HEALTH AND NUTRITION IMPROVING CHILD HEALTH AND NUTRITION THROUGH ROUTINE IMMUNIZATION, ESSENTIAL MEDICINES, BREASTFEEDING, AND SUPPORT TO NEWBORNS.

\$9.3m
2015-2016

SITUATION

Children's access to essential health and nutrition services is compromised due to shortages in drugs, insufficient food intake and damage to health facilities and structures. Power outages, generator fuel shortages, essential medicine shortages, and spare parts for medical equipment are affecting the level of care.

KEY RESULTS TO DATE

- 90 tons of medicines, vaccines and medical supplies delivered, benefitting 136,000 patients.
- Community Health Workers reached over 10,000 displaced persons in shelters and host families with messages on communicable diseases.

RESPONSE PLANS 2015-16

- Neonatal care, incl. mobile teams **\$2.5m**
- Young child nutrition programme for 30,000 children <2 and their mothers **\$0.8m**
- Capacity building for health personnel **\$1m**
- Support detection of child disabilities, referrals and interventions for 3,000 children **\$1.5m**
- Essential medicines and vaccine procurement services **\$2m**
- Restoration of the vaccine cold chain reaching 450,000 children **\$1.5m**

SHAIMA'S STORY

TEN DAYS INTO THE WAR, AS THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WAS BEING POUNDED WITH HEAVY ARTILLERY, MORTARS AND AIR STRIKES, SHAIMA'S FAMILY MOVED TO HER GRANDFATHER'S APARTMENT ON THE GROUND FLOOR, DEEMED SAFER.

"SUDDENLY A BOMB FELL NEARBY. EVERYONE RAN OUT, EXCEPT FOR MY FATHER AND YOUNGER SISTER. I HEARD PEOPLE SCREAM THAT HE WAS DEAD," RECALLS SHAIMA.

HER FATHER ADEL AND SISTER DIMA WERE KILLED BY SHRAPNEL THAT CAME BURSTING THROUGH THE WALLS.

"I SAW MY UNCLE CARRYING MY SISTER, BUT I DIDN'T LOOK AT MY FATHER'S BODY, BECAUSE I WAS AFRAID. I RAN AWAY," SHE EXPLAINS.

GETTING SHAIMA BACK TO SCHOOL IS A PRIORITY TO HELP INSTIL A SENSE OF NORMALITY TO HER LIFE. THIS IS NO EASY TASK IN SHUJA'IYEH, HER NEIGHBOURHOOD, WHERE THE NEW NORMAL IS STREETS LINED WITH SHATTERED BUILDINGS, AND STUDENTS TRIPPING OVER RUBBLE AS THEY WALK TO SCHOOL.

#GAZA4CHILDREN



A GAZA FOR CHILDREN MEANS WE CAN REBUILD OUR HOME



Throughout the conflict, the suffering of children in Gaza attracted global media interest, but it has since waned and moved elsewhere. UNICEF's #gaza4children campaign refocuses world attention, arguing that investment in Gaza's children represents the most sustainable option for the territory, contributing towards a long-term political solution and the wellbeing of children.

#gaza4children draws on the voices and views of children and adolescents themselves, providing them with a platform to articulate their vision of the future. It will also allow UNICEF and partners to demonstrate the value and results of the interventions they support in education, health, psychosocial care, water and sanitation and other sectors – and to pitch for necessary funding.

#gaza4children social media campaign launches 12 October and includes audio-visual materials, images, stories, infographics, and a microsite, inviting partners, media and the general public to make space for children in Gaza to express their needs, and help UNICEF ensure that their needs are met.



THANK YOU

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