

FAST FACTS

United Nations
Development Programme



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

The Gaza Strip - Facts, Figures and UNDP's Response to the Ongoing Crisis

The Gaza Strip is one of the most densely populated places on earth, with a total area of **365 km²** and a population of approximately **1.8 million**. Against the backdrop of occupation, and the resulting escalation in tensions, the situation for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip has worsened, with marked increases in unemployment, poverty and deaths. This situation has been compounded by the Cast Lead incursion in 2008/09 and operation Protective Edge since July 2014. Not only have people's livelihoods been severely affected, but also entire families are rendered homeless. In addition, the crippling effects of the closures have been widely felt, with hundreds of thousands of jobs being lost, people prevented from reaching their places of work, children unable to attend their schools, fuel and import shortages kept at a bare minimum, and the majority of the population dependant on humanitarian assistance.



Palestinian families salvaging what is left of their destroyed homes during operation Protective Edge - 2014

Economy

The Gazan economy has come to a near standstill due to a combination of unemployment, closures, and restrictions placed on workers, industries, goods and services. With unemployment in Gaza reaching alarmingly high levels, the current hostilities has further paralyzed economic development, destroying much of the remaining productive resources, capital stock, and employment opportunities.

MATTERS OF FACT

- **Population:** 1.8 million
- **Total area:** 365 km² (45km long, 2-5km wide)
- **Gazan refugee population:** 1.2 million
- **Number of refugee camps:** 8
- **Unemployment:** 47%
- **Poverty rate:** 60%
- **72%** of Gazans **are food insecure**, with over **80%** are **aid recipients**
- **Electricity supply** reaches **2-4 hours a day**
- **90 %** of Gaza water is unfit for human consumption

Since the July 2014 Crisis

- **1,975** Palestinian killed (459 children, 239 women)
- **365,000** people displaced
- **10,690** housing units destroyed or severely damaged
- **1.2 million** have no or limited access to water

Agriculture

The Gazan economy is largely dependant on agriculture, however due to closures and land razing, this sector has been greatly affected. During the last military operation, there has been an increase in food insecurity and loss of livelihoods in the Strip. More specifically, the recent military operation has resulted in the demolition of greenhouses and agricultural infrastructure, the uprooting of trees, contamination of agricultural land, losses in livestock, and widespread damage to crops.

Infrastructure

Essential infrastructure in the Gaza Strip have been devastated by the lack of construction materials, equipment and spare parts resulting from the blockade, and the destruction incurred during the recent military operation. The result is that many are left without water electricity and communications. In addition, municipal buildings and schools were damaged or destroyed and roads rendered inoperative, resulting in thousands of tons of concrete rubble that need to be removed.

FAST FACTS

United Nations
Development Programme



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

UNDP in the Gaza Strip

The volatile political and economic situation in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), especially in the Gaza Strip, confronts UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (PAPP) with a number of challenges that hinder its initiatives in providing essential development assistance.

The Gaza Strip has been deprived of development since the imposition by Israel of a comprehensive blockade in 2007. As a result, development and reconstruction needs in the Strip are enormous: from governance and livelihoods to environment and infrastructure, especially in the aftermath of the military Operation Cast Lead (December 2008-January 2009), November 2012 and the current 2014 Protective Edge.

Unemployment rates in Gaza remain high; all while over 80 percent of the population receives humanitarian assistance in the absence of socio-economic development.

Despite the constraints, UNDP is implementing programmes to support the Gaza population recover from the crisis and live a dignified life. UNDP's recovery programming goes beyond Emergency Funds, and is integrated with the Palestinian Recovery Strategy with the intention of ensuring sustainability of the recovery process and long-term benefits for the affected population.

The two year programme aims at creating conditions for enhancing resilience and sustainable development. The programme builds on both prior and current UNDP/PAPP engagement in the Gaza Strip, including extensive immediate work on debris/rubble removal and recycling, solid waste management, electricity and water as part of disaster management.

It will also build and expand on existing interventions in support of institutional building and consolidation of local governments and ministerial departments. Given the prevailing context, construction and rehabilitation of infrastructure, and job creation will obviously be critical components of the programme.

The programme framework revolves around the following:

1. Infrastructure Assessment

UNDP will conduct a comprehensive infrastructure assessment to provide the Palestinian Government, UN agencies and partners with a broad platform for coordinating interventions and ensuring effectiveness.

2. Rubble Removal and Infrastructure

As both private and public buildings, as well as public infrastructure have been destroyed, the programme will build on UNDP/PAPP's long-standing experience in infrastructure work in the Gaza Strip. It is important to note that UNDP/PAPP and UNRWA are currently the only institutions able to import building materials into Gaza, as per Israeli imposed restrictions.

3. Livelihoods

Enhancing livelihoods and helping people build their lives is at the heart of this framework. In order to ease people's suffering, restore dignity and build resilience, urgent measures are needed to generate income and employment to the poorest and most affected families, while at the same time sustain the rapid employment programme through long-term strategies of job diversification.

4. Governance

The proposed programme recognizes the fact that in the aftermath of the current crisis, support will be needed to further build on political developments prior to the crisis, with a view to supporting the recently established government of national consensus and strengthen national cohesion.



UNDP housing project in Rafah after receiving a hit during operation Protective Edge - 2014

For more information, visit: www.ps.undp.org

Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People
3A Ya'qubi St. P.O.Box 51359 Jerusalem
Tel: (972 2) 6268200 / Fax:(972 2) 6268222

August 2014



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.