



# **United Nations Country Results Report 2022**

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**State of Palestine**



UNITED NATIONS  
Palestine



# UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM



<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>ITC</b>	International Trade Center
<b>OCHA</b>	Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>UNCTAD</b>	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UN-Habitat</b>	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
<b>UNMAS</b>	United Nations Mine Action Service
<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>UNOPS</b>	United Nations Office for Project Services
<b>UNRWA</b>	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East
<b>UNSCO</b>	Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process
<b>UNRoD</b>	United Nations Register of Damages
<b>UN Women</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization





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## SUMMARY

The present report, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 77/30, contains an assessment of the assistance received by the Palestinian people and proposals for responding to unmet needs. It provides a description of the efforts made by the United Nations, in cooperation with the Government of the State of Palestine, donors and civil society, to support Palestinian people and institutions.

The reporting period (1 April 2022–31 March 2023) was characterized by continued tensions and violence and the persistence of negative trends, further impeding the resumption of meaningful negotiations and the achievement of a viable two-State solution and adversely affecting prospects for peace. The year 2022 was the deadliest year for Palestinians in the West Bank since 2005 and for Israelis since 2015, and the death toll continued to increase in the first three months of 2023. In Gaza, a three-day escalation in August 2022 resulted in 51 Palestinian fatalities, including at least 37 civilians.

In addition, throughout the reporting period, the dire fiscal condition of the Palestinian Authority had a negative effect on its the ability to deliver basic services.

During the reporting period, the United Nations continued to coordinate and deliver humanitarian and development assistance to Palestinians and the Palestinian Authority. The United Nations system raised a total of \$405.6 million for the 2022 Humanitari-

an Response Plan for the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Overall, \$531 million in humanitarian assistance was delivered by the United Nations and its partners. Some of that assistance was targeted at Palestinian communities in areas not under the direct administration of the Palestinian Authority, including East Jerusalem and Area C, in the occupied West Bank, and Gaza.

Under the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, \$502 million is needed to provide basic food, protection, health care, shelter, water and sanitation to 1.6 million Palestinians who have been identified as those most in need of humanitarian interventions across the Occupied Palestinian Territory.





# INTRODUCTION

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 77/30, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it, at its seventy-eighth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the resolution, containing an assessment of the assistance actually received by the Palestinian people, as well as an assessment of the needs still unmet and specific proposals for responding effectively to them. The reporting period is from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

Information on the political and socioeconomic situation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory is provided in several periodic reports prepared by United Nations entities and submitted to various United Nations bodies, including the monthly Security Council briefings by the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process; the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2334 (2016); the report of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan; the annual report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA); and the biannual reports of the Office of the Special Coordinator for the

Middle East Peace Process to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians.

The humanitarian, economic and development needs of the Palestinian people are reflected in several complementary strategic and resource mobilization documents. The 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan received \$405.6 million, or 79.5 per cent, of the \$510 million requested. Overall, \$531 million was delivered in humanitarian assistance to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including \$136 million funded outside the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan.

While the overall number of people in need has remained relatively constant since the end of 2021 at approximately 2.1 million, the severity and depth of their needs have increased. One quarter of all households were identified as being in severe, extreme or catastrophic conditions in the 2023 humanitarian needs overview, an increase of 20 per cent since 2022. In Gaza, the situation is more acute, with 29 per cent of households falling into the two highest tiers of severity of need, compared with 10 per cent in 2022. Under the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan, \$502 million is sought to provide basic food, protection, health care, shelter, water and sanitation to 1.6 million Palestinians who have been identified as the most vulnerable. The outlook for 2023 remains uncertain given increasing violence, political developments and the lack of progress towards a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

During the reporting period, the United Na-



tions in the State of Palestine developed and finalized a United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the State of Palestine. The collective vision and response of the United Nations in support of Palestinian national development priorities for the period 2023–2025 is set out in that document, which was signed with the Palestinian Authority in December 2022.

Throughout the reporting period, the Office of the Special Coordinator continued its efforts to support conflict prevention and a return to peace negotiations, and to promote coordination among the Government of the State of Palestine, the United Nations, the international com-

munity and the Government of Israel.



# OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT SITUATION



## POLITICAL CONTEXT

The reporting period saw the continuation of several overarching negative trends, including the continued absence of a political process to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the further entrenchment of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory, a significant increase in violence and indiscriminate and targeted attacks against civilians on both sides, ongoing settlement activities, demolitions and seizures of Palestinian-owned structures, limited progress on advancing intra-Palestinian unity and the worsening of the financial crisis facing the Palestinian Authority.

During the reporting period, violence escalated significantly in Israel and throughout the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, amid an increase in militant activity and the proliferation of small arms. While 2022 was the deadliest year for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank since 2005 and for Israelis since 2015, the first three months of 2023 continued to see increasing violence with high numbers of fatalities. Following a series of deadly attacks in Israel in March and April 2022, Israel conducted successive military operations in Area A of the occupied West Bank during the reporting period. Many of those operations resulted in clashes and armed exchanges with Palestinians, with high numbers of Palestinian casualties. Palestinian attacks against Israeli civilians in the occupied West Bank and in Israel and violent attacks, vandalism and damage to property perpetrated by Israeli settlers and other civilians against Palestinians both increased.

Israeli settlement expansion continued through out the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. During the reporting period, Israeli authorities advanced plans for some 12,300 housing units in settlements in Area C and 1,100 units in East Jerusalem, while tenders were announced for some 940 units in Area C and 90 in East Jerusalem. On 15 February 2023, the Security Cabinet of Israel authorized the retroactive legalization, under Israeli law, of nine outposts throughout the occupied West Bank. On 21 March, the Knesset passed legislation repealing parts of the Disengagement Plan Implementation Law of 2005, thereby enabling Israelis to enter the areas of four evacuated settlements, including the Homesh outpost, in the northern West Bank and potentially acquire rights to the land within those sites under Israeli law.

In Gaza, a three-day escalation in August 2022 resulted in the death of 51 Palestinians, of whom at least 37 were civilians, including 4 women and 14 girls, and the injury of 383 other Palestinians, including 67 women and 61 girls. Dozens of Israelis were also injured as a result of the hostilities. Notwithstanding this brief escalation, the May 2021 ceasefire in Gaza, including key stabilizing measures, continued to hold but remained fragile. Despite some easing of restrictions on the movement of people and goods during the reporting period, the closure regime imposed by Israel on the Gaza Strip since the 2007 violent Hamas takeover, combined with the absence of progress on Palestinian unity and ongoing militant activity in the Strip, continued to generate humanitarian needs



and significantly hamper economic growth.

Despite those challenges, some positive developments occurred during the reporting period. High-level dialogue between senior Palestinian and Israeli officials continued, in particular on civil and economic issues, and some limited progress was made in that regard. Following meetings in Aqaba, Jordan, on 26 February, representatives of Israel and the Palestinian Authority, as well as representatives of Egypt, Jordan and the United States of America, issued a joint communiqué reaffirming their commitment to previous agreements and working towards a just and lasting peace. The parties also committed to take steps to de-escalate the situation on the ground, pause unilateral measures and prevent further violence, including through upholding the status quo at the holy sites in Jerusalem. On 19 March, at a follow-up meeting in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, participants affirmed the legal right of the Palestinian Authority to carry out security operations in Area A of the West Bank in accordance with existing agreements, and Israel and the Palestinian Authority agreed to establish mechanisms to curb violence and incitement and to improve the economic conditions of the Palestinian people.

On 23 June 2022, the Palestine Liberation Organization formally appointed Husayn al-Shaykh as Secretary-General of its Executive Committee, following his election by the Palestinian Central Council to the Executive Committee in February 2022. In November, a coalition of Palestinian political and civil society activists launched a series of protests and meetings under the

slogan “Palestinian Popular Conference – 14 million”, demanding reform of the Palestine Liberation Organization and elections for its legislative body, the Palestinian National Council. In Ramallah, the Palestinian Authority prevented a planned Popu-



lar Conference meeting from being held and arrested two of its organizers, both of whom were released without charge.

On 13 October 2022, following an inter-factional dialogue hosted by the Government of Algeria, 14 Palestinian factions, including Fatah and Hamas, signed the Algiers Declaration, in which they agreed, inter alia, to “resolve differences in the Palestinian arena with the aim of full national affiliation with the Palestine Liberation Organization as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people”. The participants also called for the long-delayed presidential and legislative elections to be held in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, “within a period not to exceed one year from the date of signature”.

Throughout the reporting period, the United Nations and its regional and international partners continued to mediate and de-escalate tensions and to urge Israelis and Palestinians to take concrete actions to restore a political horizon in order to end the occupation and achieve a viable two-State solution. The Special Coordinator continued bilateral engagements with envoys of the Middle East Quartet and other regional and international partners to promote constructive diplomatic engagement and encourage progress towards a negotiated two-State solution.

## HUMANITARIAN AND SOCIOECONOMIC CONTEXT

### Economic and Fiscal Developments

In the reporting period, the economic and fiscal situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory remained dire. The Palestinian economy has not recovered from the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which was one of the factors that caused gross domestic product (GDP) to decline by 11 per cent in the West Bank and 13 per cent in the Gaza Strip in 2020, and allowed GDP to grow only modestly in 2021 and 2022. GDP growth was further constrained by ongoing restrictions imposed by the Government of Israel on movement and access across the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in particular in Gaza, and by Palestinians' inability to de-

velop and invest in Area C. Constrained economic growth is the most significant cause of the precarious fiscal condition of the Palestinian Authority. The lack of critical governance reforms by the Palestinian Authority has also contributed to the ongoing economic and fiscal challenges.

The overall unemployment rate in the Occupied Palestinian Territory was 24 per cent in 2022 (13 per cent in the West Bank and 45 per cent in Gaza). The participation of women in the labour force remained among the lowest in the world, at 18.6 per cent. Youth unemployment remained high with stark geographical differences: 73.9 per cent in Gaza and 28.6 per cent in the West Bank.

Challenges related to the protracted Israeli occupation continued to have a detrimental effect on the capacity of the Palestinian economy to generate enough jobs to meet population growth which, in turn, drives the high unemployment rates. These challenges included restrictions on the movement of goods and people, constraints on foreign trade, restrictions on Palestinian access to key productive resources in Area C, which represents 60 per cent of the total area of the West Bank, and the deductions made by Israel from customs revenue that it collects on behalf of the Palestinian Authority.

During the reporting period, Israel eased some access and movement restrictions, in particular on Palestinian labourers working in Israel. By January 2023, 16,930 "economic needs" permits and 1,059 "worker" permits had been issued for Palestinian la-



bourers from the Gaza Strip. Overall, more than 200,000 Palestinians, mostly male labourers, are working in Israel, representing nearly 20 per cent of the Palestinian workforce and collecting nearly 30 per cent of all wages earned by Palestinians.

In 2022, the Government of Israel once again permitted agricultural producers in Israel to import agricultural produce from the Gaza Strip. As a result of relaxations in agricultural export quotas, implemented at least in part because of the observance in Israel of the Jewish “shmita” year, during which land must lie fallow, agricultural exports from the Gaza Strip to Israel increased by 700 per cent in 2022 (1,096 truckloads of agricultural products) compared with 2021 (137 truckloads of agricultural products), when exports were severely restricted following the escalation in May of 2021. The net benefit of in-

creased agricultural exports to the economy of the Gaza Strip in 2022 was \$56 million.

## Humanitarian Developments

As of January 2023, some 2.1 million Palestinians were in need of humanitarian assistance. Of that number, an estimated 1.5 million Palestinians, 31 per cent of whom belonged to female-headed households, were food-insecure. Protracted conflict, economic stagnation, restricted trade and lack of access to resources, coupled with high unemployment and poverty rates, continued to pose serious challenges to food security and nutrition, especially for pregnant and lactating women and children. The combined effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the conflict in Ukraine, chronic inhibitors to development and periodic escalations of conflict contributed to an erosion in the purchasing power of Palestinians and disruptions in



access to food and other essential items. Protection concerns remain central to humanitarian operations. In the reporting period, a total of 274 Palestinians, including 65 children, were killed in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel, including 51 Palestinians killed during the 2022 August escalation in Gaza, at least 37 of whom were civilians. A total of 10,278 Palestinians were injured during the reporting period in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including 1,008 children and 334 women injured by Israeli forces. Of that number, 1,029 were injured by live ammunition, 1,296 by rubber bullets and 7,129 by tear gas inhalation requiring medical treatment. The number of Palestinian fatalities in the West Bank in 2022 was the highest since the United Nations started systematically counting fatalities in 2005. A total of 212 Palestinians, including 6 women and 46 children, were killed and another 10,112 Palestinians, including 960 children, were injured by Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank during the reporting period. Those figures represent a 121 per cent increase in the number of Palestinians killed in the West Bank and a 45 per cent decrease in the number of Palestinian injured. By contrast, 96 deaths and 18,404 injuries were reported in the West Bank during the previous reporting period. Some five Palestinians were killed by Israeli settlers and 337 were injured. On the other hand, 33 Israelis were killed in the occupied West Bank and Israel, including 4 children, 2 women and 4 soldiers. One foreign national was also killed. Those numbers represent a 136 per cent increase compared with the previous reporting period, and they are the highest

since 2015. A total of 257 Israelis were injured, including 17 women and 11 children.

The demolition and seizure of Palestinian residential, livelihood and service infrastructure in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, continued. Citing the absence of Israeli-issued building permits, which are almost impossible for Palestinians to obtain, the Israeli authorities seized, demolished or forced the demolition of 995 Palestinian structures, of which 149 were funded by donors, across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. As a result, a total of 1,053 Palestinians, including 540 children, were displaced, representing a 23 and 14 per cent increase, respectively, compared with the previous reporting period.

During the reporting period, an additional 17 Palestinian-owned structures were demolished on punitive grounds, while 5 had been demolished in the previous reporting period.

## **Movement, Humanitarian Access and Operational Space**

Humanitarian operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory continued to be hampered by the imposition by Israel of physical obstacles (such as the barrier, checkpoints, roadblocks and gates), administrative barriers (such as the building permit regime), restrictions on movement and access of personnel, and restrictions on movement of goods into and out of Gaza. These restrictions affected access to East Jerusalem and other areas between the barrier and the Green Line. Restrictions on Palestinian access to land and resources, in particular



in Area C, also continued to be a concern. A total of 488,841 people departed from Gaza through the Erez crossing, almost three times more than the 169,721 who had departed during the previous reporting period, although significantly less than the 500,000 Palestinians who were crossing each month in 2000. Similarly, the Rafah crossing recorded about 153,634 exits throughout the reporting period, a 33 per cent increase from the 115,606 recorded during the previous reporting period.

Kerem Shalom remained the primary crossing for the movement of commodities to Gaza from Israel and from Gaza into Israel or the West Bank. Excluding fuel, on average, some 6,012 truckloads of goods entered Gaza per month during the reporting period. An average of 465 trucks per month exited Gaza, most of them headed to West Bank markets.

The fishing zone off the Gaza coast largely remained at 15 nautical miles in the south, 12 nautical miles in the middle area and

6 nautical miles in the north during the reporting period. In addition to those limits, Israel, citing security concerns, imposed other restrictions on fishing activities.

## Barrier

The United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution ES-10/17, continued its outreach and claim intake activities to “serve as a record, in documentary form, of the damage caused to all natural and legal persons concerned as a result of the construction of the wall by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem”. Since the establishment of the Register of Damage in December 2007, more than 73,200 claims and over 1.5 million supporting documents have been collected in all nine governorates and in 269 of the 271 Palestinian communities affected by the constructed section of the wall.



# UNITED NATIONS RESPONSE



## HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The United Nations continued to coordinate and deliver humanitarian and development assistance in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Some of that assistance was targeted at Palestinian individuals and communities in areas beyond the reach of the Palestinian Authority, including East Jerusalem and Area C in the occupied West Bank, and Gaza. The United Nations focused its efforts on the most vulnerable segments of the population.

### Education

During the 2022/23 school year, UNRWA provided primary education to 294,086 students (142,374 girls and 151,712 boys) in 284 elementary and preparatory schools in Gaza and also to 46,024 students (27,812 girls and 18,212 boys) in 96 elementary and preparatory schools in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

During the 2022/23 school year, UNRWA provided technical and vocational education and training to over 1,865 students (1,213 male and 652 female) in Gaza and 1,057 (442 male and 615 female) in the West Bank. In addition, 658 students (93 male and 565 female) were enrolled in the Agency's Education Science Faculty for teacher training in the West Bank.

In Gaza, the Agency constructed one new school and built additional school

blocks at two existing schools. In the West Bank, two new schools were under construction, while 11 schools were rehabilitated as part of routine maintenance.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) supported the Ministry of Education to improve access to quality, safe and inclusive learning opportunities, and to develop a costed science, technology, engineering and mathematics strategy.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supported improved access to quality education for over 10,500 students in East Jerusalem schools. UNDP upgraded several schools and established a digital human resources management system benefiting 1,899 students and 55,000 Ministry of Education employees.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) provided training on coding, robotics, artificial intelligence and other technical subjects to 121 teachers, of whom 74 were women, and 1,181 students, of whom 802 were girls.

UNESCO conducted Arabic and mathematics learning activities using art, music, storytelling and sports for 19,000 students, including 9,900 girls, in 190 schools and provided training on inclusive education for 2,530 teachers, of whom 1,695 were women.

UNESCO established three youth-led technical and vocational education and training innovation hubs in Bethlehem (tourism), Nablus (fashion design) and



the Gaza Strip (information and communications technology) benefiting 405 youth, of whom were 276 women or girls.

In Gaza, the Mine Action Service trained over 28,500 persons at risk of being harmed by explosive remnants of war. Approximately 1 million people were reached by a risk education social media and radio campaign. The Service continued to support the explosive ordnance disposal requirements of all United Nations school facilities in Gaza, and it declared 16 deep-buried bomb sites in Gaza as being clear.

## Health

The World Health Organization (WHO) continued to promote universal health coverage and the right to health by strengthening the health system, as well as monitoring barriers to health-care access and attacks against health care, and by engaging in advocacy to address policies and practices that affect the health rights of Palestinians. WHO continued to enhance health information systems, support health policy development, assess the performance of the primary health-care system, promote family practice, develop a hospital master plan and support the Ministry of Health in identifying financial risk protection in health.

WHO also supported the implementation of a system-strengthening approach to reduce neonatal mortality. Early essential newborn care was put in place in 5 government hospitals and 10 non-gov-

ernmental maternity hospitals in Gaza.

In 2022, WHO and UNICEF continued to support the delivery of over 700,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine, as well as syringes and safety boxes, through the Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility. In response to a polio outbreak in Israel, UNICEF and WHO led risk communication efforts, reaching 57,000 parents and 400 health professionals, religious leaders and social influencers. Following a cholera outbreak and the identification of a positive environmental sample in Israel, UNICEF and WHO supported the Ministry of Health of the State of Palestine in stepping up preparedness levels.

In Gaza, UNRWA conducted approximately 3.2 million face-to-face primary health-care patient consultations at its 22 health-care facilities and about 350,000 telemedicine consultations. In the West Bank, the Agency provided 801,529 consultations at its 43 health-care facilities.

UNRWA provided about 15,000 Palestinian refugees in Gaza with secondary and tertiary health-care subsidies, and it continued to prioritize care for the 108,578 patients in Gaza with non-communicable diseases.

In partnership with WHO and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health in scaling up a comprehensive package of sexual, reproductive, maternal, neonatal and child health-care services benefiting 4,000 women and 28,158 children, includ-



ing 7,400 newborns, in the West Bank, and some 8,000 women and 27,600 children, including 8,400 newborns, in Gaza. UNICEF provided technical support to strengthen early childhood development systems benefiting about 4,100 children in the West Bank and 3,200 children in Gaza.

UNFPA supported the training of 646 midwives and doctors (536 women and 101 men) from governmental and non-governmental primary health-care centres and hospitals.

UNFPA continued to support the provision of youth-friendly health services in five Palestinian universities and through mobile clinics, reaching 48,390 young persons, while also integrating digital technology to reach youths through a mobile application and a helpline.

UNDP supported the establishment of eight local hospital boards and the introduction of a digital patient care evaluation system in 10 government hospitals in the West Bank to strengthen efficient, transparent and accountable essential health services.

In Gaza, UNDP expanded the medical waste treatment facility and provided an electricity connection available around the clock for treating pharmaceutical and chemotherapy waste. A digital medical waste and infection surveillance system was established in the Ministry of Health.

The United Nations Office for Project Ser-

vices (UNOPS) supported the renovation of two health facilities in the West Bank. In Gaza, UNOPS provided mental health and psychosocial support to 85 beneficiaries who had lost their shelters and suffered trauma following the May 2021 escalation.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) trained 127 health professionals to better respond to the needs of people who use drugs and of their families.

## **Water and Sanitation**

UNICEF supported over 451,300 Palestinian children and their families with activities related to safe access to water, sanitation and hygiene services.

In Gaza, UNICEF continued the expansion of the seawater desalination plant. Stormwater drainage systems were completed, reaching 10,000 residents in areas that have to contend with recurrent seasonal flooding.

In the West Bank, UNICEF supported the rehabilitation and extension of water networks, giving 45,400 people access to water, sanitation and hygiene services. In Yatta municipality, work started on the water network in order to provide over 100,000 people with access to safe drinking water.

In the West Bank, UNDP supported the Palestinian Water Authority in regulating and improving transboundary wastewater management, supporting the construction of 28 km of wastewater collection system piping and providing 8,200 per-





sons with access to environmentally sound municipal wastewater services.

In Gaza, UNDP installed a 1,306-kW solar energy system at the Khan Yunis wastewater treatment plant to address the facility's chronic energy shortage.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) supported 82 herders with conditional grants and technical support for water cistern rehabilitation in six locations in the West Bank.

The Mine Action Service conducted explosive remnants of war risk assessments for projects on water, solar panel installation and gas for Gaza, covering a total area of 861,250 m<sup>2</sup>.

## Employment

UNDP contributed to creating 5,902 short-

term job opportunities for skilled and unskilled workers, of whom 36.3 per cent were women. In addition, UNDP created employment opportunities for 247 new graduates, including 122 women, under the Dynamic Futures Scholarship Programme, and supported the training of 126 youth in information and communications technology skills in order to promote access to "e-jobs".

UNDP provided access to technical, managerial, digital, financial and legal services for 1,474 micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, with a special focus on women-led businesses.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Ministry of Labour co hosted a partners' meeting to mobilize international support for the Palestinian national employment strategy. The meeting supported the mobilization of approximately \$40.7 million.



ILO helped to restart dialogue among stakeholders aimed at reviewing and amending the Palestinian Social Security Law. As a result of that dialogue, a revised draft law was finalized in October 2022.

ILO supported improving working conditions for 7,658 workers by facilitating four collective bargaining agreements between trade unions and private sector employers. The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) supported eight public and private sector institutions in developing gender-responsive action plans, policies, procedures and fiscal stimulus packages, and in providing equal opportunities for women to have access to decent work opportunities.

FAO channelled co-investment support to 162 agribusinesses with a value of \$4.9 million, stimulating additional investments amounting to approximately \$4 million.

## **Targeted Social Protection**

In Gaza, UNRWA continued to provide quarterly food baskets to over 1.14 million refugees. Another 36,129 beneficiaries in the West Bank were assisted through cash-based transfers.

The World Food Programme (WFP) directly assisted around 350,000 Palestinians with monthly food assistance. In Gaza, WFP indirectly assisted more than 600,000 people through its cash-based transfer platform, which covers Gaza and the West Bank.

Overall, the Programme injected \$12 million every month into the Palestinian economy, through direct assistance and on partners' behalf. WFP completed a pilot cash project that reached 13,756 people in households with persons with disabilities in Hebron.

WFP provided in-kind food assistance to around 35,000 people of the Bedouin communities in the West Bank who face protection challenges, with 60 per cent of the food basket purchased locally.

UNFPA provided cash assistance to 1,983 vulnerable women and women at risk of gender-based violence.

UNFPA supported 14 women-led organizations in enhancing their capacities to implement gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and response interventions.

UNICEF supported 4,500 children in 1,168 households with a child-sensitive humanitarian cash transfer to enhance access to basic needs and essential services.

## **Culture**

UNESCO initiated a project for the conservation and management of the Tall al-Sultan archaeological site in Jericho and contributed to the emergency protection of the newly discovered mosaics floor in Burayj, in Gaza.

Through its Heritage Emergency Fund, UNESCO contributed to the rehabilitation of the Wahidi house, a historic building in the old city of Gaza.



## Food Security and Agriculture

FAO established and upgraded the post-harvest facilities of eight farmers' cooperatives and five women's cooperatives by providing post-harvest equipment and cold storage capacities. That initiative included establishing a high-capacity post harvest facility in Qalqilyah operated jointly by the Palestinian Agricultural Cooperatives Union and the Qalqilyah farmers' cooperative.

FAO supported the establishment of one farmers' market for the Palestinian Agricultural Cooperatives Union in the West Bank that serves 120 cooperatives.

WFP provided 543 new climate-resilient agricultural assets to households, prioritizing women-headed households, and provided maintenance support for the 650 assets that it had provided during the previous reporting period.

UNOPS supported the construction of five sheds to ensure the protection of food items and goods on the Palestinian side of the Kerem Shalom commercial crossing.

## Human Rights, Women, Children and Youth

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) continued to promote the implementation of United Nations international human rights standards in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and advocated for their integration into the national legal system. OHCHR

developed the capacity of the Palestinian national human rights institution and civil society organizations to engage with United Nations treaty body mechanisms in order to strengthen their monitoring, reporting and follow-up of the implementation of treaty body recommendations by the Government of the State of Palestine.

OHCHR conducted 46 workshops on human rights, reaching over 1,000 participants, including over 500 women. OHCHR led capacity-building activities with over 100 women human rights defenders, fostering an understanding of international human rights standards.

OHCHR continued to work on the rights of persons with disabilities through technical assistance to government institutions, strengthening civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms and scaling up public awareness and advocacy campaigns.

UNICEF continued to strengthen child protection systems. In the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, 4,600 children (52 per cent boys) benefited from improved access to prevention and protection services. A further 2,700 caregivers benefited from services or awareness-raising on various topics. Family centres in Gaza provided psychosocial support services to 11,500 children, 53 per cent of whom girls, and at least 1,900 children, 54 per cent of whom were boys, with case management. Legal representation was provided to 900 children arrested in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.



UNDP, UNICEF and UN-Women provided access to legal aid services to 15,714 people, including 10,196 women.

UN-Women supported the capacity development of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and civil society to engage with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

UN-Women supported 22 communities in 10 governorates with awareness-raising and knowledge-building on ending violence against women and on women's rights, reaching 150,828 persons.

UNFPA started developing a national youth well-being index and launched an anti-discrimination index in two Palestinian universities in the West Bank and Gaza.

UNFPA supported the engagement of 247 young persons in governance and decision-making processes through model United Nations conferences, local youth councils and a leadership academy for young women.

UNFPA designed and implemented 30 cultural and identity-related initiatives to nurture and develop Palestinian culture and heritage, reaching 4,015 young persons, including 29 youths with disabilities.

UNODC trained 105 professionals who work with youths on preventing drug use, violence and crime through sports and family skills, provided sports equipment to 40 schools

and implemented programmes reaching 724 young people and 67 family members.

In Gaza, the Mine Action Service implemented a community-based resilience training programme focusing on women's empowerment, reaching 8,097 individuals, including 5,212 women.

In the West Bank, from 1 April until 31 December 2022, UNRWA provided counselling and case management services for 290 protection cases, 76 of which involved survivors of gender-based violence. A total of 124 cases were referred for external services.

In Gaza, UNRWA provided mental health and psychosocial support services to 25,453 Palestine refugees and referred 1,650 Palestine refugee women to legal counsellors. School counsellors provided group counselling to 10,893 children and individual counselling to 10,131 students.

ILO supported the Government of the State of Palestine in establishing a national committee for pay equity that will propose measures to address the gender pay gap.

ILO supported Birzeit University, in the occupied West Bank, in establishing an observatory for gender and social justice to strengthen the capacity of 14,743 students, faculty members and staff on gender-based violence at work and forms of discrimination and practices.



## Environment, Housing and Urban Development

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), in partnership with the Ministry of Local Government and the Land and Water Settlement Commission, continued to support spatial planning and mapping of land rights for Palestinian communities in the West Bank.

UNDP continued to support the master plan for Wadi Gaza. As a result, about 60 per cent of the natural reserve is now free of solid waste.

Also in Gaza, UNDP supported the transition to renewable energy through the installation of solar energy equipment capable of generating 1,414 kW of electricity, thereby preventing the emission of 1,015.7 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Energy efficiency and renewable ener-

gy interventions in industrial enterprises carried out by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) contributed to an annual reduction of 12,276 tons in CO<sub>2</sub> emission and 7,911 MWh in annual energy savings.

UNOPS supported the construction of a central pretreatment plant in the Jericho Agro-Industrial Park for the treatment of industrial wastewater.

UNOPS continued to support the procurement and delivery of around 3 million litres of fuel weekly to the Gaza power plant, thereby helping to maintain the electricity supply at approximately 4 to 12 hours daily.



## UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

An estimated 2.1 million Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory need humanitarian assistance. Given the limited resources available, humanitarian agencies continued to streamline and prioritize activities to target the maximum number of vulnerable people in a highly constrained context. To that end, humanitarian agencies had three priorities during the reporting period: protecting civilians, providing basic services and improved access to resources to enhance livelihoods, and supporting vulnerable Palestinians to cope with the protracted crisis.

### Emergency Agriculture Support

FAO supported 799 herders with agricultural inputs and cash assistance, including dairy processing tools and equipment, plastic sheds, farm tools and chicken and rabbit units to maintain and ensure continuous food production.

In response to the May 2021 escalations, FAO continued to provide 529 herders and poultry farmers in Gaza with fodder to sustain their livelihoods.

FAO trained 40 women-led micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises to build their capacity to respond to emerging market needs and the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Emergency Food Support

UNRWA supported 1,143,688 beneficiaries through in-kind emergency food assistance in Gaza, covering 50 per cent of their daily caloric needs.

In the West Bank, UNRWA, in partnership with WFP, provided in-kind emergency food assistance to 38,334 members of Bedouin communities. A further 22,044 food-insecure individuals received cash assistance from UNRWA. In addition, the Agency ensured critical support to families in quarantine and communities isolated because of the COVID-19 pandemic by providing food parcels to 20,078 individuals.

WFP provided food assistance to 380,593 people through electronic vouchers, multipurpose cash assistance and food parcels to improve the nutrition and well-being of severely food-insecure and vulnerable Palestinians.

Following the August 2022 escalation in Gaza, WFP provided around 150 families with a one-time top-up to the monthly electronic food voucher and provided around 325 new beneficiaries with a monthly electronic food voucher for three months.

### Emergency Education Support

UNICEF provided 47,000 conflict-affected children with essential stationery kits and connected 70 schools in marginalized areas of the West Bank to the Internet and provided them with computers, reaching 10,000 children and 1,000 teachers.



UNICEF rehabilitated 46 schools damaged by the 2021 escalation in the Gaza Strip, benefiting 50,000 students.

In the West Bank, UNRWA rolled out a recovery plan that provided catch-up classes to 11,905 students (7,135 girls and 4,770 boys) in grades 6 to 10 in order to complement school year requirements and cover the learning loss resulting from school closures.

### **Emergency Health Support**

WHO continued to provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Health to strengthen the health system's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Activities included establishing a public health emergency operation centre in Gaza, implementing good practices for strengthening surveillance, laboratory diagnosis, contact tracing, infection prevention and control, clinical management of critical cases and provision of the latest evidence-based guidance.

WHO, in response to escalations and increased violence, provided immediate trauma and first aid supplies to address the urgent need for essential medical supplies. WHO also continued to enhance emergency preparedness and response capacity across all levels of the trauma care system, including strengthening pre-hospital response services, building the first aid skills communities, supporting emergency departments, improving acute surgical capacities and providing limb-saving and limb reconstruction surgery and treatment.

Following the August 2022 escalation in Gaza, UNICEF undertook urgent repairs of water networks and supported 356 children in need of case management and 409 in need of psychosocial support.

In Gaza, UNRWA provided secondary or tertiary care to 8,733 patients and life-saving medicines to an additional 4,000 patients.

In the West Bank, from 1 April until 31 December 2022, UNRWA provided essential medications to 4,681 vulnerable patients with noncommunicable diseases (2,742 women and 1,939 men, including 1,776 persons with disabilities) through home distribution.

UNFPA supported the operationalization of eight mobile clinics that serve 50 vulnerable communities in the West Bank, thereby improving access for 28,163 people to primary and integrated sexual and reproductive health care, including gender-based violence detection and referral. A total of 8,033 women benefited from sexual and reproductive health and family planning services.

UNFPA supported 12,000 pregnant, lactating and post-menopausal women living in refugee camps, remote rural areas and urban areas to gain access to sexual and reproductive health counselling services.

UNFPA supported the assessment of eight governmental safe motherhood and emergency delivery centres in the West Bank, in order to evaluate their preparedness and quality of services. Two centres



were equipped to provide emergency obstetric, sexual and reproductive health, and gender-based violence services.

UN-Women supported 26,823 individuals (including 22,402 women), of whom 1,352 were persons with disabilities, to gain access to essential multisectoral gender-based violence services, including psychosocial assistance and health referral.

UN-Women provided practitioners and counsellors specializing in gender-based violence with improved knowledge of gender-based violence case management and protection against sexual exploitation and abuse.

### **Emergency Housing Support**

UNRWA reconstructed or repaired 1,504 shelters as part of the effort to clear the remaining caseload following the destruction of shelters during the May 2021 escalation in Gaza.

In the West Bank, UNRWA provided cash assistance to 598 individuals after the Israeli authorities demolished their homes. In addition, some 6,072 individuals (2,798 women and 3,274 men, including 63 persons with disabilities) received emergency response services, which included case management, cash assistance and referral to internal or external service providers.

UNOPS continued to provide shelter grants to families in Gaza whose houses were destroyed during previous escalations. During the reporting period, UNOPS reconstructed 98 new

houses and rehabilitated another 222.

### **Emergency Income Generation**

UNRWA provided short-term job opportunities to 16,834 Palestine refugees in Gaza through the cash-for-work intervention, generating approximately 884,299 workdays.

Also in Gaza, UNDP provided short-term employment opportunities to 525 people, including 210 women and 43 persons with disabilities, who had lost their livelihoods or homes during the May 2021 escalation.

ILO and WFP enhanced and diversified the financing available for shock-responsive social protection systems in order to improve the design of social protection measures.

### **Emergency Water and Sanitation Support**

UNRWA continued to provide basic water and sanitation services in all eight refugee camps in Gaza, hiring about 360 sanitation workers on a cash-for-work basis throughout the reporting period, as well as in 19 refugee camps in the West Bank.

## **UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM SUPPORT TO PALESTINIAN INSTITUTIONS**

UNDP inaugurated the newly constructed Hebron courthouse and the Public Prosecution Service building and handed



them over to the Palestinian High Judicial Council. Those buildings will serve over 359,000 citizens in Hebron Governorate.

WFP provided technical and financial support to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics to set up a hunger monitoring system. WFP also continued to support the Ministry of Social Development in building a more inclusive, shock-responsive social safety net and conducted training programmes on strengthening the Palestinian national cash transfer programme.

FAO continued to support the Ministry of Agriculture in developing the national food and nutrition security policy and the national investment plan, and in reviewing the national agriculture sector strategy.

UNODC continued to support the forensic science laboratory of the Palestinian Civil Police by training six forensic biologists in forensic body fluid analysis and by refurbishing two health and forensic clinics in the West Bank. UNODC also supported the Anti-Narcotics Administration, the Correction and Rehabilitation Centres Administration, the national programme on drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice reform, and the Public Prosecution Office.

UNFPA, in coordination with the relevant Palestinian national institutions, continued to support the development of quality-of-care policies, standards and protocols for sexual and reproductive health services, including the sexual and reproductive health strategy for Gaza.

UNFPA supported the launch of the national strategy for adolescent and youth health, the aim of which is to provide health information and services to meet the needs of adolescents.

ILO supported the development of a national occupational safety and health policy and strategy and a mechanism for reporting and recording of work-related injuries and diseases.

OHCHR continued to promote the human rights-based approach in planning, data collection and budgeting through training sessions for the Office of the Prime Minister and the relevant ministries. OHCHR also provided technical assistance to the Government of the State of Palestine to meet its obligations under human rights treaties and supported the organization of national consultations on an action plan to implement the recommendations made by the Committee against Torture.

OHCHR and WHO assisted the Ministry of Health in developing a list of national human rights indicators on the right to health.

UN-Women supported the Ministry of Social Development in establishing an emergency shelter to provide protection services to vulnerable women. Two one-stop centres were established, one in Nablus and the other in Hebron, to provide policing, justice and social counselling services to women victims and survivors of violence.

UN-Women supported the Ministry of Wom-



en's Affairs in developing a national action plan and monitoring system for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security.

UN-Women and UNFPA supported the review of health, justice, police and essential social services for women and girl survivors of violence.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) trained staff members of government, academic and research institutions on econometric modeling, impact evaluation and use of satellite data in economic analysis.

## **PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT**

UNRWA provided 4,576 microfinance loans in the amount of \$4.96 million to Palestine refugee clients in Gaza. In the West Bank, UNRWA delivered 8,072 loans amounting to \$14,137,144.

ILO piloted an emergency employment programme to support vulnerable enterprises and cooperatives through business development services, and to promote innovative and sustainable solutions to address resource scarcity in Gaza while integrating decent work principles and labour-intensive approaches in the construction sector.

UNIDO organized training, acceleration programmes, study tours and networking activities for 100 start-ups and enterprises in the creative industries and cleantech sectors.

UNIDO conducted 146 energy audits in industrial enterprises and enhanced the energy resilience of 105 enterprises by implementing energy efficiency measures and providing renewable energy technology.

## **COORDINATION OF UNITED NATIONS AS- SISTANCE**

Collaboration and coordination between donors and United Nations entities continued under the auspices of the Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The United Nations humanitarian country team met regularly to agree on humanitarian advocacy and response measures. The United Nations country team continued to align its development programming with the priorities outlined in the Palestinian National Policy Agenda for the period 2017–2022.

UNOPS continued to support the coordination of the importation of so-called “dual-use” material through the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism, thereby contributing to improving people's access to services, well-being and employment.



# DONOR RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS



## BUDGETARY AND FISCAL SUPPORT

The Palestinian Authority has a forecasted 2023 budget deficit of more than \$600 million, and accumulated debt is expected to reach some \$9.9 billion, nearly 50 per cent of GDP, by the end of 2023. The deficit will arise despite the financial and administrative reforms that have been implemented, such as streamlining revenue collection, improving public finance transparency and efficiency gains in service delivery, as well as restrictions on new recruitment and austerity budget measures, which contained spending, in 2022, to below the level of inflation.

Since 2013, external donor support, an important source of revenue for the Palestinian Authority, has declined by more than 80 per cent. In 2013, external donor support stood at nearly \$1.4 billion and accounted for a third of total expenditure. By 2022, it had fallen to less than \$350 million, or just under 3 per cent of total expenditure.

## DONOR COORDINATION

The local aid coordination structure continued to be the main forum for government-led coordination of donor-funded development interventions in around 20 sectors.

The Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to

Palestinians held two meetings during the reporting period, in May and September 2022. The Ad Hoc Liaison Committee maintained its support for urgent humanitarian and economic interventions and called for a package of incremental, durable and meaningful steps to strengthen the Palestinian Authority and chart a way towards the two-State solution.

Donor support enabled, inter alia, the reconstruction of houses and such infrastructure as water and sanitation, schools and health clinics that needed repair after the 2021 and 2022 escalations, as well as the delivery of assistance to poor households. Fuel supplies funded by Qatar for the power plant in Gaza stabilized the electricity supply at an average of 12 hours per day in 2022, and cash assistance was provided for around 95,000 vulnerable families. Important progress was also made in enhancing the fishery sector thanks to donor support and Palestinian and Israeli facilitation of the entry into Gaza of so-called “dual use material”.



# UNMET NEEDS



The severity of the humanitarian crisis facing the Occupied Palestinian Territory is characterized by persisting humanitarian needs, as reflected by the \$502 million in funding requested for the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan. By March 2023, approximately 12 per cent of that Plan had been funded.

In 2022, UNRWA continued to experience significant financial challenges and a chronic lack of funding for its core and emergency operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The conflict in Ukraine, along with its wide-ranging effects, such as supply chain disruptions, global price spikes in staples and high inflation, among others, has contributed to this situation. As a result, the prices of food baskets delivered by the Agency increased by as much as 40 per cent during the reporting period, with a parallel increase in the costs borne by UNRWA. Owing to the ongoing funding crisis, critical emergency operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory could only be maintained through advances from the Agency's programme budget, increasing the already high level of liabilities and debt carried into the 2023 cycle of operations. UNRWA had to scale down certain interventions, such as cash-for-work, multipurpose cash assistance in Gaza and the provision of transportation to students living in areas at high risk of conflict in the West Bank. As of March 2023, the Agency's emergency appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territory was 4.5 per cent funded.





# CHALLENGES

The continued absence of a political process to end the occupation and achieve a viable two-State solution continues to be the largest impediment to Palestinian development. The commitments made at the Aqaba and Sharm el-Sheikh meetings, if implemented, could be an important start point for reversing negative trends on the ground.

Continued Israeli settlement expansion, demolitions, evictions, closures, access and movement restrictions, and other aspects of the protracted military occupation severely affected the humanitarian, social, economic and political life of Palestinians, as well as their security and ability to exercise their fundamental human rights. The significant increase in violence and incitement during the reporting period perpetuated mutual fear and suspicion.

The internal Palestinian political division also continued to place formidable obstacles to development, addressing humanitarian needs and restoring a political horizon. In this regard, the Algiers Declaration is a positive step towards intra-Palestinian reconciliation.

With respect to the dire fiscal situation of the Palestinian Authority, while revenues have improved in recent months, expenditure continued to grow and adequate budget support from donors has not been forthcoming, with most key fiscal reforms still pending. These factors have made it increasingly difficult for the Palestinian Authority to meet minimum recurrent expenditures, address outstanding arrears and make critical investments in the economy and the Palestinian people.



# CONCLUSION

The operational context for the work of the United Nations during the reporting period was increasingly difficult because of the challenges outlined in the present report. The United Nations will continue coordinating and delivering humanitarian and development assistance, while working towards the realization of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 1397 (2002), 1515 (2003), 1850 (2008), 1860 (2009) and 2334 (2016), an end to the occupation that began in 1967 and the establishment of an independent, sovereign, democratic, viable and contiguous Palestinian State, existing side by side with Israel in peace, within secure and recognized borders and with Jerusalem as the capital of both States.





UNITED NATIONS  
Palestine

