

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE FUND

occupied Palestinian territory



Photo credit: Patrick Zoll

Humanitarian Response Fund Update

1 May - 31 August 2009

An emergency pool fund designed to address gaps in critical, live-saving emergency response supported by:

SWEDEN | SPAIN | NORWAY | IRELAND | UNITED KINGDOM | NETHERLANDS



OCHA



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The HRF – responding to Emergency needs in the oPt

Since its inception in July 2007, the HRF has supported 49 projects in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. The fund is worth approximately seven million dollars. As of August 2009, 33 projects, worth approximately five million dollars have been funded. During the reporting period Between April and August 2009 the HRF supported nine projects worth 1.1 million dollars in various sectors.

The HRF is a Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) project which enables implementing UN agencies and NGOs to meet short-term emergency needs of vulnerable populations. Successful project applications must meet strict emergency criteria that reflect priority needs identified by the humanitarian community, and address unforeseen gaps in the planned response.

Fund disbursement | May - 31 August 2009

Location in oPt	# of projects	Funds approved
Gaza	8	833,501
West Bank	1	242,631
Total	9	1,076,132

Project submitted for funding are vetted by the relevant cluster/sector Lead who assesses need, technical appropriateness of the proposed response, and the capacity of the applicant agency. If necessary, further consultations are undertaken with partners working on the ground. During the reporting period (1 May - 3 August), nearly 15 project applications were rejected for failing to meet eligibility criteria or for not reflecting priorities of a given sector.

The Fund is managed by OCHA oPt with the support of an Advisory Board which includes donor partners. The Humanitarian Coordinator makes final funding decisions based on the recommendations of the Advisory Board, relevant sector leads, and OCHA field staff. OCHA monitors and coordinates project implementation.

Operating Context

The Gaza Strip

Two years of the Israeli blockade on the Gaza Strip has caused a protracted human dignity crisis that is reflected in almost every aspect of daily life. The blockade resulted in a large-scale systematic deterioration of the livelihoods, and a significant debilitation of infrastructure and basic services. The scope of civilian suffering was exacerbated during the Israeli military offensive on Gaza (27 December to 18 January). With Gaza's borders effectively sealed and no proper shelters or warning system within the Gaza Strip, the civilian population had no safe haven during the operation. OCHA has collated records of 1,383 Palestinians whose death was confirmed by at least two independent sources. These fatalities include 333 children under the age of 18.

In the aftermath of "Cast Lead", Gazans continue to face harsh, daily challenges to meet their most basic needs. Livelihoods and standards of living have failed to improve to any noticeable extent, despite significant pledges made for the rebuilding of homes, infrastructure and the economy. The blockade remains in place, and with an almost total ban on the import of construction materials, cash, key spare parts for public infrastructure, industrial inputs and many other items, the implementation of early recovery activities and reactivation of the local economy remains limited. Schools, clinics and homes damaged during the "Cast Lead" operation remain largely un-repaired, and a significant number of them are beyond use. In addition, restrictions on the import of spare parts and other materials needed to repair water and power infrastructure have left thousands with limited access to clean water.

The overall impact of the blockade on livelihoods - farmers, herders and fishermen, in particular - has been further exacerbated by Israeli restrictions on access to agricultural land along the border buffer zone and to fishing areas beyond three nautical miles from the shore.

West Bank:

Access restrictions imposed on Palestinians in the West Bank continue to affect Palestinian livelihoods and access to services, and remain an impediment to efforts to improve the humanitarian situation on the ground. In Area C of the West Bank, herding communities face ongoing displacement as a result of the demolition of their structures due to restrictive Israeli planning regulations. From January to August 2009, Israeli authorities have demolished a total of 225 Palestinian-owned structures, including 92 residential structures; 81 percent (182) of these occurred in Area C. These demolitions have resulted in the displacement of 515 Palestinians, over half of whom are children (262). An additional 504 Palestinians, including 303 children, have been affected.

Although the Israeli authorities have implemented some positive measures since Spring 2009, the combination of the Barrier, over 600 checkpoints and roadblocks, Israeli settlements and outposts, and closed military areas all contribute to access restrictions imposed on West Bank Palestinians. In addition, two second consecutive years of a water shortage and water crisis endemic to the region have exhausted coping mechanisms of the most vulnerable herding communities.

Continued Israeli demolition of Palestinian houses in the West Bank, including in East Jerusalem, is a worrying trend. In East Jerusalem alone, at least 60,000 Palestinians living in “illegally” constructed structures are at risk of having their homes demolished due to planning and building restrictions. In Area C of the West Bank, there are some 3,000 outstanding demolition orders, and thousands face the threat of displacement. Over 80% of West Bank demolitions and displacements recorded by OCHA in 2009 have been in Area C.

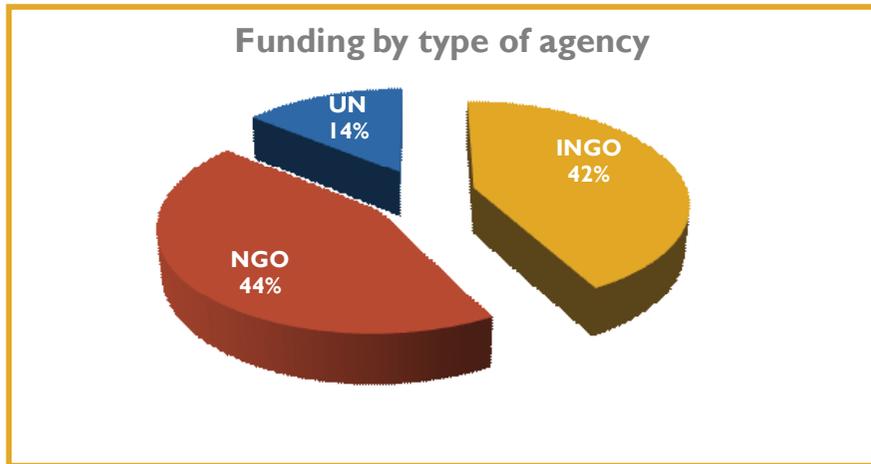
Many recent incidents of Israeli settler violence recorded by OCHA oPt have occurred in the context of the “price tag” strategy—an explicit settler strategy wherein settlers retaliate against Palestinians and their property for any attempt by Israeli authorities to dismantle settlement outposts. Between April and August 2009, the killing and injury of Palestinians by Israeli forces in the West Bank decreased considerably, to levels not seen since 2005, primarily due to a decrease in injuries at anti-Barrier demonstrations. Regular Israeli army raids of Palestinian areas and arrests of Palestinians continue.

According to the latest survey by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, over 20 percent of the Palestinian West Bankers able and willing to work are unemployed and approximately 47 percent live below the poverty line. West Bank 2009 CAP projects remain underfunded, which are aimed at improving living conditions among the most vulnerable, the humanitarian situation is likely to deteriorate further in the coming months. At present, the 2009 CAP is 65 percent funded. Gaps in the funding include several critical sectors such as; Shelter (22 percent); Protection (26 percent) Mine Action (27 percent); Watsan (28 percent); Agriculture (37 percent); Health (55 percent); and Education (46 percent).

Applications & Funding

Nearly 20 proposals for HRF support were received by OCHA during the reporting period, almost half of which were approved. Approved projects mostly fill gaps in the highest priority sectors, such as health and food, where a humanitarian response would have been insufficient to meet the overwhelming need.

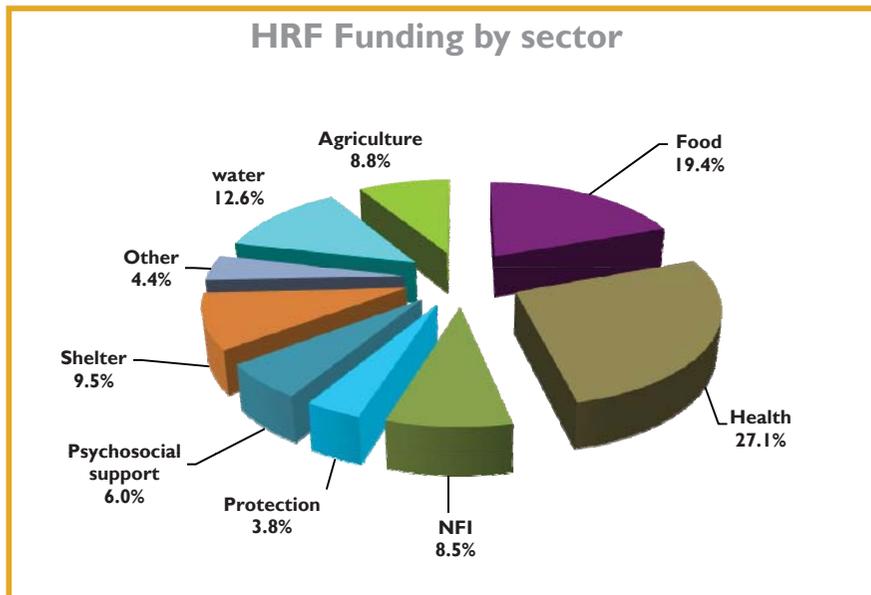
According to the latest survey by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, over 20 percent of the population which is able and



willing to work is unemployed and about 47 percent live below the poverty line. Given the serious under-funding of West Bank projects included in the 2009 CAP, which are aimed at improving living conditions among the most vulnerable, the humanitarian situation is likely to deteriorate further in the coming months.

HRF projects in Gaza

The HRF has and continues to respond to emerging and critical needs in Gaza in priority sectors identified during the rapid needs assessment. These include shelter, health, rehabilitation of injured, food, protection, education, water & sanitation.



Health

Twenty eight percent of HRF funds have been given to Health sector projects that target emergency and specialist services by procuring essential equipment and drugs critically depleted due to the 18-month blockade. The fund helped restore the blood bank system to levels where it could cope with ongoing demand and replenish contingency stock to prepare for future emergencies. Through this project Merlin is working to increase laboratory and equipment resources of the Ministry of Health (MoH) and Central Blood Bank Society (CBBS) to meet needs of the current situation and future emergency situations. The project will also work to raise community awareness of blood bank services. Services will be available throughout the Gaza Strip through support to the entire blood bank network. Direct beneficiaries will be those accessing the blood bank services and the staff specialists taking part in workshops and training.

For the period of 1 Jan - 31 Aug 2009

Food Security-Nutrition

Since the beginning of 2009, the Food Security and Nutrition sector received 19 percent of the HRF funding, targeting more than 15,000 beneficiaries with the highest levels of food insecurity, including hospital patients, displaced families and women who had recently delivered babies. Agriculture has traditionally been the main source of food for poor families in the Gaza Strip, and is the most important sector in terms of local economies. A number of food projects, which procured fresh fruit and vegetables from local farmers, delivered much-needed support to Gaza's agricultural sector, which was severely damaged during the conflict. Furthermore a project provided Gazans displaced in the "Cast Lead" offensive with milk and nutritional supplies for children under five years old.

WASH

The WASH sector received 13 percent of the funding for projects aiming to rehabilitate and renovate water and sanitation facilities at 10 pre-schools damaged during "Cast lead". Another intervention targeted those communities in the immediate vicinity of the Beit Lahia Waste Water Treatment Plant to reduce health hazards posed by the malfunctioning Waste Water Plant, and to prevent the infiltration of poor quality effluent into the aquifer.

Disability

Projects provided rehabilitation of approximately 2000 injured persons from the "Cast lead" (more than one third of all those injured in "Cast Lead" (according to Ministry of Health in Gaza) through timely treatment and prescription of appropriate assistive and prosthetic devices. The HRF also funded projects to provide more than 1,300

Donor	Date	pledges in US\$	HQ /Admin 3%	Funds received	Pledges staus
Spain	2007	1,000,000	30000	970,000	Paid
Sweden	2007	1,469,496	44085	1,425,411	Paid
Norway	08-Nov	778,259	23348	754,911	Paid
Spain	Dec-08	918,635	27559	891,076	Paid
Sweden	Dec-08	893,735	26812	866,923	Paid
Ireland	Jan-09	661,376	19841	641,534	Paid
United Kingdom	Feb-09	1,430,615	42918	1,387,697	Paid
Sweeden	Feb-09	1,416,400	42492	1,373,908	Paid
Norway	Apr-09	778,259	23348	754,911	Paid
Netherlands	Jun-09	1,102,941	33088	1,069,853	Paid
Total		10,449,716	313,491	10,136,224	
Projects funded to date				7,072,991	
Balance				3,063,233	
Available funds					3,063,233

physically disabled people with Ensure milk and diapers to assist in reducing malnutrition and socioeconomic difficulties.

HRF projects in the West Bank

In July, the HRF funded the construction of a filling point reservoir and a pumping station in Ammourya, (southern Nablus governorate). The project provided a population of 400 inhabitants with access to clean drinking water by replacing contaminated supplies, which had been a serious health hazard.

Monitoring and Evaluation

All projects approved for HRF support have a built-in monitoring component to ensure detailed monitoring of projects by NGO/INGO/UN partners as part of their project management responsibilities. Reports are submitted to OCHA on a monthly basis, and an end-of-project narrative and financial auditing reports are compiled.

Monitoring field visits are carried out in Gaza by our field staff to sites of current and completed projects. Collection and analysis of information about progress is carried out in the following forms:

- Physical progress (input provision, activities undertaken and results delivered) and the quality of process. Approximately five on-going projects were visited during the reporting period to

assess the level of progress and relevancy of the intervention. There were field visits to completed project sites to evaluate the appropriateness of response, objectives, and activities.

- Narrative and financial audit reports were submitted at the end of the project implementation, and lessons learned for some of these projects were drawn.

In the coming months, HRF will continue to provide needs-based response in the Gaza Strip for agriculture, health, disability, Mine Action, and food security sectors. In the West bank the HRF will address gaps in drought response to vulnerable communities in the South of Hebron.

OCHA continues to pledge to the donor community continuing support for the HRF. Existing and new partners have responded and currently the HRF balance stands at approximately \$ 3.1 million.

#	Date	Implementing Agency	Project Details	Sector	Total \$	Duration	Area of Intervention
1	10-Jan	Rural Centre for Sustainable Development (RCSD)	Procurement and distribution of wood for burning and fuel for heaters.	Shelter	151,143	2 months Ending 10 March	Bethlehem governorate and Eastern Hebron governorate
2	10-Jan	Premiere Urgence	Procurement and distribution of wood for burning and fuel for heaters.	Shelter	20,116	1 month Ending 10 Feb	Qualqiliya governorate
3	10-Jan	Near East Foundation (NEF)	Procurement and distribution of wood for burning and fuel for heaters.	Shelter	75,550	3 months Ending 10 April	Nablus and Jenin governorate
4	10-Jan	Ma'an	Procurement and distribution of wood for burning and fuel for heaters.	Shelter	169,608	2 months Ending 10 March	governorate, North Nablus governorate
5	10-Jan	ACTED	Procurement and distribution of wood for burning and fuel for heaters.	Shelter	40,400	2 months Ending 10 March	Jenin, Salfit and Ramallah governorate
6	10-Jul		Improving the access to drinking water for Ammourya village, Nablus	WASH	242,631	5 months 15 December	Ammourya village
TOTAL FUNDS APPROVED					699,448		

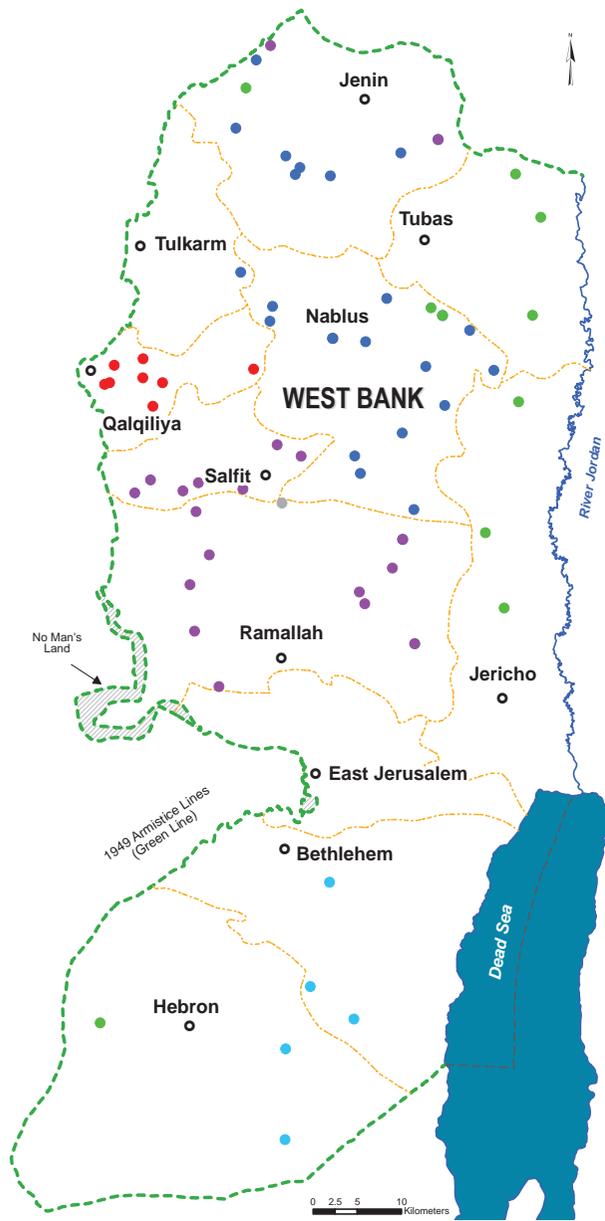
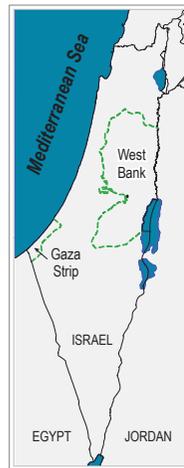
Approved funds by organisation: Gaza Strip

#	Date	Implementing Agency	Project Details	Sector	Total \$	Duration	Area of Intervention
1	01-Jan	COOPI	Sanitation work to mitigate the accumulation of non collected garbage which seriously threatens the health	Health/ sanitation	160,000	3 months Ending March 31	Gaza city
2	01-Jan	World Health Organisation	Procurement of surgical kits for distribution to hospitals throughout the Gaza Strip	Health	250,000	3 months Ending March 30	All areas of Gaza Strip
3	15-Jan	Islamic Relief (IR)	Procurement and distribution of food and blankets to injured in military operation in eight hospitals.	Health	198,111	1 month Ended	Gaza City, Khan Yunis, Rafah, middle area, Beit Lahia, Beit
4	10-Jan	Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee (PARC)	Providing high nutritional value food baskets, and other items such as torches and batteries to 1800 families in areas affected by military hostilities	Food	130,000	2 months Ending March 10	Jabalia, Deir al Balah, Az Zaitoun (Gaza City), Khan Yunis
5	10-Jan	United Nations Relief & Works Agency (UNRWA)	The provision of emergency fuel to Coastal Municipality Water Utility (CMWU) to run back up water systems during power outages	Water	214,000	2 months Ending March 10	All areas of Gaza Strip
6	10-Jan	Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS)	Procurement of first Aid kits, laboratory materials for PMRS clinics dealing with the wounded and ill unable to access main hospitals	Health	202,118	2 months Ending 10 March	All areas of Gaza Strip
7	15-Jan	Agency for Technical Cooperation & Development (ACTED)	Procurement of fresh food from local farmers and distribution to 1,500 families identified as in need	Food	129,530	3 months Ending 15 April	Gaza City and north of Gaza City
8	28-Jan	Sharek Youth Forum	Distribution of baby milk, clothes, toys, and providing psycho-social support to 9,000 children and young people affected by violence	Food/NFI	186,823	One months Ending 28 Feb	All areas of Gaza Strip
9	30-Jan	Asamblea de Cooperacion Por la Paz (ACPP)	Procurement of medical equipment to support and extend emergency capacity of PRCS hospitals, ambulances and clinics	Health	137,175	3 months Ending April 30	Gaza City and Khan Yunis
10	26-Jan	Care International	Procurement and distribution of hygiene kits, plastic sheeting, blankets, torches, etc for displaced families	Shelter	250,000	2 months Ending March 26	Beit Hanoun, Jabalia, Beit Lahiya, Gaza city, Khan Yunis, Al Naser
11	26-Jan	Mine Action Group (MAG)	Identification and removal of UXOs, mine awareness training and other relevant activities	Protection	185,622	2 months Ending 26 March	Throughout the Gaza Strip
12	20-Mar	Solidaridad Internacional	Procurement of surgical and ICU equipment for PMRS and UHWUC facilities	Health	198,109	3 months Ending April 30	Rafah, Jabalia, Beit Hanoun, Beit Lahiya, Gaza City, Khan Yunis
13	20-Mar	Palestinian Farmers Union (PFU)	Procurement of fresh food from local farmers and distribution to 2000 food insecure households	Food	170,940	3 months Ending 15 April	North Gaza. Gaza Central, Khan Yunis, Rafah
14	30-Mar	UNFPA	Distribution of hygiene kits for displaced women, recently delivered of babies, and their families	NFI	158,025	One month Ending 28 Feb	Gaza City, Bureij, Jabalia
15	20-Mar	Oxfam	To procure and distribute fresh food to 793 food insecure families	Food	199,996	4 months Ending 30 May	Gaza City
16	20-Mar	UNIFEM	To provide psychosocial support, particularly aimed at women and children ,via telephone helpline	Psychosocial	89,740	4 months Ending 30 June	All areas of Gaza Strip
17	20-Mar	Gaza Community Mental Health programme (GCMH)	To provide rehabilitation and psychosocial support and treatment to injured and population affected by military operations in homes, shelters and clinics	Psychosocial	200,000	5 months Ending 31 July	All areas of Gaza Strip

18	10-Apr	Gruppo di Volontariato Civile International GVC	The provision of water storage tanks : restoring/increasing storage capacity and rehabilitating household water infrastructure for those families who are still living in partially damaged houses and those hosting IDPs.	Water	190,000	4 months Ending July 30	Nusserat,Al Bureij,Al Zawaida,Maghasi ,Deir Al Balah,Wadi el Salqa Al Zahra,Mograga,Johar ad Dik
19	10-Apr	Agricultural an& environmental development society	Repairing fisherman's boats that were destroyed during the Gaza war	Agriculture	114,660	5 months Ending September 5	Gaza
20	15-Apr	Society of Physically handicapped people	To provide urgent needs for physically handicapped people	Health/disability	143,500	5 months Ending 27 of Sept	Gaza
21	15-May	Palestinian Farmers Union (PFU)	Procurement of fresh food from local farmers and distribution to 2000 food insecure households	Food	185,850	3 months Ending august 15	North Gaza. Gaza Central, Khan Yunis, Rafah
22	25-May	The development of Palestinian Farmers Association	From poor farmers to poor families	food/agricultrue	122,100	3 months ending august 31	Gaza center
23	18-Jun	National Society for Rehabilitation	Providing psychosocial rehabilitation for	Disability/health	55,379	5 months end 30 Nov	Gaza
24	28-Jun	Merlin	Life saving emergency support to blood banking in Gaza	health	160,628	5 months end of 30 Nov	Gaza
25	05-Jul	Youth Development and Voluntary Work Association	To provide milk and nutrition supplies to still displaced people and vulnerable in Gaza	nutrition	135,220	4 months end of November	Gaza
26	05-Jul	ANERA	Renovation and Rehabilitation of pre-schools in Gaza	WASH/Education	93,325	5 months end of 15 December	Gaza
27	10-Aug	ACH	Improve the effluent of treated water quality at beit lahia wastewater treatment plant	WASH	81,000	5 months ending 31 Dec	Gaza
TOTAL FUNDS APPROVED					4,341,851		

Projects by location West Bank

Update | Jan - 31 Aug 2009



- Organization**
- ACTED/SHELTER
 - MA'AN/SHELTER
 - NEF/SHELTER
 - PU/SHELTER
 - RCSD/SHELTER
 - PHG/WATER

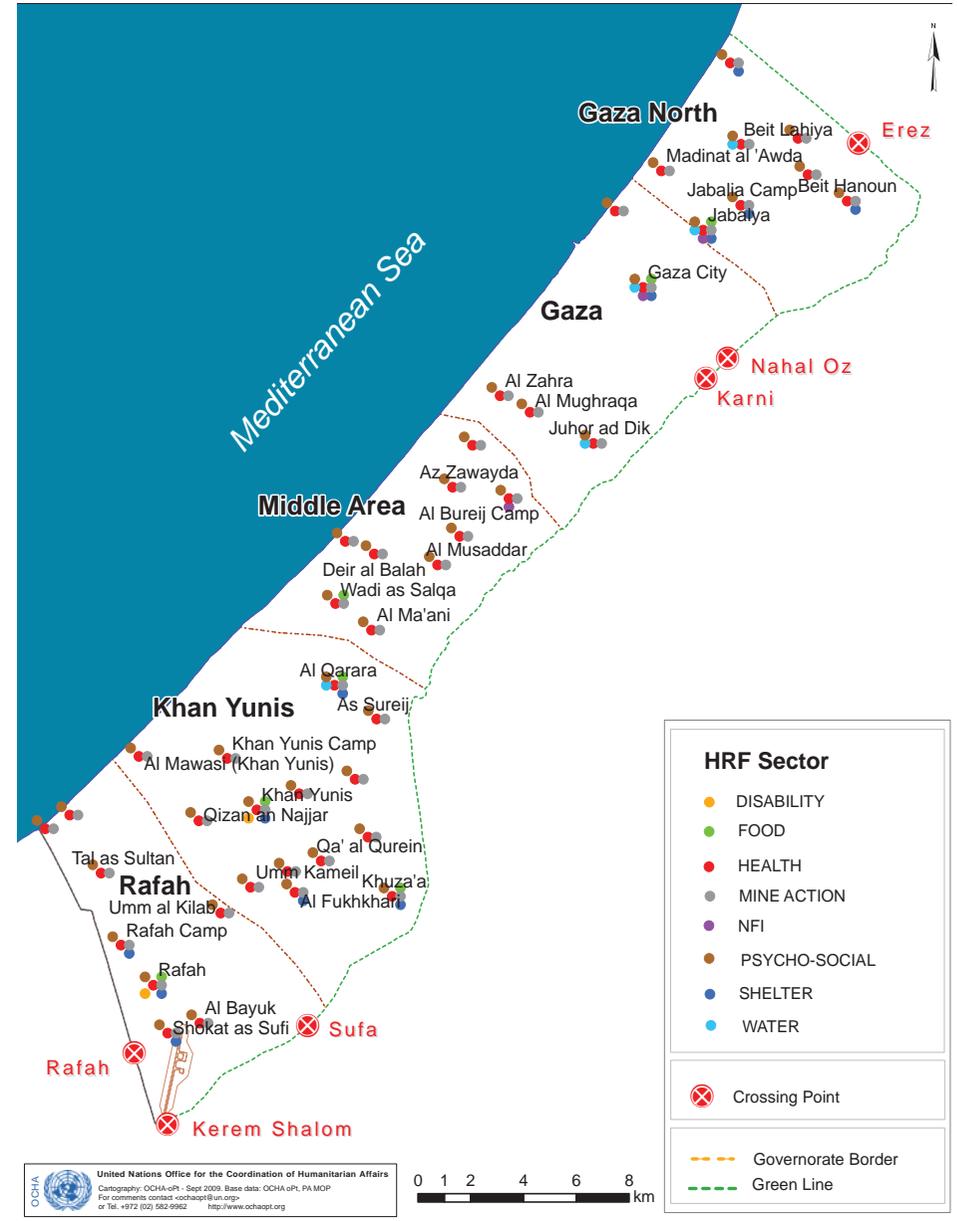
- Palestinian City**
- Governorate Capital
- Border**
- - - International Border
 - - - Green Line
 - - - Governorate limits

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
 Cartography: OCHA-oP - Oct 2008. Base data: PA MoP, July 2000 - OCHA
 Update 08. For comments contact: ochaopt@un.org
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Projects by location Gaza

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- HRF Sector**
- DISABILITY
 - FOOD
 - HEALTH
 - MINE ACTION
 - NFI
 - PSYCHO-SOCIAL
 - SHELTER
 - WATER
- ⊗ Crossing Point

- - - Governorate Border
- - - Green Line

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
 Cartography: OCHA-oP - Sept 2009. Base data: OCHA oP, PA MoP
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Proposal Review Process

