

# NDC GAZA APPEAL



*Updated: 27 AUG 2014*

On 7 July 2014, the Israeli army launched yet another massive military operation in the Gaza Strip, this time dubbed “Operation Protective Edge”. According to OCHA Gaza emergency situation report (August 26), in collaboration with humanitarian partners and preliminary data collected by the protection clusters, 2,101 Palestinians in Gaza have been killed of whom 1,460 are civilians (493 children and 253 women). An estimated 10,224 Palestinians, including 3,106 children and 1,970 women and 368 elderly, have been injured according to the Ministry of Health of which hundreds are in critical condition. The immediate ramifications of the military offensive include reduced access to already scarce and expensive food commodities; shortage in critical medical supplies to meet the needs of the sudden influxes of injuries; 17,200 housing units destroyed or severely damaged in addition to the destruction caused to public infrastructure including 216 schools and 58 health facilities; and the lack of industrial fuel for power generation. Fishing boats have been burned and destroyed rendering thousands of fishermen in need of livelihoods support and assistance. A minimum of 28,600 households relying on farming require urgent food assistance, as well as other interventions to re-establish livelihoods due to sustained damages of livestock, agricultural lands, crops and facilities. Over 475,000 people have been internally displaced and currently over 290,000 are hosted in UNRWA and government shelters<sup>1</sup>

In line with our mission to support the most vulnerable and marginalized strata of Palestinian Society, NDC has developed a three-fold intervention focusing on relief and recovery as the turmoil has subsided. This appeal draws on our experience and lessons learned from when we mobilized and coordinated the efforts of partner organizations to work across the Gaza Strip according to the needs identified in the 2009 Gaza Early Recovery and Reconstruction Plan.

## **1. Specialized Health and Rehabilitation:**

**USD 5.0 million**

The Ministry of Health in Gaza has announced a state of emergency. Several Primary health centers have closed while pre-existing shortages of medical supplies in hospitals are intensifying by the day with the growing number of injuries.

Explosive remnants present a major hazard to the population, particularly children, especially when they leave their places of shelter to search for their belongings among the rubble of their destroyed houses. Injuries vary from amputees requiring specialized prosthetics and burn and spinal cord injuries in need of specialized surgeons to injuries new and un-mounted by the most experienced physicians.

Through this intervention, NDC will support NGO hospitals and specialized clinics in Gaza which are providing specialized health care services (i.e. physical therapy, neurosurgery, ophthalmology, etc.), none of which are available in the current public health system. In 2009, NDC had a similar response where we brought in specialized medical technicians and consultants to work with health provider on ground. This time, donations will more specifically go towards:

<sup>1</sup> Data provided by OCHA, oPt, Gaza Emergency Situation Report (as of 26 August, 0800 hrs)

- Specialized technical assistance and medical missions
- Purchase and repair/maintenance of existing medical equipment.
- The provision of physical therapy to injured individuals
- The provision of mobility aids and medical equipment for people with disabilities

## 2. Recovery Services:

USD 5.0 million

At present, 373,000 children whose families have been subject to casualties, injuries or loss of homes are in need of psychosocial support (PSS). Through this intervention, NDC will support Gaza through financing social services in response to the current humanitarian crisis. Sponsored projects will range from psychosocial and therapeutic support to rehabilitation and livelihoods focused interventions. A special focus will be on NGO-operated kindergartens in the Gaza Strip and projects targeting children and youth, in an effort to alleviate the suffering of young children, their families, and early-education personnel.

Building on NDC's previous experience of working with a large number of NGOs in the Gaza Strip and our extensive network of partners on ground, the recovery response will also include house rehabilitations and damage repair of NGO facilities so that social service provisions can resume as quickly as possible.

## 3. Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Water:

USD 5.0 million

Locally produced food represents an important source of nutritious and affordable food, with some 28,600 households relying on farming, livestock-raising and fishing. Farming lands have been targeted damaging agricultural livelihoods including loss of valuable crops and animals. According to the FAO, the hostilities have left 17,000 hectares of croplands as well as agricultural infrastructure, including, greenhouses, irrigation systems animal farms, fodder stocks and fishing boats largely damaged, forcing farmers and herders to abandon their lands.

Over 1.5 million people have been affected as a result of damages to WASH infrastructures leaving them with very limited access water and sanitation services as result of lack of fuel to run generators in the midst of damaged electricity systems.

In the 2009 response, NDC helped rehabilitate 41 damaged water wells in Gaza through three implementing partners. For a more long-term impact, NDC will work to redevelop and re-build agricultural land and facilities that were destroyed by the Israeli attacks in the Gaza Strip, provide livestock and restore fishing boats and rehabilitate damaged water wells.

NDC joined efforts to help in the early recovery and reconstruction efforts in Gaza after the 2008/2009 war. With the current appalling situation, we once again feel the urgent need to act. Through our team on ground, networks and partner-NGOs based in the Gaza Strip, we can once again mobilize and coordinate our partners to better respond to and scale up recovery efforts.

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**Please note:** Figures are based on OCHA's Gaza Emergency Situation report and will be updated regularly.