

occupied Palestinian territory 2018 (part of 2018-2020 HRP)

Appealing Agency	UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)
Project Title	Strengthen Gaza Health system, community's preparedness, resilience and response to reproductive health needs in crises
Project Code	OPT-18/H/114595
Sector/Cluster	Health and Nutrition Cluster
Refugee project	No
Objectives	<p>HNO Cluster Strategic Objectives:</p> <p># 1: Access to services Ensure the availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of essential lifesaving health services to vulnerable communities in Gaza and West Bank.</p> <p># 2: Preparedness Vulnerable communities and health facilities, in the West Bank and Gaza better prepared to respond to emergencies and reduce avoidable mortality and morbidity.</p>
Beneficiaries	<p>Total: 200,400 women, men and girls in reproductive age</p> <p>Female: 190,000</p> <p>Male: 10,000</p> <p>Adult (18-59): 200,000</p> <p>Refugees: 125,000</p> <p>IDPs: 10,000</p> <p>Other group: 400 health providers, practitioners and community members/leaders</p>
Implementing Partners	MoH & NGOs including PMRS and UHWC
Project Duration	Jan 2018 - Dec 2018
Current Funds Requested	\$1,166,400
Location	Projects covering just Gaza
Gender Marker Code	2a - The project is designed to contribute significantly to gender equality
Contact Details	Anders Thomsen, Osama Abueita, thomsen@unfpa.org, abueita@unfpa.org, 00972549 201341; 00972 599 121191
Cash transfer programming	<p>Is any part of this project cash transfer programming (including vouchers)? No</p> <p>Conditionality:</p> <p>Restrictions:</p> <p>Estimated percentage of project requirements to be used for cash/vouchers: 0</p>

Needs

The protracted humanitarian crisis and frequent peaks affecting the Palestinian territories with extreme violent escalation episodes and prolonged siege over Gaza have exhausted health system as well as communities' coping mechanisms at institutional and operational levels.

With the latest electricity crisis, depleted material supplies for health services and remarkably increased levels of unemployment and poverty, health conditions and services continue to deteriorate. The system capacity is struggling to recover, with weak preparedness and contingencies including shortages in supplies and human resources, and compromised access to reproductive health "RH" care including; life-saving emergency obstetric care services and information, poor linkage between communities and available services especially in crisis where some facilities cease functioning due to direct hit or inability of staff to reach; putting pregnant women at greater risks as well as their companions and threatening of increased maternal morbidity and mortality.

Early 2017, additional constrains were added to impede Gazans women access to services. Electricity crisis, shortages in essential drugs and supplies and declined referral of patients as a result of political division between West Bank and Gaza have further complicated the scene and according to Gaza health authorities, 40% of drugs and 34% of disposables in Gaza are currently at absolute zero stock level and 24 people have died due to delays in referral procedures. Fuel supply to generators are at a stock to support only vital hospitals functions, negatively affecting elective surgeries, sterilization and day care procedures. While this had not culminated into severe health system collapse due to coping measures adopted, continuation of current situation and the latest extreme decreased electricity supplies, salaries cut and early retirement of civil servants in Gaza, are having a direct, negative impact on the social and economic rights of Gazans. Among others, health and education sectors are severely impacted leading to decreased access of vulnerable women's, girls to RH services and information at various levels of care. Despite its importance and expected positive impact on the health status of Gaza, the recent reconciliation agreement and expected return of the PA/MOH coverage over Gaza is a genuine start towards relieving the situation and preventing system collapse. Yet, health system recovery needs long time, resources and technical and managerial support to PA, which this project would add to.

This intervention is linked to objective 1 and 2 in the HRP 2018, UNFPA aims at saving women's lives through strengthening system and community access and preparedness to life-saving services and information on; safe childbirth, Preconception care, early detection of breast cancer, antenatal care with focus on high risk pregnancies etc. and enhancing knowledge of and utilization of essential RH services, during acute crises. Through this project, UNFPA will build on previous support, cooperation and coordination with major health providers in Gaza including UNRWA and Health NGOs to ensure access of vulnerable women's, men and girls to RH services as well as strengthen system and community preparedness. Also, this project shall complement UNFPA efforts to advocate and position the "Minimal Initial Service Package for RH (MISP)" as key tool for improving community and system preparedness. In 2015, UNFPA created a core group of trainers on MISP in Gaza and was able to roll out training to different organizations including UNRWA to enhance the preparedness of the Gaza health system on RH issues. UNFPA shall expand MISP model approach, targeting emergency councils in different institutions, healthcare managers, practitioners and designated shelter managers and workers all over Gaza to enforce the capacity/preparedness of emergency teams and health system to respond to needs of women during crises

Activities or outputs

This project complements a recent UNFPA humanitarian intervention, supported by Japan and targeted 6 maternities and 8 PHC clinics, including establishment of new digital mammography unit at Rimal center in Gaza, creating a network of 75 health staff, who were trained on safe delivery and referral as to support safe childbirth at the community and/or PHC facility, or appropriately refer cases to further assistance. Through this project, and building on lessons learned, and project external evaluation, UNFPA will respond to MOH urgent RH services needs by filling gaps and preventing system collapse through providing critically needed medications, equipment, instruments and supplies to the targeted facilities, and including others “mainly PHCs” with focus on Shifa, as the main referral maternity in Gaza, and other major maternities. Focus shall also include facilities serving vulnerable and access restricted areas, including Shijayya, Johr Aldeek, eastern Salah Eldin, Khuzaa and southern Gaza.

Practically, and in order to enrich the intervention and expand its coverage, UNFPA will work on the following domains;

- Strengthen access to RH services, through supporting major maternities and PHC facilities, with critically needed equipment/instruments, drugs, supplies as well as training on updated emergency obstetric protocols.
- Support introduction of preconception care services & information at PHC level, training of staff and equipping clinics.
- Expand capacity of national providers in screening and detection of cases of breast cancer BC, improve referrals to confirmation/treatment centres, and scale up comprehensive approach to BC treatment and care for survivors within the MOH and civil society organizations.
- Support networks of community activists and implement community mobilization campaign including health education/awareness component, that will target the issues from community and women empowerment perspective via educating families and girls on basic gender and human rights issues, including women/girls with disability and their personal hygiene and RE needs, risks “health and social” of early marriage and promotion of healthy outcomes and reproduction, supporting positive participation on relief and preparedness to emergencies.

Specific outcomes:

- I. Strengthened capacity of RH services with focus on saving lives in emergencies, through provision of critical needs and supplies as well as improving health provider’s capacities
- II. Expanded safe delivery and other networks of professionals, community practitioners and volunteers supporting their neighbourhoods’ resilience.
- III. Advocate for institutionalizing MISP as essential component in preparedness and response to RH in crisis.
- IV. Enhanced community knowledge, preparedness and resilience on various RH issues, and available services especially during crises; through community awareness on high risk pregnancies, safe delivery, prevention and early detection of breast cancer etc. and enhancing access to psycho social and rehabilitation services improving quality of life for survivors.

Activities:

- Provision of life savings needs; drugs & disposables, equipment, instruments and medical furniture to 6 central maternities and 20 PHC clinics.
- Improve the capacity/skills of 400 health providers, practitioners on preconception care, safe delivery, MISP, breast clinical exam, mammography imaging and other RH issues.
- Provide, and preposition individual safe delivery kits with old and new trainees, ambulances and PHCs.
- Update and maintain the database of safe delivery trainees and disseminate to the public and media.
- Improve community emergency preparedness in isolated communities through enhancing awareness and /or linkages with appropriate service delivery points and available members of the safe delivery and community networks.
- Conduct community mobilization campaign; establishment of community networks, outreach sessions, media

Indicators and targets

MONITORING AND EVALUATION:

UNFPA shall integrate project components/activities into its annual work plans with partners and will develop a detailed monitoring and evaluation plan, in line with UNFPA’s M&E system and framework, which includes monitoring activities and appropriate tools that will be used to track project performance indicators and achievements of results. The monitoring framework shall track progress against achieving key deliverables and milestones both on partners and UNFPA directly implemented activities.

UNFPA jointly with implementing partners will conduct regular field monitoring visits to the implementation sites, to assess and track progress towards planned results, and address challenges that may affect implementation. UNFPA and IPs will be ensuring/advocating vulnerable beneficiaries i.e. marginalized people, GBV survivors and women & girls with disabilities are reached and mechanisms to reach them and facilitate their access to services are considered by providers, . Also, field monitoring visits may be planned and done jointly with the donors upon their request.

The following indicators/targets shall be monitored by UNFPA and partners:

- Number of Gaza health facilities benefited from equipment and supplies provided: 26
- Number of women/pregnant women benefited from enhanced maternity and PHC services, quality, coverage of obstetric care: 150,000
- Number of beneficiaries reached through community campaign “sessions and media”: 100,000
- Number of Health providers benefited from training on several RH issues: 400
- Number of individual safe delivery kits procured: 275
- Number of delivery kits/supplies pre -positioned at PHCs and Ambulances: 50

Indicator	Project target
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United Nations Population Fund(UNFPA)	
Original BUDGET items	\$
Community Campaign; Health education program and community networks	100,000
Improve skills and capacity of health providers, practitioners on preconception care, safe delivery,	50,000
Provision of drugs, equipment, Kits, medical supplies and instruments	850,000
Project staffing, on part time modality, including; Project field coordinator.	80,000
Administration cost (8%)	86,400
Total	1,166,400

United Nations Population Fund(UNFPA)	
Current BUDGET items	\$
Community Campaign; Health education program and community networks	100,000
Improve skills and capacity of health providers, practitioners on preconception care, safe delivery,	50,000
Provision of drugs, equipment, Kits, medical supplies and instruments	850,000
Project staffing, on part time modality, including; Project field coordinator.	80,000
Administration cost (8%)	86,400
Total	1,166,400