

# Alert

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## Occupied Palestinian Territory

# Continuous Support to Conflict Affected People

Geneva, 24 March 2011

### 1. Brief description of the emergency

During 2010, life in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) continued to be characterized by violence, poverty, lack of access to basic goods and services, impeded freedom of movement, aid dependency, and land confiscation. Palestinians face an ongoing crisis in terms of education, health and economic sectors as well as a crisis in the protection of civilians. Ultimately, only a resolution to the long running political conflict between Israel and the Palestinians will begin to address the root of these afflictions, but in the interim, it is the duty of the humanitarian community to address these ongoing humanitarian emergencies.

### 2. Impact

The blockade has daily impacts on the population. According to an UN OCHA report, lack of fuel for the power station causes about 98% of Gaza's residents to suffer rationed electricity. It negatively impacts the utilization of water wells and the operation of the desalination plant, affecting the availability of clean drinking water.

In general, Gaza's health sector was and is under duress: thousands were injured during the military operation "Cast Lead" in the winter 2008/2009. Gaza's health facilities are still struggling as much structural damage remains and supplies are inconsistent. Psychosocial health is another major concern in Gaza, especially for children. Agriculture has been hit hard by the siege, and suffers from a lack of seeds, pesticides, machinery and parts for irrigation systems. Another area integral to the Gaza economy is fishing. This sector suffers from extreme limitations, in that fishermen are restricted to a zone extending only three nautical miles from the coast.

In the West Bank, displacement and the threat of displacement also continued in 2010. Conservative estimates suggest some 60,000 Palestinians are currently at risk of having their homes demolished. As of October 2010, Israeli authorities had demolished 285 Palestinian

homes and other buildings in the West Bank (including East Jerusalem), displacing 340 people. Across the West Bank, Palestinians continued to face unemployment, at a rate exceeding 23% (UNRWA). Israel maintains onerous restrictions on the movement of Palestinians in the West Bank, especially in locations with the "Area C" designation, which is under exclusive Israeli civil and military control.

### **3. National and international response**

As a result, more than 70% of the population now depends on various forms of aid from international organisations in part because these agencies are the only ones able to bring many necessities in. In 2007, humanitarian aid amounted to 3% of imports; by 2010 this figure had risen to 26% (Bt Selem Report May 2010).

### **4. ACT Alliance response**

ACT through the national forum and previous appeals has supported the health, education and economy sectors to reduce people's suffering. ACT Palestine Forum Members are:

- Middle East Council of Churches/Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (MECC/DSPR).
- Lutheran World Federation (LWF).
- International Orthodox Christian Charities – Jerusalem, West Bank, Gaza (IOCC-JWBG).
- East Jerusalem-Young Men's Christian Association (EJ-YMCA).
- DanChurchAid (DCA).
- Christian Aid (CA).
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL).
- Norwegian Church Aid (NCA).

### **5. Planned activities**

The ACT Palestine Forum (APF), with its different members, is planning to support the most needy people in health, psychosocial care, education, agriculture, and advocacy geared at ending the blockade in order to reduce and alleviate the suffering of the Palestinians. Some activities will be carried out jointly and some by individual member organisations. The entire APF response will be coordinated and supported by the APF Coordinator.

**Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to Jean-Daniel Birmele, ACT Chief Finance Officer ([Jean\\_Daniel.Birmele@actalliance.org](mailto:Jean_Daniel.Birmele@actalliance.org)).**

**Thank you for your attention.**

### **For further information please contact:**

ACT Regional Programme Officer, Josef Pfattner (phone +4122 791 6710)

or

ACT Deputy General Secretary, Rebecca Larson (phone +41 22 791 6069 or mobile phone +41 79 376 1711)