

# UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People

## Proposed Emergency Response to the Gaza Crisis

November 2023



The war in Gaza is a “crisis of humanity”. The entire population of 2.2 million of Palestinians in Gaza are now in critical need of aid. More than 10,000 people have been killed, and thousands more have been injured. Since the beginning of the war, more than 1.5 million Gazans have fled their homes and have become internally displaced. As is often the case in conflicts, the most vulnerable civilians, and in particular women, children, and persons with disabilities, bear the heaviest brunt. Homes, hospitals, schools and other critical services infrastructure have been reduced to rubble. In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, the security situation has been rapidly deteriorating as well. The number of Palestinians killed in the West Bank in one month since 7 October accounts for more than one-third of all Palestinian fatalities in the West Bank in 2023.

According to the latest UNDP/ESCWA rapid assessment, “The Gaza War: Expected Socio-Economic Impacts on the State of Palestine”, the war in Gaza has already caused massive loss of life and infrastructure damage. These losses will have short- and long-term socioeconomic consequences, long-term deprivation, and a reduction in human development that is propagating to the whole of the occupied Palestinian territory.

### If the war goes on, by the end of the second month:

#### POVERTY RATE



Increase by 34%

#### HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



Set back by 16 years in the oPt and 19 years in Gaza

#### ECONOMIC LOSSES



Would amount to US\$1.7 billion

### UNDP/PAPP Planned Response to the Gaza Crisis

UNDP/PAPP has been operating in Gaza since 1989 and has proven expertise in rapidly deploying emergency response and early recovery interventions in the aftermath of repeated escalations of hostilities (e.g., 2008-2009, 2014, 2021, 2023). At present, as the war is ongoing and there is continued heavy bombardment throughout Gaza, only lifesaving activities are feasible. UNDP's full emergency response will be scaled up as soon as the security and operational environment allows.



## The following immediate life-saving activities are planned for implementation in Gaza even during the war:



Deployment of critical staff to health facilities and municipalities through emergency employment/cash for work modality to provide critical services (e.g. life-saving health, waste, water and electricity);



Provision of health emergency support, including medical supplies;



Deployment of youth volunteers to provide psychosocial relief in shelters.



Supply of mobile off-grid solar-operated desalination units that serve IDP communities;



Provision of support through the Egyptian Red Crescent;

In order to ensure that the response and recovery efforts prioritise the most pressing needs, UNDP/PAPP in collaboration with other UN agencies and national partners, has begun assessments including the following:

Socio-Economic Impact of the War on oPt: regionally-led rapid assessment in collaboration with ESCWA (and UNOSAT) to determine the socio-economic consequences of the war on Gaza, with key economic indicators.

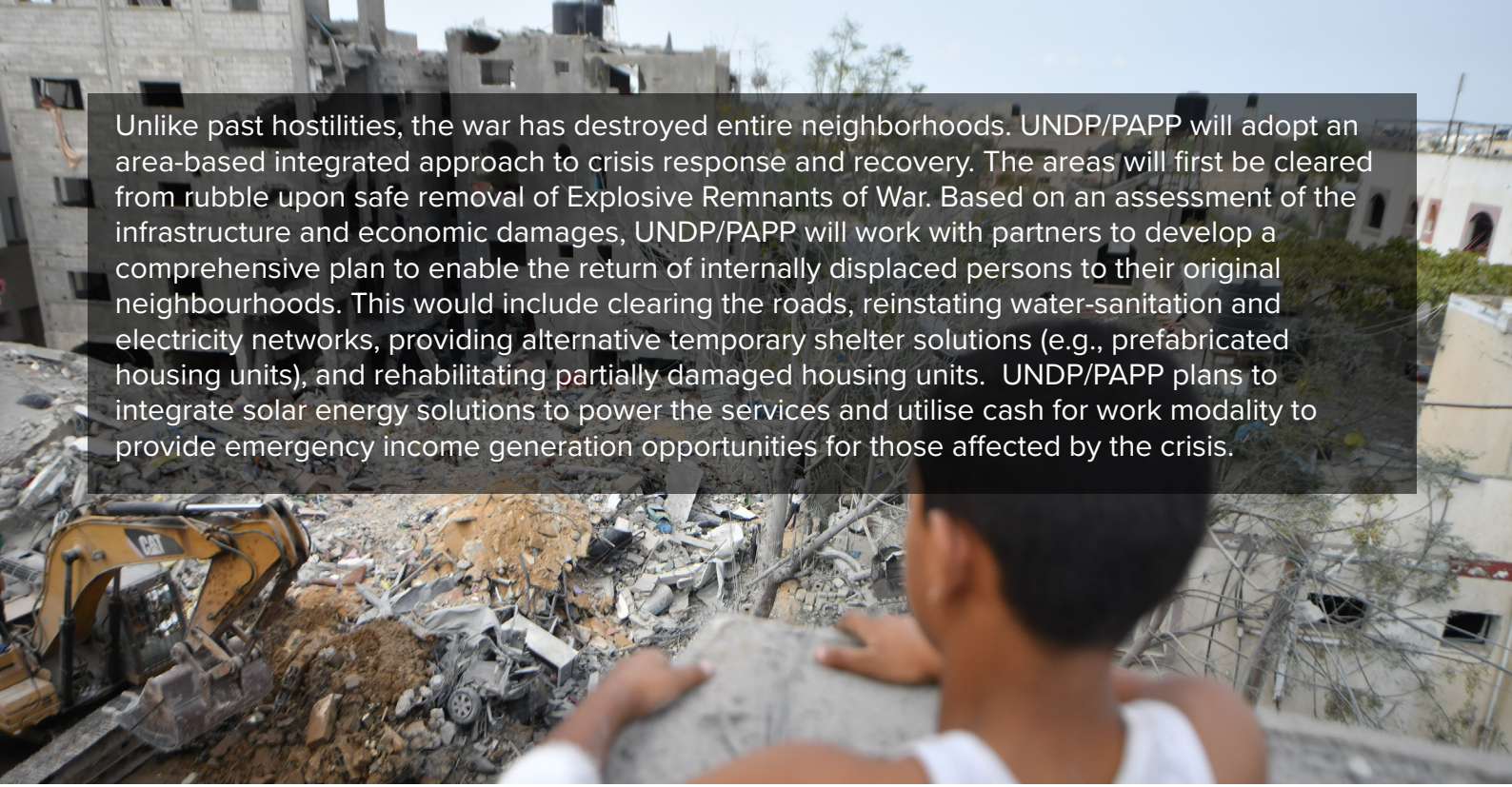
Detailed Gaza Infrastructure Damage Assessment: implemented in coordination with humanitarian clusters and national partners on the ground, in-depth assessment of damages to socio-economic infrastructure (e.g. health facilities, schools, utilities, housing, and municipal facilities) providing estimates for financial resources required for rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Series of In-depth Economic Impact Assessments for oPt: local assessment in collaboration with ILO and others, focusing on jobs, livelihoods and private sector - for Gazans, Gazan workers in Israel, West Bank workers in Israel.



Once necessary resources are mobilised and the security situation allows, the following interventions can be implemented in Gaza based on assessment findings, particularly focusing on the most vulnerable including women and persons with disabilities:

-  Management of debris and rubble to safely remove rubble to allow for the unimpeded passage of ambulances and access to critical services, and reuse in rehabilitation activities.
-  Provision of temporary shelter/housing solutions for families whose homes have been destroyed or damaged.
-  Support to emergency health, including essential medical supplies and/or equipment for hospitals and other healthcare facilities, and Mobile Health Clinics to provide emergency care until health facilities are rehabilitated.
-  Expanding emergency employment and cash for work opportunities to ensure continued delivery of essential public services, particularly in the areas of health and municipal services, as well as education and critical private sector services.
-  Scaling up of mobile establishment of mobile off-grid solar-operated desalination units.
-  Repair of essential basic infrastructure such as water and sanitation facilities while mainstreaming solar energy solutions and energy efficiency as possible to attain sustainability.
-  Immediate rehabilitation of housing for families whose homes were damaged during the hostilities.
-  Provision of support to small scale producers in Gaza



Unlike past hostilities, the war has destroyed entire neighborhoods. UNDP/PAPP will adopt an area-based integrated approach to crisis response and recovery. The areas will first be cleared from rubble upon safe removal of Explosive Remnants of War. Based on an assessment of the infrastructure and economic damages, UNDP/PAPP will work with partners to develop a comprehensive plan to enable the return of internally displaced persons to their original neighbourhoods. This would include clearing the roads, reinstating water-sanitation and electricity networks, providing alternative temporary shelter solutions (e.g., prefabricated housing units), and rehabilitating partially damaged housing units. UNDP/PAPP plans to integrate solar energy solutions to power the services and utilise cash for work modality to provide emergency income generation opportunities for those affected by the crisis.

The impact of the Gaza war is not only affecting the people of Gaza, but is having a profound effect on the Palestinians in the West Bank as well. UNDP/PAPP's comprehensive approach will include lifeline support, legal aid and job opportunities for Gazan workers stranded in the West Bank, as well as support to workers impacted economically in the West Bank as a result of increased instability and movement restrictions, such as olive growers. UNDP/PAPP will employ an all-of-oPt approach. For example, lifeline support to stranded workers (e.g., clothing, hygiene kits) may be supplied by merchants and small businesses in Jerusalem's Old City and women-led social enterprises to support their economic resilience. Additional activities may include support to civil society organisations and digital solutions to address emerging issues and needs (e.g., monitoring of incitement to violence and misinformation on digital/online platforms).

UNDP/PAPP has proven expertise and operational capacities to implement the Emergency Response Programme. While complexities and limitations of the current operational context augment and persist, mitigation measures are in place and UNDP is continuously adapting its preparation and implementation approaches to the prevailing situation on the ground.

UNDP/PAPP will implement its Gaza Emergency Response Programme in close coordination with UN entities, the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator, and national and international partners to amplify synergies and complementarities.

UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (PAPP) was established through a resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly on 20 December 1978, calling upon UNDP "to improve the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people". UNDP/PAPP's Palestinian Programme Framework 2023 – 2025, aligned with the UN Cooperation Framework, is centered on the concept of "Transformative Resilience" with integrated and cross-sectoral programming in the following areas: i) Democratic Governance and Quality Services; ii) Inclusive Economic Opportunities; iii) Sustainable Natural Resources Management. The total delivery for the past five years (2018 – 2022) was \$340 million, and the total value of on-going programming is around \$288 million.

