



Save the Children

SAVE THE CHILDREN ALLIANCE
GAZA EMERGENCY - SITREP #34
2nd June 2009



Children at our partner KG in Beit Hanoun. Photo by Osama Damo (SC UK).

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1. GENERAL OVERVIEW

With the blockade completing its 22nd month and the needs that emerged out of Israel’s “Cast Lead” offensive still hardly addressed, the entire population of Gaza remains affected by a severe crisis of human dignity. Access for humanitarian supplies and basic goods was significantly reduced as Israel closed the crossings for the Jewish holiday of Passover. Fewer truckloads entered Gaza in April than in any month in 2009. No benzene or diesel has been allowed into Gaza for five months and cooking gas continued to be rationed. Raw sewage was back-flowing into homes in Khan Younis due to the deterioration in the sewage and waste-water treatment systems; during April, only three truckloads of plastic pipes for water and wastewater projects for the private sector were allowed into Gaza, after being barred entry since late October 2008 - an insignificant contribution in relation to the overall needs.

Other access impediments have further undermined the livelihoods of vulnerable populations throughout the oPt. In Gaza, the Israeli forces prevented farmers and fishermen from reaching cultivated areas in the proximity of the border, as well as sea areas beyond three nautical miles from the shore. This has impacted the harvest season of barley and wheat, and the peak of the sardine season, both of which take place during April. In addition, there were hundreds of Palestinians from

*Gaza with acute medical problems, seeking specialized medical care outside of Gaza, who were unable to obtain the needed care due to the blockade and the political dispute between the Hamas authorities in Gaza and the Palestinian Authority in Ramallah. At the end of April, the dispute was resolved, allowing 90 patients to cross Erez during April, compared to 325 in March 2009.*¹

2. OVERVIEW OF SAVE THE CHILDREN RESPONSE

Number of beneficiaries (and how many of them are children) we plan to reach:

- A minimum of 10% of the affected population, or roughly **150,000 people**, half of them children.

Number of beneficiaries (and how many of them are children) reached so far:

- Approximately **144,435** (not including medical supplies to hospitals; overlap hard to estimate), **80,883 of them children**.
- Number of beneficiaries (and how many of them are children) reached since last sitrep: **9,010** including **5,045 children**.

Overview of Response Updates by Sector:

- **Relief:** 22 family hygiene kits were distributed in Gaza governorate, reaching 154 beneficiaries.
- **Protection:** In coordination with the engineering department a rapid assessment has been carried out to identify open spaces for the establishment of 8 playgrounds in remote areas.
- **Education:** 108 participatory mother awareness sessions were held during the reporting period with 1,285 mothers participating. Minimum standards of education in emergencies (INEE) TOT is being carried out with 37 principals and teachers as well as four SC education field coordinators.
- **Health:** 4 group sessions on health education were conducted through our partners (on avoiding risks during pregnancy, postnatal nutrition, antenatal care, and fetal monitoring) reaching 91 women and children from the target areas. 560 children under 5YO received micronutrients.
- **WASH:** SC completed the project to rehabilitate water and sewer systems and install new filtration units in 20 kindergartens. SC and CMWU began replacement of the damaged pipeline in Rafah; 20% of the work has been completed.
- **Livelihoods:** 248 vulnerable households are in the process of collecting a direct cash grant (NIS 1200) from the bank. A total of 286 beneficiaries are currently participating in Cash for Work Projects.

¹ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, occupied Palestinian territory, “The Humanitarian Monitor – April 2009” released 15 May 2009.

http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha_opt_humanitarian_monitor_2009_15_05_english.pdf