



مركز العمل التنموي/معاً
MA'AN Development Center

Gaza Appeal 2014: Situation Update [August 30th]

Gaza in focus:

- 1.8m people
- 365km²
- 70% of population are refugees from 1948 expulsion
- 57% of families food insecure prior to the current offensive
- 80% of households remain below the poverty line
- Blockaded since 2007



Our Target? Humanitarian assistance to 20,000+ families and 30,000+ children. **Overheads?** None. 100% goes directly to those in need.

“Any peace effort that does not tackle the root causes of the crisis will do little more than set the stage for the next cycle of violence”. – Spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General 26/8/14

On August 28th, an Egyptian-brokered ceasefire was agreed upon by Israel, the Palestinian Authority and armed groups in Gaza. The terms of this agreement are yet to be fully, and officially released, though some media reports have suggested that the agreement includes: an opening of all Israeli border crossings for humanitarian aid and critical reconstruction materials, the transfer of control of the Gaza side of these crossings to the PA, a reinstatement of the fishing limit to 6NM, and the cancellation of the 3km buffer zone forcibly cleared during Israel's ground invasion (reset at 100m). Indirect negotiations to finalise the terms of the ceasefire agreement are scheduled to take place within one month. In order for this ceasefire to be sustainable, however, negotiations must emphasise human rights above all, and must therefore include a full end to the 47-year occupation.

Whilst the immediate massacre has ceased, the grave humanitarian crisis not only persists, but also worsens as the dust settles and the extent of the damage is felt. For example, OCHA has cited concern for those returning to what is left of their homes, as explosive remnants of war (ERWs) persist in all areas. Additionally, there remain severe shortages of fuel, electricity, water and shelter that must be addressed. Extensive psychosocial support is urgently required for more than 373,000 children who are showing heightened signs of distress including bed-wetting and nightmares.

Fatalities: 2,133+
Injuries: 10,193
Homes destroyed: 18,000
IDPs: 475,000+
Hospitals & clinics damaged or destroyed: 24
Electricity supply status: 6 hr/day
Orphaned children: 1,500

Key issues:

- **Water supply** remains inadequate in most governorates despite some repairs having been performed. It is estimated that the water sector has sustained at least US\$34 million in damages.
- **ERWs** (explosive remnants of war) remain a serious concern for people returning to their homes, as well as humanitarian workers.
- **Emergency education and psychosocial rehabilitation** for children and adolescents remains a priority. As the new school year has commenced, OCHA has identified the need for education programs to adapt in order to provide such support, as well as traditional education programs.
- **Alternative safe housing** required for at least 108,000 IDPs. Tens of thousands of people have now left temporary shelters, yet many will return to their homes to find them destroyed and will now require long-term housing solutions.
- **Emergency food** supplies and **NFI**s (non-food items, such as hygiene goods) required

MA'ANs Emergency Response

As of August 30th, your generous contributions have helped us to reach thousands of families to provide them with dignified emergency shelter, as well as water supply, food, bedding and hygiene items, in addition to extensive psychosocial care.

MA'AN Development Center (in partnership with The Welfare Organisation, WFP/Oxfam, UNICEF, UPA, AFPS, APHEDA, GIZ, as well as individual contributions) is continuing its work in the Gaza Strip to provide emergency assistance to those affected by the Israeli bombardment of the besieged territory and its people.

Water

In the last two weeks, MA'AN has implemented a highly successful water distribution campaign. As pictured, the concept utilizes large 'water bladders' that are filled at a central location where water is available, and distributed amongst communities in Shujaiyeh, Toffah, Zaytoon, Babra, Sheikh Radwan. To date, we have been able to provide 3,276 cubic meters of safe water to 2,453 families.



Community members watch on as MA'AN staff fill a portable water bladder with safe water for distribution to families in need.

Psychosocial care

MA'ANs post-conflict rehabilitation programme has now reached wider than initially expected. As of August 30th, 12,339 children and adolescents have received psychosocial support within both UNRWA schools and Ministry of Education schools. The activities include various stress-relieving games and activities, as well as safe discussion about shared experiences and feelings. The response to these programs has been excellent, and the demand remains high; OCHA estimates that approximately 373,000 children require *urgent* assistance of this kind, while more than half of Gaza's population possess varying levels and symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorders.



MA'AN staff conduct psychosocial activities with adolescents and children at a UNRWA school.

Food kits and vouchers

1,530 pre-packaged emergency food kits have been provided to families as of today. Additionally food vouchers have been given to 23,619 families, who can use these vouchers at nominated stores to purchase basic food items. Purchases are monitored by field staff who are present at the stores to ensure transparency and proper assistance. This also ensures that all items bought with these vouchers are of an essential rather than luxurious nature.



Residents and shop owners document the expenditure of MA'AN food vouchers at a store in Gaza.

Hygiene kits and vouchers

1,531 pre-packaged hygiene kits have been provided to date, which have included basic sanitary and personal care items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, female sanitary items, body soap and more. Additionally, 23,000 vouchers for the purchasing of personal hygiene goods have been distributed to needy families, with a particular emphasis on IDPs and women. As with the food voucher programme, these purchases are monitored for need and transparency.

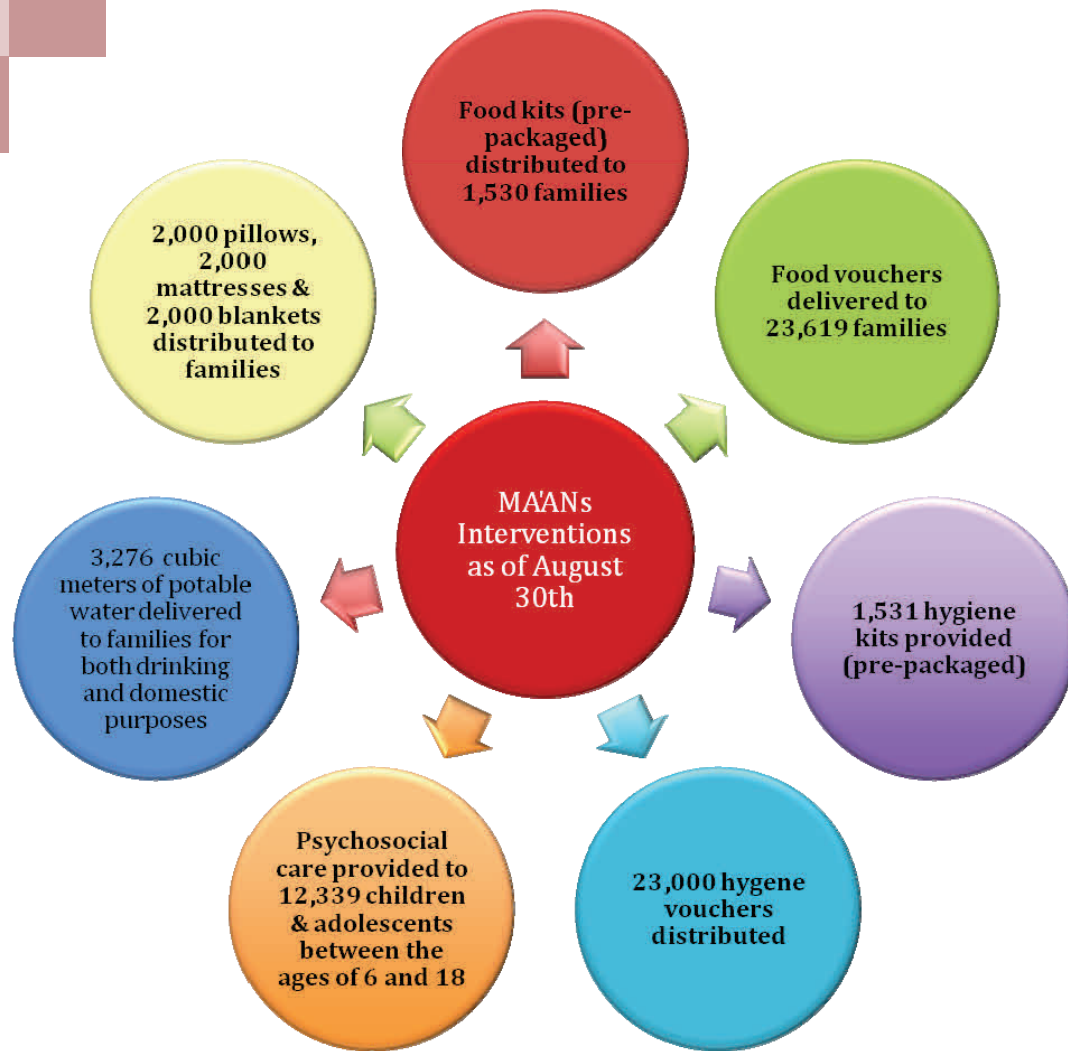
Mattresses, pillows and blankets for IDPs

Early in MA'ANs interventions, we supplied 2,000 pillows, 2,000 mattresses, and 2,000 blankets to families in Gaza, thanks to many generous financial contributions from various individual donors and organisations. These assisted many people who had been internally displaced by the Israeli attack to remain as comfortable as possible in the circumstances during their stays at shelters or with friends and family.



MA'AN Staff Distribute bedding for Gaza's IDPs





Following on from these well-received interventions, we have a long way to go in the coming weeks as the dust settles. With this in mind, MA'AN is seeking to continue its targeted response, with your assistance.

**How can
I help?**

To support the Palestinian people in Gaza during this imposed catastrophe, please contribute to MA'AN's Gaza Appeal 2014. 100% of all donations directly to those in need – no overheads. For more specific information on how to do this, email lnasr@maan-ctr.org. Any donation you can make is greatly appreciated.