

**Situation Overview
'One Year On'**

One year after operation Cast Lead military offensive on Gaza, little of the extensive damage it caused to homes and infrastructure has been repaired. As families are still coming to terms with their losses they are being prevented from rebuilding due to the blockade on the Gaza Strip. What remains the main priority is the lifting of the blockade and a large-scale reconstruction effort taking place allowing the realization of the local resources and open markets. Only the repair of minor damaged houses has taken place during the past year, all within the framework of self help projects with beneficiaries utilizing limited materials available at significantly increase costs.

First response during and in the war's aftermath was the provision of NFIs to displaced and affected communities, including host families. Agencies also provided **Cash assistance for living expenses** to all those whose houses have been destroyed or have suffered major damages, to cover rental fees and other expenses until reconstruction or repair can take place (table 1.2).

Data source: Shelter Sector Gaza - Unified Shelter Sector Database (USSD)
<http://www.sheltergaza.org>

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"In order for the population of Gaza to live in dignity, it is estimated that 9,275 housing units need to be built, 2,886 housing units need to be completed, this is excluding tens of thousands of units required to cover natural growth"



The Cast Lead Caseload / progress

Detailed assessments by key agencies have taken place of, minor, major and totally damage houses. Approximately **60,000** families, comprising of an estimated **325,000** individuals, have had their house demolished or damaged. Through the Untied Shelter Cluster Database (USCD), the sector has recorded the results as follows:

| Agency | Minor Repair | | Major Repair | | Totally demolished/beyond repair | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| | Total | Completed | Total | Completed | Total | Completed |
| UN Agencies | 53405 | 41723 | 2798 | 69 | 3375 | 0 |
| Authorities | 41455 | 0 | 3750 | 0 | 1969 | 0 |
| NGOs | - | - | 2323 | 0 | 2603 | 0 |
| Total | - | 41723 | - | 69 | - | 0 |

Table 1.0 Number of beneficiaries qualifying for assistance, and works completed to-date

Notes:

1. Agencies have slightly different qualifying criteria for the same case loads
2. NGOs only carried out assessments of minor damage and did not register qualifying cases
3. Table 1.1 below shows details of total number of assessments carried out
4. Table 1.2 below shows details of cash assistance provided for rent and living expenses
5. Table 1.3 below shows details of cash assistance for repairs provided to-date

Major repair / reconstruction

No significant reconstruction of houses has taken place due to unavailability of materials.

Winterization

Again this year, various agencies are distributing plastic sheeting, tarpaulins and other materials to weatherproof the most vulnerable homes.

Situation of the displaced

With the provision of cash assistance for living expenses and rental assistance, the majority of those displaced, estimated at 20,000 persons, have been able to rent or find alternative housing. The rental market has grown tighter as a result of this increased demand that has not been matched by any new construction, resulting in increase in rental costs in most areas, particularly in Rafah. As a result, many families are unable to rent and are living with relatives, forcing many families to share their already cramped space. The authorities are considering ways to control sharp increases in rental cost for families with demolished houses.



To better address the needs of the displaced that have not been able to find places to rent, UNRWA has started building transitional shelters using traditional materials (using CEB technology - Compressed Earth Blocks). Other agencies are also seeking funding for projects using the same technology.

Additionally the MoPWH has completed a prototype building which can be easily extended at a later date, a housing project using this design, and other designs is planned by the MoPWH for 2010.

“The reconstruction of Gaza cannot meaningfully take place until the siege is lifted and construction materials become available”

Total construction case load

The construction caseload is not limited to the Cast Lead caseload. The total war related caseload, is 6,275 units as follows:

- 3,375 houses from Cast Lead
- 1,400 refugees from Pre Cast lead IDF related destruction
- An estimated 1,500 non refugee shelters from Pre Cast Lead IDF related destruction

It must not be forgotten that the above case-load must be added the 2,886 housing units under construction by UNRWA and UNDP respectively, but frozen since June 2007 due to the blockade. In addition, over 3,000 refugees from camps living in derelict and unsanitary shelters need to be re-housed, plus tens of thousands of units are required to accommodate natural growth.

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| Agency | Minor Damage | | | | | | Major Damage | | | | | | Totally Demolished | | | | | | Grand total units |
|--------------|--------------|------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|------------|--------|------|-------|-------|--------------------|------------|--------|------|-------|-------|-------------------|
| | Rafah | Khanyounis | Middle | Gaza | North | Total | Rafah | Khanyounis | Middle | Gaza | North | Total | Rafah | Khanyounis | Middle | Gaza | North | Total | |
| MPWH | 6116 | 4636 | 4768 | 9716 | 18979 | 44215 | 209 | 214 | 222 | 1218 | 2161 | 4024 | 497 | 351 | 209 | 952 | 1369 | 3378 | 51617 |
| UNRWA | 5359 | 6948 | 6168 | 11060 | 14987 | 44522 | 197 | 105 | 159 | 554 | 698 | 1713 | 429 | 277 | 370 | 299 | 812 | 2187 | 48442 |
| UNDP | 1007 | 1322 | 536 | 3116 | 4823 | 10804 | 11 | 54 | 30 | 517 | 542 | 1154 | 77 | 54 | 115 | 379 | 598 | 1223 | 13181 |
| CHF | 74 | 373 | 218 | 1680 | 1563 | 3908 | 128 | 213 | 87 | 711 | 1193 | 2332 | 341 | 436 | 319 | 670 | 941 | 2707 | 8947 |

Table 1.1 total number of full assessments completed (including duplications)



| Agency | Minor Damage | | | | | | Major Damage | | | | | | Totally Demolished | | | | | | Grand total units |
|--------------|--------------|------------|--------|------|-------|-------|--------------|------------|--------|------|-------|-------|--------------------|------------|--------|------|-------|-------|-------------------|
| | Rafah | Khanyounis | Middle | Gaza | North | Total | Rafah | Khanyounis | Middle | Gaza | North | Total | Rafah | Khanyounis | Middle | Gaza | North | Total | |
| MPWH | 187 | 90 | 222 | 520 | 1704 | 2723 | 100 | 72 | 92 | 551 | 1083 | 1898 | 367 | 290 | 157 | 629 | 1094 | 2537 | 7158 |
| UNRWA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 176 | 84 | 131 | 499 | 621 | 1511 | 378 | 273 | 342 | 267 | 745 | 2005 | 3516 |
| UNDP | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 51 | 29 | 441 | 524 | 1056 | 75 | 53 | 113 | 325 | 578 | 1144 | 2200 |
| CHF | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 187 | 90 | 222 | 520 | 1704 | 2723 | 287 | 207 | 252 | 1491 | 2228 | 4465 | 820 | 616 | 612 | 1221 | 2417 | 5686 | 12874 |

Table 1.2 cash assistance for rent and living expenses



| Agency | Minor Damage | | | | | | Major Damage | | | | | | Totally Demolished | | | | | | Grand total units |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------------|
| | Rafah | Khanyounis | Middle | Gaza | North | Total | Rafah | Khanyounis | Middle | Gaza | North | Total | Rafah | Khanyounis | Middle | Gaza | North | Total | |
| MPWH | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| UNRWA | 4333 | 6026 | 5144 | 8399 | 11910 | 35812 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 28 | 37 | 73 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 35885 |
| UNDP | 767 | 886 | 252 | 1615 | 3442 | 6962 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6962 |
| CHF | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 5100 | 6912 | 5396 | 10014 | 15352 | 42774 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 28 | 37 | 73 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 42847 |

Table 1.3 number of units supported with cash assistant for repair (works recorded complete only)

Special note: under the compensation scheme one beneficiary may be entitled to assistance for more than one housing unit.