The occupied Palestinian territory remains in a protracted protection crisis, with some 1.9 million people out of a population of 4.5 million estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance. The seven weeks of violence in Gaza during July and August 2014 resulted in the death of 2260 people, nearly a third of them children, and around 10,625 people were injured. The destruction of homes has displaced more than 100,000 people and left them inadequately protected during the winter storms. Explosive remnants of war are spread across Gaza and pose a continuing threat to the lives of Palestinians and humanitarian workers. Access to already insufficient basic services has been further undermined by the damage or destruction of a number of health facilities.

**Health Sector Situation**

Access to essential health services and the referral of patients for specialized health care remains especially limited in Gaza, and in many areas of the West Bank, particularly for males aged 18-40. Women particularly feel the impact of these limitations due to their reproductive health needs and their responsibilities for the health of children and care for elderly or disabled family members. The Joint Health Sector Assessment of the Health and Nutrition Cluster highlighted the severe impact of the recent conflict in Gaza on the health and wellbeing of the population. The conflict resulted in the loss of life, creation of disabilities, the deterioration of the health of people with chronic illnesses and a severe negative effect on the mental wellbeing of the population.

Security issues and the destruction of vital health infrastructure remain the main contributors to the reduced availability of health services. Although steps have been taken by authorities to alleviate the situation, shortages of medicines and medical supplies, limitations in tertiary care capacity, fuel shortages and complicated mechanisms for the referral of severe cases abroad have exacerbated an already acute humanitarian situation.

In the West Bank, insufficient access to primary health care persists as a result of insecurity, restrictions on the freedom of movement of patients, health staff and medical students, a shortage of medicines and other medical supplies and shortage of health care workers. Access to primary health care is particularly difficult for women, the elderly and people with disabilities in Area C of the West Bank due to restrictions on movement and limited public transportation. Health partners are therefore running mobile clinic services offering essential primary health care services, including reproductive and child health, laboratory tests and health education.

The occupied Palestinian territory is also highly vulnerable to a variety of natural and manmade hazards, including earthquakes, floods, landslides, droughts and desertification. The Health Cluster will therefore address the need to build the capacity of cluster partners and communities in emergency preparedness and strengthen contingency planning.

**Health Cluster Objectives**

**Objective 1:** To provide vulnerable communities in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank with access to quality and affordable health services, refer victims of violence to protection organizations and carry out advocacy activities during disasters and other emergencies.
Planned outputs:

- Provide access to high quality and affordable essential health services for 1.6 million vulnerable people in the West Bank and Gaza, including maternal and child health, reproductive health, mental health and rehabilitation services for people with disabilities
- Refer 100 survivors of violence to protection organizations
- Issue 15 publications, including press releases, with information on restricted access to primary health care.

**Objective 2:** To support vulnerable communities in the West Bank and Gaza to be better prepared to cope with the impact of current and potential man-made and natural disasters

Planned outputs:

- Train 650 primary health care providers, members of grass roots organizations and community leaders in the principles of managing mass casualties, rescue and first aid and referral to higher levels of health care
- Carry out health awareness sessions in Gaza focusing on nutrition, reproductive and emergency health care at the community level for 40 000 participants

**Beneficiaries targeted by health partners in 2015**

Health partners are targeting a total of 1.6 million people in 2015, of which 730 280 are women, 490 062 are children and 370 570 are men.

**Geographical areas targeted by health partners in 2015**

Health partners are targeting 1.3 million people in Gaza and 300 000 people in the West Bank.

**Health and Nutrition Cluster funding requirements for 2015**

US$ 21 000 000 for 2015 (health partners including WHO)

**WHO funding requirements for 2015**

WHO is appealing for a total of US$ 3 382 660

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHO projects</th>
<th>Requested funds (US$)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Strengthening emergency health information and coordination for more effective humanitarian health action in the occupied Palestinian territory</td>
<td>529 560</td>
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<td>OPT-15/H73454/122</td>
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<tr>
<td>Procurement of essential pharmaceuticals to leukaemia and haemophilia patients in Gaza</td>
<td>2 500 000</td>
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<td>Protecting Right to Health in the occupied Palestinian territories through advocacy</td>
<td>353 100</td>
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