



2014 GAZA CRISIS APPEAL FINAL REPORT



TOGETHER
WE'RE
STRONGER

actionaid

ageInternational

BritishRedCross

CAFOD

care

christian
aid

CONCERN
worldwide

ISLAMIC
RELIEF

OXFAM

PLAN
INTERNATIONAL

Save the
Children

tearfund

World Vision

CONTENTS

Gaza Crisis Appeal01

Background and How We Helped02

How DEC Members Performed06

Key Challenges and Lessons Learned08

Key Achievements09

The Task Ahead and Conclusion10

How the DEC Works11



On 7 July 2014, the United Nations declared a humanitarian emergency in Gaza following a severe escalation in hostilities. During the 50 days that followed – from 8 July until 26 August – the UN says that 2,251 Palestinians were killed; 1,462 of them were believed to be civilians, including 551 children and 299 women. Sixty-six Israeli soldiers and five Israeli civilians, including one child, were also killed.¹

Overall, 11,231 Palestinians were injured during the conflict and one in four Palestinians in Gaza fled their homes.² Infrastructure and public services were severely damaged, including Gaza's only power plant, its water facilities, as well as its sanitation, electricity, telecommunication and transportation networks.

The DEC launched its appeal on 7 August 2014, raising nearly £19 million. A total of £12.2 million was raised by the DEC, including £2 million donated by the Department for International Development through its UK Aid Match scheme, and the balance was raised directly by the DEC's member charities. **Ten DEC members responded.**

The DEC's Gaza response was divided into two phases. An initial emergency phase, which lasted for six months from launch date until the end of January 2015, provided more than 194,000 people with lifesaving support such as food, cash and relief supplies. Over the following 18 months, from February 2015 onwards, the second phase focused on helping people recover from the effects of conflict through investing in livelihoods, increasing access to education and providing psychosocial support.

An independent review of the first three months of the DEC's Gaza response found that DEC members were successfully reaching people in desperate need, a message echoed by three independent evaluations later in the response.

Despite many challenges that have made real long-term improvements in Gaza difficult, **DEC members reached more than 360,000 people – one in five of Gaza's population** – in the second phase of the response. Highlights include:

- An innovative electronic cash scheme gave people who had suffered extensive asset loss the freedom to determine priority purchases from local shops. This provided dignity to the individual and helped traders by strengthening the local economy.
- Investment in farmers living in areas next to the buffer zone with Israel helped farms to re-commence food production and gave an income to 475 people. The projects helped agricultural families to remain near their land and continue to work.
- Work with kindergartens and child-friendly spaces helped children's sense of wellbeing and strengthened communication amongst children and their families. Parents reported an improvement in the health and behaviour of their children, including improved academic achievement and interaction as a result of receiving daily meals. Research shows that the meals enhanced children's vitality, and levels of interaction and energy by 98%.³
- Gaza's first timber shelters received positive feedback from their new owners. Due to restrictions on the use of construction materials such as concrete and steel bars, this was the first time that timber constructions were built in Gaza and the shelters were designed in close consultation with the community.



¹ <http://www.unrwa.org/gaza-emergency>

² The National Early Recovery and Reconstruction Plan for Gaza: <http://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/national-early-recovery-and-reconstruction-plan-gaza>

³ DEC member assessment of eight kindergartens in April 2016.

BACKGROUND

Gaza's population of between 1.8 and 2 million people is confined to a 360-square-kilometre strip of land.⁴ The high population density, the economic blockade, high levels of poverty and insufficient services make it exceptionally difficult for people to earn a living or access quality healthcare, water and education. Seven weeks of heavy conflict in the summer of 2014 created a humanitarian crisis for the majority of Palestinians in Gaza. People were unable to meet their most basic needs and hundreds of thousands were psychologically impacted by the hostilities.

Damage to agricultural land and the fishing sector shattered the local economy – the Ministry of Agriculture estimated a loss of US \$550 million. The hostilities damaged 42,000 acres of farmland, as well as greenhouses, irrigation systems, livestock, fodder stocks and fishing boats, affecting the livelihoods of some 40,000 people.⁵ The unemployment level in Gaza was 43.9%, the highest in the world,⁶ and 39%⁷ of the population was living on less than US \$1.90 per day.⁸

HOW WE HELPED

The heightened conflict in Gaza in 2014 caused food prices to increase by 50%,⁹ pushing the price of essential foodstuffs beyond the reach of many. In the first six months of the response, seven DEC members prioritised the provision of food and cash to help people get through the immediate aftermath of the hostilities, while a fifth of funds was used to provide essential non-food items to those who had lost their homes. An independent evaluation of the first three months of the response recommended a greater investment in temporary shelter solutions and a particular focus on psychosocial care.¹⁰ DEC members implemented these recommendations during phase two of the response.

After the first six months – the end of the first phase of the response – members focused their efforts on helping people recover their incomes and find new ways to earn a living. Much more was invested in boosting businesses, improving pre-school learning and helping people to cope with the trauma of conflict. The shift in emphasis towards skills and emotional wellbeing was designed to build people's resilience to ongoing conflict.

Food for health

In the first six months of the response, food parcels and food vouchers were the fastest and most effective way to ensure people had enough to eat. In the second phase of the response, two members paid local people to cook nutritious meals

for pre-school children, providing meals for thousands of children and nutritional screening and treatment for malnutrition for some. One member worked with nutrition and health specialists to provide daily healthy hot meals to eight kindergartens for six months.

Hundreds of workers who prepared the children's meals were paid in cash, providing a boost to family income. Students, parents, teachers and managers also benefitted from training sessions on meal preparation and healthy food delivery.

Health clubs in kindergartens helped children learn about nutrition and hygiene through plays, songs and promotional materials. Feedback showed that children passed on knowledge to peers at home.

⁴ Central Intelligence Agency: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gz.html>

⁵ Rebuilding Gaza – An Overview of Humanitarian & Reconstruction Needs: <http://www.anera.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Rebuilding-Gaza-Humanitarian-and-Reconstruction-needs.pdf>

⁶ World Bank: <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/563181468182960504/Economic-monitoring-report-to-the-ad-hoc-liaison-committee>

⁷ UNRWA, Gaza Situation Report, 94, May 2015; <http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/emergency-reports/gaza-situation-report-94>

⁸ World Bank: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/brief/global-poverty-line-faq>

⁹ <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/240924/icode>

¹⁰ https://issuu.com/decuk/docs/dec_gaza_response_review_report_fin

Restoring food production

Helping farmers boost food production was vital to help get the agricultural industry back up and running and give producers an income. During the first six months of the response, several DEC member charities paid people a daily wage to clear and level the damaged ground. They provided training on recognising unexploded ordnance and how to stay safe on fields littered with landmines. Once the land was levelled, farmers received vouchers to help them buy planting supplies.

Water for irrigation was badly affected by the destruction of wells, collection ponds and pipes, or as a result of electricity cuts. In response, one member helped rehabilitate two agricultural water wells, improving the irrigation of farms and assisting 1,500 households.

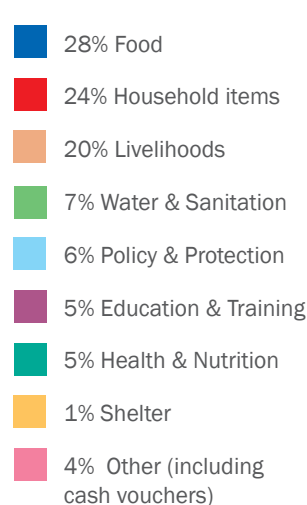
Agricultural support was ramped up in phase two. Five members worked with farmers and small-scale producers whose farms had been damaged to rehabilitate their land, create irrigation networks and cultivate trees and seedlings. They helped repair damaged greenhouses and rehabilitate water sources, meaning farmers no longer had to rely solely on rain-fed crops.

One member distributed veterinary kits and provided tools and milking machines to dairy cow breeders. Cow breeders also attended technical training on animal husbandry, health management and economic literacy.

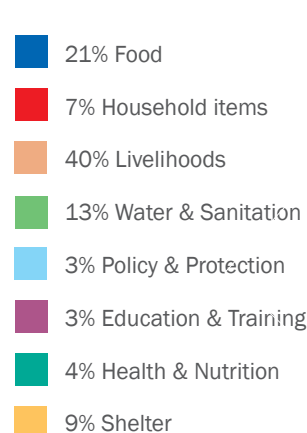
More than 200 women received chickens, cages and fodder in order to boost family income. One DEC member provided 56 women with livestock such as pigeons, rabbits and sheep and training to enable them to start small businesses – almost two thirds of the women reported that they secured a monthly income of US\$ 150-200.¹¹

In the second phase of the response, community members and farmers also received cash to help restore land. All farmers said the cash helped them buy food, pay for medical care and pay back debts they had accumulated until their land was productive again. Farmers also used the cash to repair wells and water pumps as an investment in increased production potential.

Expenditure of funds by sector in phase one



Expenditure of funds by sector in phase two



Case study

Farmers were supported to plant crops, such as onions, tomatoes and grapes. Grapes are usually planted horizontally in Gaza taking up valuable space but a new technique, which plants grapes on triangular columns doubled production and allowed farmers to grow other crops on the same land. Farmers have also been taught to grow new crops such as avocados.

¹¹ DEC member data, based on questionnaires and in-depth interviews with 100 women.

Boosting business for women

Since women's role in the workforce in Gaza is amongst the lowest in the world, many members focused on supporting women's economic development. For example, one DEC member trained women in financial literacy and life skills, provided grants to some of the class to start their own businesses and supported this with training in marketing skills.

Another member ran workshops for tailors who received a daily wage for making school uniforms for 11,305 students. Economic literacy training taught people how to develop ideas, plan and promote

their business, and provided information and skills on bookkeeping, networking and environment sustainability.

More than 600 men and women received IT training, increasing older men's and women's access to information and opening up new areas for learning.

Replacing essential household supplies

In phase one of the response, DEC member charities provided relief items such as kitchen sets and bedding to those who lost their belongings in the hostilities. Members distributed blankets within

winter sets or through the use of vouchers to be redeemed at approved local shops. Members found that vouchers allowed people to purchase the items they needed most, acknowledging the importance of individual discretion in helping to restore personal dignity. At the same time, the voucher system provided much-needed support to the local economy.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

The initial six-month emergency phase concentrated on making sure people had the basic items they needed to stay healthy. Members provided more than 61,500 people with items such as soap, buckets and jerry cans. One member also provided water tanks and filters to 20 kindergartens.

Case study



Women who received business training and grants from one DEC member gave feedback on the project. A 33-year-old woman said: "I got married when I was 14 – I know nothing about the outside world. When I was called to the training I felt I need to talk and I need to be outside. I was motivated that I am not doing anything wrong. Even at home I felt more confident. I have changed. I feel I am born again and my life has just started."

Most of the women enjoyed the coaching they received. As a 38-year-old woman said: "It makes the dream stay with you, I went back home after the session and did the exercise with my children. I discovered so much that day about my children and myself."

A 60-year-old woman added: "People consider me too old to do things or to dream. I think I have been depressed especially that I have a disease. I challenged everyone who talked and now they realise that making things work can be done with passion and will and has nothing to do with age. I am now admired. Since I started the project with my daughter, my health and my feeling has improved so much and I am finally productive. My life has completely changed."

The heightened conflict in 2014 caused an estimated US \$33 million of damage to water infrastructure and losses of US \$94 million to the entire water sector,¹² forcing people to depend on water being brought in by truck. In the second phase of the DEC response, one member restored safe drinking water to 262,800 people by rehabilitating water networks. Overall more than 313,000 people were provided with access to clean water by the work of DEC member charities.

Shelter: a safe place to call home

More than 60,000 houses were partially or completely destroyed in 2014.¹³ Two members worked to provide temporary housing to those living in makeshift homes. The temporary homes allowed families to return to their own land while they saved for and built permanent homes. One member gave families cash grants to allow them to make their own additions, such as bathroom tiles or kitchen shelves, to the shelters.

Improving pre-school education

In phase one, 3,190 children received school kits, but conflict also destroyed school facilities, affecting more than 460,000 students in Gaza. During phase two of the DEC response, one member worked with 40 kindergartens

¹² UN: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/gapal1330.doc.htm>

¹³ The National Early Recovery and Reconstruction Plan for Gaza: <http://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/national-early-recovery-and-reconstruction-plan-gaza>

to create new libraries, and supplied furniture, books, educational games and musical instruments. It also repaired water supplies in 30 kindergartens. In preparation for future emergencies, kindergartens received battery-powered lamps, first aid kits and fire extinguishers.

Health and psychological support

During the two-year response, 12,000 people received medical care, while 321 older people benefitted from home visits. In total, 820 older people received health check-ups and many were referred for physiotherapy services, for dental care, hearing aids or other care.

Nearly one million children in Gaza have lived through three major conflicts in the past six years – as a result, an estimated 400,000 were found to be in need of psychological support.¹⁴ Safe spaces for children were quickly set up in the initial months of the response,

providing places for them to play in safety and talk through their fears with trained staff.

One DEC member set up a centre for older people, which provided support from trained workers and peers. Older people enjoyed cultural and social events, as well as health advice and check-ups. Another DEC member provided psychological support to mothers through home visits.

Psychosocial support continued and increased in phase two of the response for both young and old. Reading and drawing sessions, tennis, chess, breakfasts, film screenings, and day trips, as well as a hairdressing service and home visits, all helped improve older people's wellbeing. Seventy older people received individual counselling sessions and family counselling sessions were organised for their relatives.

Close to 1,700 children attended group psychosocial courses or received specialist therapy. Some sessions used art, craft, games, storytelling and sport to treat the effects of conflict.

Home visits were also conducted to help families solve problems. As a result, participants reported that 76% of children slept better with fewer nightmares and 84% of children were more motivated and attentive.¹⁵ Sessions for parents helped them respond appropriately to their children's emotional needs, while activity trips were organised for hundreds of children and their mothers.

Money as aid

Use of electronic vouchers for cash transfers meant that member charities could quickly provide 2,500 families with weekly food vouchers for the first three months of the response.

Overall, more than 6,700 people received cash or vouchers during the response. Vouchers helped families to access locally available food and relief supplies in their own time, whilst also boosting the local economy. The use of vouchers was particularly important for this response, since members worked with businesses and shops which had existing stock and agreements for importation.

Members also provided women with cash to prepare and package snacks for kindergartens, supporting vulnerable women whilst also benefitting thousands of children. One member reported that the majority of workers involved in farm rehabilitation had no alternative income source.

Cash-for-work programmes not only provided much-needed funds for the family, but they also built the capacity of the workers and refreshed skills. DEC members worked together and with other agencies to ensure common approaches to cash-for-work programmes, such as a standard daily rate across the sector.

Case study



A 12-year-old girl from Rafah who attended a DEC-funded child-friendly space (CFS) said: "I participated in the CFS... the sessions helped me overcome my fears". A mother from Rafah said: "Children were able to spend their time learning and doing useful things instead of playing in the street. The activities at the CFS were sensitive to our culture and values... strengthen the character of the children and supported self-confidence and make it easier for parents to deal with their children."

¹⁴ UNRWA: <http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/emergency-reports/gaza-situation-report-82>

¹⁵ A DEC member's partner distributed questionnaires and conducted in-depth interviews with 50 teachers, 50 parents and 100 participating children to assess the success of the intervention.

HOW DEC MEMBERS PERFORMED

DEC member charities are committed to improving the way in which they respond to crises, working closely with and for local communities, including vulnerable people, and following international standards on delivering aid.

Working in partnership

Most DEC member charities had long-standing relationships with local organisations in Gaza, which enabled them to scale up quickly once the DEC appeal was launched. Three members worked in partnership with one local NGO and established a coordination mechanism to ensure their programmes complemented each other and that the organisation was not overstretched. An independent review of the first three months of the response found that the members' approach to national partners was marked by cooperation, support and empowerment rather than regarding them simply as subcontractors.

Many DEC members took leading roles in the UN-led cluster coordination system, working with other organisations on specific sectors to share learning, combine efforts and ensure the people most in need received the right support. Members also worked hard to cross-check the names of beneficiaries with relevant ministries.

Innovation

The use of electronic vouchers to deliver cash in the first phase of the DEC response helped get money to people quickly when they most needed it. One member's existing agreement with the World Food Programme made for a rapid scale up and meant women were able to redeem the vouchers in approved shops close to their homes.

In the second phase, two members provided shelter to families whose homes had been destroyed. One member built on farmers' lands so they could continue to earn an income, and the temporary homes

were designed so that they could be used as an agricultural store once permanent homes were built. Another member was the first organisation to introduce timber construction in Gaza, the designs being agreed through a participatory approach with community members.

Developing capacity

DEC members worked with their existing partners to train new staff in Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) and Sphere standards for humanitarian response, while they also provided capacity development on gender sensitivity.

Several members employed volunteers to implement some projects, and this helped to capitalise and strengthen local capacity. A number of DEC members conducted training on how to recognise unexploded ordnance and avoid injury or damage while implementing projects or working on farmland.

One member worked with utility bodies including the Palestinian Energy and Natural Resources Authority and the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility to provide technical advice, support and on-the-job training to their staff. National staff working for Gaza's public services were operating under extremely challenging circumstances. The experienced support of an international organisation helped take the pressure off a stretched team and boosted capacity for response to future humanitarian crises.

Finally, as part of a kindergarten project, teachers received training in psychosocial support to help them recognise signs of trauma and help their students over the long term.

Accountability to affected populations

The majority of members set up strong complaints systems such as toll-free helplines and complaints boxes to encourage community feedback and participation. Members encouraged questions and comment on their work, and met with communities both to explain the aims and processes of their interventions and to respond to community feedback.

In the first phase of the response, regular monitoring of voucher programmes was particularly important to ensure that the most appropriate goods or foods were available in the shops and to assess the quality of vendors. Through regular information sharing with beneficiaries some members were able to quickly address concerns, for example addressing the availability or quality of food or inappropriate use of the vouchers by the vendor.

The selection of beneficiaries was also consultative and transparent with, in many cases, community committees helping select beneficiaries, developing criteria for selection and also designing the monitoring of the project.

Inclusion of groups with special needs

DEC members focused their support on the most vulnerable – women, children, older people and those living with disabilities.

For example, a shelter intervention used a socio-economic vulnerability scoring system to help prioritise the families that would benefit, with criteria such as large family size, female-headed households, income level, chronic disease or disability,

and households with elderly members. For other projects, such as agricultural support, the same member was able to support vulnerable communities living in areas located in vulnerable locations.

Livelihoods support also helped families better support their children living with disabilities. The 2014 hostilities injured 3,436 children and 3,540 women, 10% of whom suffer permanent disability as a result of the conflict.¹⁶ DEC members responded by conducting training on inclusion of older and disabled people into the response and local partners made sure that community meetings were held in accessible locations for people with disabilities.

All members built a gender focus into their work. One member noted that their focus on vulnerable groups, particularly women, helps promote longer-term principles of equity in society, building women's confidence and self-reliance and making it more acceptable for women to be involved in future economic activities.

As part of one member's power and gender analysis, women identified many challenges related to their gender role in the family. For example, women had little time for their own development and wellbeing and had limited space to express themselves or seek information.

Case study

Additional cycles of 'deep psychosocial intervention' were provided to children in most need of extra support. For example, ten-year-old Ahmed Nasser who lives with a disability after being born with conjoined arms, lacked self-confidence and suffered from aggressive behaviour. Through attending the deep sessions, Ahmed learnt to decrease and control his anxiety.

Women also received training in legal rights, social and gender rights, while fathers also received psychosocial support. By focusing on men, one DEC member found the project had a positive impact on all members of the family. It noted that women and children are often seen as the most vulnerable populations and the specific needs of men are often forgotten in emergency response.

Adherence to sector standards

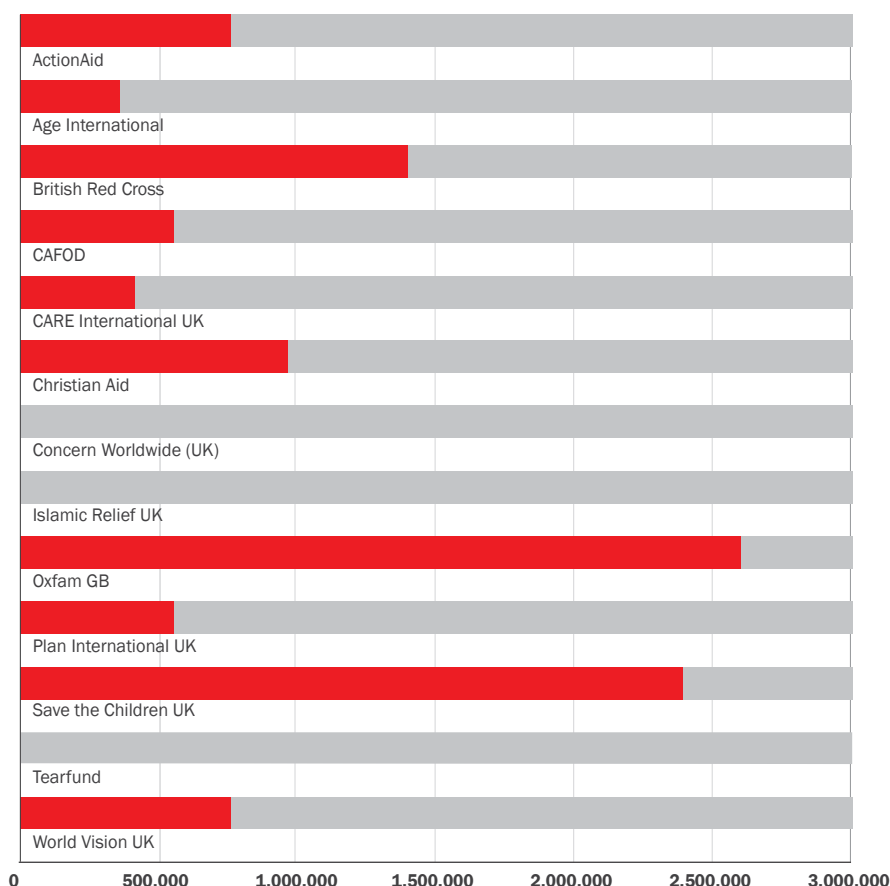
Many DEC members worked hard to increase the understanding of the authorities, political factions, religious leaders and the wider public of the neutral and impartial stance of humanitarian actors. One member,

for example, held events for civil society and youth on issues such as humanitarian principles.

An advocacy and awareness workshop was also held to share expertise and knowledge on the challenges that older people face when accessing humanitarian services – 30 organisations, including DEC members and policy makers, attended. A three-day training course on the minimum standards for including older people and people with disabilities in humanitarian programmes informed DEC members of sector standards.

Total allocation of DEC funds to member charities (£)

Ten of the 13 DEC member charities responded



¹⁶ OCHA: http://gaza.ochaopt.org/2015/06/key-figures-on-the-2014-hostilities/#_ftn3

KEY CHALLENGES

The scale of the humanitarian situation and the continuation of conflict, together with the challenging operating environment, can lead communities and humanitarian workers alike to feel frustrated and despondent with the slow rate of progress in Gaza. Progress is hampered by a complex mix of restrictions and bureaucratic barriers. A blockade of goods entering Gaza, the inability of people to move freely, difficulties getting visas for international staff and issues with the banking system, all impact greatly on humanitarian work.

Members overcame some of these restrictions by providing people with vouchers or cash so they could buy goods from local businesses that had import agreements.

During the summer of 2015, Gaza authorities imposed a tax on expatriate visas. The move was boycotted by NGOs and was subsequently revoked, though it forced some members to reduce or halt deployments of international staff for a while. Members worked with Palestinian organisations to deliver programmes, and in this way contributed to the strengthening of Palestinian civil society in Gaza.

In 2016, further restrictions were imposed on the entry of construction materials, such as concrete blocks, cement, wood and metal, significantly impacting the ability to plan, procure and deliver programmes. These restrictions greatly hinder broader construction and reconstruction efforts. It is notable that only 512 people received shelter support as part of the DEC response. But, it is a significant achievement that two members were able to use locally available materials, such as timber, to provide new homes to particularly vulnerable community members.

Communities and charities also faced an ongoing electricity crisis, with blackouts that lasted up to 12 hours. The lack of grid-supplied electricity increased Gaza's reliance on generators, which, in turn, increased the use of fuel and, consequently, the total operational costs.

Other challenges included the difficulties of humanitarian teams accessing some affected areas because of damage to infrastructure and roads, and the consequential requirement to travel long distances on foot.

LESSONS LEARNED

An independent review of the first three months of the DEC's Gaza response found that, despite the challenges facing aid delivery, the work of the DEC's members was successfully reaching people in desperate need. Focus groups, project visits and agency interviews found that work was meeting the needs of children and women, and DEC members were advised to do more to include men, people with disabilities and older people in all activities. Five key recommendations were made in the response review, which informed the

second phase of the response. DEC member charities were advised to:

- share methodologies for delivering psychosocial activities and collaborate on the development of impact-measuring tools with other members and with specialist Palestinian NGOs
- consider the advantages of using the electronic cash voucher system rather than distributing food and other essential items

- focus on helping those living in damaged accommodation prepare for and cope with cold winter weather
- provide emergency shelter materials to families hosting displaced people
- include people with disabilities, older people and men into their programmes.

Partnering with local NGOs was recommended as a default strategy for the strengthening of civil society; member charities were advised to also

consider multiple partner funding of the same organisation in order to synergise their technical inputs, management support and monitoring and evaluation requirements.

Additional independent evaluations conducted for three members, both during and at the end of the response, found that objectives were met and humanitarian aid delivered effectively and efficiently. For example, one report concludes that the distribution of food and relief items helped families save money to be used on other essential products, while hygiene kits were vital

in improving the health conditions of families. Recommendations echoed across multiple reports include:

- Members were encouraged to continue and expand investment in developing skills and capacities of local partners, ensuring a strategic and shared vision of change. Sharing learning should be part of the process to help partners to exchange ideas and practices and to identify novel ways to work together.
- The importance of communicating with affected communities is more and more recognised as a crucial part of the humanitarian response.

Communication should be about accountability and empowerment and can also strengthen advocacy at local and international levels.

- A review of monitoring and evaluation systems was also recommended, with a focus on measuring progress towards outputs throughout the response, as well as monitoring the relevance, effectiveness and quality of activities.

Final reports from members provided reassurance that many of these lessons were incorporated throughout the lifespan of the programme where feasible.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Below are some of the key achievements of DEC member charities in the Gaza response between 2014 and 2016.

Sector	Phase 1	Phase 2	
Food	97,507	11,655	people benefitted from food parcels or food vouchers children received daily healthy meals
Water and sanitation	61,505 4,080	1,125 313,047	people received hygiene kits people received clean water through rehabilitation of water networks, water tanks, filters and desalination units
Health and nutrition	10,715 10,945	14,613 1,055 321 810 6,947	adults and children received psychosocial support or counselling people received medical care older people benefitted from home visits parents received stress support through community groups and awareness raising children were screened for acute malnutrition
Livelihoods	9,450 1,249	6,164	people could access water from rehabilitated wells people benefitted from cash-for-work activities or short-term employment
Non-food items	36,000	11,305	people benefitted from essential relief kits school children received warm clothes, school uniforms and sports gear
Policy and protection	4,143	550	children, women and older people attended temporary community centres set up as safe spaces with activities and training
Education and training	3,190	8,047	children received school kits children benefitted from modern educational tools at rehabilitated kindergartens
Shelter	210	512	people received temporary shelter, 213 with water and sanitation facilities in phase 2

THE TASK AHEAD

Looking ahead, the United Nations¹⁷ is concerned that the chronic energy crisis is affecting education, hospitals and water networks. The eighth year of the blockade and movement restrictions on people and materials sees a serious deterioration in the availability and quality of health services and almost half the population does not have enough food.

Recurring conflict and the destruction of educational facilities have affected all 462,770 students in Gaza.¹⁸

For those 65,000 still displaced from their homes, the UN fears that over half may not receive any cash assistance due to a lack of funding. Shelter remains a real need for many families and winter weather increases the vulnerability of displaced families.

Without urgent action to improve and upgrade essential services, the UN warns that Gaza will not be “a liveable place” by 2020.¹⁹

CONCLUSION

The DEC appeal was launched at a crucial time in Gaza’s ongoing crisis, when humanitarian needs were extensive and funding was extremely short. The funds raised by the DEC improved the lives of children, men and women. Noteworthy was the support provided to the agricultural sector to recover from the destruction of water networks, fields and crops.

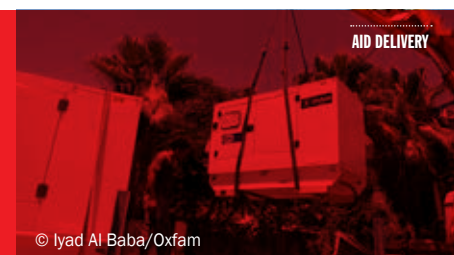
DEC members not only provided emergency food, relief supplies and healthcare when they were most needed but also invested in people’s mental health and long-term livelihoods. By providing counselling, therapeutic activities, business training and grants, the Gaza Crisis Appeal was able to build people’s resilience in the midst of ongoing conflict, and prepared them and local organisations for better responding to future humanitarian crises.

DEC member charities continue today to work with communities in Gaza to tackle the great humanitarian challenges that they face.*

¹⁷ UNRWA: <http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/emergency-reports/gaza-situation-report-128>

¹⁸ Occupied Palestinian Territory: Humanitarian Needs Overview 2016, November 2015: <http://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/occupied-palestinian-territory-humanitarian-needs-overview-0>

¹⁹ UN: <http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/gaza-2020-liveable-place>



HOW THE DEC WORKS

The DEC makes sure that the generous donations of the UK public are spent on emergency aid needed by communities devastated by humanitarian crises, as well as on longer-term support to rebuild the lives of people in these communities.

Donating through the DEC is simple and effective. It removes unnecessary competition for funding between aid charities and reduces administration costs. The DEC spent 11% of the money raised in the Gaza Crisis Appeal on fundraising and administration costs, with the rest distributed to members to carry out their vital humanitarian work. A team of 18 staff manages the DEC's day-to-day operations, supported by a small team of dedicated volunteers.

*WORLD VISION IN GAZA

At the time of publication of this report (March 2017), one DEC member, World Vision, has suspended its operations in Gaza due to an ongoing investigation into allegations against World Vision staff member Mohammad El Halabi.

Israel detained El Halabi in June 2016 and in August 2016 formally charged him with several alleged crimes, including diverting aid funds. At a court hearing in February 2017, El Halabi pleaded not guilty to all the charges against him.

The DEC is not aware at the time of publication of this report of any evidence that DEC funds have been affected. All DEC-funded work in Gaza was completed by September 2016.

DELIVERING GENERATORS TO START WATER PUMPS

© Iyad Al Baba/Oxfam

HYGIENE SUPPLIES

© CARE International UK

WATER DELIVERIES

© Iyad Al Baba/Oxfam

VOUCHER SYSTEM

© ActionAid



**TOGETHER WE'RE
STRONGER**

actionaid

 **Age International**

 **British Red Cross**

CAFOD


care

**christian
aid**

CONCERN
worldwide


**ISLAMIC
RELIEF**


OXFAM


PLAN
INTERNATIONAL


**Save the
Children**

tearfund

World Vision

DISASTERS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

Ground Floor
43 Chalton Street
London NW1 1DU

Tel: 020 7387 0200
www.dec.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1062638

Matching your
donations with


UKaid