

Introduction

Islamic Relief helps people in difficult times. The Gaza Strip, Palestine, is now facing a big challenge while the whole world is busy following the news of a war on Syria in the Middle East.

The turmoil in Egypt has had a devastating effect on Gaza with the border being tightened even more, worsening the situation for Gazans who are already living under difficult circumstances, economically and socially.

Efforts did not stop to help families who are in dire need for Islamic Relief. We continue our support for the Palestinians especially in Gaza Strip.

The matter now is not providing small support that ends after a couple of weeks; it's time to provide a longer solution to help families survive in dignity.



The situation in Gaza Strip is identified as a protection crisis with humanitarian consequences, with the overarching humanitarian needs change little from one year to another.

The vulnerability of the civilian population in the Gaza Strip has been exacerbated by the intensification of the land, air and sea blockade imposed since 2007. Despite some easing measures implemented since mid-2010, the blockade is still on going for a sixth year to impact the lives of all Gazans, driving many deeper into poverty and unemployment.



Gaza - Situation Report

5 September 2013



Gaza Economy

- Gazans suffer shortages of essential commodities and the rise in market prices has made it difficult for families to have adequate, healthy and balanced diet.
- The intensified blockade (land, air and sea) is still on-going for its sixth year.
- Combined with high poverty and unemployment rates, severely damaged infrastructure and longstanding economic restrictions, this has given rise to major humanitarian challenges.
- Palestine's economy faces a number of structural challenges that are not typical to others around the world. Whereas most economies rely on the simple calculus of supply and demand, Palestinian policy makers must contend with two important structural challenges:
 - the intensive dependence upon international aid and
 - the dynamic impacts of the occupation, both of which can shift according to political, rather than economic, considerations.



Poverty: The relative poverty line and the deep poverty line (for reference household of 2 adults and 3 children) in the Palestinian Territory in 2012 were 2,293 NIS, and 1,832 NIS respectively. The poverty rate among Palestinian individuals is 25.8% (17.8% in the West Bank, 38.8% in Gaza Strip) .

Unemployment: Using ILO standards, the number of unemployed was about 260,000 in the 4th quarter 2012, about 139,000 in the West Bank and about 121,000 in Gaza Strip. The unemployment rate in Gaza Strip was 32.2% compared with 18.3% in the West Bank, the unemployment rate for males was 20.7% compared with 31.7% for females.

Proposed intervention

In addition to important aid such as delivering critical medicines and providing psychosocial support to help children cope with the trauma and providing food for families, Islamic Relief initiates a special intervention that will alleviate the suffering of thousands of extremely poor people.

Emergency cash-for-work for unemployed people is a proposed intervention to implement urgently and help people get some cash to cover their needs like food medicine.

With your support, you don't give charity only but you preserve dignity of the Palestinian breadwinners.



News clipping and other useful references

Gaza: Slow Death and Collective Punishment

<http://www.worldcrunch.com/business-finance/gaza-039-s-economy-imploding-after-egypt-closes-smuggler-tunnels/gaza-ramallah-palestine-israel-economy-egypt-tunnels/c2s13254/>

Gaza's economy imploding after Egypt closes smuggler tunnels

<http://www.worldcrunch.com/business-finance/gaza-039-s-economy-imploding-after-egypt-closes-smuggler-tunnels/gaza-ramallah-palestine-israel-economy-egypt-tunnels/c2s13254/>

Palestine monitor factbook 2012 (Page 98: Gaza: the worst place on earth)

<http://www.palestinemonitor.org/userfiles/file/factbook2012.pdf>

BBC: Economic crisis paralyzing fishing sector (Arabic)

http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/multimedia/2013/07/130726_gaza_fishing.shtml

Frail economy takes toll on Gaza youth

<http://alray.ps/en/index.php?act=post&id=1734>

UNDP: Gaza Strip – fast facts

<http://www.undp.ps/en/newsroom/publications/pdf/other/Gazafactsheet2012.pdf>

Gaza in 2020 a livable place

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2009_2014/documents/wgme/dv/2012/2012091/20120912_3_unscogaza_en.pdf