

# WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP

## HEALTH SECTOR NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Palestinians currently have relatively stable health indicators, but with worrying trends. Life expectancy is 72 years, the fertility rate is 4.6 and infant mortality rate is 24.2 per 1,000 live births. The population has increased from just over 3 million in 1999 to 3.8 million in 2004, increasing the demand on municipal services, hospitals and schools. However, revenues have fallen and the population often cannot afford medical care. Insecurity and movement restrictions further impede access.



**HEALTH SERVICES:** The demand for blood transfusion services has increased by 178% between 2000 and 2003. The health sector has responded to closure and fragmentation by increasing the number of small clinics and mobile clinics, which have in turn resulted in a decline in the quality of service, as these focus on primary care and are unable to handle emergency cases. Provision of essential reproductive health services dropped from 82.4% at end 2002 to 71% at end 2003.

**NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES:** In 2003, the leading causes of death among all age groups were non-communicable diseases: cardiovascular disease 36.1%, perinatal conditions 9.9%, cancer 9% and injuries 8.8%. Due to the lack of proper access to health services, absence of a special entity responsible for chronic diseases and essential drugs, these diseases are believed to be under-diagnosed and under-reported.

**DISEASE SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL:** Delays at checkpoints have limited the effectiveness of immunization campaigns. Although more than 90% of under-five children received measles vaccination, less than two-thirds have acquired immunity. The measles vaccine is likely to have been inactivated because of delays at checkpoints. Environmental health conditions are also responsible for deteriorating health conditions. Closures have had a particular negative impact on solid waste collection and bacterial contamination of piped water has increased by 39% in some areas.

## HEALTH SECTOR PRIORITIES FOR 2006

- Support health coordination, information and advocacy for access to health care
- Strengthen assessment and monitoring of the situation of populations most affected by the separation barrier, including in East Jerusalem
- Develop and scale up priority health interventions for most vulnerable groups, including a sustainable immunization system, a package of health intervention for (newborn) children, Integrated Management of Child Illnesses and micronutrient supplementation and improving the quality of the maternal health care
- Strengthen local capacity in emergency preparedness and response by developing an integrated emergency health plan covering risk assessment, health intelligence, capacity building, community awareness and emergency response capability
- Develop surveillance standards and standard operating procedures in order to promote best health practices during humanitarian crises
- Support capacity building for rapid health needs assessment following any emergency in order to ensure that the most vulnerable population benefit from the humanitarian health relief programme
- Support the set up of an early warning system for alert and response to epidemic prone diseases

<b>WHO Proposed Projects in the CAP 2006</b>	<b>Funds Requested *</b>	<b>Implementing Partners</b>
Development of a communication and advocacy strategy for Health Access of the Palestinian population <b>oPt-06/CSS04</b>	209,880	MoH
Strengthening coordination/information management <b>oPt-06/H12</b>	314,820	
Management of non-communicable diseases in crisis situation <b>oPt-06/H13</b>	198,220	
Effective management of communicable diseases <b>oPt-06/H14</b>	221,450	
Support the nutrition Surveillance System <b>oPt-06/H15</b>	233,200	
Improve the health sector preparedness and capacity to response to emergencies <b>oPt-06/H16</b>	504,878	
Enhance medical waste management <b>oPt-06/H17</b>	219,208	MoH, Palestinian municipalities, National Environment Authority

\* Amounts given in US dollars.

**Total Funds Requested: USD 1,901,746**

2005 Donors: Norway, United States of America