

# GAZA RELIEF FUND

*We Exist to Serve*

## ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES DISPLACED BY THE SUMMER HOSTILITIES: TRANSITIONAL SHELTER CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Report prepared:

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THE  
WORLD  
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### OVERVIEW



In July and August 2014, hostilities in the Gaza Strip came after a period of relative calm following the November 2012 escalation. The scale of damage and destruction as a result of this 50 day conflict exacerbated the pre-existing humanitarian situation in Gaza. Gaza witnessed extensive aerial bombardment, naval shelling, artillery fire, substantial operation by ground forces resulting in the widespread loss of lives and livelihoods, and extensive damage to the already weak public infrastructure, including schools.

UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) reported that an estimated 1,400 Palestinian civilians were killed, including some 500 children; 11,231 were wounded, including over 3,500 children.

At the peak of the conflict, over 290,000 Internally Displaced People (IDPs) sought refuge in UNRWA designated emergency shelters in the Gaza Strip. At least 96,000 refugee homes were damaged or destroyed. Of these, over 7,800 homes were totally demolished affecting an estimated 50,800 people.

### HOUSING CHALLENGES

Prior to this most recent escalation, housing stock in Gaza was already limited, with a deficit of about 71,000 housing units due to:

- Population growth of about 3 per cent annually,
- Restricted ability to undertake repair and reconstruction of damaged homes following hostilities in 2008-2009 and 2012 as a result of the ongoing Israeli-imposed blockade.



Following an open-ended ceasefire on 26 August 2014, emergency shelters were designated as 'Collective Centres' and every effort was made to ensure that these facilities provided a safe, warm and dignified living environment for displaced families.



TYPE OF AID	UNITS	TOTAL (USD)
Transitional Shelter Cash Assistance provided to families for 4 months	171 families	\$146,047.00
Program Support Costs		\$3,953.00
<b>TOTAL COST OF PROJECT</b>		<b>\$150,000.00</b>

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### THE WORLD FEDERATION'S RESOPONSE

The World Federation launched the Gaza Relief Fund to raise funds to provide emergency support to victims of the conflict in the Gaza Strip.

#### TRANSITIONAL SHELTER CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TSCA)

Living conditions in the 'Collective Centres' remain difficult and to resolve this, The World Federation teamed up with its regional partner in Gaza to provide support to displaced families where they would have the opportunity to find their own temporary accommodation, rather than remaining in these centres. This approach is not only more cost-effective and flexible, but more importantly, it ensures that refugees are able to enjoy a more appropriate level of privacy and comfort.

Immediately following the 26 August ceasefire, and as part of the emergency response to the hostilities, our partner began the process of assessing damages to homes of Palestine refugees in Gaza. Damaged homes have all now been visited by social workers, and engineers are in the process of carrying out technical assessments.

Families whose homes have been rendered uninhabitable (either totally destroyed or severely damaged) are eligible for 'Transitional Shelter Cash Assistance' (TSCA), which is paid monthly. This program was developed and managed by our partner in Gaza.

TSCA is paid directly into families' bank accounts, and allows refugees to retain ownership and control over their accommodations, maximising flexibility in allowing families to choose the housing/living solution most suitable for their needs.

In addition, the TSCA program has alleviated overcrowding in the Collective Centres, providing a more dignified and comfortable environment for those who are unable to find alternative accommodation.

### THE WORLD FEDERATION ASSISTS 171 FAMILIES THROUGH TSCA PROGRAM

As of 4 December 2014, a total of 2,690 families in Gaza received TSCA payments, allowing them to move out of the Collective Centres and into more fitting housing (until they are able to return to their homes).

Between August and September 2014, The World Federation contributed \$150,000 USD to provide four months of Transitional Shelter Cash Assistance to 171 families (993 individuals) in Gaza.

Overall, the TSCA program in Gaza has been successful in providing temporary housing for displaced families. Presently, there are roughly 25,000 Internally Displaced People (IDPs) living in Collective Centres from the initial 290,000 at the peak of the conflict.



*Photo (Dec 2014): The Eleiwa family, whose home was destroyed during the summer hostilities, are now receiving TSCA to rent an apartment in Gaza city.*