

## **Gaza: Fact Sheet<sup>1</sup>**

### **A. The Palestinian Economy**

The Palestinian economy entered into a recession in 2014. A quarter of the Palestinian workforce remains unemployed—



availability due to the trade restrictions and a poor distribution network. The GPP remains inoperable to date and power outages of up to 18 hours a day continue in most areas across Gaza.<sup>5</sup> This has exacerbated the already challenging electricity sector situation in Gaza. Electricity network damage of an estimated US\$42.5 million has been sustained.

**d) Housing Sector**

According to UNOCHA<sup>6</sup>, the number of internally displaced people still needing shelter remained at 110,000. At the height of the conflict the number of internally displaced people was unprecedented and was six times the numbers in UN contingency plans<sup>7</sup>. Also according to UNOCHA, 18,000 houses have been totally destroyed or severely damaged as of the end of the cease fire on August 26, 2014, and over 8,800 housing units permanently destroyed.

In the medium term, the key factor for a sustainable economy is to build a vibrant private sector, through easing of trade barriers, investments in key infrastructure and integration of the business climate across the West Bank and Gaza. In the short term, the binding constraint to reverse the downward trend of economic conditions in Gaza is to allow free movement of people and goods in addition to the reintegration of the West Bank and Gaza economies, while protecting the security of Israelis and Palestinians.

The World Bank Group stands ready to provide immediate support to the PA, private sector and civil society. Throughout the crisis, the World Bank Group has been engaged in regular dialogue with the PA and international partners to ensure strong coordination in development of a reconstruction and recovery plan for Gaza.

From the Bank's own resources, an emergency supplemental financing for the latest Development Policy Grant will help finance the PA's additional recurrent expenditures related to the Gaza situation, primarily in the social sectors. In addition, three emergency additional financings are proposed in three sectors where the Bank has experience in Gaza: water, electricity and municipal services.

#### **D. The World Bank in the Palestinian territories**

The World Bank Group