



A humanitarian duty

Editorial



On 27 December 2008, the population of Gaza was being bombarded, with the bombing continuing until 18 January 2009. After 22 days of suffering, there were a large number of human casualties and deaths.

To deal with this situation, Secours Islamique France (SIF), supported by partners and donors, took immediately action so as to provide emergency aid to the population of Gaza. One year later, we are looking back on the tragedy and are drawing up a report of all our activities in Gaza.

Whilst the continued blockade is hindering any hopes of reconstruction, more than ever it is necessary to support the Palestinian population.

Our new projects are outlined in this publication, as well as the activities undertaken during the last year by our teams on the ground in Gaza.

Following an assessment of the needs during the emergency situation, Secours Islamique France launched some projects to relieve and mitigate the suffering experienced by the Palestinian people. It was imperative to remain reactive. Emergency aid enabled relief to be brought to the population with the supply of food aid, medical equipment (over 15 tonnes), health kits and shelters. Our involvement in the operation "A plane for Gaza", launched by the actor Djamel Debbouze, enabled 22 additional tonnes of medical equipment to be sent. Beyond the material damage, the psychological impact is tangible, albeit difficult to gauge.

The most vulnerable members of the population are children ; that is why SIF has developed projects improving their daily life through the development of games libraries, the programme fighting against malnutrition in nursery schools throughout Gaza and the orphan sponsorship programme.

Rehabilitation and reconstruction – this is what we are prevented from undertaking ! The Palestinians in Gaza are suffocated by the blockade. They are still unable to reconstruct their demolished houses, because the supply of essential construction material remains forbidden.

Gaza is bogged down in an economic stagnation directly related to the blockade and accentuated by the offensive which destroyed many houses, economic and social facilities and agricultural areas.

However, thanks to the teams on the ground, SIF has kept on conducting its projects and being involved in the Gaza Strip throughout the last year. To return independence to farmers and generate a local dynamism, SIF has launched an agricultural project which aims at restoring devastated areas.

As a humanitarian aid organisation, we shall continue our role in advocating towards the concerned authorities and institutions.

This unfortunate anniversary should not make us forget that for almost 60 years the life of the Palestinian people has been ravaged by war, displacement of the population and suffering. The resolution of this one-way conflict is necessary through enforcement of humanitarian law. Whilst awaiting action on the part of the international community, civil society must continue to act.

It is thanks to you, our donors, partners, volunteers and employees that Secours Islamique France can turn your donations into concrete projects.

Together, let us continue to fuel the flame of hope so that the Palestinian people can live in dignity.

Rachid Lahlou,
President of Secours Islamique France

Emergency Appeal



Already present in Gaza, Secours Islamique France has stepped up its involvement following the armed offensive which devastated the Gaza Strip. SIF teams were quickly able to meet the needs of Palestinians

Only two days after the offensive, the arrival of emergency aid could be effectively coordinated so as to provide humanitarian aid to the suffering population. The priorities included providing access to medical care, food and other essential products.

Medical Equipment

From 29 December 2008



①

The hospitals in Gaza suffered major damage during the bombardments, whilst the essential first aid requirements of thousands of wounded Palestinians were increasing. The worsening of security conditions, moreover, only made operations led on the ground extremely laborious.

Objectives

- ▶ Provide hospitals with the resources to meet the surge in numbers of people wounded in bombardments;
- ▶ Provide medical care so as to support the medical teams on the ground;
- ▶ Bolster medical transportation for victims of the conflict.

Achievements

- ▶ Supplying 15 tonnes of medical equipment to the Al Shifa and Al Quds hospitals;
- ▶ Medical support and expertise: an orthopaedic surgeon and an anaesthetist were immediately

rushed on site. They formed part of the first delegation to enter Gaza after the ceasefire. For 15 days, they were able to provide medical assistance to serious casualties and share new techniques with their Palestinian colleagues;

▶ Mobile clinic sent to the Palestinian Red Cross.

Beneficiaries

Several thousands of people were able to benefit and continue to do so from the equipment provided.

Partners

Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (MAEE) Crisis Centre (CDC), World Health Organisation (WHO), Palestinian Ministry of Health (MOH), Palestinian Red Cross, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), local partners.

Food Parcels

From 15 January 2009



③

The economic blockade which has paralysed the Gaza Strip for several years has weakened the population who are experiencing serious problems of malnutrition and undernourishment.

Objective

- ▶ Confront the food shortages worsened by the offensive.

Achievements

- ▶ Distribution of food parcels enabling a 5-person family to eat for 7 days: dates, rice, milk pasta, lentils, meat pâté, tinned tuna, tomato sauce, oil, tea and baby food.

Beneficiaries

5,900 families (representing approximately 29,500 people).

Partners

Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (MAEE) Crisis Centre (CDC), World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Palestinian Red Cross, local partner associations.

Vitamin-enriched milk

From 15 January 2009



④

To fulfil the needs of the population, three requirements guided our food support programme: the provision of well-balanced food parcels (low sugar ratios/proteins/lipids), including preservable and easily consumable products (requiring little or no preparation), whilst respecting the eating habits of the beneficiaries. Vitamin-fortified milk fulfils these criteria and enables the most vulnerable people to benefit, notably children.

Objective

- ▶ Reduce nutritional deficiencies due to food shortages resulting from the conflict.

Achievements

- ▶ Sharing out of 325,000 cartons of vitamin-fortified milk to affected families.

Beneficiaries

49,000 families.

Partners

American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

Aid and Support

Non-food aid

From 23 January 2009



5

During the offensive, tens of thousands of homes were destroyed, leaving many families homeless.

Objective

► Fulfil other essential needs of the population: shelter, hygiene, etc.

Achievements

► Distribution of 10,000 blankets to allow the population to keep warm;
 ► Distribution of 10,000 parcels including health kits, cooking equipment, jerrycans and plastic tarpaulins to construct makeshift shelters.

Beneficiaries

10,000 families.

Partners

Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (MAEE) Crisis Centre (CDC), Palestinian Red Cross, Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), local partner associations.

«A plane for Gaza» Initiative

From 30 January 2009



6

On the initiative of the actor Jamel Debbouze, Secours Islamique France, along with Secours Populaire Français, took part in the "A plane for Gaza" initiative aimed at helping thousands of people affected by the war. Three cargo planes carrying medical equipment and medication flew into Gaza.

Objective

► Raise the awareness of the general public and confront the humanitarian emergency affecting civilians in Gaza.

Achievements

► 22 tonnes of medical equipment dispatched: 53 electronic medical beds, 41 mattresses, 43 hospital beds, 15 medical canteens, wheelchairs, etc.

Beneficiaries

Several thousands of people were able to benefit and continue to do so from the equipment provided.

Partners

"A plane for Gaza", Kingdom of Morocco, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (MAEE) Crisis Centre (CDC), Tulipe, local association partners.

..... Some figures

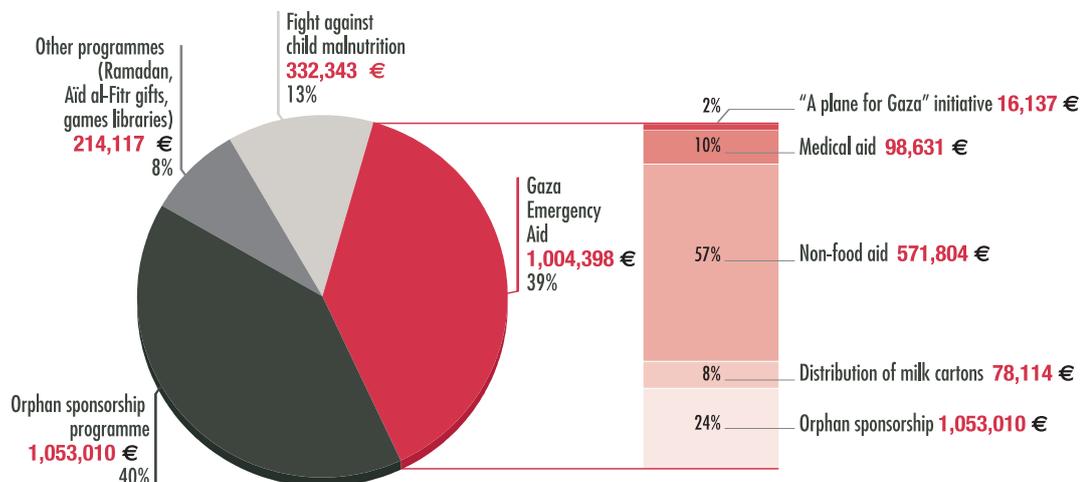
Allocation of humanitarian aid in Gaza in 2009*

Achievements assigned (except for donations in kind) 2,603,868 €

Donations in kind assigned 251,700 €

- Medical equipment 179,700 €
- "A plane for Gaza" initiative 72,000 €

Donations in kind were fully allotted to Gaza Emergency Aid



* Provisional report: some amounts from late 2009 have not yet been included

Projects in Progress



Gaza is bogged down in economic stagnation directly related to the blockade and accentuated by the offensive which has destroyed many businesses and much agricultural land. Palestinians are today living in dramatic humanitarian conditions : almost all of the population is living in poverty. Children, the most vulnerable members of the population, are suffering from malnutrition and their psychological state is worsening. Due to the conflict, moreover, the list of orphans keeps on growing.

Besides the emergency aid, Secours Islamique France is present all year long in Gaza through its local office. Our teams on the ground implement projects to relieve the population and provide it with essential aid.

Fighting against childhood malnutrition

Since 2003



7

In Gaza, an alarming number of children suffer from malnutrition, making them extremely vulnerable and exposing them to physical and mental development problems.

Objectives

- ▶ Meet nutritional requirements for 3-6 year olds by providing the essential items required for development;
- ▶ Support the economy by purchasing local produce.

Achievements

- ▶ Approximately 2,200,000 milk cartons and just as many biscuits purchased from local businesses;
- ▶ Daily distribution of vitamin enriched milk and biscuits in 186 nursery schools.
- ▶ Psychosocial support activities;
- ▶ Training of mothers and teachers in hygiene and food safety.

Results : Within 1 year, the number of children with development problems who benefitted from the programme has been reduced. This number dropped from 6.7% to 5.6%, and cases of anaemia fell from 39.5% to 19.6%.

Beneficiaries

10,000 children, 5,000 mothers, 170 teachers, local businesses.

Partners

ANERA.

Budget forecast for 2010

500,000 €

Orphan sponsorship programme

Since 1992



8

The war has had major consequences. 80% of Palestinians live in poverty and over 1 million people depend on humanitarian aid. Orphans are the most vulnerable.

Objective

- ▶ Enable orphans to have access to healthy food, to receive suitable medical care and to continue with their education, a necessary stage in constructing a better future and becoming independent.

Achievements

- ▶ In December 2009, SIF had helped 3,185 Palestinian orphans to be sponsored, with 2,303 living in Gaza (736 new orphans were sponsored in 2009).

Beneficiaries

2,303 Gaza orphans, as well as the families with whom they live.

Partners

Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW), Ard El Insan (AEI).

Budget forecast for 2010

2,400,000 €
(across all Palestinian territories).

Ramadan Food aid and gifts

Since 1992



9

Poverty and lack of food safety constitute a vicious circle. The month of Ramadan and Aïd al-Fitr, for SIF, constitute an additional opportunity to become involved and provide some comfort to the Palestinian people.

Objectives

- ▶ To provide healthy food for the most vulnerable people;
- ▶ To bring joy to Palestinian children during these festival periods;
- ▶ Create employment opportunities by purchasing local produce.

Achievements

- ▶ Distribution of food parcels to 3,000 Palestinian families;

- ▶ Distribution of 2,419 Aïd al-Fitr gifts including new clothes for orphans aged between 1 to 14 years old sponsored by SIF;
- ▶ Local produce purchased for parcels and gifts.

Beneficiaries

21,000 people, 2,419 orphans, local businesses.

Partners

Local partner associations.

Budget forecast for 2010

500,000 €
(across all Palestinian territories)

Dignity and Hope

Games libraries for nursery schools

Since 2009



(10)

According to the WHO, over the long-term, between twenty and fifty thousand people will continue to suffer from mental problems following the offensive. The psychological impact is difficult to gauge. However, the consequences of the war are being felt, particularly with children.

Objectives

- ▶ Improving the conditions for learning and personal development of children between 3 and 5 years old through playing, an essential vector in the well-balanced development of children;
- ▶ Stimulating the local economy.

Achievements in progress

- ▶ Purchasing toys, books, educational equipment, furnishings, computers and printers from local businesses;

- ▶ Development of games libraries in fifty Gaza schools. Each games library includes an area which can be used for fun educational activities. These adapted areas should be designed as alternative educational spaces;
- ▶ Distribution of 5,000 school bags.

Beneficiaries

5,000 children, 300 teachers, small businesses and employees responsible for supplying equipment.

Partners

General Delegation for Palestine in France, Lyon Great Mosque, local partner associations.

Budget forecast for 2009-2010

277,000 €

Food security and support to farmers

In 2010



(11)

In the Gaza strip, problems are continuing with food security. The living conditions of the population are continuing to worsen. Agriculture is one of the most seriously affected sectors: agricultural land destroyed, trees uprooted, greenhouses destroyed, irrigation channels damaged, etc.

Objectives

- ▶ Working towards food security;
- ▶ Restoring devastated agricultural areas, mainly in the North and East of the Gaza strip;
- ▶ Creating employment opportunities.

Planned Achievements

- ▶ Crops of vegetables, planting of trees, restoration of greenhouses (27.5 hectares in total);
- ▶ Creation of 300 m² allotments for 75 households;
- ▶ Donation of rabbits to 75 families for breeding;

- ▶ Donation of poultry to 75 different families for breeding;
- ▶ Soil sterilisation using solar techniques (nylon nets) over 30 hectares and improvement of water supply circuits;
- ▶ Skills development (training).

Beneficiaries

805 farmers and vulnerable mothers (equating to 6,440 people). The development of this project should also allow for the essential food needs to be met for approximately 260,000 people.

Partners

Palestinian Hydrology Group (PHG) for Water & Environmental Resources' Development.

Budget forecast for 2010

776,000 €

Rehabilitation of homes

In 2010



(12)

Bombardments destroyed 65% of homes in the Gaza Strip and at least 200,000 displaced people still live in precarious shelters.

Objectives

- ▶ Improving the living conditions for families in terms of sanitary, psychological and social conditions;
- ▶ Creating employment opportunities and stimulating the local economy.

Planned Achievements

- ▶ Renovation of 100 homes heavily destroyed, by using as far as possible the material or rubble already on site;
- ▶ Supply of utensils and equipment for 100 underprivileged families.

Beneficiaries

800 people. This project will also allow for over 10,000 jobs to be created.

Budget forecast for 2010

1,000,000 €

(10) Play yard in a nursery school destroyed in the bombing (11) Allotment (12) Restoration of destroyed homes

The blockade imposed upon the population of Gaza has serious consequences on the rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in the Gaza Strip. For over a year now, no humanitarian aid organisation has been able to bring construction equipment into the area.

The list of forbidden essential equipment, keeps on growing! At present, it is still not allowed to bring in cement, glass, steel, wood, metallic piping, generators, tarmac and paint.

Palestinians are forced to survive on a day to day basis with makeshift shelters, tents and tarpaulins for protection and housing.

Currently, the blockade is preventing our "mobile homes" from being let in. These difficulties are not discouraging us from continuing to support the Palestinian population; this re-housing project will allow for families affected by the offensive to once again live in decent homes. And it is thanks to the SIF team on the ground in Gaza that we already are able to act directly with the Palestinians through our other aid programmes.



Let us continue to help them



Adel Kaddoum, SIF Gaza Leader



Dear friends, one year has passed since the Israeli offensive led on Gaza which lasted for 22 days, imposing a terrible blockade (by land, sea and sky) on the 1.5 million Palestinians in Gaza. This blockade is continuing still today!

One year of suffering still ongoing, and even more intense for the population of Gaza! Unemployment and poverty levels are devastating for the vast majority of the population.

One year on already, and the agricultural land destroyed by the bulldozers of the Israeli army is still in the condition in which it was left.

One year on already, and a large number of families still live in tents, makeshift shelters or share inadequate accommodation where they pile up in often difficult conditions.

Following the emergency situation, during the initial few days after the ceasefire, Secours Islamique France came to offer

aid to the people of Gaza. Today, our activities are focussed on offering aid to farmers to clean and restore their land. In this vein, laying hens and rabbits will be provided to 1,200 people so as they can develop breeding activities which will enable them to feed themselves and act as a source of income. We have additionally provided 10,000 children with vitamin-fortified milk in Gaza, Khan Younes, Bayt Lahia, etc. Additionally we are looking after orphans in Gaza so as they can gain independence and may, later in life, offer a future to their own families.

It is thanks to God and to your donations that our projects have been able to progress.

With the grace of God and your contributions, during and after the war in Gaza, we have succeeded in returning dignity to thousands of people in Gaza.

I would like to thank you all. Thank you for allowing people in Gaza to continue to survive.

Video account available on www.secours-islamique.org



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Secours Islamique France (SIF) is a Non Governmental International Aid Organisation based in France. Created in 1991, SIF is a non-profit and non-political association (as defined under the 1901 Act) with the objective of providing assistance, aid, and protection to the victims of natural disasters, armed conflicts or economic crises. SIF is a member of the Islamic Relief Worldwide group and is involved in thirty countries across the world in unrolling its emergency aid, post-emergency aid and development programmes. SIF has been providing aid for almost 20 years whilst respecting cultural differences, with no bias placed on origins, religions or gender.