

GAZA HUMANITARIAN INFORMATION SERVICE (HIS)



Internews
Local voices. Global change.



Weekly Report (28 Sep- 2 Oct 2014) - Issue 7



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About the Gaza Humanitarian Information Service

The HIS produces the *Jossor ma'Gaza* ('Bridges with Gaza') radio program which is broadcast daily from Sunday to Thursday, 12:10 to 13:00, 17:00 to 18:00 and 22:00 to 23:00 on Voice of Palestine (99.4 & 90.7 FM), Palestine Television and 9 radio stations of the Internews-supported Jossor Network.



In Limbo Amid the Rubble - What Jossor's Listeners are Saying

As the political talks continue, the situation in Gaza remains static – no cleanup, no construction, no additional aid or materials. With the cooler temperatures and rain on the horizon, the welfare of 1.8 million people - particularly those displaced - will further deteriorate.

"If siege is not lifted completely, the Gaza Strip will be a place that lives unprecedented catastrophe. We hold hopes in the forthcoming Cairo conference to come out with positive outcomes." - Adnan Abu Hasna, Communication/Media Advisor at UNRWA.

"Thousands of tons of explosives were dropped on Gaza, which left huge amounts of chemicals and physical materials. The rubble will be swept away by rainfall, blocking waste water pipes and contaminating the aquifer and water wells." - Engineer Kamal Muammar, Khan Younis Municipality,

"Most of the time I stared at the ceiling visualizing that a missile might fall on our heads any minute." "I lost my temper very easily and was extremely anxious." "My children became very sensitive to any noise around." - Interviews with three women by reporter Sabah Hamada.

"I couldn't afford to pay my loan payment to the bank and due to the constant electricity shortages had to move machines to my home; I will probably be forced to sell them to pay the loan." - Business owner interviewed by reporter Nourhan El Madhoun on Tuesday's broadcast.

"My house was completely destroyed in the war. I have a dream to go back to my home and to live with dignity. All we ask for is to have our houses rebuilt." - Woman interviewed on Thursday broadcast.

"I have a message I that I wish to pass to UNRWA. My wife is gravely injured, I have three more injured at home and the Ministry only pays attention to severe/critical cases. We are grateful and thankful to your radio program, as you are the only platform through which we can raise our voices." - Telephone call from Ahmad Najjar from Khuza'a on Thursday program

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINANTS & POLLUTION, 28/9/2014

- Imperative that rubble be examined for exploded/unexploded remnants of war and rapidly removed as they may cause injury/death in case of mis-handling, contamination from toxic dust and blockage of sewage/water pipes.
- Toxic pollutants being emitted will have long term consequences for the agricultural sector as soil and water have been contaminated.
- No assessment of rubble has taken place to date leaving people vulnerable as they search for belongings; available equipment is severely outdated. An official request has been made to UNEP to assess the situation. [SEE MORE](#)

SUPPORT TO GAZAN WOMEN, 29/9/2014

- Psycho-social support offered by organizations was very much appreciated, needed and extremely helpful for women, a sentiment expressed repeatedly by women interviewed by the program.
- Local organizations worked throughout the war in support of women in particular, as they continued to serve as the bond of the social fabric during a time of intense stress and anxiety. [SEE MORE](#)

INTERNALLY DISPLACED & SHELTER UPDATE, 1/10/2014

- Deir il Baleh UNRWA Shelter was evacuated September 6; now run by IDP volunteers with no services, water shortage and no UN presence.
- Families are living on one meal a day, pooling resources to purchase food at the best bulk prices possible.
- Some IDPs reticent to rent; prefer shelters for services and stability.
- UNRWA will work to maintain shelters, host IDPs and continue service delivery, however, critical that the siege be completely lifted.
- Houses with minor damage will be rapidly repaired by UNRWA.
- Pressing need to return schools for children's education. [SEE MORE](#)

Best Picture of the week



BANKING & LOAN CONTINGENCIES, 30/9/2014

- The Palestinian Monetary Authority (PMA) has decided to delay payments with no additional interest and discounted down payments for new loans. Analyst claims PMA negligent in its social responsibility.
- The Bank of Palestine is looking into particular situations of business owners to find solutions that work both for them and for the bank.
- Loan guarantors will carry full responsibility for loans unpaid by primary beneficiaries, according to the PMA; they cannot oblige banks to delay due payments. [SEE MORE](#)

EID AL ADHA PREPARATIONS: CALL-IN SHOW, 2/10/2014

- People called in expressing despair – loss of loved ones, their homes and the anxiety and trauma lived by their children has made the situation untenable. In short, there is no Eid atmosphere.
- Shopowners interviewed attested to a lack of clientele, with no one purchasing anything and their stock building up on shelves. The economy is moribund.
- MoSA has paid out 30 million NIS to 68,000 families, and is anticipating about \$3.8 billion for reconstruction from the Gaza Recovery Conference in Cairo. [SEE MORE](#)

Jossor ma'Gaza reaches the West Bank and Gaza Strip through Voice of Palestine (99.4 & 90.7 FM), Palestine TV and the Internews Jossor Network:

In the Gaza Strip NileSat 12034 & Alwan Radio (94.5 FM); **In the West Bank** Minbar Al Hurriya (92.7 FM Hebron & reaching approx 60% of Gaza);

Halla (107.4 FM Jerusalem); Raya (96.8 FM Ramallah); Bethlehem 2000 (106.3 & 89.6 FM Bethlehem); Tariq Al Mahaba (97.7 FM Nablus);

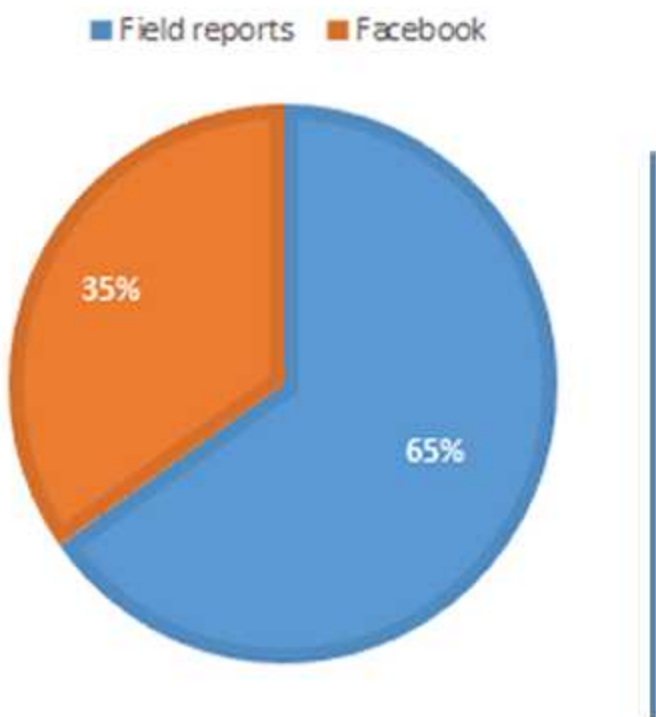
Nas (104.9 FM Jenin); Al Fajr Radio (90.4 FM Tulkarem). Many radio stations also stream live on their websites.

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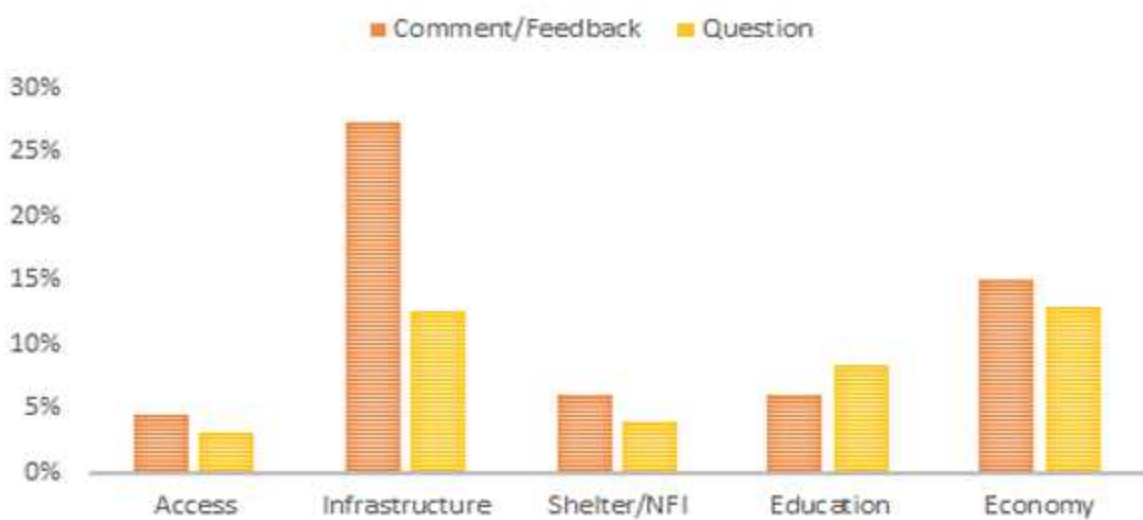
Main Feedback from Citizens

Issues Expressed by the Population	Prospective Course of Action
<p>Environment and pollution</p> <p>People expressed their concern about the remnants of war and their impact on all areas of life. as they emit toxic contaminants. UXOs render search for belongings in rubble dangerous. Experts confirmed that war remnants contain chemicals that contribute to changes in composition of soil, rendering agricultural land contaminated, as well as plants and water, all vehicles to causing cancer and tumours in the human body.</p>	<p>While much of the rubble clearance will have to wait for funding to be decided, it is nonetheless critical that UNEP or other qualified organization urgently support the analysis of contaminants present and educate the public as to how to deal with the rubble while trying to recover their belongings.</p> <p>Jossor welcomes messaging and/or spots from qualified organizations that the Network may broadcast by radio and via social media on a on a daily basis to avert tragedies from toxic exposure to remnants of war or encounters with unexploded ordnance.</p>
<p>Economy (Banks and Loans)</p> <p>People are confused as to their obligations with the banks and desperate due to lack of financial means, loss of jobs and means by which to meet their obligations to the financial institutions.</p>	<p>The stressful reality of bank obligations is particularly urgent, and an issue that can only have a domestic solution. If not already underway, the Palestinian Monetary Authority should consider the establishment of a mechanism by which to engage the community in Gaza as well as the banks in order to look at feasible solutions to both corporate and personal/home loans.</p>
<p>Support to Women</p> <p>Women have greatly benefitted from the support received during the war and in its wake; they expressed worry about how their stress levels were affecting their ability to manage the complex and difficult situations that their families and extended families are facing.</p>	<p>Continued psycho-social support to women is a necessity in the actual stage of their having to cope with their own trauma while supporting family members in dealing with theirs - death of loved ones, loss of homes, belongings and communities; adaptation to living in communal circumstances or overcrowded homes.</p> <p>Availability of recreational space for women to find reprieve was repeatedly requested as a release valve for women to socialize and where they may take children to play. The location of such venues may be broadcast through the Jossor radio program.</p>
<p>Shelters/NFI</p> <p>IDPs in Deir Il Baleh were particularly distressed by the precipitous withdrawal of UNRWA from the shelter, and feeling abandoned in their time of need. While volunteers continue to work to keep the premises clean and provide for its residents, their need for food and potable water remains unmet, and the shelter remains without electricity.</p>	<p>UNRWA is under terrific pressure to service the needs of tens of thousands of displaced persons, however, clear communication with shelter residents is absolutely essential at a time when people's dignity has been particularly affronted through so many layers of profound loss.</p>

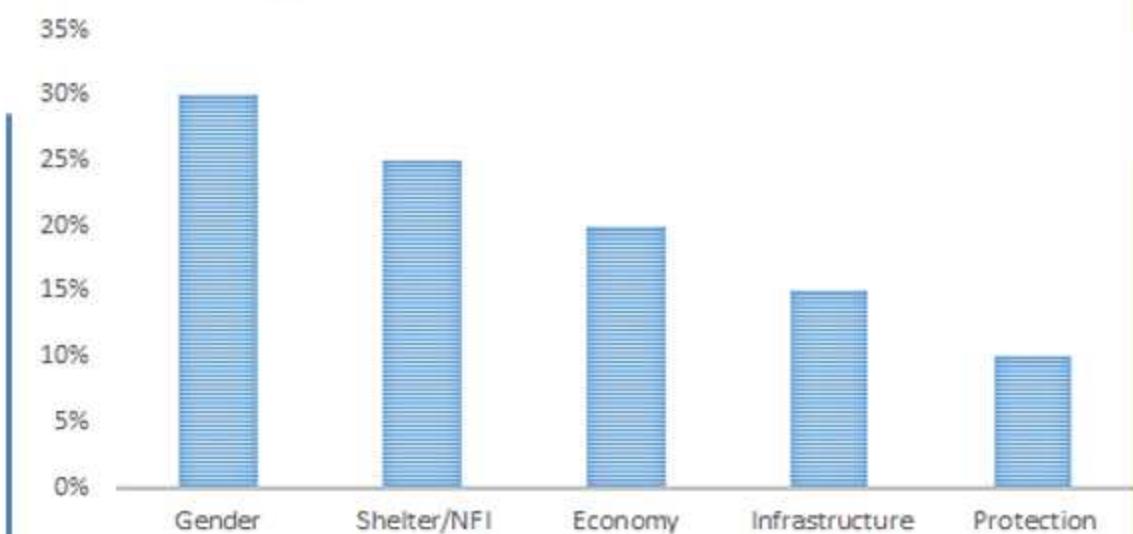
CITIZENS' FEEDBACK



FACEBOOK FEEDBACK



FIELD REPORTS FEEDBACK



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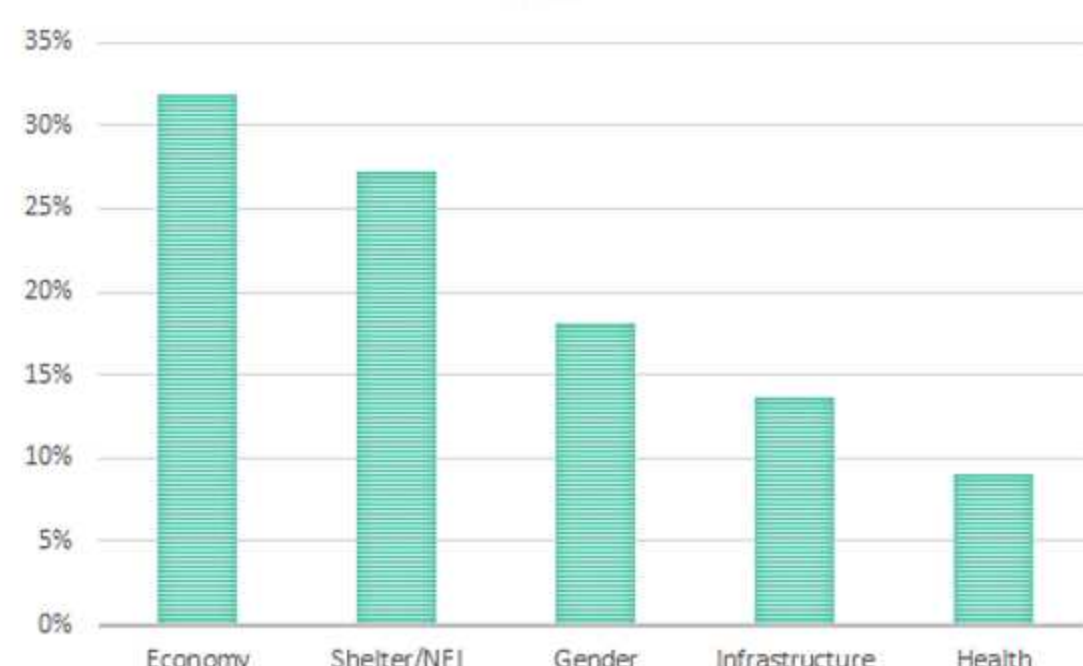


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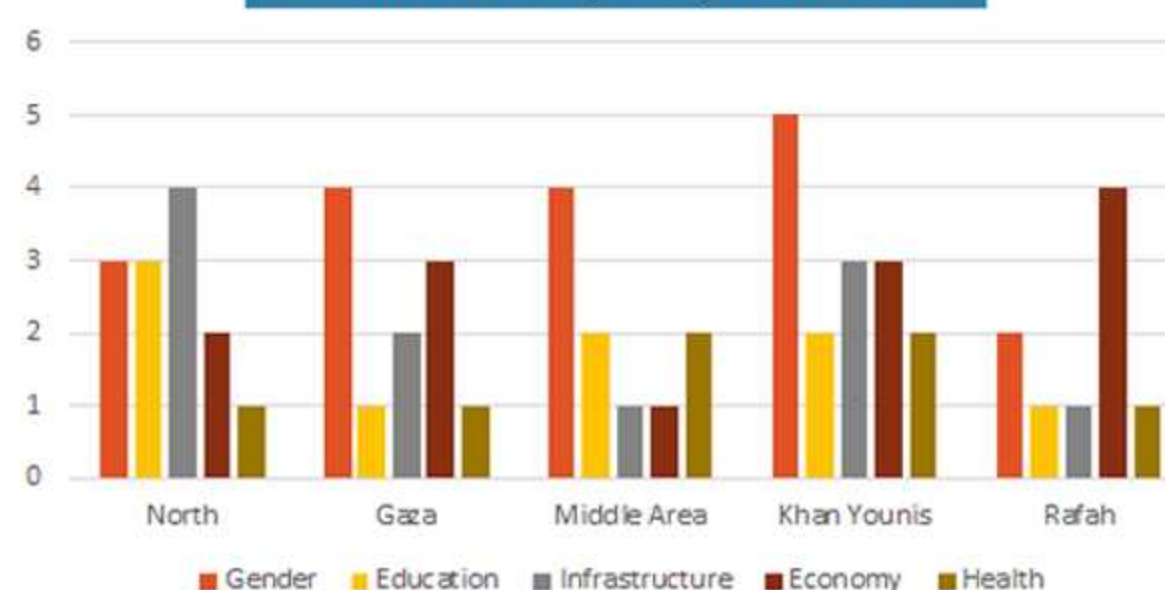
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Broadcasting during the week

Topics covered



Distribution of Topics by Governorate



34

Interviews with the local population



- 7 Gazan women speaking via reporters
- 13 displaced persons in shelters
- 14 "Open Mike" calls to the program from Gaza residents on Eid al Adha preparations

10

Interviews with humanitarian organizations and PA institutions



The Ministry of Agriculture, The Environment Quality Authority, Asala (The Palestinian Association for Business Women, World Vision, The Bank of Palestine, The Palestinian Monetary Authority, The Minister of Public Works & Housing, UNRWA, The Ministry of Social Affairs.

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Official Statements



Official messages from :
Palestinian Monitor Authority, The Environment Quality Authority, MoSA, UNRWA.

Broadcasting for the upcoming week

Day/Date	5/10 Sun	6/10 Mon	7/9 Tue	8/10 Wed	9/10 Thu
Topic	Eid Al-Adha Vacation			Industrial and private sector recovery 	Open Microphone for Gazans