

Assessment Report

GAZA Internally displaced persons

Assessment of the vulnerability situation for IDPs in Gaza, three years after the 2014 conflict



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List of Acronyms

CC	Collective Centre
CwC	Communication with Communities
DES	Designated Emergency Shelter
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HLP	Housing Land and Property
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IDPs-WG	IDPs Working group
MoSD	Ministry of Social Development
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
TSCA	Transitional Shelter Cash Assistance
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

1. Introduction and Rational

Since 2008, the Gaza Strip has experienced three major conflicts, greatly increasing the numbers of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The 2014 aggression on Gaza was the most destructive of them all, affecting 1.8 million people. Around 500,000 people (28% of the population of Gaza) were displaced by the war, over 18,000 houses were destroyed or damaged and uninhabitable and 220 schools and 58 hospitals/ health centres were damaged.

From mid-August to December 2015, the IDPs Working Group (IDPs WG), led by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and Ministry of Social Development (MoSD), carried out a re-registration and vulnerability profiling survey, targeting over 16,000 households who lost their homes during the 2014 hostilities. The survey gathered detailed information on their living conditions along with their needs. The main findings were released in a report issued in April 2016. The findings and detailed information are available to all relevant actors in a unified database held by OCHA.¹

Reconstruction assistance has been provided to the IDPs since the 2015 survey. However, many families did not receive this support and as of 2017, around 4,450 IDP families are still displaced. Due to a lack of updated information on the socioeconomic situation of the remaining displaced 4,450² IDP families, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), under the umbrella of the IDPs-WG, conducted the IDP vulnerability assessment from November to December 2017; targeting a sample 20% of this remaining IDP caseload. The objective of the assessment was twofold: 1) to bring up to date the 2015 assessment findings and assess IDPs' vulnerability situation 3 years after the last conflict; and 2) to get a better understanding of displacement patterns and conditions. The assessment was driven by concerns on the stalled reconstruction efforts and the worsened economic situation resulting in overcrowded housing conditions, limited access to basic services, a decline in the quantity and diversity of food consumed, risk of gender-based violence, and exposure to weather extremes and unexploded ordnance. In general, it is expected that these factors will exacerbate the vulnerability of many groups among IDPs, particularly those groups with additional vulnerabilities including female-headed households, children and persons with disabilities.

The collected information and recommendations will be crucial to enhance humanitarian coordination, programming and advocacy. It will assist humanitarian actors to update and understand the pressing needs of the remaining displaced families, as well as highlight gaps for future mobilization and interventions.

¹ http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/idps_report_april_2016_english.pdf

² https://www.sheltercluster.org/sites/default/files/docs/one_page_factsheet_december_2017.pdf

2. Executive Summary

This vulnerability assessment was conducted 3 years after the 2014 conflict in the Gaza Strip. The findings detail the ongoing vulnerable situation of IDPs in Gaza, and provides updated information about the families to allow humanitarian actors to design informed interventions based on actual and updated needs. The assessment targeted a 20% sample of the current IDP caseload in Gaza.

The assessment finds that there are sectoral humanitarian gaps and provides specific vulnerability information in relation to various humanitarian sectors.

In Shelter, the assessment found that the majority of IDPs' families are renting housing units, thus any delays or uncertainty in the Transitional Shelter Cash Assistance (TSCA), which is used to support rent costs, exacerbates vulnerabilities and puts families at risk of further displacement. Some IDPs have started the reconstruction process. However, access to funds, as stated by 69% of the ones who started reconstruction, is the main obstacle hindering those IDPs from completing their houses. For Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, (WASH), the findings show there is a high dependency on private vendors for drinking water, while a considerable percentage of the surveyed IDPs do not have water tanks to properly store this potable water. Most of the surveyed IDPs expressed that displacement has been a cause of an increase in Gender Based Violence (GBV) and that services for psychosocial support are not available for the majority of adults and children. For the economic situation, the assessment shows that roughly 83% of IDP families are obtaining their food on credit while, 64% of the surveyed heads of households are not working.

The findings also shed light on displacement trends and emergency preparedness, with 95% of the surveyed IDPs stating that they would choose to move to bigger cities in the event of a new emergency. The assessment highlights a key issue with Communication with Communities (CwC), as the findings show that the majority of IDPs are not aware of the location of the closest Designated Emergency Shelter (DES) to their current accommodation.

Key recommendations include: for shelter actors to prioritize the most vulnerable; for local actors and the international community to continue to look for solutions to the deteriorating water supply, and provide evidence for international advocacy; for protection actors to assess further the protection risks faced by IDPs including GBV and child protection; for humanitarian actors to give special consideration to livelihoods activities; and for all actors to improve and reinforce communication strategies with communities.

Temporary humanitarian assistance is essential to preserve lives and dignity of the affected population, but these assessment findings also underpin the need to re-orient humanitarian interventions towards the achievement of durable solutions for IDPs in Gaza. Otherwise, displacement will stay a reality for the years to come, especially for the most vulnerable cases.

3. Methodology & Implementation

3.1 Preparing Field Workers

NRC contracted field workers (23 Female & 22 Male) from the pool of volunteers who participated in the original IDPs re-registration exercise in 2015. The field workers were divided into teams, considering the gender balance and geographical location. Because these field workers had already participated in the previous assessment, they possessed adequate capacity to conduct such work. However, to ensure the skills were sufficient, a one day training was given to all field workers on the modified assessment form to ensure effective data collection.



Picture 1 IDPs Vulnerability Assessment – Field Workers’ training

Additionally, NRC reached out to local CBOs and municipalities that were used as hubs during the field work. These hubs hosted field operations as follows: field teams gathered in the morning in their respective hubs, received the daily caseload from the hub coordinator, deployed in the field for data collection and at the end of the day re-grouped at the hubs to handover the tablets and the remaining unvisited cases from the daily caseload.



Picture 2 IDPs Vulnerability Assessment - Field workers’ preparation prior to field visits

3.2 Assessment Form

The development of the assessment form was participatory and based on the original IDPs profiling/re-registration form, slightly improved by incorporating the input from clusters in order to capture sectoral vulnerabilities. The assessment form included questions on different sectors such as: basic information on the IDP family, housing and amenities, shelter needs, income and coping mechanisms, WASH, food security, education, protection and the main communication channels available or used during an emergency. Each section of the assessment was intended to produce information on the vulnerabilities for a certain sector. The developed form also intended to produce information to evidence an overall picture on the actual needs and types of humanitarian services required for IDPs and hosting communities.

3.3 Field Assessment

The Gaza Strip is divided into five governorates, thus, five hubs were used to host field workers in the different localities. NRC deployed one of its staff as a coordinator for each hub to monitor, support and facilitate field work during the assessment.

Across the five governorates, there was a total of 18 field work teams. These dedicated teams worked in each governorate according to the caseload received from OCHA. Each team consisted of two members, one male and one female, for protection and cultural reasons. The total timeframe for the field work was 10 days and each team spent 6 working hours per day in data collection, reaching between 6 to 7 IDPs cases per day on average. At the completion of the field work, the total number of the cases assessed was 1,179.



Picture 3 IDPs Vulnerability Assessment – During the field assessment interviews

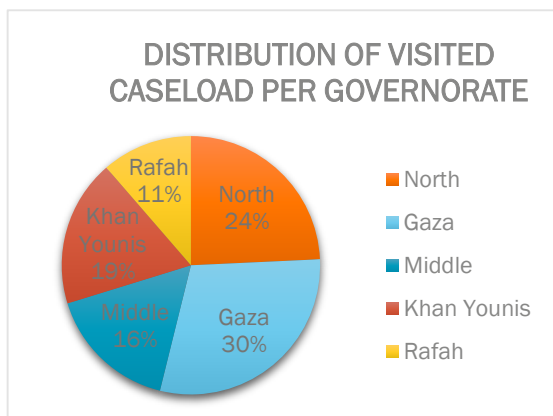
3.4 Sampling

This assessment targeted a sample 20% of the remaining 4,450 IDPs³. As a priority, efforts were exerted towards reaching the potential vulnerable cases. The assessment sample was a combination of purposive and random sample. Potential vulnerable IDP families were defined according to the following criteria:

- Female headed households.
- Elderly headed households.
- Child headed households.
- Disabled headed households.
- Families with People Living with Disabilities (PwD)
- Families still living in caravans or makeshift shelters.

All families that met the above mentioned criteria were included in the sample. The remaining cases required to complete the 20% target were randomly selected from the IDPs database based on the percentage at each governorate. The above sampling criteria resulted in the following:

- 345 IDP families were extracted based on potential vulnerability dimensions in addition to a random sample of 702 cases, resulting in an initially identified 1,047 cases for the assessment.
- 351 cases were then added and marked as backup cases to substitute unreachable / non responding cases, which raised the number of total cases to be considered for the assessment to be 1,398.
- In total, at the conclusion of the field work, 1,179 IDP families were successfully reached and assessed out of the 4,450 remaining IDPs families as shown in the figure below, which corresponds to around 27% of the remaining IDPs HH caseload of 2017.



Governorate	Targeted Number
North	286
Gaza	349
Middle	193
Khan Younis	217
Rafah	134

³ https://www.sheltercluster.org/sites/default/files/docs/one_page_factsheet_december_2017.pdf

3.5 Data Cleansing and Quality Assurance

Android operated tablets with the Kobo platform was used to collect and manage the data. Forms from each field worker's tablets were transferred into the database, and the tablets then cleaned on a daily basis. Additionally, the database was checked on a daily basis and compared with the original data received from OCHA which formed the target sample list, in order to update the lists including noting unreachable cases. Updated target sample lists were circulated every day, excluding the already visited cases, and the unreachable or error cases in order to avoid duplication of visits. Each team of field workers filled at least two paper forms each day, as an ongoing check against the electronically entered data. These forms were compared with the electronic database records in order to verify data quality. At the end of the field work period, the database was reviewed overall to ensure consistency of the information provided.

4. Findings and Analysis

4.1 Emergency and Displacement Trends

During the 2014 hostilities, the most aggressive war on Gaza to date, thousands of Gazans were forced to flee their houses and move to a safer area, becoming IDPs. IDP families asked where was their first destination when fleeing: 51% reported that they initially went to the Collective Centres (CCs) (Figure 1) while 24% moved to host families, and about 22% looked for rented units. This indicates that people anticipated that they could find safety and access to basic services within CCs. However, only 20 % reported that they currently know where the closest Designated Emergency Shelter (DES) or CC to their houses (Figure 2). This information unfortunately reflects that the humanitarian actors are still not efficient in communication with the affected population. Having communities become aware of this life saving information is an essential part of the emergency preparedness efforts and needs more attention from the humanitarian actors. Upon geographical analysis it is found that Gaza, Khan Younis and the Middle area have the lowest knowledge on DES locations among Gaza Strip communities (table1).

When asked if they know whom to contact during emergencies to access humanitarian services, only 42% of the surveyed IDPs families responded positively. A deeper look at the results reveal that the worst percentage was in the Khan Younis governorate where only 22% stated that they know whom to contact in emergency situations (table 2). This may be related to the wider geographical spread of Khan Younis governorate which makes humanitarian services focused in the main cities and not reaching to the scattered population. These results highlight the need to enhance outreach and “Communication with Communities” (CwC) activities by humanitarian service providers.

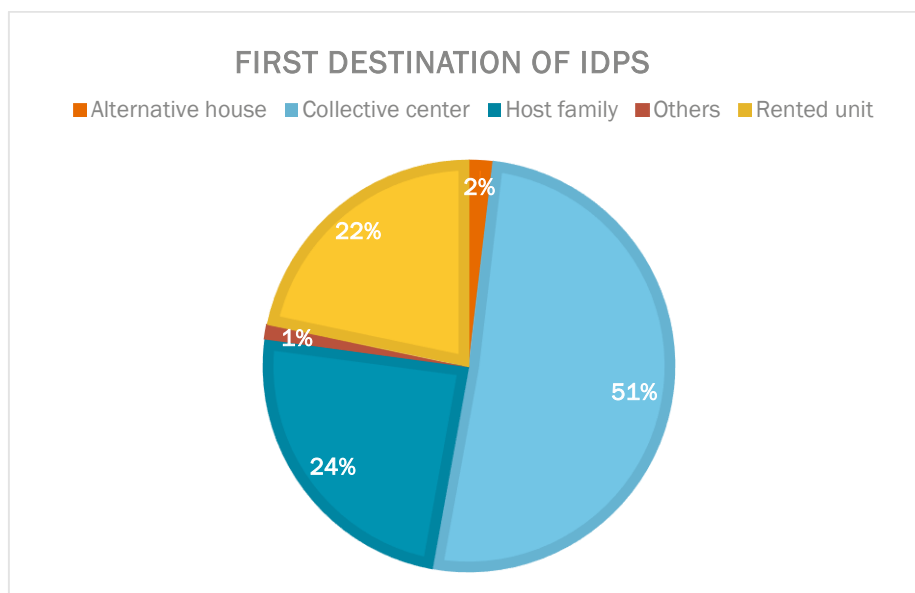


Figure 1

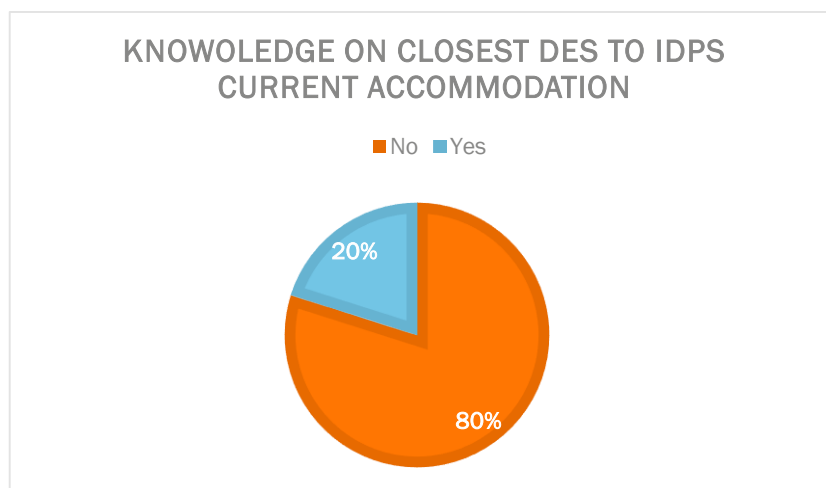


Figure 2

Governorates	Yes	No
Gaza	10.3%	89.7%
Khanyounis	11.1%	88.9%
Middle Area	23.8%	76.2%
North	31.5%	68.5%
Rafah	30.6%	69.4%

Table 1: Answers to the question “Do you know where the closest DES to your current home is?” segregated by governorate.

Governorates	YES	No
Gaza	52%	48%
Khanyounis	22%	78%
Middle Area	39%	61%
North	52%	48%
Rafah	44%	56%
Total	42%	58%

Table 2: Answers to the question “Do you know whom to contact in case of emergency?”

The displaced families have faced, and are still facing, tremendous challenges in their current neighbourhoods. Around 35% from the surveyed families revealed that they are not living in a different locality or neighbourhood since fleeing in the 2014 war (Figure 3). This forced displacement has impacted and changed the IDPs ability to access essential services. For instance, 30% of those living outside their original locality reported that this movement has affected their access to jobs and livelihoods opportunities. 29% also reported that the movement affected their access to schools and education, and 28% indicated that displacement has affected access to health services. Challenges in accessing services also result from difficulties for families to integrate in the new environment, where the devastated socio-economic situation has further deteriorated. This is underpinned through the fact that 38% pointed out that displacement has affected their social relationships and networks.

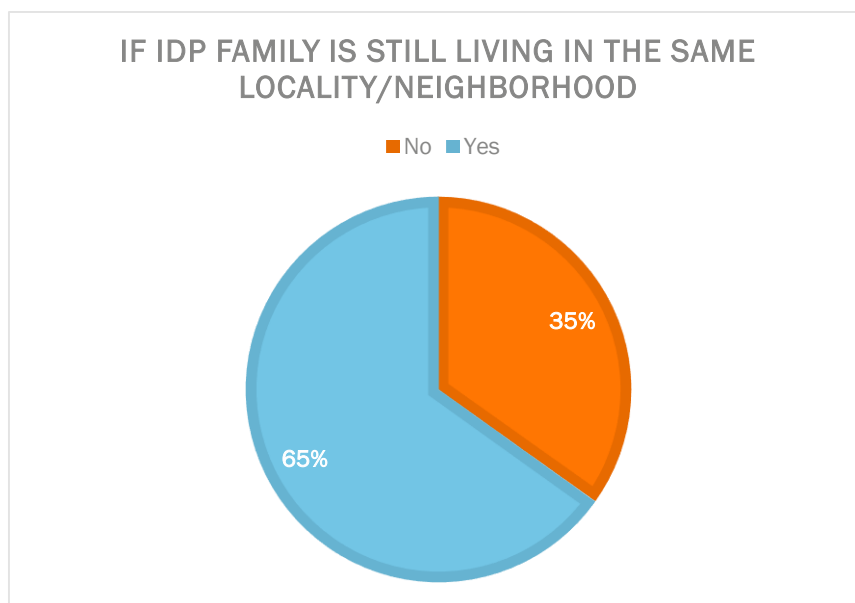


Figure 3

Understanding displacement patterns resulting from the last war in 2014, as well as expected displacement trends, in case of future conflicts can support humanitarian actors to take more informed decisions about where to focus emergency preparedness efforts to mitigate negative displacement effects on affected populations. (Figure 4) below shows responses from surveyed IDP families showing the majority of displaced people will move to city centres, 27% to Gaza City, 22% to Jabalia, 19% to Khanyonis, 16% to Der Al Balah and 11% to Rafah. Only 5% stated that they will move to outside city boundaries or in marginalized areas.

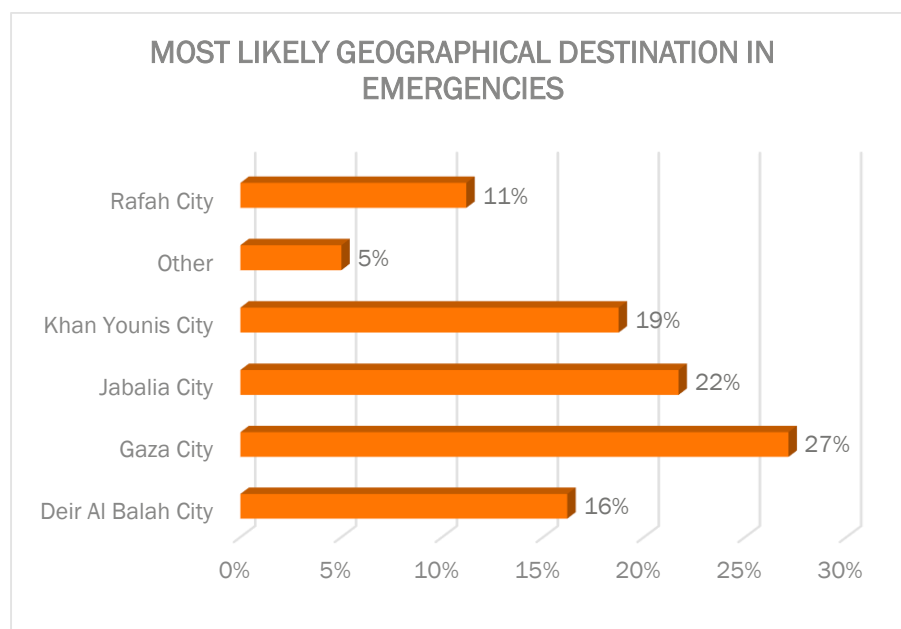


Figure 4

Based on the previous experience in 2014, most surveyed IDPs confirmed that they moved multiple times since the first displacement. The figures show that 58% moved between 3 and 5 times and 6% even moved 6 to 8 times (Figure 5). Those families are still displaced and could move again until they

secure a permanent shelter solution. A particular vulnerability is that 3% from surveyed families reported having family members suffering from disability (Figure 6), especially visual and physical disabilities, which increases the challenge of movement further as well as access to homes, services, and livelihood opportunities.

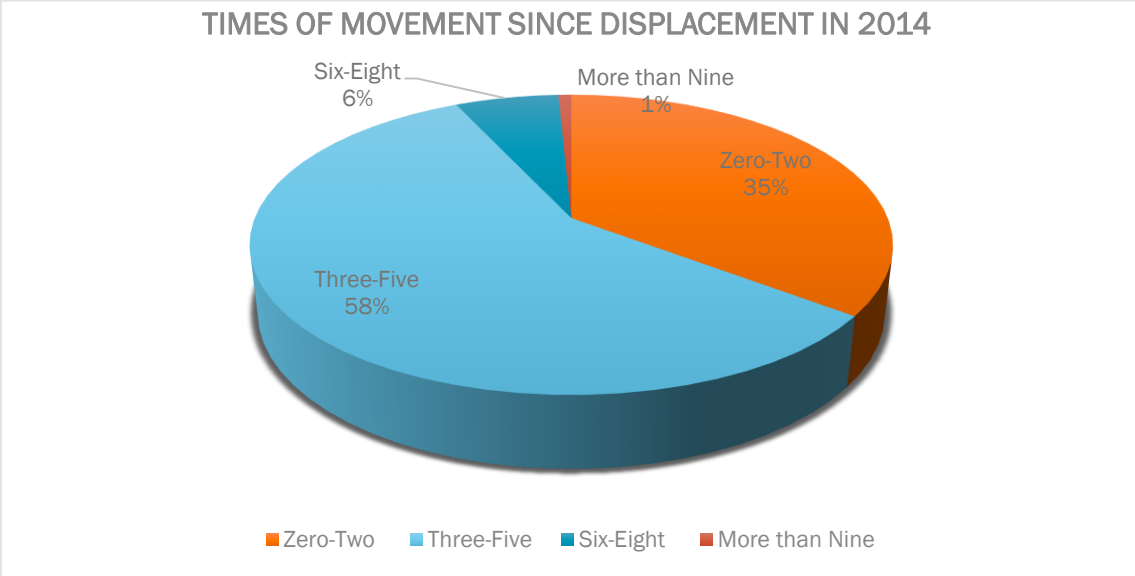


Figure 5

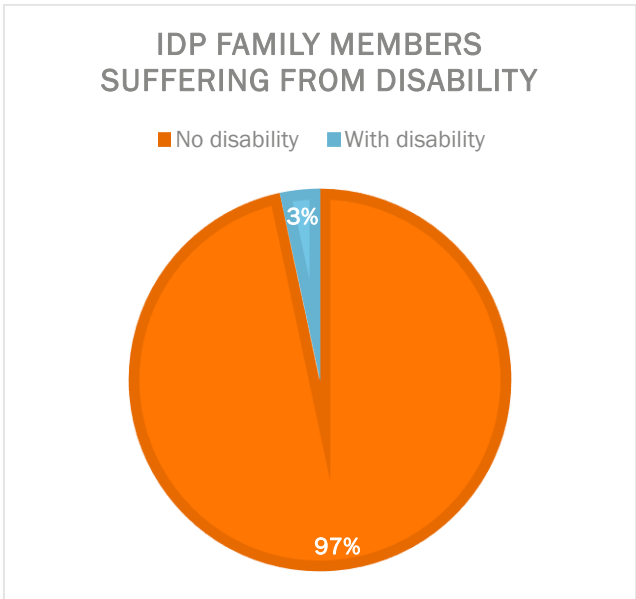


Figure 6

Finally, looking at the communication channels available to IDP families during emergencies (Figure 7), the assessment reveals that TV and Radio, as a one-way communication tool, would be used by 28% and 18% of the surveyed families respectively. For the most expected two-way communication tool, mobile phones were reported to be used in emergencies by 22% of the surveyed IDPs. Nonetheless, internet and social media are scoring good percentages as reported to be available with 12% and 11% of the surveyed IDPs. Because the latter mentioned tools are two way effective

communication tools, it would be a substantial gain to raise access to social media and internet through devising humanitarian communication mechanisms that utilize these tools during emergencies.

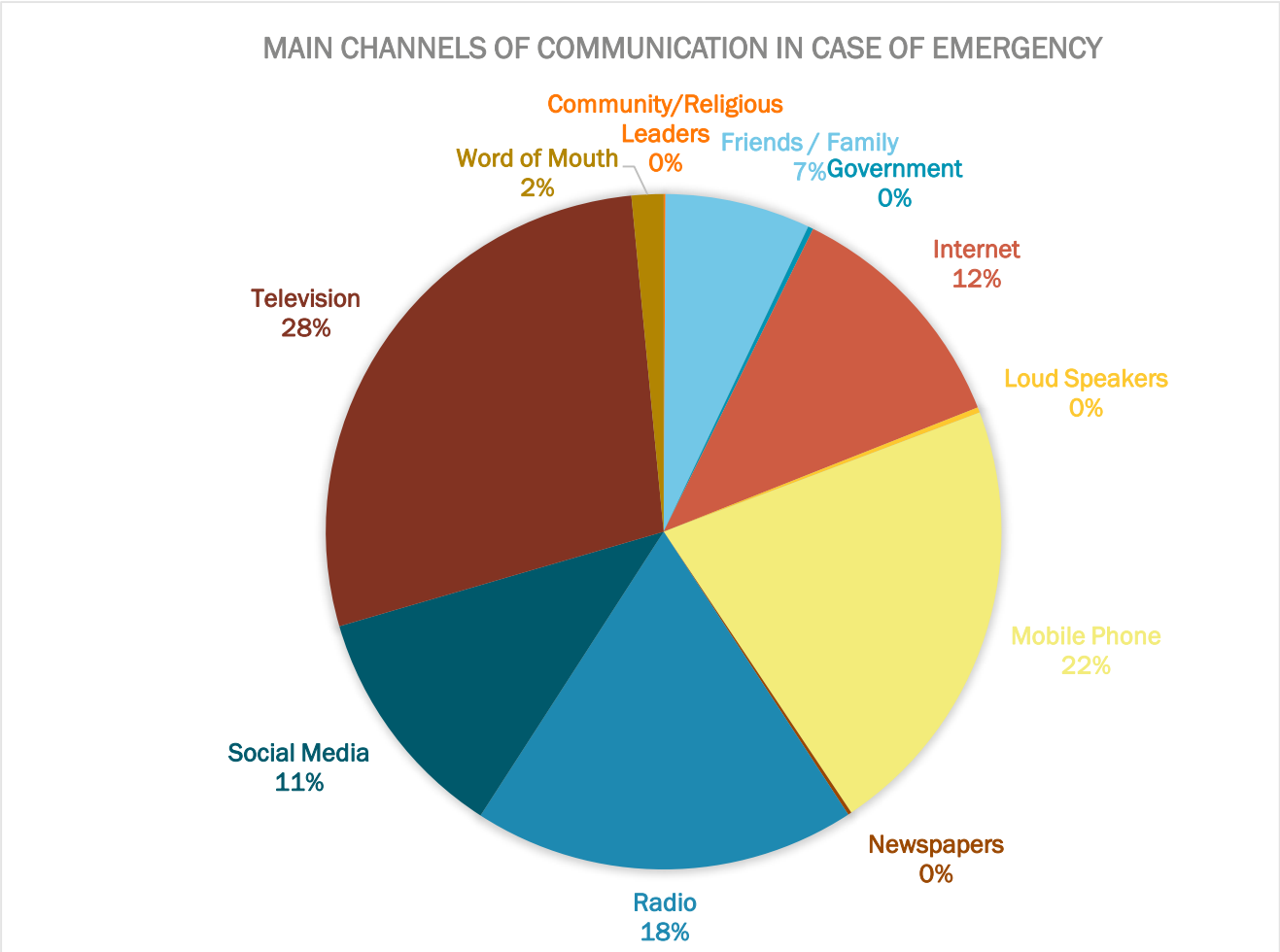


Figure 7

(Figure 8) below gives a detailed analysis on the available communication tools during emergencies with distribution over governorates, according to the numbers of surveyed IDP families who mentioned that they would use this specific tool during emergencies. It is noted that mobile phones are more common in the North while TV is more used in Gaza governorate. Social media is more of a favourite for Khan Younis families compared with other governorates. Radio and internet is common in all governorates. Loud speakers, communication through word of mouth and community/religious leaders had low ranking among the surveyed families. This can be related to lack of trust and credibility that prevailed during emergencies where the affected population preferred more credible communication channels. These results indicate the need for more efforts to invest in emergency communication awareness among both the affected communities and their leaders in order to enhance credibility and transparency notions and create backup communication channels that can be utilized when the other electronic channels fail.

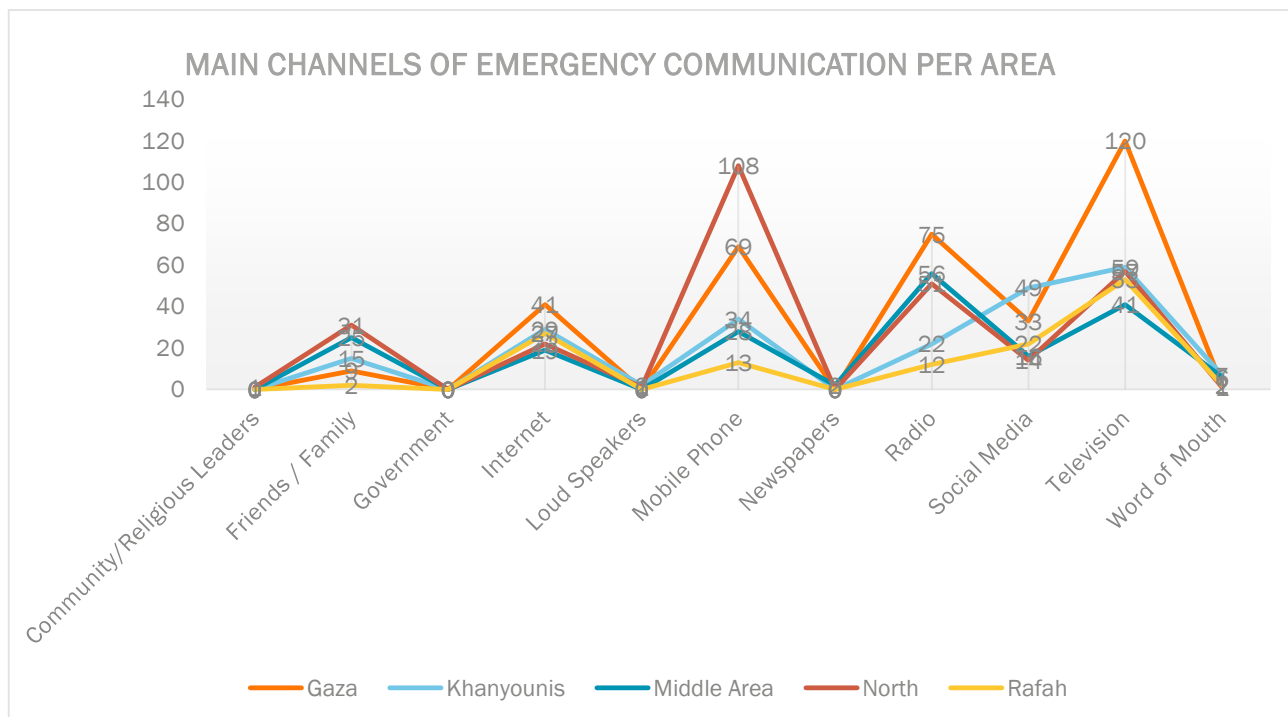


Figure 8

4.2 Shelter and Housing Conditions

The assessment has revealed that IDP families are still living in precarious shelter arrangements. (Figure 9) below highlights the findings related to shelter settings of the surveyed IDP families. Almost half (48%) of the surveyed sample are renting housing units with most of them relying on TSCA on a regular basis.

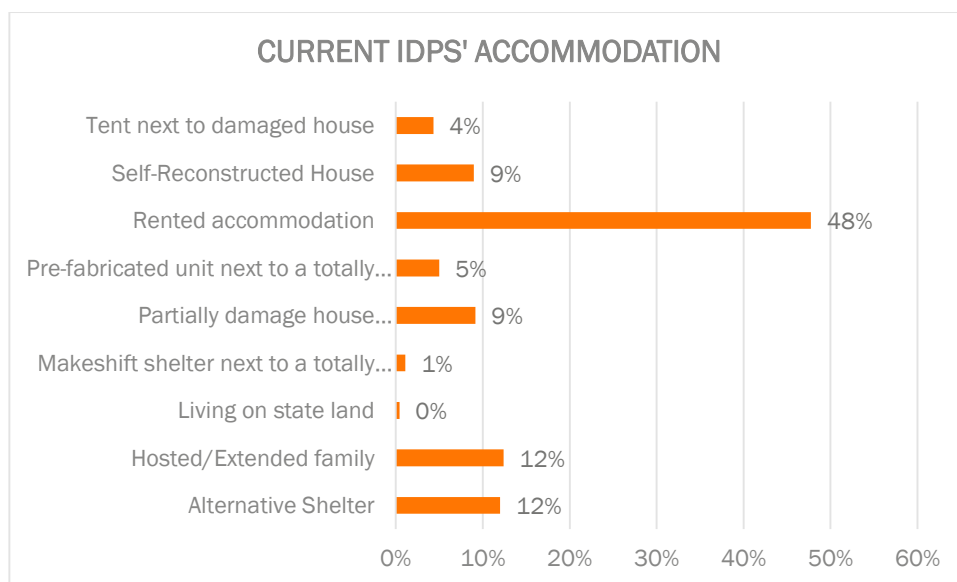


Figure 9

While 21% have housing either through self-reconstructing their totally destroyed home (9%), or living in a wider family-owned house (12%), another 12% of the IDP families are still living with extended or host families and 9% are still living in tents, makeshift shelters/caravans or pre-fabricated units next to their totally destroyed house.

The shelter conditions resulting from this displacement are characterized by substandard housing conditions and overcrowding. A deeper analysis (Figure 10) illustrates poor housing conditions, as 66% are living in either 1 or 2 -bedroom housing units in overcrowded conditions with up to 6 family members per room, which jeopardizes privacy. 11% of IDPs families are living under corrugated steel sheets roof, 7% are living under asbestos roof and 5% are still living in caravans or tents (Figure 11). This reflects the overall deterioration of shelter conditions in the Gaza Strip and increased potential exposure of many families to weather extremes and safety risks.

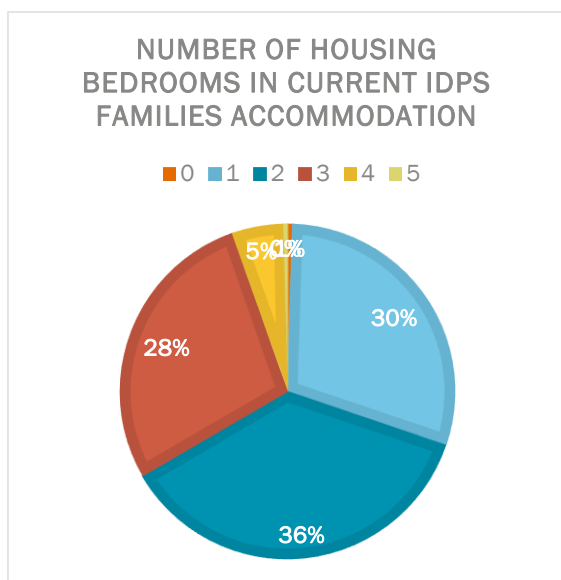


Figure 10

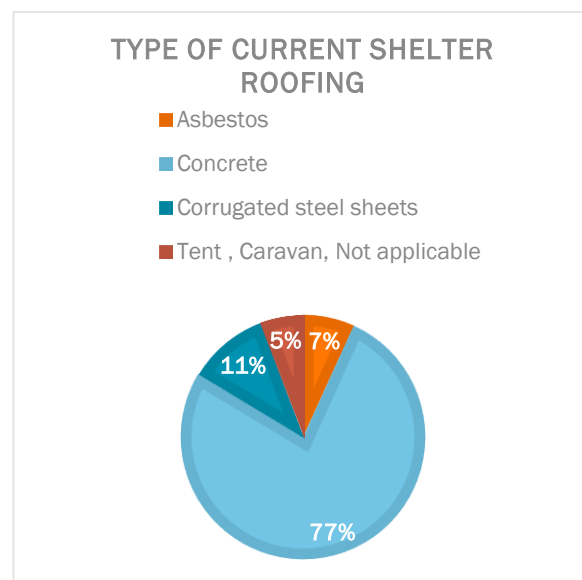


Figure 11

Only 29% of the surveyed IDP families reported that they have started reconstructing their houses, however they cannot manage to proceed or finish (Figure 12). Of those 29%, around 72% (comprising 21% of the total surveyed families) said that they would rely on humanitarian assistance to finish, with the remaining referencing some negative coping strategies such as looking to loans or going in to debt (Figure 13). When asked about factors impeding their ability to proceed or finalize the reconstruction of their totally destroyed houses, about 69% stated clearly that access to fund or cash is the general challenge. Also, the assessment revealed that 50% of the surveyed IDPs don't have sufficient money to issue drawings and obtain documents required to receive an official reconstruction permit (Figure 14).

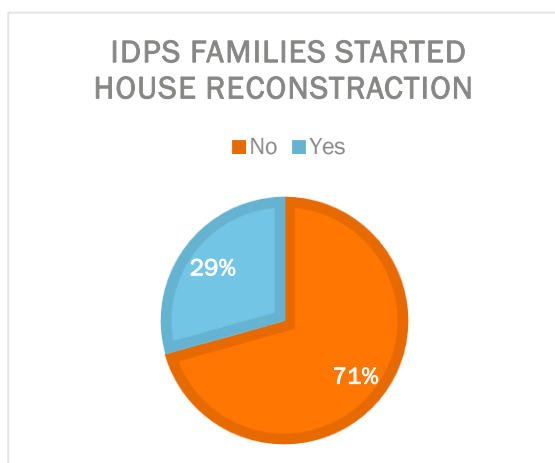


Figure 12

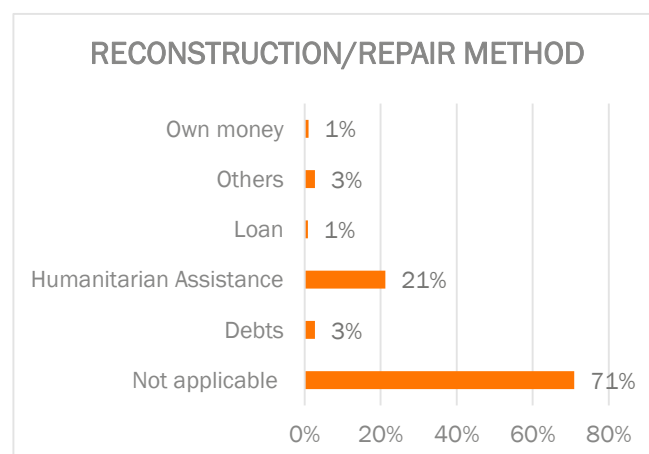


Figure 13

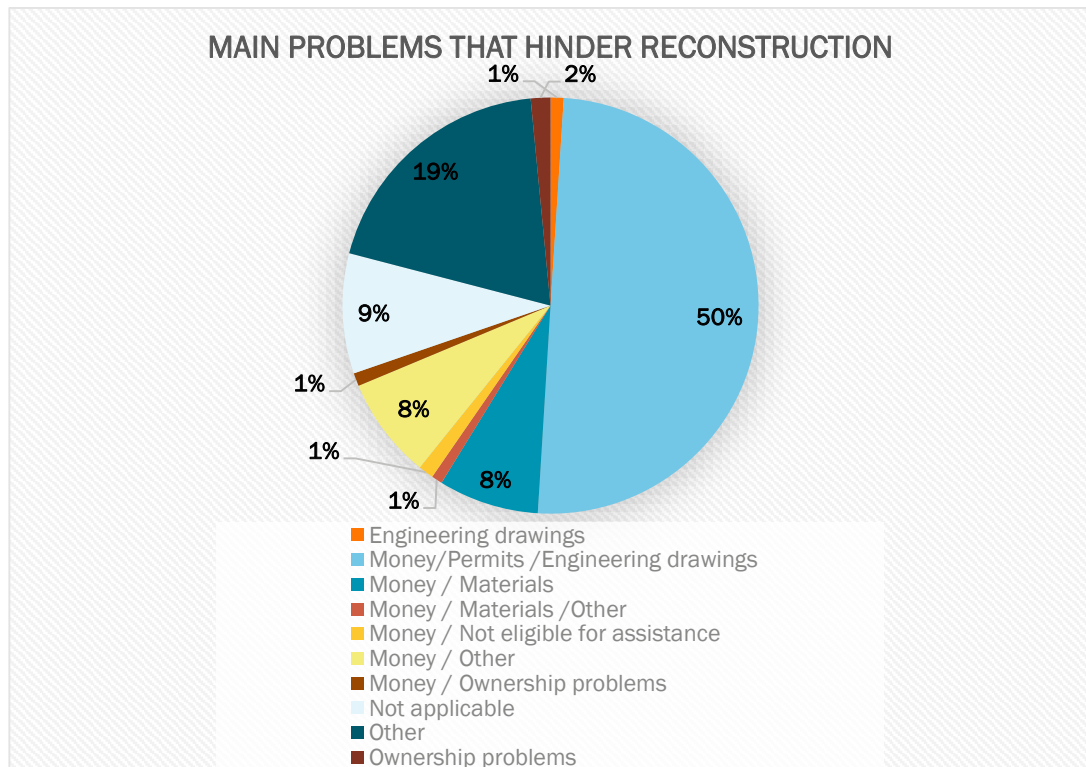


Figure 14

4.3 Temporary Shelter Cash Assistance (TSCA)

The assessment results show that 41% of those living in rental arrangements are currently receiving TSCA on regular basis, while 23% reported that they have never received TSCA. Additionally, 23% reported that they used to receive TSCA but not anymore (Figure 15). Of these 23%, 57% stated that they don't know the reason for being removed from this assistance list (Figure 16). This fact highlights a clear need to improve communication mechanisms between humanitarian actors and affected communities, as lack of consistent and credible information on humanitarian assistance leaves room for the affected population to draw wrong assumptions and thus take wrong decisions that worsen their vulnerability. Due to the general decrease of funds for the Gaza Strip four years on from the last conflict, and especially after the severe cut of US-funding which largely affects refugees receiving assistance through UNRWA, it is expected that a large percentage of people who depend on humanitarian aid to pay rent will be soon at high risk and in fear of eviction, the assessment found that 2% (around 23 families) of the surveyed IDP families had already been previously evicted by the landlord due to TSCA delays (Figure 17).

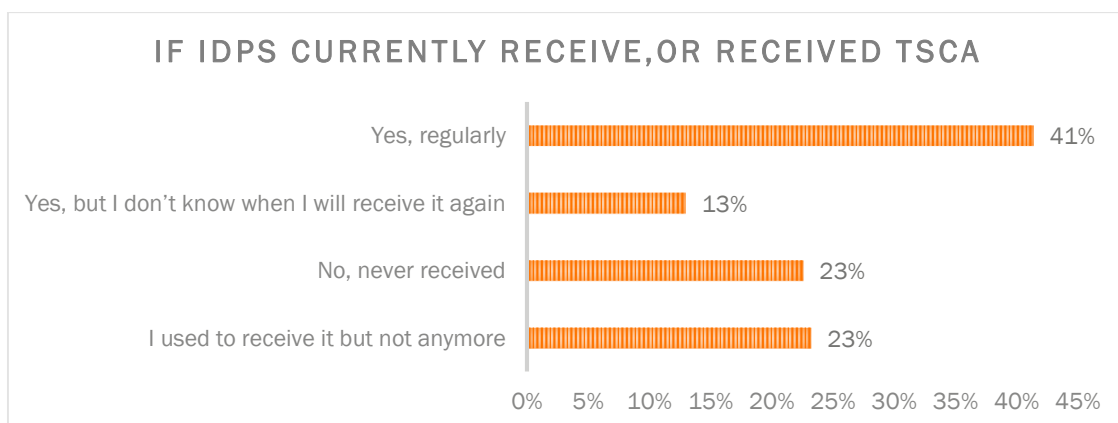


Figure 15

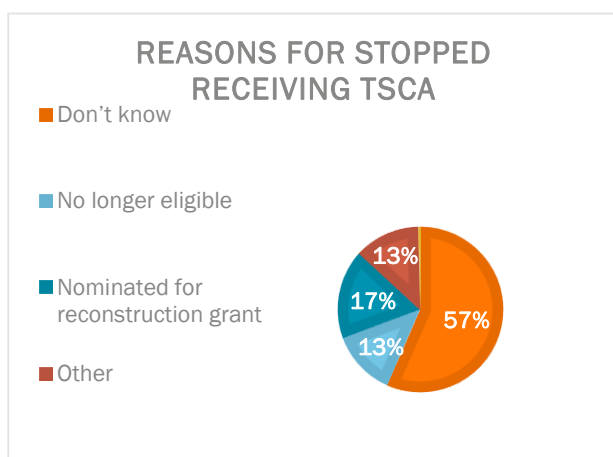


Figure 16



Figure 17

4.4 Access to legal assistance and HLP rights

Legal assistance is key for the protection of the displaced and the affected population as it helps to ensure durable housing solutions. 13% from the surveyed households responded that they required legal assistance to solve certain problems including 75% for the reconstruction of their homes and 16% for alimony and child custody issues. (Figure 18).

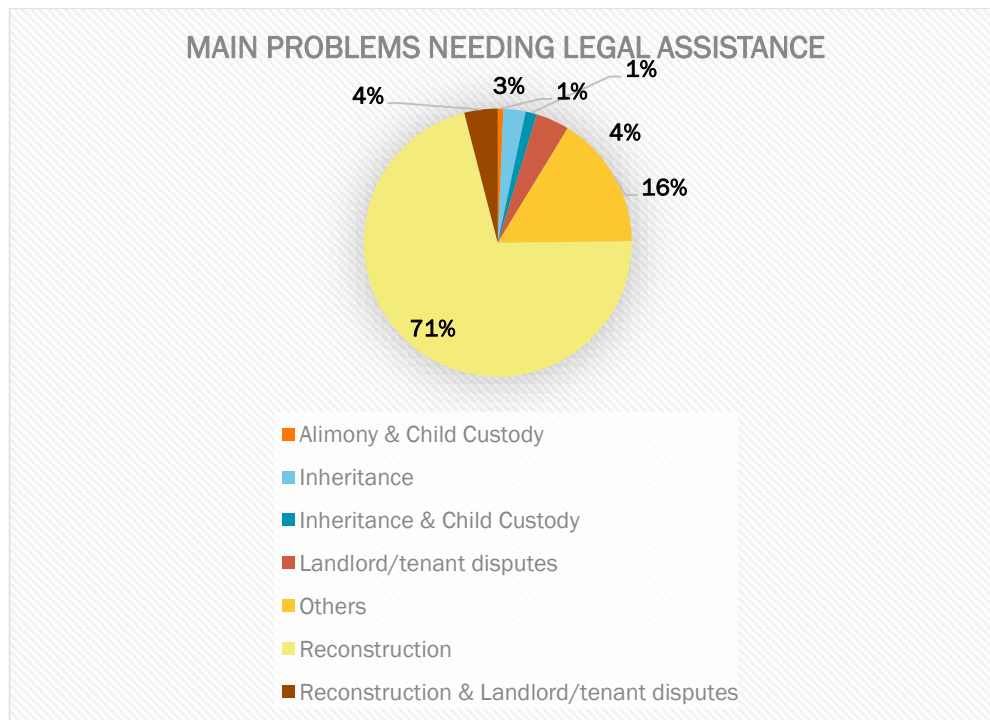


Figure 18

The assessment revealed that about 4% of the surveyed IDPs perceive they have specific problems related to Housing Land and Property (HLP) rights and security of tenure (Figure 19), with 48% of these citing the main barrier as due to disputes with individuals and their local authority regarding ownership (Figure 20). The low figure of 4 percent, reflects the perception of the public and lack of awareness of HLP and security of tenure issues in Gaza. Based on NRC's experience in providing legal aid, an understanding of HLP obstacles and the way to address them would become clearer once households receive legal awareness / assistance.

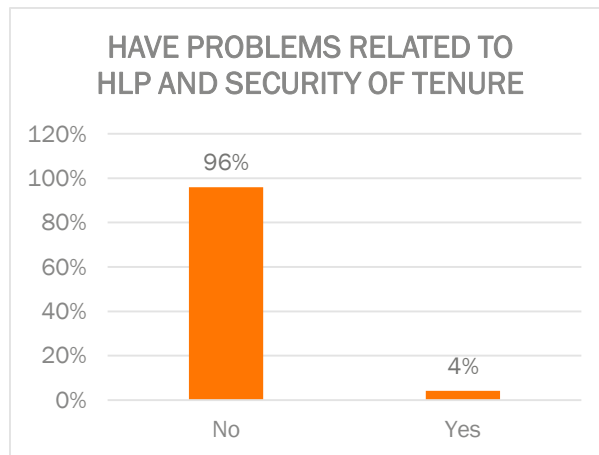


Figure 19

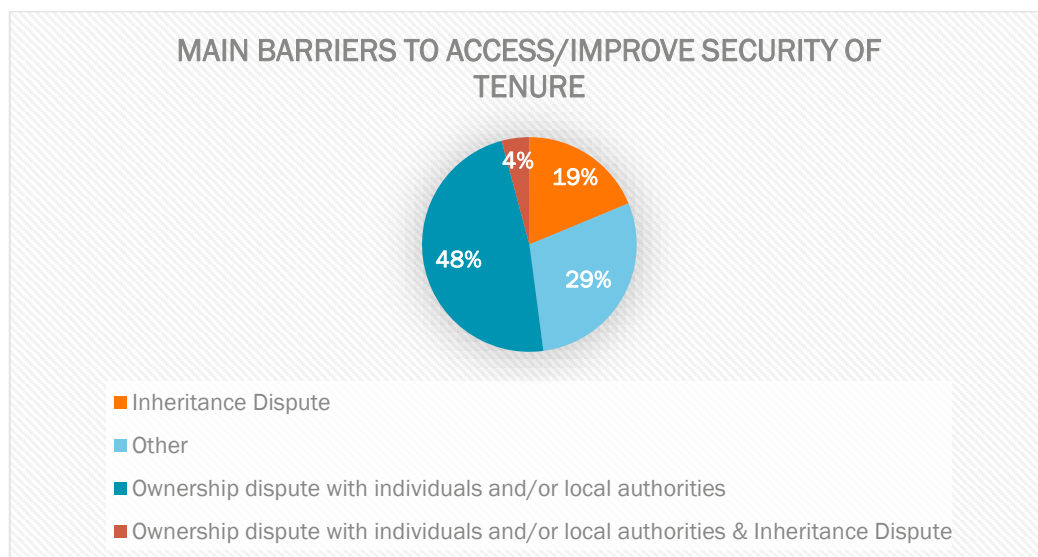


Figure 20

92% of the assessed families stated that they have not received legal information or advice on security of tenure and reconstruction (Figure 21). This indicates that expansion of HLP legal awareness and support is highly needed to improve the basic understanding of HLP rights and enhance the security of tenure of the affected and displaced population.

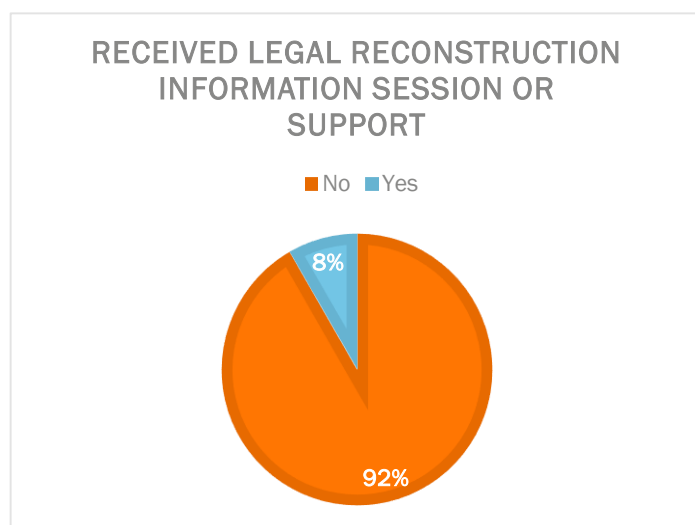


Figure 21

4.5 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Generally, the people of Gaza rely on a limited water supply from the depleted aquifer for their domestic use. Health and power infrastructure which were partially damaged during the 2014 war continue to be severely hampered due to the current electricity and fuel shortages. Approximately half a million people continue to be affected by the damage of the water facilities, and one million people affected due to the damage of the wastewater plants and wastewater pumping stations.⁴

The assessment results of the target households for WASH, has come in line with the general WASH situation of Gaza's population. The assessment shows that although the vast majority of IDPs, 97% of IDP families, have access to domestic water (Figure 22), water supply is intermittent and unreliable in terms of access. Nearly 17% mentioned that they just get municipal water once a week, while 40% of the surveyed IDPs reported that they receive it twice a week (Figure 23). This situation is expected to worsen due to severe power shortages, accompanied by the steeply deteriorating economic situation, where municipalities will become unable to maintain a minimum level of services.

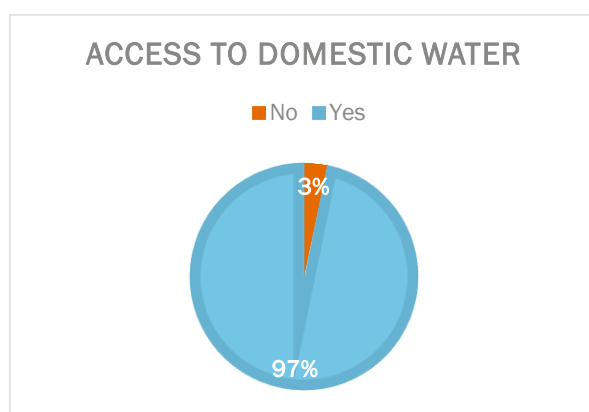


Figure 22

⁴ <https://unispal.un.org/DPA/DPR/unispal.nsf/0/F5F968C3F38D8D2785257D4F004A26B6>

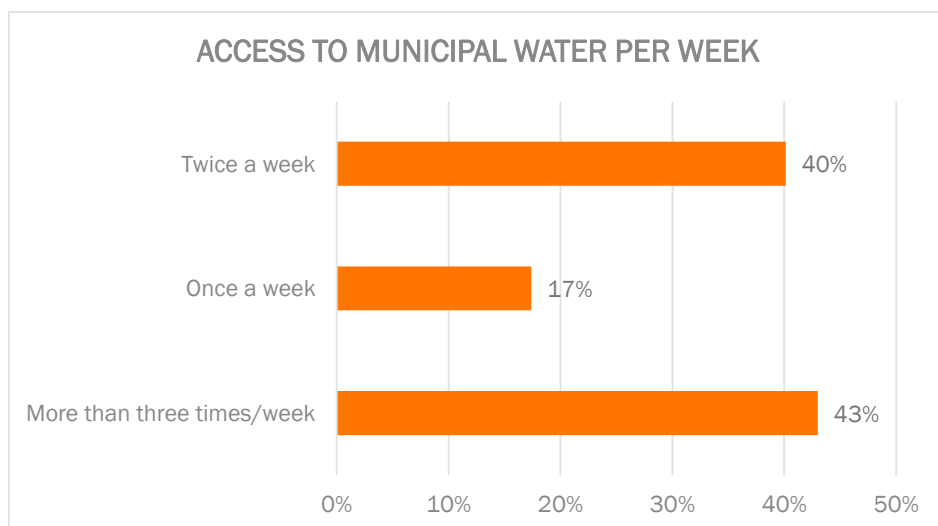


Figure 23

90% of the assessed IDP families stated that they fully rely on buying trucked water from private vendors to get their drinking water which is around 25-30 times more expensive than piped water (Figure 24). This figure is also the same for the Gaza population at large. This puts extra financial burden on these families as 64% of the breadwinners of these families are not working, as illustrated in section 4.6. Furthermore, 31% of the assessed families are storing their drinking water in Jerry cans and do not use sufficient and appropriate water tanks that are appropriate for their family size (Figure 25). This again highlights the exacerbated vulnerabilities among IDPs (and other Gazans) as poor families do not have affordable access to drinking water, a basic humanitarian need.

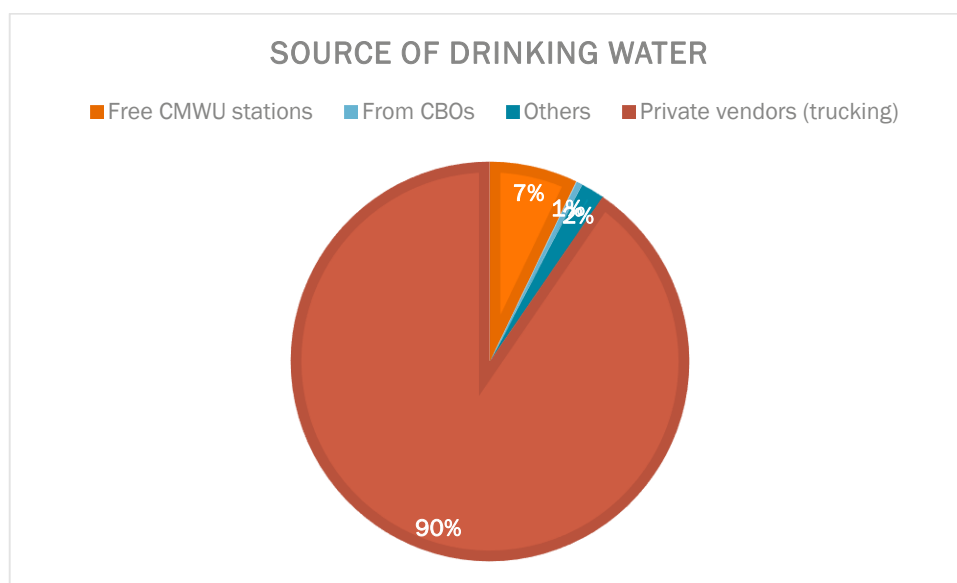


Figure 24

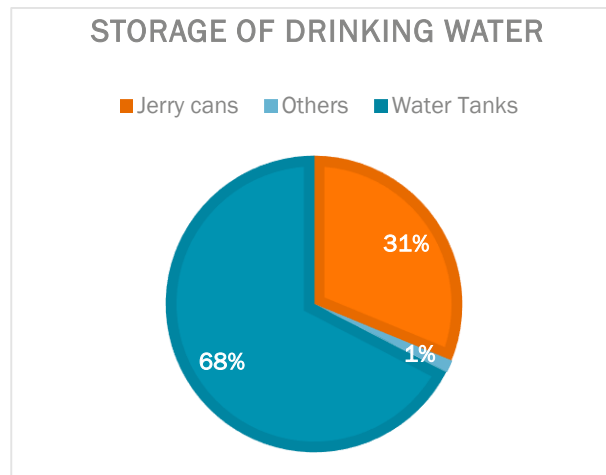


Figure 25

The quality of water in the Gaza Strip has been negatively affected by the salinity of groundwater and contamination due to lack sewage treatment options. The assessment showed that 27% of the surveyed IDPs are not connected to sewage networks (Figure 26) which raises the potential for aquifer pollution and overall degradation of the environment.

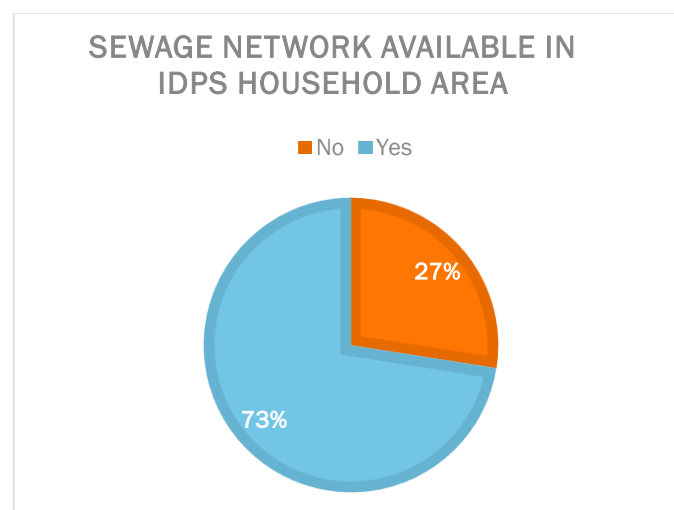


Figure 26

Regarding solid waste management, 7% of surveyed households revealed the un-availability of solid waste collection in their area (Figure 27) as waste and disposals are being gathered in temporary sites within communities. The other 93% who had this service reported the infrequency of collection. 58% said that the solid waste is being collected on a daily basis, 29 % mentioned that collection is just done once every two days, and 13% had solid waste collection once a week (Figure 28). This situation creates risks in the local environment as the solid waste left in communal areas for a week or more can be fertile environment for insects and bacteria to grow.

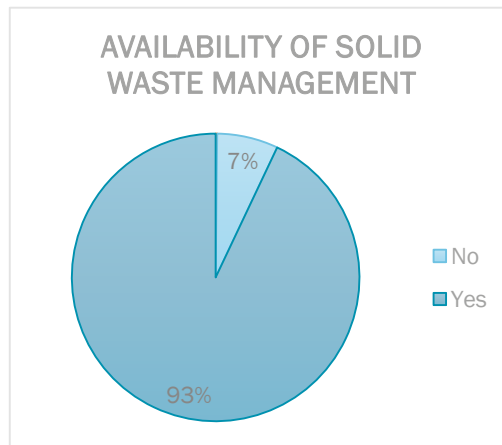


Figure 27

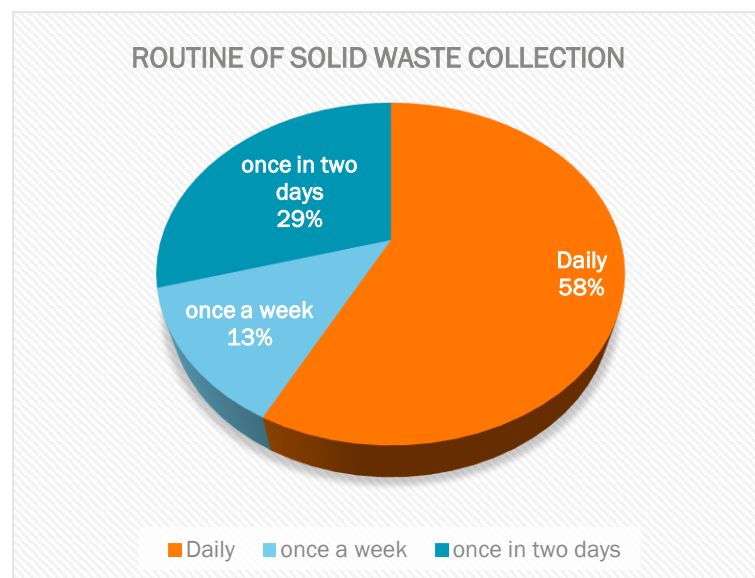


Figure 28

In general, there is a clear reduction in the income of the municipalities due to the inability of Gaza residents to pay the monthly cost of services. The Head of the Gaza City municipality, Nizar Hijazi, reported that large areas along the beach were closed, and are still closed, due to the contamination caused by pumping untreated sewage directly into the sea, as most of the treatment plants stopped working due to the lack of fuel and electricity.

4.6 Food Security, Livelihood and Coping Mechanisms

Around two thirds of the population of Gaza was receiving food assistance prior to the 2014 war, and food insecurity or vulnerability to food insecurity affected 72 per cent of households. Today, and after 3 years of frequent displacement, IDPs specifically continue suffering from losses of income sources and deteriorated access to livelihoods resulting from the severe damage to and inability to access agricultural lands, death/loss of animals, and loss of employment. At least 40,000 people employed in the agriculture/fishery sector were directly affected by the crisis.⁵

Among the assessed IDP families, 64% of the head of households are not working (Figure 29). As a result, many families are developing negative coping mechanisms. Roughly 83% from IDP families are obtaining their food on credit, and more than half of them are depending on humanitarian assistance, borrowing money at the same time and selling their house assets (Figures 30-33).

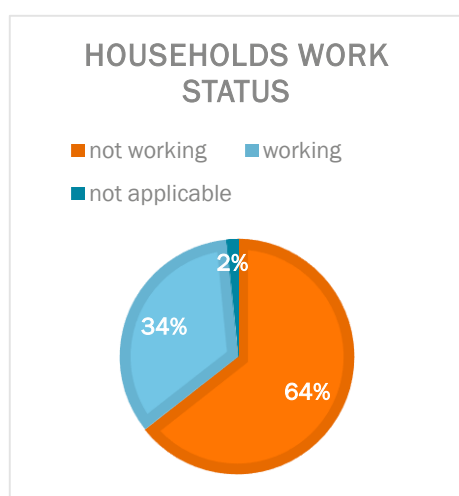


Figure 29

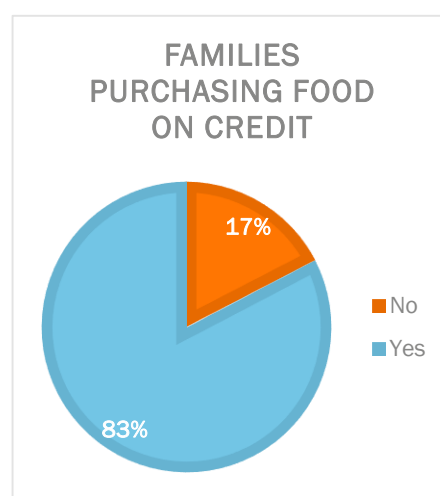


Figure 30

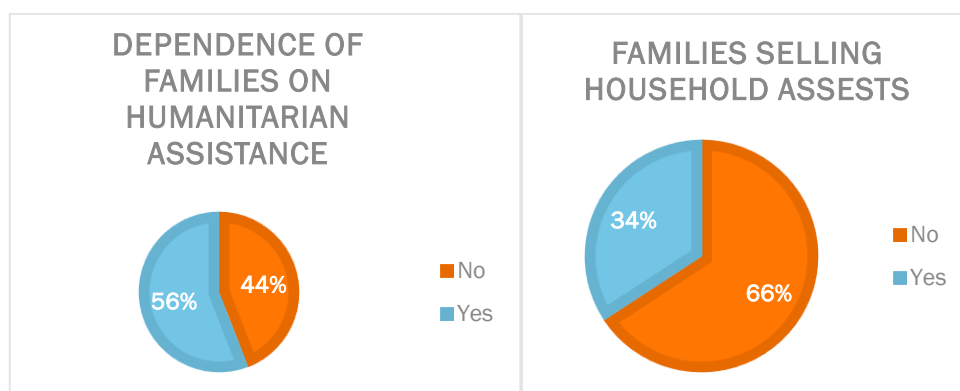


Figure 31

Figure 32

⁵ https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/MIRA_Summary_MAK_8September2014_English_1.pdf

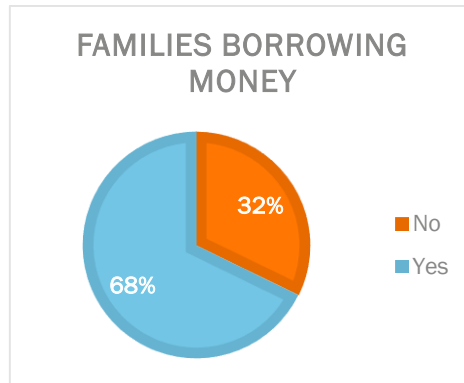


Figure 33

10% of families reported that before the war, they were using their house, that was subsequently destroyed in 2014, for income generation purposes (rentals, farming, factories). The highest response of these families was that they depended on farming the land around the house that was destroyed, and therefore the destruction of the house and the related displacement, has deprived them of this livelihood.

Dietary diversity was highlighted as an issue of concern, particularly for children and pregnant and lactating women, due to the pre-defined problems of lack of diversity in large scale food assistance programs and the high prices of fresh food and red meat. In addition, the lack of cooking gas, fuel, cooking utensils, and limited access to water constrains the ability to cook food. Based on figures from the assessment, nearly 36% of the displaced pregnant women and lactating women believe that they received unhealthy food or food not appropriate for their body's needs (Figure 34).

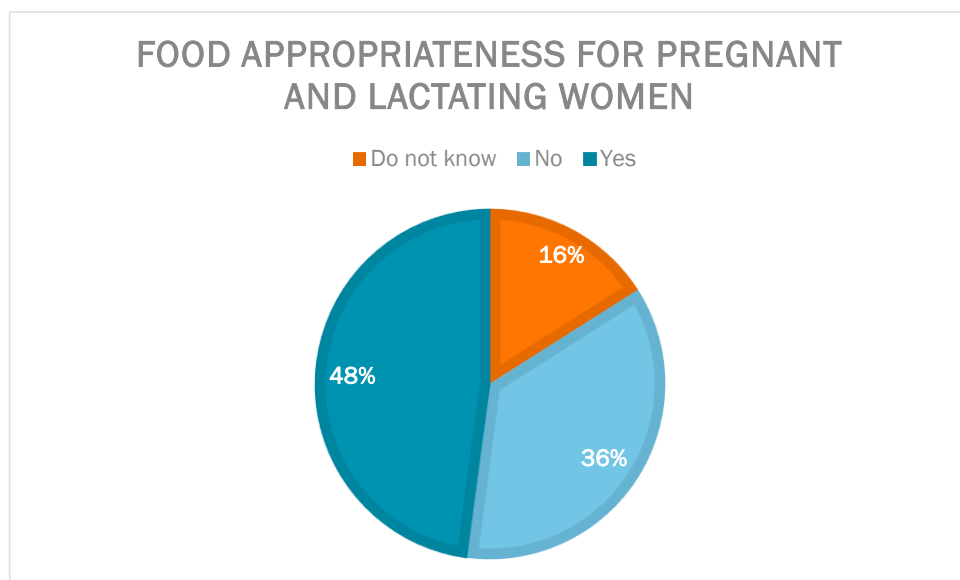


Figure 34

4.7 Protection

21% of the surveyed IDP families reported facing a range of protection issues. 11% of them stated that they face challenges in accessing the area alongside the fence at the perimeter of the Gaza strip, a restriction imposed by Israel, while 6% reported negative effects from weather elements like rain/heat/cold. Additionally, 3% reported issues of proximity to a busy road and 1% feel in danger due to debris/unstable housing unit (Figure 35). The remaining majority of IDP families did not know or understand what kind of protection concern they face, if any.

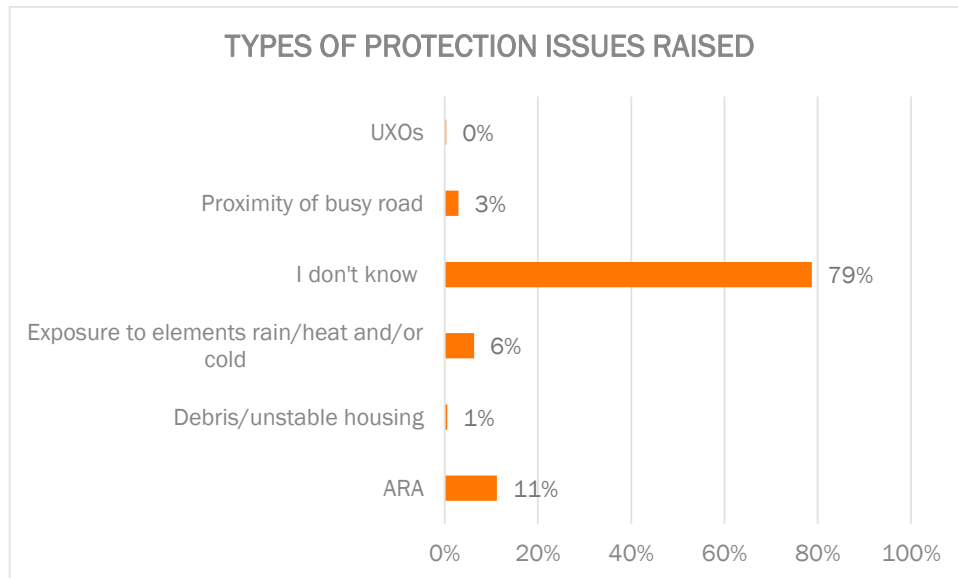


Figure 35

The consequences of displacement are far reaching beyond the physical housing situation. Displacement has affected many aspects of life for of the IDP families and has increased the risk of violence against children and Gender Based Violence (GBV) at home. According to the assessment findings, nearly 49% of the assessed family heads believe that displacement has led to an increase of GBV in their families (Figure 36).

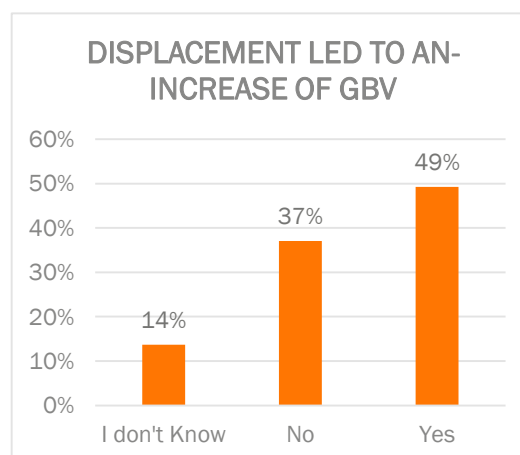


Figure 36

Additionally, as a result of displacement, roughly 42% reported an increase of violence against children at home (Figure 37).

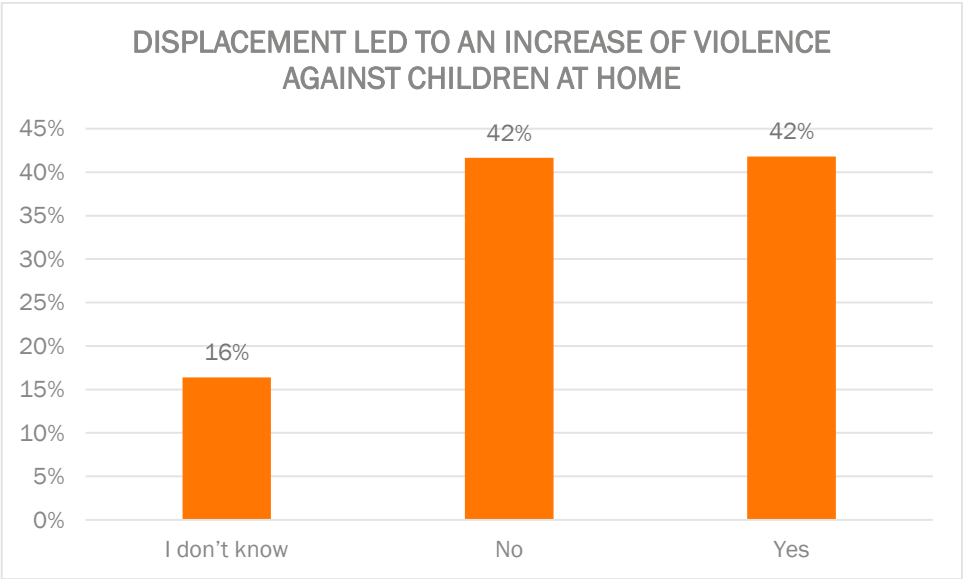


Figure 37

In the current temporary shelters, the remaining IDPs clearly stated the difficulties in access to essential services and amenities. Around three quarters of the interviewed households reported the unavailability of psychosocial support for adults, 72% have no access to disability support services, 70% have no access to psychosocial support for children, and surprisingly 28% and 33% stated that health care services and maternal health care services are not available (Figures 38-42).

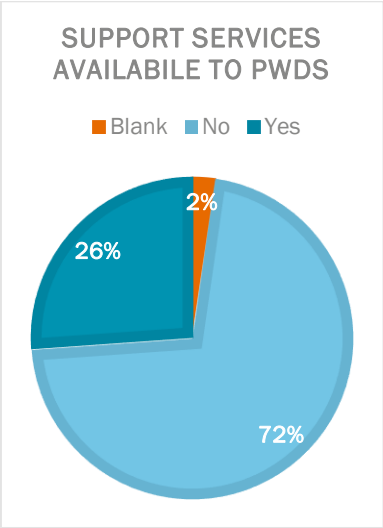


Figure 38

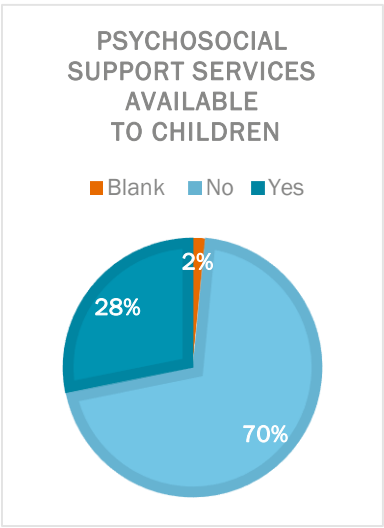


Figure 39

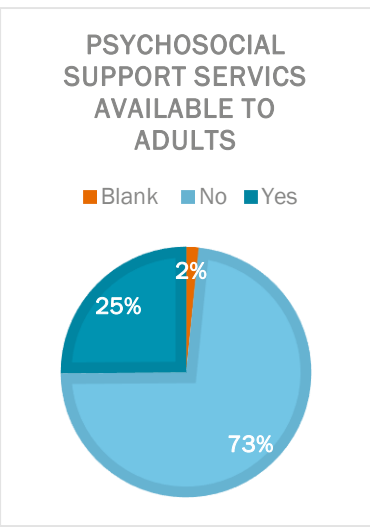


Figure 40

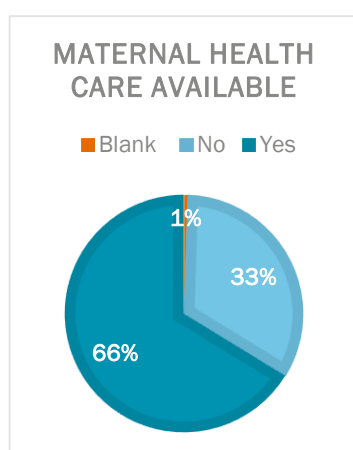


Figure 41

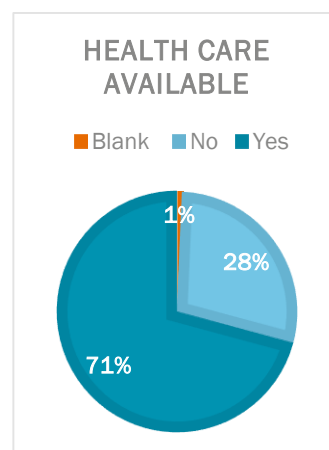


Figure 42

4.8 Education

Significant damage to educational facilities have been caused by the consecutive wars in the Gaza Strip. As a result, 15% of the surveyed families stated that their children face obstacles in accessing education and they believe that this situation hinders their children's educational achievements (Figure 43).

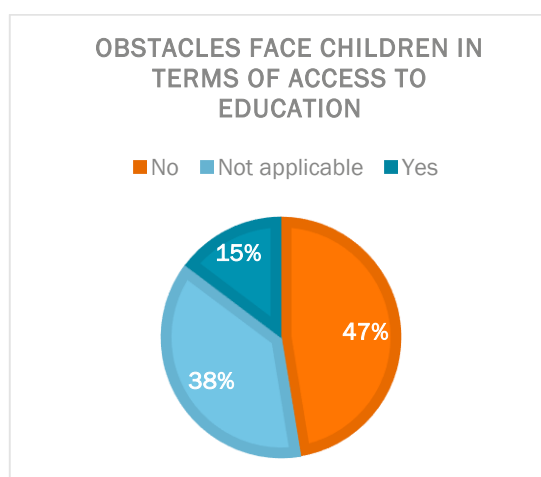


Figure 43

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

The IDPs vulnerability assessment was conducted by NRC between November & December 2017 reaching 1,179 IDPs families and aimed to provide and evidence an updated picture of the IDP situation in the Gaza Strip.

Nearly half of the surveyed households are living in rented accommodation where continuous disruptions and uncertainties over receiving Temporary shelter cash assistance (TSCA) have prevailed, and knowledge of rights around security of tenure is low. Overcrowding is at a high level, with poor access to adequate water and Sanitation, and surveyed families believe that these conditions caused by displacement has consequentially led to increase in violence including Gender Based Violence (GBV).

Additionally, 64 percent of the household heads of the surveyed families are not working, and the majority reported that the frequent movement and displacement has overall negatively affected their livelihoods opportunities as well as their access to education and health services. Most of these families have developed negative coping mechanisms including selling their household assets, purchasing food on credit, and reducing the dietary diversity.

The disbursement of funds pledged by donors for the Gaza reconstruction is needed to end this prolonged displacement and avoid further deterioration of the humanitarian conditions. As vulnerabilities continue to rise, it is essential to keep the vulnerable communities, especially IDPs, informed about the available humanitarian services, as well as informing them on the challenges faced by humanitarian actors in meeting the rising humanitarian needs in Gaza.

MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

- Continue to focus on achieving durable solutions for displaced families through reconstruction grants and technical/financial support to ensure accessibility to such grants. In the meantime, it is required to continue the temporary assistance, including TSCA, in order not to cause further movements or evictions of already displaced families.
- The most vulnerable IDPs should be prioritized by shelter actors, especially those who are living in substandard housing conditions such as caravans, asbestos roofing or corrugated steel roof houses.
- Local actors and authorities should continue to raise the challenges and needed solutions for the deteriorated water situation in Gaza to the international community through advocacy messages, and by providing more evidence that make the dramatic impact of this problem of life in Gaza salient.
- Protection related awareness raising is urgently required for Gaza communities, especially for those most affected by the conflict, in order to widen the understanding of protection risks, rights and entitlements. HLP, GBV and Child protection are among the topics that should be prioritized for IDP families.
- Protection actors should conduct further assessments to address the indicated urgent GBV and Child Protection concerns facing IDP families.
- Livelihoods and food security are among the sectors that have seen a steep decline. Unemployment and food insecurity indicators have seen unprecedented slope. For IDPs, special consideration should be given to livelihoods, especially to the most vulnerable IDP families

Humanitarian actors are recommended to enhance their CwC strategies and approaches. Lack of awareness and knowledge about humanitarian services is evident through this assessment as IDP families, including locations of DES

- In general, dependency on humanitarian assistance in the Gaza Strip has reached unprecedented levels due to the deterioration of socio-economic conditions and the increased vulnerabilities. Funding cuts from the US are worsening the situation and humanitarian actors are recommended to devise new fundraising strategies in order to respond to the rising needs on the ground. Otherwise, displacement will continue as a reality and the collapse of humanitarian services will cause life threatening risks across all sectors.



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