

GAZA HUMANITARIAN INFORMATION SERVICE (HIS)



Local voices. Global change.
Internews



Weekly Report (12-16 Oct 2014) - Issue 9



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About the Gaza Humanitarian Information Service

The HIS produces *Jossor ma'Gaza* ('Bridges with Gaza') The program broadcasts 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.



Some hope but little tangible evidence at the household level - What Jossor's Listeners are Saying

"My 11-year old child has witnessed three wars. We pray to God that officials in the National Consensus Government will consider a genuine reconciliation that will provide real safety and security." - **Mother of 5 children, Jabalia**

"We demand the beginning of reconstruction, with no further delays, as we have lost everything during this recent war." - **Gaza resident**

"At the beginning of the month I went to the grocery shop utilizing the SAHTEIN voucher to purchase food for our household. The merchant informed me that the food allocation on the voucher had been reduced to 100 NIS and that this may be the last month" - **Man from North Gaza**

"I wish there were fairness and justice in the distribution of aid based on the situation of beneficiaries, not favouring aid for certain groups of people." - **Woman from the Middle Area**

"Losses amongst pharmacies are immense: 9 pharmacies were completely destroyed at a cost of \$300,000 to rebuild; 50 pharmacies were partially destroyed at a cost of \$200,000." - **Mrs. Widad El Qeeq, Member of the Pharmacists' Syndicate**

"My laboratory was damaged, the windows were blown out, and \$2,000 in materials and \$3,000 worth of testing machine destroyed. The bank is calling us to reimburse loan payments, which we cannot afford." - **Laboratory technician Sabreen Abadleh, Khan Younis**

"The bulk of the damages at my factory were incurred to equipment and machines and most of the raw materials were completely destroyed due to electrical outages. My total loss is \$300,000. We started repair work and yesterday a shipment of raw materials and control boards reached the Israeli checkpoint, but was denied access to Gaza." - **Mr. Marwan el Astal, CEO of Middle East Pharmaceuticals, Gaza City**

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

GAZA RECONSTRUCTION CONFERENCE , 12/10/2014

- Population voiced their impressions, hopes and fears regarding HE PM Rami Hamdalla's visit to Gaza
- Interviews with the Minister of Housing, the Ambassador of Egypt to Palestine, the UNDP Chief of Arab Donor Relations, the United Nations Special Coordinator, the Representative of the UNRWA Commissioner General in the Arab World, and the Chief of the Gaza Chamber of Commerce all of whom delivered official messages.
- Interviews with Gaza residents regarding the Conference in Cairo. [SEE MORE](#)

Best Picture of the week



PROGRESS REPORT ON EDUCATION: STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS, 13/10/2014

- The Ministry of Education will put forth plans to make up for the late start of the school year.
- Triple shifted schools, primarily located in Rimal for ease of transport, are fully functional.
- Schools are providing extra support for students still living in the shelters.
- The Kindergarten of the Friends Girls School in Ramallah has collected over \$23,000 in book donations for Gaza school libraries. [SEE MORE](#)

Damages to Private Health Facilities , 14/10/2014

- Serious damages have been sustained by private facilities, and owners are unclear as to processes for claiming compensation
- The authorities are encouraging the establishment of new pharmacies, given that 9 pharmacies were completely destroyed and 50 sustained significant damage
- There is a major shortage in the supply of medicines to the Gaza Strip.

[SEE MORE](#)

The SAHTEIN Voucher & Aid Distribution , 15/10/2014

- Many attended the arrival of Ban Ki-Moon to Gaza, expressing their wish to have their voices heard during his visit.
- World Food Program, administrators of the SAHTEIN voucher, clarified that there have been changes in allocations and eligibility criteria for the system, in response to the observation of some Gaza users of a reduction in the allocation for food items to 100 NIS monthly.
- Aide Médicale International spoke on the program of their assistance program in small business generation for women and agricultural rehabilitation as well as emergency aid distribution. [SEE MORE](#)

Support to the Grieving , 16/10/2014

- Families are suffering immensely from the loss of innocent life through such violent means.
- Those having lost Heads of Households are in desperate need of support – in many cases, such support is not yet forthcoming.
- Procedures for registration of the deceased are extremely onerous and complicated, and have not yielded any offers of support.

[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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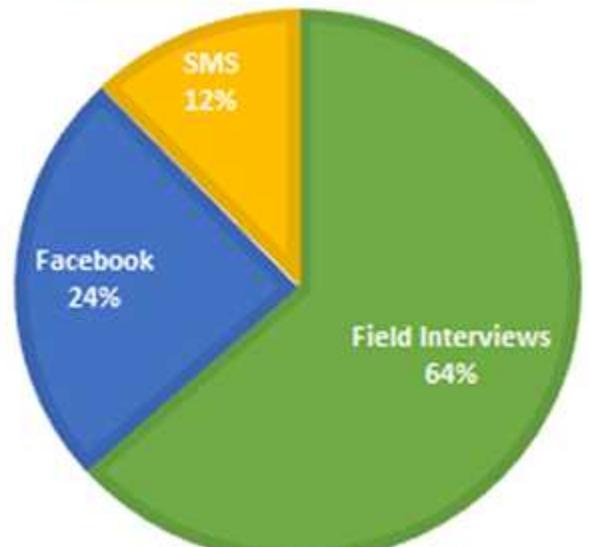
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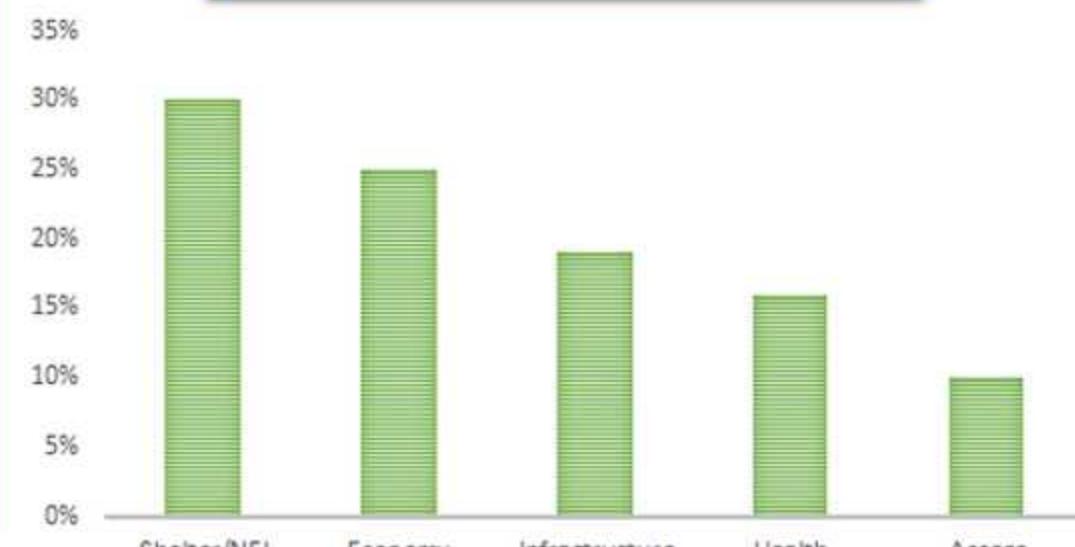
Main Feedback from Citizens

Issue	Recommendation
Gaza Reconstruction Conference With hopes in Gaza buoyed by the first cabinet meeting held in Gaza and the donors' declared pledges at the conference, people remain concerned about (1) the National Consensus Government effectively working together in the interest of the people and (2) ensuring that the conditions exist to rebuild homes rapidly and initiate the recovery plan.	 Real numbers and progress/lack thereof regarding passage of materials through the crossings with both Israel and Egypt, as well as the priority of internal distribution of building materials and other goods need to be broadly communicated to the population to manage expectations and ensure accountability.
Private Health Care Facilities Business owners of pharmacies, laboratories and diagnostic facilities are concerned that they be neglected in the reconstruction process and await news regarding assessment and help.	 Small business owners in general and in this case those supporting the health care sector need to be engaged in discussions and reassured of the process being put in place to help them recover from losses, perhaps through their respective industry associations.
Education Parents are still struggling with costs related to purchase of stationery for their school-age children, and burdened by the cost of family children commuting to schools outside their neighbourhoods due to the continued use of their schools as shelters.	 The Ministry of Education and Higher Education as well as several other organizations are supporting costs for school-related items such as stationery, uniforms and bags. UNRWA has been bussing children whose schools are still being used as shelters to their alternate schools or admitting them to double/triple shifted schools in their area; some transportation issues still exist for children attending regular schools.
SAHTEIN Voucher & Aid Distribution Gaza beneficiaries are greatly concerned by the reduction in the allocation of food items on the SAHTEIN voucher.	 Information regarding criteria for eligibility as well as the modified parameters of the voucher need to be disseminated widely to ensure that beneficiaries are aware of their access to support, and empowered with information to help them contingency plan for the needs of their families.
Support to the Grieving A primary concern of those suffering from the loss of loved ones is that they have not received any official visits of condolence. For those having lost a Head of Household, they find themselves struggling to support their families in addition to being devastated by personal loss.	 With effective coordination and messaging, a small team of one Jossor ma'Gaza reporter, an educator and/or social worker able to evaluate families' situations could be deployed to visit those having lost loved ones, and who are not covered under existing support programs. This serves three purposes: connecting with the population, compiling the specifics of circumstances and engaging first hand on needs. While institutional arrangements could be complicated, the underlying acknowledgement of loss is a moral imperative.

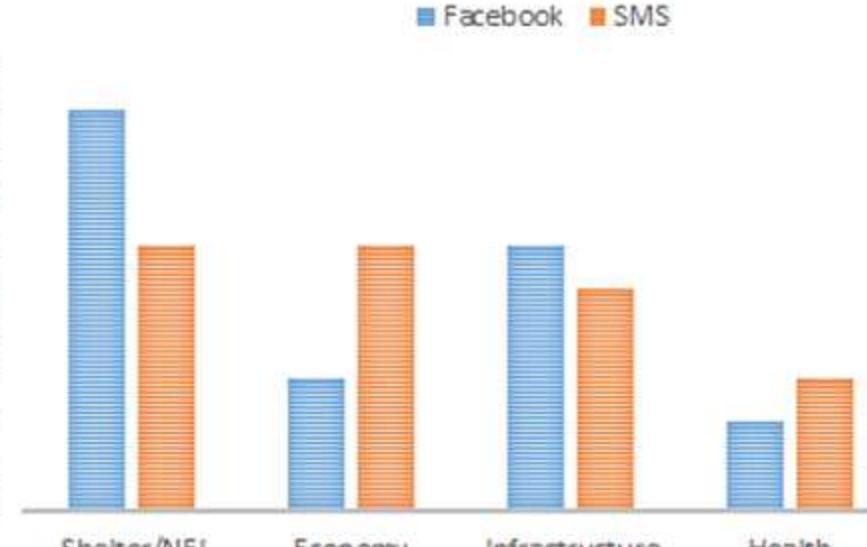
CITIZENS' FEEDBACK



FIELD REPORTS FEEDBACK



FACEBOOK & SMS FEEDBACK



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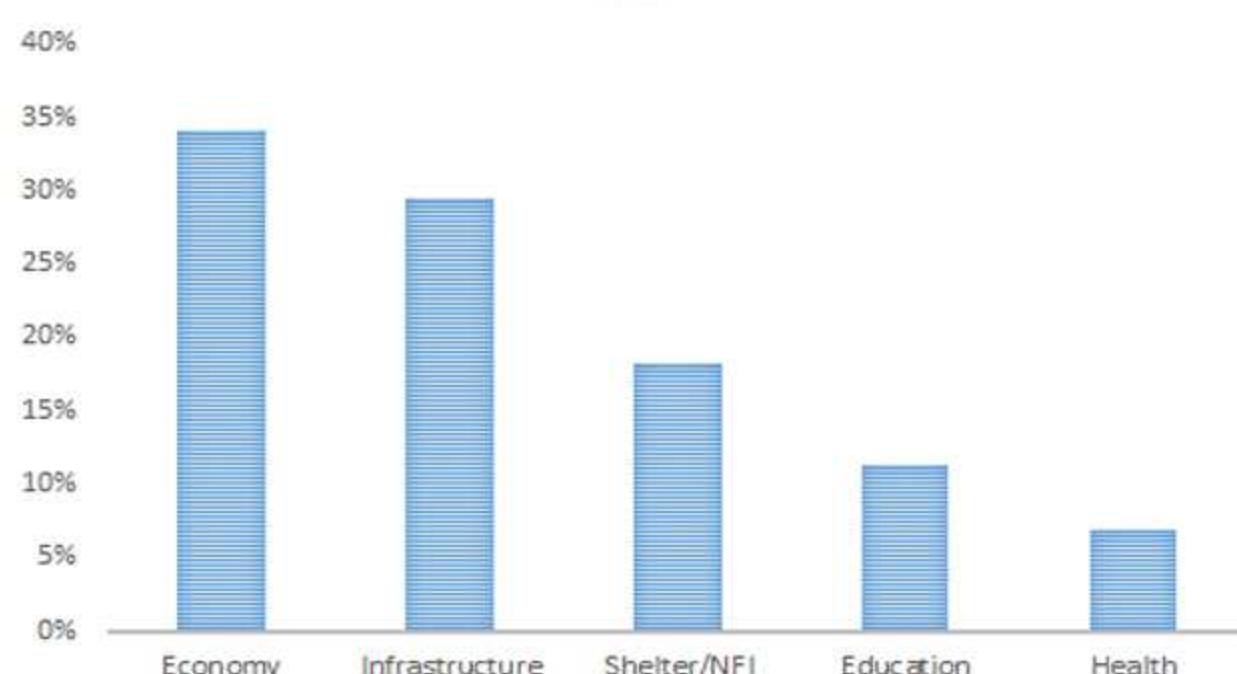


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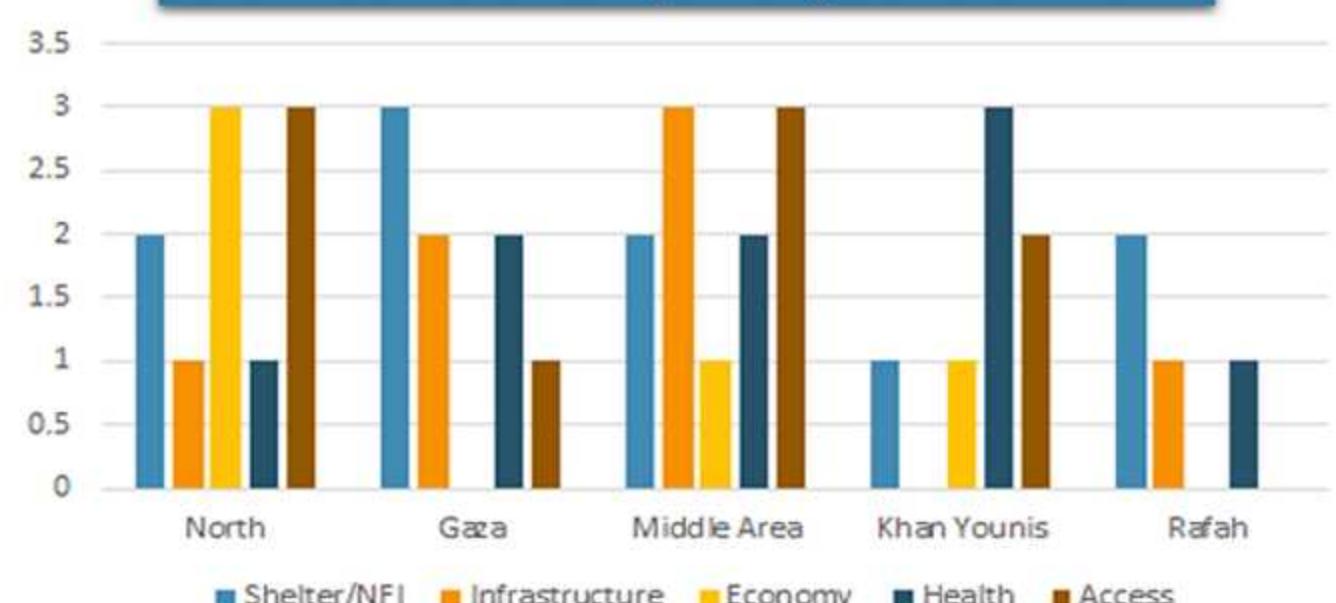
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Broadcasting during the week

Topics covered



Distribution of Topics by Governorate



26

Interviews with the local population



Field interviews with 26 Gazan people in: Gaza City, Khan Younis, Jabalia, the Middle Area and North Gaza.

14

Interviews with humanitarian organizations and PA institutions



Spokesperson of the PA, Minister of Housing, Ambassador of Egypt to Palestine, UNDP, UNRWA, Gaza Chamber of Commerce, Ramallah Friends Girls School KG, Minister of Education and Higher Education, spokesperson at MoH Gaza, MoSA, WFP, Première Urgence, Islamic Relief .

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Official Statements



Official messages from: MoSA, The Society for Families of Martyrs/PLO, Islamic Relief, Prime Minister Rami Hamdalla, Minister of Housing, Ambassador of Egypt to Palestine, UNDP, UNRWA, the United Nations Special Coordinator, MoH, Minister of Education and Higher Education.

Broadcasting for the upcoming week

Day/Date	19/10 Sun	20/10 Mon	21/9 Tue	22/10 Wed	23/10 Thu
Topic	Radiation: dangers to health and agriculture	Impact of the war on sports facilities & athletes	Telecommunications down	Rain, cold and homelessness	The challenges of rubble