In April, the permissible fishing area along the southern and central parts of Gaza’s coast was expanded from 6 to 15 nautical miles (NM) offshore, the furthest distance that Gaza’s fishers have been permitted to access since 2000. Access to the northern areas along the coast remained at up to 6 NM, well below the 20 NM agreed under the Oslo Accords (OCHA, November 2019).

**NUTRITION OVERVIEW**

While the national acute malnutrition was ‘low’ in 2014 (MICS, 2014), it reached 14 percent in Gaza strip in 2019. In addition, 18 percent of pregnant and 14 percent of lactating women were malnourished in 2019 (UNICEF, 2019). Just 39 percent of children were exclusively breastfed in the first 6 months of life. The relatively high levels of bottle-fed children were concerning, particularly for children in Gaza where water is likely to be contaminated (UNICEF, accessed January 2020). The lack of growth in exclusive breastfeeding over the past years is mainly due to aggressive marketing of breast milk substitutes and a lack of clarity regarding optimal infant-feeding practices. Only 14 percent of young children in Gaza received a minimum acceptable diet for their growth and development (UNICEF, 2019). A high proportion were not eating iron-rich foods, increasing the risk of iron deficiency anaemia (UNICEF, 2019).

While there has been an improvement in the daily availability of electricity, and the supply of water and waste water treatment since October 2018, the quality of basic services remained extremely poor in Gaza, particularly access to safe water and risk of winter flooding or exposure to environmental health risks along the Gaza shoreline. In the West Bank, poor service provisions and demolitions, particularly in Area C, remain a concern (OCHA, December 2019).

The protracted conflict, alongside sudden shocks, is overwhelming an already overburdened health system (OCHA, January 2020). The dual-use restrictions on medical equipment and a shortage of medical supplies are major contributors to the evolving health crisis in Gaza. The hospitals have limited capacity to manage injuries that require complex treatment including health services for women and children (UNICEF, September 2019).