



PROGRAM ON HUMANITARIAN POLICY  
AND CONFLICT RESEARCH  
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

# GAZA 2010

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## ASSESSING HUMAN SECURITY NEEDS IN THE GAZA STRIP

**Terms of reference, 2005 - 2006**

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## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

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### **TITLE**

GAZA 2010 – ASSESSING HUMAN SECURITY NEEDS IN THE GAZA STRIP

### **PURPOSE**

*To facilitate the development of common objectives for human security in the Gaza Strip and the surrounding region, and to promote and improve long-term planning for the delivery of public services, through rigorous scientific research and capacity-building activities.*

### **LOCATION**

Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research (HPCR)  
Harvard University

### **DURATION**

January 2005–December 2006

### **INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIPS**

Al Quds School of Public Health in Gaza  
Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies at Birzeit University  
Institute of Community and Public Health at Birzeit University  
Islamic University in Gaza (IUG)  
Social Research Center, American University of Beirut (AUB)  
Center for Research on Population and Health, American University of Cairo (AUC)  
Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)  
Palestinian Environmental Quality Authority (EQA)  
Palestinian Institute of Development Studies in Gaza (IDS)  
Palestinian Ministry of Education  
Palestinian Ministry of Health  
Palestinian Ministry of Housing  
Palestinian Ministry of the Interior  
Palestinian Ministry of Labor & Social Affairs  
Palestinian Ministry of Planning  
World Bank  
Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator (UNSCO)  
Office of the Special Envoy for Disengagement  
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)  
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Jerusalem (OCHA)  
United Nations Population Fund, Jerusalem (UNFPA)  
United Nations World Food Programme, Jerusalem (WFP)

## OVERVIEW

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*Gaza 2010: Assessing Human Security Needs in the Gaza Strip* is a project of the Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research at the Harvard University School of Public Health. The project aims to assess the current human security situation in the Gaza Strip, to evaluate the projected public needs of the Palestinian population in terms of key services and employment, and to facilitate both intra-Palestinian and regional dialogue on human security issues of urgent concern to policy planners in the Middle East.

In cooperation with the Palestinian Authority and other Palestinian institutions, HPCR plans to map projected public needs in five human security sectors – education, employment, environment, health services, and housing – and to analyze their implications for the next five years (from 2005 to 2010). This research will provide the technical ground to identify forward looking options for key domestic and international actors in managing the interaction between human security and state building in the context of a continued high level of insecurity. At the conclusion of the research component of the project, the results will be compiled in a report providing a *Human Security Assessment for the Gaza Strip*, which will be distributed and discussed with the Palestinian Authority as well as key stakeholders in the region.

The present proposal covers the continuation of *Gaza 2010* from the project launch phase, which lasted from January to September 2005, into the next phases of scientific research, and capacity building until the end of 2006 when the *Human Security Assessment* should be made public.

During the first phase of the *Gaza 2010* project, HPCR progressed with its research on the long-term human security requirements for the Gaza Strip, taking into account the current isolation of the Gaza Strip, the deterioration of the public infrastructure since 2001, and the exceptional population growth and age structure in Gaza. HPCR's Research Coordinator for the *Gaza 2010* project, based in the Gaza Strip, has completed an initial verification process for the baseline population statistics and is ready with a review of available projections and population growth rate data.

In the same period, HPCR has established relationships with Palestinian institutions in the OPT and begun to form task groups to map projected education, employment, environment, health, and housing needs in the Gaza Strip and analyze their implications for the next five years – from 2005 to 2010. This initiative seeks to identify specific mechanisms for improved planning for the five human security sectors, based on a better understanding of the population and social dynamics involved. HPCR has assembled a Scientific Advisory Group – composed of Palestinian, regional and international experts in the field of public health, demography and sociology – to develop, guide, and review the methodology of the project (see Annex I for the list of members of the Scientific Advisory Group).

Cooperation with local and regional partner organizations is a key aspect of the project in terms of collection of data, sectoral analysis, capacity building and design of the programmatic outcomes. Meetings will be organized to present and discuss preliminary findings with Palestinian officials, local policy makers and academics, government donors and other practitioners, and to offer a first set of proposals to address the human security needs of the Palestinian population living in the Gaza Strip in 2010. Following these discussions, HPCR will complete the analysis and the processing of the data and draft its final *Human Security Assessment*. In addition, HPCR will offer its services in the organization of advanced training workshops with Palestinian officials from the concerned ministries and the Central Bureau of Statistics to provide support in the development of the policy and planning capabilities of the Palestinian Authority.

HPCR believes that the research findings of *Gaza 2010* should be of immediate relevance to professionals and practitioners working with these issues, including international donors and agencies, the Palestinian ministries of health, housing, planning, education, labor, and finance, and those agencies and research centers interacting with them. Furthermore, it is believed that lessons learned in the process of making a *Human Security Assessment* of the Gaza Strip will be applicable in the future in other areas of the OPT and in the region as a whole. To ensure the effective and dynamic sharing of information, HPCR will also set up an electronic information platform ([www.gaza2010.org](http://www.gaza2010.org)) that will offer reports, data, analysis, and relevant news pertaining to the issue of human security in Gaza.

## **BACKGROUND ON THE HUMAN SECURITY APPROACH**

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Human security strategy provides a set of innovative tools to develop an informed and critical perspective on international assistance in conflict areas. By focusing on the security of people and communities, it promotes the development of multifaceted approaches to security, addressing both the needs and entitlements of the population under stress and the necessity to rebuild or rehabilitate state institutions. By putting people at the centre of the international agenda, human security opens a space for reflection on the means and methods of achieving peace in the Middle East and suggests new equilibriums between the various political, economic and social agendas of the international community in the region.

Human security has gained increasing attention since the mid-1990s as a framework for understanding the broader factors that contribute to peace and security. Traditionally, the goal of security was the protection of state borders and institutions from external threats. This approach assumed that, if state institutions were secure, the security of the population would be assured automatically. It emphasized the role of state — primarily the state military — in the protection of the individual and the community and the maintenance of regional stability. In the 1990s, this traditional approach to security faced increasing criticism at a time when over ninety per cent of wars were taking place

within, rather than between, states. As compared to the period of the Cold War, where internal conflicts were often construed as a domestic representation of the clash between external ideologies, internal wars in the late 1990s and early 2000s have come to be increasingly perceived as resulting primarily from collapsed or collapsing state infrastructures and emerging inequalities. In addition, some states have failed not only to provide a minimum level of security for their people, but have also become significant sources of human insecurity.

Human security seeks to protect the physical safety and integrity of individuals and communities, rather than to defend state borders from external threats. Human security strategies are proactive; they stress conflict prevention and peace-building rather than humanitarian response. Human security is, thus, both a measure and a determinant of state and global security.<sup>1</sup>

The UNDP *Human Development Report* released in 1994 presented a first programmatic formalization of the concept of human security. That document referred to seven aspects of human security: *economic security* (freedom from poverty), *food security* (access to food), *health security* (access to health care and protection from diseases), *environmental security* (protection from danger of environmental pollution), *personal security* (physical protection against torture, war, criminal attacks, domestic violence), *community security* (survival of traditional cultures and ethnic groups), and *political security* (civil and political rights, freedom from political oppressions).<sup>2</sup> The concept has evolved over the recent years into a multifaceted paradigm of factors and indicators that help us to define and better understand the essential components of secure human environment.<sup>3</sup>

## HUMAN SECURITY IN THE PALESTINIAN CONTEXT

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Through the last decade, international and domestic actors in the Middle East paid substantive attention to the traditional components of state security as specific objectives of the peace process: more specifically the security of borders (for e.g. addressing 'infiltration' questions) and control over the population (for e.g. building capacity among Palestinian security and police forces). Although the internal security of the emerging Palestinian state remains a necessary requirement for economic and social

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<sup>1</sup> The UNDP 1993 *Human Development Report* was the first international document to propose clearly that the individual must be placed at the centre of international affairs. In this document, the UNDP stresses that: 'The concept of security must be changed from exclusive stress on national security to much greater stress on people's security, from security through armaments to security through human development, from territorial security to food, employment and environmental security.'" See UNDP, *Human Development Report 1993: People's Participation*, UNDP, 1993, p. 2.

<sup>2</sup> UNDP, *Human Development Report 1994: New Dimensions of Human Security*, UNDP, 1994.

<sup>3</sup> See for example the Human security report project at: <http://www.humansecuritycentre.org/>

development, the difficulties in reaching the goals stated in the Roadmap regarding state-building have for the most part pre-empted systemic efforts to address the insecurity at the community level. In few instances was the concept of security enlarged to encompass a wider selection of security parameters addressing the *security needs of the population*, such as economic security, food security, health security, or environmental security. In contrast, there has been an unwavering focus on traditional security and national parameters in terms of the coexistence of two distinct political entities with their control mechanisms. Attention was rarely paid to practical solutions as part of the peace process for dealing with the specific vulnerabilities of the Palestinian people (e.g., the standardization and quality control of social welfare in the OPT, promoting employment opportunities for refugees in the host countries, or the migration of the labor force to third countries). These considerations were generally looked upon as developmental issues to be addressed fully once the political and national issues have been resolved and the Israeli occupation would end.

While HPCR acknowledges the critical importance of finding a lasting political and security solution to the Israeli Palestinian conflict within the parameters of the Roadmap, it believes that the requirements for social and economic development in the OPT represent daunting challenges that should be address as much as possible in parallel to and in coordination with the political track. The Gaza Strip is a case in point: the unique demographic profile, geography and isolation singularly amplify the social and political tensions within Gaza to an uncharted level. By providing rigorous data and analysis on projected public needs in the Gaza Strip as well as capacity building opportunities to the Palestinian Authority, HPCR hopes to open a space for policy debates on options for social and economic development in Gaza as a necessary step in addressing its extraordinary population challenges.

HPCR's scientific focus on population dynamics in the Gaza Strip is by no mean a disinterest into the equally difficult situation of the Palestinian population in the West Bank. On the contrary, with the continuing Israeli occupation, land confiscation, movement restrictions, the building of the separation barrier and the expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, similar human security analyses are warranted in the West Bank as well. Yet, HPCR believes that the demographic pressure and confinement in Gaza, as compared to the West Bank, will have unique social implications in the future for the OPT and for the region as a whole. HPCR hopes that it can build on the methodologies developed in Gaza in cooperation with its local academic and policy partners to address other critical research and mapping issues in the OPT and beyond.

The key objective of the Gaza 2010 project is, in this context, to facilitate the development of common objectives for human security in the Gaza Strip, and to promote and improve long-term planning for the delivery of public services, through rigorous scientific research, capacity-building activities and dialogue.

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND COMPONENTS

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The objectives of the *Gaza 2010* Project are threefold:

- To conduct research to assess the human security situation in the Gaza Strip focusing on existing and projected health, education, environment, housing, and employment needs;
- To engage in constructive activities with the Palestinian Authority, academic institutions and civil society to develop alternative options for key players and actors on the interaction between human security and state building in a context of high level of insecurity; and
- To promote a dialogue among local, regional and international actors on the long-term planning for the delivery of public services in the Gaza Strip.

The components of the project are divided into three corresponding categories: research, communication and capacity building, and dialogue.

### RESEARCH

The research component is the practical and operational aspect of the project. With the Gaza 2010 Project, HPCR employs its method of pursuing timely initiatives with robust scientific research that contributes to regional dialogue and local capacity-building activities.

#### *Scope*

The Gaza 2010 Project focuses on five main aspects of human security, namely education, employment, environment, health and housing, as key services and resources that contribute highly to securing human lives and dignities. For each of these five sectors, HPCR plans to use a scientific approach to identify and measure the sources, levels, and indicators of insecurity in the Gaza Strip. While HPCR's Gaza 2010 Project currently focuses specifically on the Gaza Strip as a unique and challenging case of insecurity, it does not exclude other relevant OPT areas that could be examined at a later stage.

#### *Goals*

The first major research goal for the Gaza 2010 project is to develop the most accurate set of population projections possible for 2005-2010. This requires several intermediate steps. First, it is necessary to produce an inventory of the available population data from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the Palestinian Ministry of Interior, UNRWA and other relevant sources of information, and use rigorous statistical methods to estimate the current *de facto* population of the Gaza Strip. This information, plus an estimation of the total fertility rate and other growth rate indicators, will enable HPCR to make population projections for the future. In addition, HPCR will perform



additional detailed research to estimate and project the population by age and gender. Estimated population by governorate may also be possible.

The project is also undertaking an inventory of data for each of the five sectors: education, employment, environment, health services, and housing. For example, for the employment sector, this inventory process has evolved into an estimation of labor force indicators, such as labor force by gender, new jobs required in the Gaza strip in 2005, as well as a projection of these estimations to the year 2010. Gaps in the available indicators will be identified, and individual research projects for the five sectors will be designed and implemented.

The ultimate aim of the Gaza 2010 research component is to formulate a set of recommendations to be taken into consideration in future policy planning for human security in Gaza.

#### **COMMUNICATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING**

Another important component of the Gaza 2010 Project is the communication and capacity building. As the Project progresses, one of the goals of HPCR is to communicate intermediate results regularly with key stakeholders in the region, in particular the relevant Palestinian ministries. This communication will occur by means of electronic distribution of project-related documents to interested parties and meetings with HPCR staff.

The capacity building activities of the Gaza 2010 Project will include specific training on both demography and planning, and will target researchers affiliated with local Palestinian ministries who will then assist in the work of the Sector Teams.

HPCR incorporates an element of debate and forum in the context of the communication and capacity-building activities in order to expand the ability of the participants to think in terms of human security as people-centered, multidimensional, preventive, and focused on the notion of the “vital core” of human needs. The target institutions for this aspect of the project are the Palestinian ministries of Planning, Environment, Interior, Labor, Health, and Education, as well as any other local, regional, or international agencies that have a role in planning for the future of the Gaza Strip.

As a complementary activity, HPCR will develop a curriculum for human security in the Middle East. The first application of this curriculum will be in a winter term course that will be taught by the Harvard School of Public Health faculty in the region in January 2005 for Harvard University graduate students, in cooperation with Palestinian universities in East Jerusalem and in the West Bank. Palestinian Master’s and PhD levels students will also be invited to take part in the course.

Further curriculum development activities will take place during 2006 in the context of meetings of regional scholars. For example, HPCR intends to convene a workshop at the

Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies at Birzeit University. The human security curriculum that is developed in the course of the Gaza 2010 Project will be made available to regional academic institutions and will thus contribute to continuing intra-Palestinian dialogue on human security issues.

## TECHNOLOGY

HPCR will make use of Internet portal technology to share results and foster dialogue on human security in Gaza. To ensure the effective, dynamic, and wider sharing of information on this topic, HPCR will set up an interactive electronic information platform that will offer reports, data, analysis, and relevant news pertaining to the issue of human security in Gaza. As with information tools developed by HPCR in the past for the United Nations system, this platform ([www.gaza2010.org](http://www.gaza2010.org)) will be dynamic and highly responsive to user demands and interests.

HPCR has carried out extensive work in the use of information technology and information management in conflict and post-conflict situations, particularly in supporting United Nations field offices with web-based portals. Recent portals include International Humanitarian Law in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory ([www.ihlresearch.org/opt/](http://www.ihlresearch.org/opt/)) and Monitoring International Humanitarian Law in Iraq ([www.ihlresearch.org/iraq/](http://www.ihlresearch.org/iraq/)), which provide updated access to news on IHL issues, summarized reports and analysis from key international organizations and scholars, links to related resources, translated summaries from regional news sources, password-protected interactive forums, and original legal and policy analysis from HPCR staff and other experts.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

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### *Methodology for Population Estimation and Projection*

The base population used for HPCR's population estimation is the count of the *de jure* population in the Gaza Strip from the Palestinian Population, Housing and Establishment Census of 1997. The 1997 Census was conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), and experts recognize that the methodology used and resulting data sets conform to international standards of quality. In order to find the most accurate estimation of the *de jure* population of Gaza in 2005, HPCR is employing two different estimation methods and comparing the two. Various sources of data will be used in both methods, such as the census data from PCBS, health and labor force surveys by PCBS, Ministry of Health data and the Ministry of Education statistical year book, Israeli data on Gaza migration, and population civil register.

First, HPCR is making an estimation based on the population census data of 1997 and the population civil registers. This entails essentially verifying the 1997 census data through a rereading of the census definitions and comparing it with data from the

Population Register. This method also explores the education data, assumes that the enrollment rate is about 98% in the elementary cycle in the Gaza Strip, and compares the estimation with others such as that of Fafo. In this comparison, HPCR looks at the calculation of annual births, calculation of annual deaths, and estimation of annual migration. It is assumed that there was no significant migration in the Gaza Strip since the last population census. However, the only available data in this matter is the Israeli data, which has not been made public.

Second, HPCR is undertaking an estimation of Gaza population based on population census data 1997 and an estimation of the total fertility rate. As shown in statistics from the Palestinian Ministry of Health statistics, the total fertility rate has declined since 1995 and consequently, as has the annual growth rate. As a result, in 2005, there is a significant variance between the *de facto* population and the projected population proposed by Fafo, PCBS and others. Based on the 1997 population census, HPCR intends to make a new estimation of the population of the Gaza strip by using the so-called component-cohort method using the estimation of total fertility rate and infant mortality rate.

Based on our estimation of the Gaza strip population in 2005, we can then project the population of Gaza for 2006-2010 by using the same method, the component-cohort method.

#### *Methodology for Sector Research*

The Gaza 2010 sector research also begins with an inventory of data, much like the population estimation and projection. Research then proceeds, separately for each sector, depending on the variety and quality of the data available, as well as the research priorities identified in consultation with policy planners.

## **RESEARCH COORDINATION AND SUPERVISION**

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### *Project Coordination*

A Project Coordinator will assist the HPCR Program Director with project execution. In the development phase of the Project, the tasks of the Project Coordinator were to assist the HPCR Program Director with identifying and analyzing existing data, setting up the initial Gaza team, identifying the remaining members of the HPCR-based research team, consultations with academic, governmental, and other institutions in the region, and helping to establish the Scientific Advisory Group. As the Project progresses, the Project Coordinator will continue to provide support to the HPCR Program Director by setting up meetings of the Scientific Advisory Group, corresponding regularly with Project staff, tracking progress, and coordinating project-related partnerships, events, presentations, communications, publications, fundraising, and so forth.

### *Scientific Advisory Group*

One of the accomplishments of the first phase of the Gaza 2010 Project was the establishment of a Scientific Advisory Group, a consortium of leaders in the fields of demography and public health, representing American, European, and Middle Eastern institutions. The purpose of this group is to offer direction, oversight, and authority to the research component of the project. (Please see the biographies of the members of the Scientific Advisory Group attached in Annex I.) The first meeting took place on March 23-24, 2005, in Cairo, Egypt. The second meeting will take place in Beirut, Lebanon in mid-November 2005.

### *Research Coordination*

A Gaza-based demographer has been hired as the Research Coordinator for the Gaza 2010 Project. The Research Coordinator works full-time and serves as the lead researcher on the population estimation and projection, as well as the central coordinator for sector-related research. The Research Coordinator is responsible for conducting inventories of population data by approaching official local sources, analyzing the available population data, and producing regular research progress reports. He is also responsible for maintaining working relationships with institutions and individuals in the region, forging new relationships when appropriate, supervising the inventory of sector-specific data, establishing the Sector Teams, convening meetings of the Sector Teams, and coordinating training activities in the region.

A part-time Gaza-based Researcher will be hired to assist the Research Coordinator with the completion of the data inventory for the five sectors. The responsibilities of the part-time Researcher will be to collect and review data; classify the data by governorate, gender, service provider, and other socio-economic classification; enter the data in the database managed and created by the HPCR Research Coordinator; and prepare a set of indicators for each of the sectors.

### *Sector Teams*

HPCR is in the process of establishing Sector Teams in the region composed of local experts from Palestinian institutions such as the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the Islamic University and the Al Quds School of Public Health in Gaza, Palestinian Institute for Development Studies (IDS), the Palestinian Environmental Quality Authority (EQA), the Palestinian Ministry of Interior, and the Palestinian Ministries of Health, Housing, Education, and Labor & Social Affairs. In cooperation with the Research Coordinator, and under the supervision of the Scientific Advisory Group, the five Sector Teams will:

- Review and analyze the existing data on the demographic, education, employment, environment, health, and housing situation and relevant trends in the Gaza Strip;

- Chart policy projections for the five sectors;
- Discuss their findings with key local and regional actors and explore their relevance in terms of policy and planning;
- Formulate and publish a comprehensive set of recommendations to be taken into consideration in future policy planning for human security in Gaza; and,
- Provide capacity building training and opportunities to selected partner organizations in the region.

As the sector research progresses, other experts may be recruited, as needed, to work with the Sector Teams. These additional contributors would include highly qualified local experts in economics, education, environment, and health. Each of these would work part-time for a total of six months. Research Assistants, both at HPCR and in Gaza have been and will continue to be employed as needed.

#### *Supervision and Communication among the Project Team*

Briefing and debriefing meetings will be organized regularly and jointly with the Sector Teams in Gaza and among international experts. Debriefing will be conducted upon return from missions in the field and at the end of the assignments. Additional discussions may be organized according to specific needs as they arise.

#### *Compilation of Research Results*

Through the Gaza-based Research Coordinator, members of the Sector Teams will work jointly with the international experts in the Scientific Advisory Group. Each international expert will contribute a draft and a final report on his or her sector or area of focus (as designated by the Project Director) to the Human Security Assessment under the responsibility of the Project Director.

#### *Language*

The Project's working language will be English. The Project Synopsis, other informational material as needed and published research results will be translated into Arabic.

## **COOPERATION WITH THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY**

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#### *Communication and Coordination*

HPCR plans to establish a Steering Committee composed of representatives of the relevant ministries and authorities as well as the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics to help guide the activities of the project in terms of policy planning and capacity building. In particular, the Steering Committee will review plans for the organization of an advanced workshop for Palestinian policy makers and planners. The first meeting of

the Steering Committee is planned to take place in the fall of 2005, and the group will continue to meet regularly thereafter, approximately once every six months.

Topics for the advanced workshop may include:

- Demographic analysis and projections
- Planning strategies for public services (principles and comparative analysis)
- Planning strategies per sectors of services
- Policy making and processes in public administration

Other topics may be identified by the participants. The expertise for the advanced workshop will be mobilized locally and regionally, with inputs from HPCR based at the Harvard School of Public Health.

## **PROJECT TIMELINE**

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### **PHASE I: PROJECT LAUNCH, JANUARY 2005–SEPTEMBER 2005 (COMPLETED)**

Phase I of the project focused on project development and networking. The goals of this phase were to establish the existing sources of data and analysis and to establish the Project's network of advisors – internationally, in the region, and at Harvard.

On the research front, a team at Harvard performed a preliminary inventory and analysis of the available demographic, education, employment, and health indicators. This research was presented at the first meeting of the Scientific Advisory Group, which occurred in Cairo, Egypt in March 2005. Following the meeting in Cairo, HPCR hired a Gaza-based Research Coordinator to conduct a full inventory of demographic indicators for Gaza and use rigorous statistical analysis to produce an estimation of the *de facto* population of the Gaza Strip in 2005, as well as population projections, by age and gender, for 2005-2010.

HPCR staff made two trips to the region, in March and May 2005, to set up local networks for research, communication, capacity-building activities, and dialogue. Briefing materials on human security planning were produced and presented in small focus groups in Gaza and in other parts of the region to draw the attention of the targeted audience – donor governments, Palestinian ministries, and regional actors – to the importance of long-term planning for the Gaza Strip.

### **PHASE II: SEPTEMBER 2005–DECEMBER 2005**

In the second phase of the project, HPCR will further refine the demographic research, finalize the population estimation and projection, and launch the work of the Sector Teams in Gaza.

- **September–October:** The Research Coordinator, with the assistance of a part-time Researcher, will prepare an inventory of indicators for the five sectors – education, employment, environment, health services, and housing – and generate a database of the information. Draft research results will be submitted to the Scientific Advisory Group and circulated among key actors for discussion.

At the same time, the Research Coordinator will approach local experts affiliated with Palestinian academic and governmental institutions to participate in the Sector Teams. The Sector Teams will work with the Research Coordinator to identify gaps in the indicators and to discuss research methodology and specific subjects to be investigated. Preliminary reports for the five sectors, in addition to the final population estimation and projections, will be presented to the Scientific Advisory Group at their second meeting in November.

HPCR staff will conduct a third and a fourth mission to the region in October and November to link up with all the concerned stakeholders of the Project and coordinate the next steps. In particular, the first draft research paper will be presented to representatives of the Palestinian Authority and civil society, and to international organizations tasked with giving feedback on project findings.

- **November–December:** Following the second meeting of the Scientific Advisory Group, the results of the first phase of research will be published and available online at [www.gaza2010.org](http://www.gaza2010.org). The Research Coordinator will return to Gaza to develop with the Sector Teams a detailed research agenda for Phase III.

This phase will also include the publication of a policy paper on the human security situation in the Gaza Strip, training and capacity-building activities in the region, intra-Palestinian communication and dialogue on human security issues, and the development of a curriculum on human security in the Middle East. Fundraising activities will be conducted in order to support specific workshops, conferences, and other activities planned for 2006.

### **PHASE III: JANUARY 2006 – DECEMBER 2006**

The goals of this phase are to fill, in a targeted manner, identified gaps in the existing scientific analysis through further gathering and analysis of existing data. The Sector Teams will meet as needed for the progress of the research, as arranged by the Research Coordinator. HPCR will continue to seek advice from the Scientific Advisory Group in order to maintain the Project's standards of rigorous scientific methodology. In order to optimize the delivery of the research results, HPCR will maintain an ongoing dialogue with local government leaders and academic staff, representatives of select international organizations, and other members of the project constituency.

HPCR will finalize its analysis of the data obtained and will issue a preliminary report of its findings in the five sectors. Meetings will be organized locally and internationally to present and discuss these preliminary findings with donors, officials, scholars, and other practitioners and offer a first set of programmatic proposals to address the human security needs of the Palestinian population living in the Gaza Strip in 2010. Following these discussions, HPCR will complete the analysis and the processing of the data and a final *Human Security Assessment for the Gaza Strip* will be drafted. It is expected that contributions to the study will be made by project staff, international scholars acting as consultants to the project, and the Sector Teams on the ground in Gaza. The best format for the *Human Security Assessment* will be determined with the goal of the capacity building of local policy-makers in mind.

A key component of Phase III will be the organization of a series of advanced workshops for the training of Palestinian policy makers and planners on the basis of the methodology developed during the research phase of the project. The purpose of the advanced workshop, to be organized in close cooperation with the Palestinian Authority and academic institutions, is to promote a internal dialogue on the planning needs of public infrastructure in the OPT, particularly in the Gaza Strip.

#### **SUMMARY OF PROJECT OUTCOMES**

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Outcomes of the Gaza 2010 Project will include the following:

- A series of technical papers coming out of the scientific analysis of the indicators in the five sectors: education, employment, environment, health services, and housing;
- Training and capacity building activities in the region;
- A series of conceptual papers, including one on the uniqueness of the demographic situation in the Gaza Strip and the local and regional human security implications;
- A *Human Security Assessment for the Gaza Strip*, including a scientific analysis of demographic projections for the Gaza Strip, projected human security requirements for each of the five sectors and a set of policy recommendations;
- The presentation of intermediate and final project conclusions in regional and international forums; and
- An interactive electronic information platform ([www.Gaza2010.org](http://www.Gaza2010.org)) that will offer reports, data, analysis, and relevant news pertaining to the issue of human security in Gaza.



## **ROLE OF PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS**

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A strategic aspect of the project is its cooperation with local and regional partner organizations in terms of collection of data, sectoral analysis, capacity building and design of the programmatic outcomes. HPCR is committed to working with local institutions and keeping them well informed and involved as the Gaza 2010 research progresses. Local institutions in turn will contribute data, feedback, and participants for small working groups for each of the five sectors. The project intends to offer opportunities to a selected group of professionals and organizations to develop their scientific and policy skills in the elaboration of a human security framework of the development of the Gaza Strip.

HPCR's role in these partnerships will focus on the overall supervision of the project activities and the promotion of rigorous scientific standards in the pursuit of its research activities. It is expected that partner organizations will gain new expertise in demographic analysis and long-term programming, in discussion with other components of the targeted audience of the project.

## **PROJECT EVALUATION**

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To increase the responsiveness of its work to the needs of policy planning professionals in the Middle East, HPCR plans to incorporate evaluation mechanisms into trainings, meetings, workshops, conferences, and other events that are organized as part of the Gaza 2010 project. Such mechanisms will take the form of written evaluations of training sessions, solicited comments on publications and research results, feedback on portal technology from identified users of the website, [www.Gaza2010.org](http://www.Gaza2010.org), internal reviews of "lessons learned," and individual consultations with stakeholders for more targeted feedback. The objective of these efforts will be to provide HPCR with further insight into current debates at the policy level and to provide a space for informal discussion on cutting edge research issues in the region.

## **AGENCY INFORMATION**

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The Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research (HPCR) is a research and policy program based at the Harvard School of Public Health in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The Program offers research and development, training, and advisory services to international organizations, governments and non-governmental actors and focuses on the protection of vulnerable groups, humanitarian assistance and the role of information technology in emergency response. The Program was established in August 2000 through the common efforts of Harvard University, the United Nations, and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, and made possible through a generous grant of Switzerland.

The main objective of the Program is to promote a professional and innovative approach to research and policymaking on conflict prevention, conflict management, and the protection of civilians in times of war. The Program attempts to provide new and thoughtful insights into policy and academic debates that will enhance the capacity of governments, international organizations, civil society groups, and the private sector to address all the dimensions and implications of conflict that affect people in such situations.

The Program takes a multidisciplinary approach to addressing the humanitarian consequences of conflict situations as part of a new understanding of security and humanitarian requirements known as “human security.” The Program promotes the development of comprehensive responses to humanitarian and security crises, engaging both local and international actors in concerted efforts to minimize the impact of armed conflict on civilian populations. The Program’s fields of research cover various domains, including international law, international relations, political science, sociology, history and public health. A major sector of the Program’s activities is the impact of new information technologies on the work of governments and international organizations.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information on this project proposal, please contact:

Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research

Harvard University

1033 Massachusetts Avenue

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Tel: (617) 384-7407 / Fax: (617) 384-5908

Program Director:

Claude Bruderlein

(617) 496-8640

[cbruderl@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:cbruderl@hsph.harvard.edu)

Research Coordinator:

Dr. Ismail Lubbad

+ + 972 599 413 843

[ismail@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:ismail@hsph.harvard.edu)

Project Coordinator:

Angharad Laing

(617) 384-5904

[alaing@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:alaing@hsph.harvard.edu)

## GAZA 2010

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### SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY GROUP

*Description:*

The Gaza 2010 Scientific Advisory Group is a consortium of leaders in the fields of demography and public health, representing American, European, and regional Middle Eastern institutions. The purpose of this group is to offer direction, oversight, and authority to the research component of the Gaza 2010 project. The first meeting of the Scientific Advisory Group took place at the Social Research Center at the American University in Cairo on March 23 – 24, 2005. The next meeting of the Scientific Advisory Group is planned for mid-November 2005 at the American University in Beirut, Lebanon.

*Current Members:*

**- PHILIPPE FARGUES**

Philippe Fargues is Scientific Director of the Euro-Mediterranean Consortium for Applied Research on International Migration at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies. He is a population scientist and specialist in Middle Eastern issues, and is currently on leave from INED, the French National Institute for Demographic Studies. His publications include *Génération Arabes* (Fayard 2000) and *Christians and Jews under Islam* with Youssef Courbage (Tauris 1997).

**- ALLAN G. HILL**

Allan G. Hill is Andelot Professor of Demography in the Department of Population and International Health at the Harvard School of Public Health. He is a medical demographer with regional interests in West Africa and the Middle East. His publications include "Improvements in childhood mortality in The Gambia" with W.B. MacLeod, S.S.T. Sonko and G. Walraven (*The Lancet* 1999) and "Reproductive mishaps and western contraception: an African challenge to fertility theory" with F. Banja and Caroline Bledsoe (*Population and Development Review* 1998).

**- MARWAN KHAWAJA**

Marwan Khawaja is Associate Professor in the Epidemiology and Population Health in the Department of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the American University in Beirut. His research interests include population health, demography of refugee populations, migration, Arab fertility, living conditions, and poverty and social exclusion. His publications include “The extraordinary decline of infant and childhood mortality among Palestinian refugees” (*Social Science and Medicine* 2004) and “The Fertility of Palestinian Women in Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan and Lebanon” (*Population* 2003).

**- HODA RASHAD**

Hoda Rashad is Director and Research Professor at the Social Research Center at the American University in Cairo. Her current research interests include development studies, gender issues, reproductive health, demographic analysis and evaluation of the impact of health interventions. Her publications include “Demographic Transition in Arab Countries: A New Perspective” (*Journal of Population Research* 2000) and “The Demography of the Arab Region: New Challenges and Opportunities” with Khadr Zeinab in Sirageldin (ed.) *Human Capital* (The American University in Cairo Press 2002).

*Ex-Officio participants:*

**- ISMAIL LUBBAD**

Ismail Lubbad is a Palestinian demographer and Research Coordinator for the *Gaza 2010* project of the Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research (HPCR). Since 1998, he has worked as a policy analyst and socio-economic researcher for several United Nations agencies (UNESCO, UNRWA and UNSCO).

**- CLAUDE BRUDERLEIN**

Claude Bruderlein is Lecturer on International Health at the Department of Population and International Health of the Harvard School of Public Health and Director, Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research (HPCR).

**- ANGHARAD LAING**

Angharad Laing is a Junior Associate with the Program for Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research (HPCR) and serves as Project Coordinator for *Gaza 2010*.