



7  
KILLED



1,032  
INJURED



6  
TRAUMA  
STABILISATION  
POINTS



200 ESSENTIAL  
DRUGS  
IMMEDIATELY  
NEEDED



12-16 HOURS OF  
ELECTRICITY  
AVAILABLE EVERY  
24 HOURS

## 1. Highlights

- From 4 to the 17 December, seven Palestinians have been killed and 1,032 injured. From this total, 444 were referred to hospitals for emergency acute care. The breakdown per region is as follows:
  - In the West Bank, six Palestinians were killed and 454 Palestinians injured, 83 cases were referred to hospitals, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH).
  - In Gaza, one child (4 years old) was killed and 578 Palestinians were injured<sup>1</sup>, 361 were referred to hospitals, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH).
- **Since the start of the mass demonstrations in Gaza on 30 March**, 247 people have been killed and a total of 26,039 people injured. 12,199 were treated and discharged from the Trauma Stabilization Points (TSPs) and the remaining 13,840 casualties were transferred to MoH and NGO hospitals. **6,174 people** have live ammunition gunshot wounds, of which 5,366 (87%) present limb gunshot wounds<sup>2</sup>.
- **Attacks against healthcare** remain a major concern in the occupied Palestinian territory. According to provisional data reported to WHO, there were at least 11 incidents of attacks against health care in the West Bank and 13 incidents in the Gaza Strip from 4 to 17 December 2018.
- In November 2018, the **Central Drug Store** of the MoH in Gaza reported 39% of essential drugs at less than one month's supply. The 49 MoH primary healthcare clinics are critically impacted, with 57% of essential primary healthcare drugs at zero stock.
- Since the Gaza Power Plant resumed operations, switching on three turbines in late October, power supply in Gaza has increased from an average of 4-5 hours per day to 12-16 hours per day. This has positively impacted the amount of emergency fuel required to support critical health facilities.
- The 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan for the occupied Palestinian territory was launched on 17 December 2018. **Health Cluster partners require \$ 32 million USD** to address acute health needs of the most vulnerable communities in the occupied Palestinian territory. 1.2 million Palestinians are in need of humanitarian assistance.



Many ambulances face delays in the West Bank. Photo credit: PRCS

<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Health (MoH).

<sup>2</sup> Ministry of Health (MoH)

## 2. West Bank Health Emergency

- There has been an escalation of violence in the West Bank since 9 December. Several attacks have been carried out by Israelis and Palestinians. Israel substantially increased the number of its ad-hoc checkpoints, tightening control of Palestinian movement, including movement of vehicles, across the West Bank.
- Casualties:** From the 4 to the 17 December, six Palestinians have been killed and 454 Palestinians have been injured, according to the Ministry of Health; out of the six killed. From the total 454 injured, 83 people were referred to hospitals across the West Bank. Figure 1 below illustrates the breakdown of cases referred to hospitals.

Figure 1: Emergency Department admissions in the West Bank disaggregated by gender & age

Total	By gender		By age	
	Male	Female	Children	Adults
83	79	4	15	68

- Attacks against healthcare from 4 to 17 December 2018:** According to provisional data reported to WHO by MoH, Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS), Union of Health Workers Committee (UHWC) and a private ambulance provider, there were at least 11 incidents of attacks on health care in the West Bank. 9 incidents affected ambulances; of these, 5 involved the use of weapons against ambulances, of which one incident involved the stoning of an ambulance by Israeli settlers. In a further four incidents, ambulances were delayed access. Additionally, there were a further two attacks by settlers against an MoH clinic and an MoH vehicle transporting health staff – the latter resulting in the injury of an MoH staff.
- Cumulative figures for attacks against healthcare in the West Bank since 1 January 2018:** From 1 January to 17 December, there were 60 incidents of attacks against healthcare in the West Bank reported to WHO. As a result of these incidents, at least 16 health staff have been injured, 14 ambulances attacked or damaged, 33 ambulances delayed or prevented access and 12 clinics affected.

## 3. Gaza Health Emergency

### Gaza Health Emergency 4 to 17 December

- Casualties:** One child was killed and 578 Palestinians were injured by the Israeli forces from 4 to 17 December, 361 were referred to hospitals, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH). 106 people out of the 361-injured people referred to the hospital were live ammunition gunshot wounds. From the cohort of casualties referred to hospitals during this reporting period, 111 were children (31%), 22 were female (6%) and 339 (94%) were male. See figure 3 below.

Figure 3: Emergency Department admissions in Gaza disaggregated by gender & age

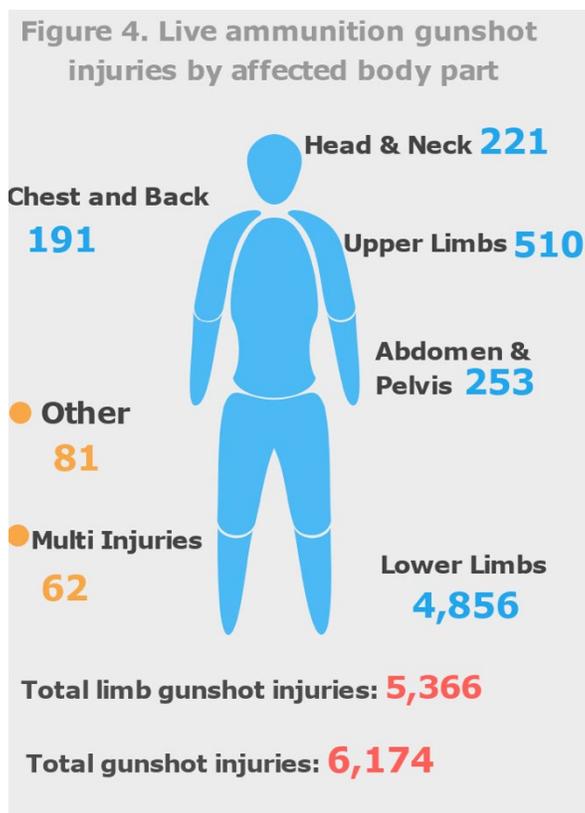
Total	By gender		By age	
	Male	Female	Children	Adults

361	339	22	111	250
-----	-----	----	-----	-----

- **Ambulance data:** From 4 to the 17 December, during the demonstrations, a total of 387 patients were transported to hospital by the ambulance services provided by nine providers. An initial analysis shows that:
  - 40% of patient treated at the MoH TSPs were transferred to a hospital
  - 77% of patients treated at the PRCS TSPs were transferred to a hospital
  - 10% of the people injured in the field were directly transferred to the hospitals, bypassing the TSPs
- **Attacks against healthcare:** According to provisional data reported to WHO by MoH, PMRS, and PRCS, for the period of 4 to 17 of December 2018, at least 16 health workers were injured and 3 ambulances were damaged in 13 different incidents in the Gaza Strip. Of the health workers, 7 were hit by gas canisters, 2 by rubber bullets, and 7 suffered injury from gas inhalation.

### Gaza Health Emergency since the mass demonstrations

- **Deaths:** From 30 March until 17 December, 250 people have been killed<sup>3</sup>.
- **Injuries:** The total figure of people injured stands at 26,039.
- **Trauma Stabilisation Points:** Out of 26,039 people injured, 12,199 were treated at the TSPs and immediately discharged. This has reduced the burden of casualties arriving at the hospitals by an average of 56%. The TSPs are managed by MoH and PRCS; the breakdown of treated and discharged is as follows: (1) MoH TSPs treated and discharged 60% of the casualties. (2) PRCS TSPs treated and discharged 23% of the casualties.
- **Hospital caseload:** The remaining 13,840 casualties were stabilized and transferred for treatment at the emergency departments (ED) of MoH and NGOs hospitals.
- **Live ammunition gunshot injuries:** Out of the total 13,840 referred to emergency departments (ED) at hospitals, 6,174 cases were live ammunition gunshot injuries. This is 45% of the total casualties arriving at the hospitals. From the total of 6,174 live ammunition gunshot injuries, 5,366 are limb gunshot injuries (87%). Refer to figure 4 for a breakdown of gunshot wounds by affected body part.
- **Permanent disability:**
  - **Amputations:** As a result of the conflict, 111 amputations have taken place since the start of the mass demonstrations. This includes 20 children and 1 female. Out of this total, 93 were lower limb amputations, 3 upper limb amputations, and 15 finger amputations<sup>4</sup>.



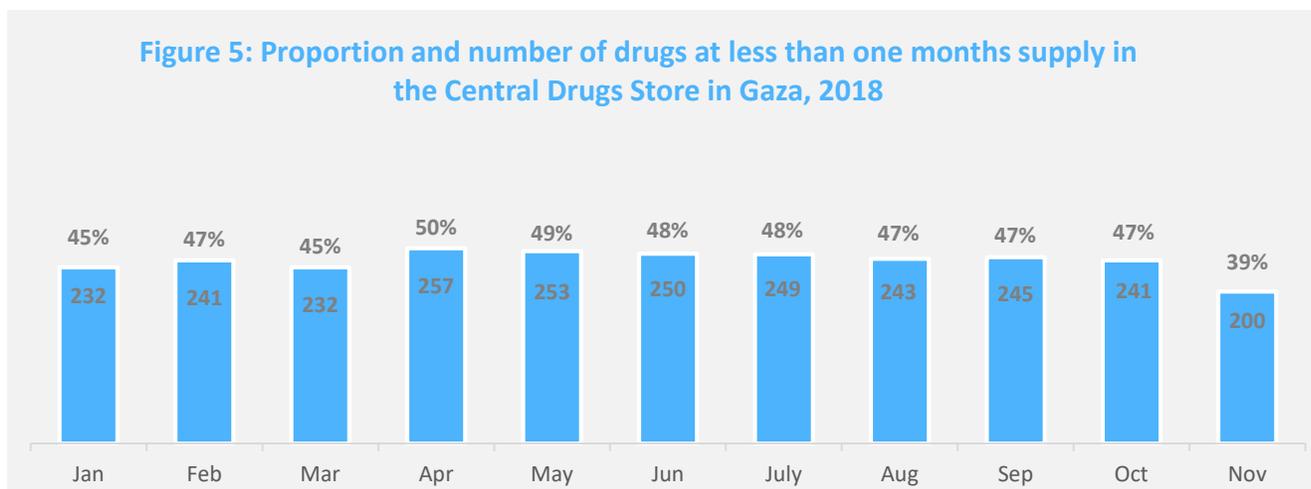
<sup>3</sup> 10 bodies have been reported to be held by Israeli authorities, according to OCHA. The remaining 240 have been reported by the Ministry of Health (MoH).

<sup>4</sup> According to Assalama Society

- **Paralysis:** 19 patients are currently paralyzed due to spinal cord injuries.
- **Eye injuries:** 6 people have resulted in permanent loss of vision as a result of injuries caused during the mass demonstrations.
- **Cumulative figures on attacks against healthcare:**
  - From 30 March to 17 December, three health workers have been killed and 546 injured in 348 recorded incidents against health staff and facilities. 82 ambulances and 5 other health vehicles have been damaged, as well as 3 health facilities.
- **Access for patients outside of Gaza:**
  - As of 30 November, according to Gaza’s Coordination and Liaison Office, there had been 386 applications to Israeli authorities by those injured in demonstrations to exit Gaza via Erez crossing to access health care. Of those applications, 78 (20%) were approved, 122 (32%) were denied and 186 (48%) were delayed.

### Depleting essential medical supplies

- The Central Drug Store in Gaza supplies all 14 MoH hospitals (2,243 beds) and 49 MoH primary healthcare clinics (PHC) in Gaza. These health facilities provide 40% of Gaza’s primary healthcare, covering approximately 600,000 people and 90% of all hospital care services. According to Gaza’s Central Drug Store, at the end of November, **39% were at less than one month’s supply** (200 essential medicines out of the total 516 essential medicines list) at the MoH store in Gaza. See figure 5.



## 4. Emergency Response

### Partner response in West Bank

- **PRCS** provided pre-hospital care to 454 injuries in the field. PRCS is the main provider for ambulance and pre-hospital care in the West Bank.
- **Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS)** provided first aid to 58 injured people in the West Bank; 15 of the cases were rubber bullets and 43 were tear gas inhalation. The teams continue to work in the Ramallah governorate in Amari camp and Jazalone camp and have referred 15 cases to the hospital.

- **MDM- France** is providing MHPSS emergency response following critical incidents related to the occupation, such as settler violence, demolitions and ISF excessive use of force. Since the escalations, MDM responded to eight incidents by providing MHPSS support to 32 victims (11 females, 13 males and 8 children).
- **WHO** with support from the Russian Federation, provided 5 surgical kits to be pre-positioned, which would cover disposable needs to treat 500 surgical interventions for 10 days. Also, **WHO** funded by the European Union, conducted workshops in 34 schools across the West Bank to raise awareness about mental health among their peers.



Around 100 representatives of student parliaments participated in the workshops, discussing issues they face in their schools and ways to help children and adolescents cope. Photo credit: WHO

### Partner response in Gaza

- **WHO**, with support from the Russian Federation, delivered 10 trauma kits, to meet the needs of 1,000 patients requiring surgical care.
- **Medicos del Mundo-Spain (MdM-S)** delivered 26 drug items enough to treat 2,000 patients. MdM-S also delivered orthopaedic consumables and external fixators, estimated to benefit 5500 patients, in addition to an anaesthesia machine and monitor, estimated to benefit 1,200 patients per year.
- **Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP- UK)** delivered 1 drug and 2 disposable items, estimated to benefit approximately 15,380 patients.
- **The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**, supported by Japan, furnished the mammogram unit in Gaza, as well as delivering 5 disposable items to benefit 85,600 patients, and twenty safe delivery kits. Also, UNFPA delivered one autoclave for a Family Planning clinic, estimated to benefit 15 patients/day.
- **The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** provided 37,839 of multi-vitamins and micronutrient sachets to Gaza, estimated to reach approximately 12,613 children under 5 years old.
- The **Government of Japan** delivered 10 drug items and 8 disposable items to Gaza on 12 December.
- **Médecins du Monde-France (MdM-F)** has been providing support to five MoH Primary Healthcare Centers<sup>5</sup> benefitting 246 patients. Since 30 march, MDM- F provided postoperative services to 1,581 patients, out of which, 146 patient received care at Al-Aqsa tent and 1,435 patients received at the PHCs. **MdM-F** also started psycho-education sessions in Bani Souhaila and Abassan Kabira PHCs; 564 people benefitted from the sessions out of a cumulative total of 1,027 patients and caregivers.
- **Physicians for Human Rights- Israel (PHRI)** coordinated the exit of 12 doctors from Gaza to attend a 3-day emergency training and simulation on medical emergencies in Tel Hashomer hospital, in Israel.
- **MdM-S** deployed an emergency medical team, consisting of 2 orthopaedic surgeons, one plastic surgeon, an anaesthesiologist and a nurse, to Al-Aqsa Hospital. The EMT screened 44 patients injured and conducted 13

<sup>5</sup> Bani Souhaila, Abassan Kabira, Shuhada Deir el Balah, Old Buriej and Old Nuseirat Primary Healthcare Centers.

surgeries. Since 30 march, MdM-S medical teams have conducted 488 emergency consultations and 60 surgeries.

- **Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)** medical teams admitted 43 new cases and operated on 31 patients. Since the beginning of the demonstrations, MSF has admitted a total of 3,339 patients to their clinics and performed a total of 2,018 surgical acts on 1,314 patients. In addition, MSF medical teams have conducted 82,319 physiotherapy sessions and 48,587 dressings.
- **MAP- UK** deployed a limb reconstruction team. Alongside local staff, MAP-UK screened 71 patients, conducted 24 surgeries and examined 27 patients at the outpatient clinics.
- **Assalama Charitable Society** has provided 436 people with 958 multidisciplinary postoperative consultations, including wound dressings, assistive devices, physiotherapy, medicines, disposables and psychosocial support.
- **PRCS** teams provided first aid services to 357 casualties including 95 live ammunition injuries. PRCS also provided Psychological First Aid (PFA) to more than 197 patients and caregivers, in addition to 113 emergency providers.
- **Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS)** provided first aid support to 180 cases, including 33 gunshot injuries. PMRS post-operative outreach teams also provided care to 23 new cases, raising the total of beneficiaries to 890, out of which, 206 are still receiving postoperative care and 340 have received assistive devices. Since the start of the demonstrations, PMRS has provided first aid to 4,890 patients.
- **Doctors Worldwide - Turkey (DWWT)** provided 5 cases with a total of 526 multidisciplinary postoperative care sessions. Since 30 march, DWWT provided a total of 342 cases with a cumulative total of 2,245 multidisciplinary sessions.
- **Palestine Children's Relief Fund (PCRF)** deployed four emergency medical teams, conducting surgery on 54 patients and screened 193 patients.
- **Humanity and Inclusion (HI)** in partnership with four local disability partners<sup>6</sup> has deployed 10 multidisciplinary teams in all the five governorates of Gaza Strip. So far, HI has provided nursing and rehabilitation services for 1,710 injured persons with 27,505 multidisciplinary sessions. HI has also distributed 545 assistive devices including wheelchairs, elbow and axillary crutches, and anti-bed sore mattresses.
- **Haifa Charity Hospital** provided first aid to 69 injured patients in the field and transported 21 cases to the medical points in Malaka area, east of Gaza. The hospital also provided 256 post-operative consultations.



Credit: Doctors Worldwide - Turkey (DWWT)

<sup>6</sup> Baitona for community development, Palestinian Avenir for Child Hood Foundation, National Society for Rehabilitation, and EL-Amal Rehabilitation Society

## 5. Coordination and Information

- Limb Reconstruction workshop took place on 5 December 2018 in Gaza, chaired by WHO as the Health Cluster lead agency and MoH. 69 participants from 14 partner organisations working in limb reconstruction attended the workshop, which paved the way for a limb reconstruction strategy for Gaza.
- Trauma Health Information System workshop took place on 6 December 2018 in Gaza, chaired by the WHO as the Health Cluster lead agency and MoH. 27 participants from 10 partners attended the workshop which resulted in a strategy to improve health data collection for trauma across Gaza.



Partners and the MoH agree the need for a vulnerability index to map communities in need and develop a phased emergency preparedness plan to help build community resilience. Photo credit:

- Health Cluster partners met on 11 December in Gaza to map lessons learnt and enhance emergency preparedness. On 20 December, Health Cluster partners met in the West Bank to review the needs for emergency preparedness. Health partners agreed to support the MoH in building the resilience of vulnerable communities through a revised risk analysis and phased approach for the West Bank.
- WHO continues to monitor the access of patients from Gaza and attacks against healthcare across the oPt. For additional information on access barriers for Palestinian patients, see WHO's latest monthly [access report](#).

## 6. Funding needs

- Health Cluster partners require **\$ 32 million USD** to address acute health needs of the most vulnerable communities in the occupied Palestinian territory for 2019, targeting 900,000 people out of the 1.2 million Palestinians in need of humanitarian health assistance. See the [Humanitarian Response Plan 2019](#).

## 7. Contact

Gerald Rockenschaub, WHO Head of Office West Bank and Gaza, oPt  
Email: [rockenschaubg@who.int](mailto:rockenschaubg@who.int)

Sara Halimah, Health Cluster Coordinator, West Bank and Gaza, oPt  
Email: [halimahs@who.int](mailto:halimahs@who.int)