



Highlights

- From 01 to 31 May 2019, **thirty three Palestinians were killed**, including two pregnant women, and 796 were injured¹.
- Three Palestinians were killed during the demonstrations, while the remaining 30 were killed due to Israeli air strikes between the 3rd to the 5th May.
- According to the MoH, since the start of the demonstrations in Gaza, **312 people have been killed including 61 children and 32,373 injured. WHO was able to verify records of 29,574 injured people and 312 deaths.** 7,110 people have suffered from gunshot wounds, of which 6,218 (87%) presented limb wounds².
- 49% out of the essential medications were reported at less than one-month supply at the MoH Central Drug Store (CDS) in Gaza; out of which 41% were completely depleted.
- According to the National Maternal Mortality Committee statistics, the maternal mortality ratio (MMR) increased from 8.6 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2017³ to 19.1 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2018⁴ - 122% increase in maternal mortality in Gaza in one year.
- The electricity situation has improved given the recent efforts to connect the grid lines to nine out of the 14 public hospitals. These hospitals now have access to up to 22 hours of electricity every day.
- In order to respond to the growing health needs in Gaza, the Health Cluster requires a total of \$ 28.2 million. Out of this, \$ 16.2 million has been received, leaving a funding gap of \$ 12 million. Further information can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2HWPjwz>. An additional \$1.5 million is required to ensure the minimum needed resources are available to prepare for and respond to the first 96 hours of a potential escalation.
- The Health Cluster oPt Humanitarian Response Plan, requires \$ 42 million USD and only 30% has been funded by the end of May.



Injured patient transported to the TSP to receive pre-hospital care.
 Credit: PRCS

¹ Ministry of Health (MoH)

² Ministry of Health (MoH)

³ Ministry of Health (MoH), Annual Health Report 2017

⁴ Palestine Health Report to the 72nd World Health Assembly

Trauma Analysis 01 - 31 May

▪ Casualties:

- Thirty-three Palestinians were killed and 796 were injured.
- In May, the hospitals reported 482 emergency consultations for patients injured either during the mass demonstrations or as a result of air strikes. From which, 97 were injured by gunshots. See figure 1 below for type of emergency consultations.
- From the cohort of casualties referred to hospitals during this reporting period, 148 were children (31%), 58 (12%) were female and 424 (88%) were male. See figure 2 below.

Figure 1: Type of emergency consultations at hospitals 01 to 31 May 2019

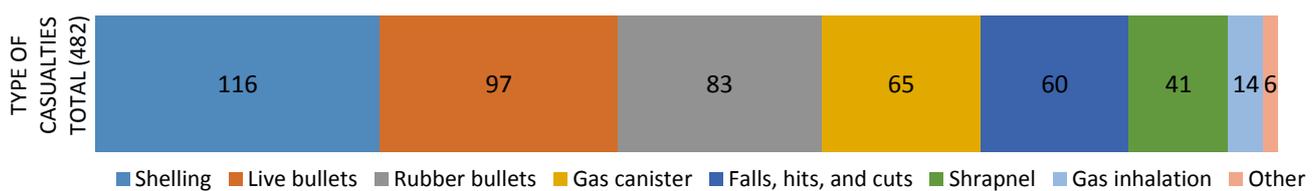
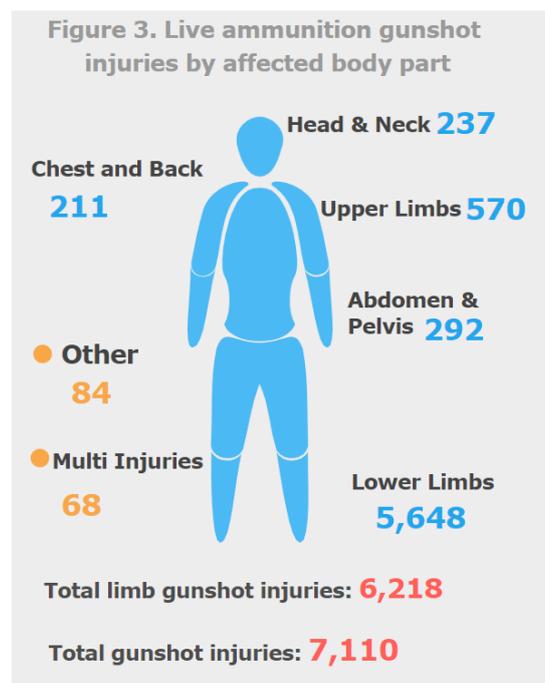


Figure 2: Emergency consultations at hospitals disaggregated by gender and age 01 to 31 May 2019

Total	By gender		By age	
	Male	Female	Children	Adults
482	424	58	148	334

Cumulative Trauma Analysis

- **Deaths:** From 30 March until 31 May 2019, 312 people have been killed⁵.
- **Injuries:** The total figure of people injured stands at 29,574⁶.
- **Trauma Stabilisation Points:** Out of the total people injured, 14,870 were treated at the TSPs and discharged. This has reduced the burden of casualties arriving at the hospitals by an average of 46%.
- **Hospital caseload:** The remaining 17,503 casualties arrived at the emergency departments (ED) of MoH and NGO hospitals. Of them, 3,615 were children.
- **Gunshot injuries:** Out of 17,503 casualties that were presented to emergency departments (ED), 7,110 cases were gunshot injuries; which account for 41% of the total casualties arriving at the hospitals. From 7,110 gunshot injuries, 87% are limb gunshot injuries. Refer to figure 3 for a breakdown of gunshot wounds by affected body part.



⁵ 7 bodies have been reported to be held by Israeli authorities, according to OCHA.

⁶ Although the MoH report 32,373 injured, WHO was able to verify 29,574 patient records.

- **Permanent disability:**
 - **Amputations:** 138 amputations have taken place as a result of injuries during the mass demonstrations, including 30 in children. 120 were lower limb amputations and 18 upper limb amputations⁷.
 - **Paralysis:** 22 patients are currently paralyzed due to spinal cord injuries.
 - **Eye injuries:** 12 people suffered permanent loss of vision as a result of injuries caused during the mass demonstrations.

Sexual and Reproductive Health Situation Analysis

UNFPA contribution

- The sexual and reproductive health (SRH), including maternal health, situation in Gaza has become an increasing concern, with a 122% increase in maternal deaths from 2017-2018 (from 8.6 to 19.1 per 100,000 live births), 63% of mortalities were antepartum⁸, which highlights the importance of maternal health service at primary health care level.
- The latest available data in March 2019, shows that there were 2,334 normal vaginal deliveries and 659 C-Sections in MoH facilities in Gaza (22% C-Section rate)⁹. In 2018, there were an additional 5,338 known miscarriages at MoH facilities in Gaza¹⁰.
- On average in 2018, the C-section rate was 23% at MoH facilities in Gaza¹¹, which is significantly higher than the typical medically required rate of 10-15%. High C-Section rates increase short and long term risks for the mother and baby, including the likelihood of needing a blood transfusion, the risks of anaesthesia complications, organ injury, infection, thromboembolic disease and neonatal respiratory distress, among other short-term complications. In addition, there are long term risks including life-threatening complications for subsequent pregnancies and asthma and obesity for the child. This puts additional strain on the already fragile healthcare system.
- Access to family planning is in an acute state in Gaza. Male condoms are at zero stock at the MoH drug stores in Gaza and are largely unavailable in the local market. UNRWA has male condoms in the procurement pipeline. Progestogen only Pills (Microlut) are at zero stock at MoH and is only available for 10 days use at UNRWA (although more pills are in the pipeline). To further compound the challenge, male condoms were not available at MoH central drug stores in the West Bank.
- This situation requires immediate response in order to ensure that women and children do not suffer from preventable mortality and morbidity.

Electricity in Gaza

- The electricity situation has improved given the progress in recent efforts to connect the grid lines to nine out of the 14 public hospitals, including Al Shifa, Indonesia, Al Aqsa, Nasser, Al Dora, Ophthalmic Hospital, Paediatric, Psychiatric, Specialized Paediatric Hospital. These hospitals now have access to up to 22 hours of electricity every day.

⁷ According to Assalama Society

⁸ National Maternal Mortality Committee data, Jan 2019/Gaza

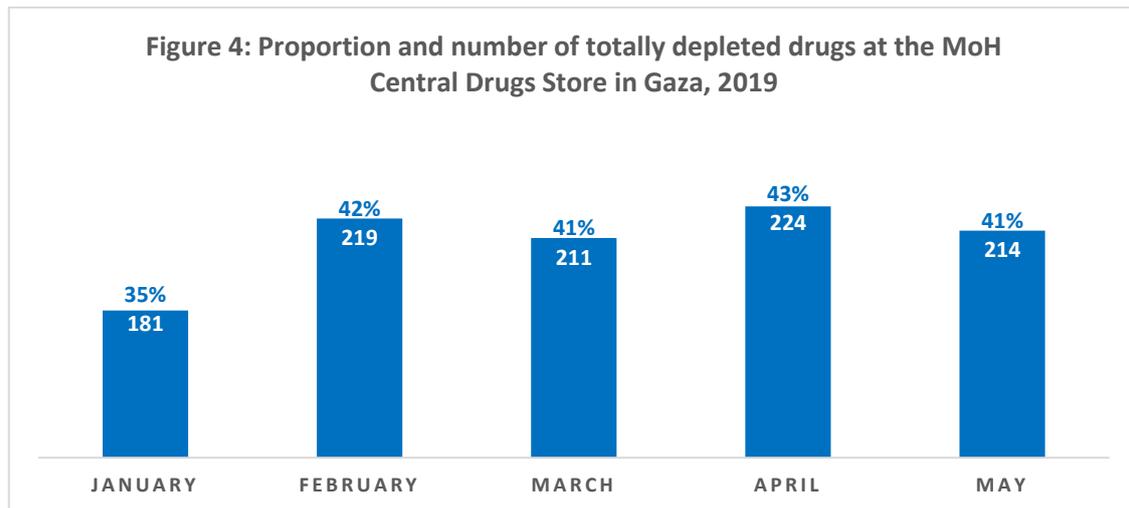
⁹ Ministry of Health (MoH) - HIS/Gaza

¹⁰ Ministry of Health (MoH) - HIS/Gaza

¹¹ Ministry of Health (MoH) - HIS/Gaza

Medicines, Disposables & Laboratory Supplies

- Availability of medicines, disposables and laboratory reagents:
 - 252 items (49%) out of the essential medications were reported at less than one-month supply at the MoH Central Drugs Store (CDS), out of which 214 items are totally depleted. See Figure 4 below.
 - 207 items (24%) out of the essential medical disposables were reported at less than one-month supply at the CDS.
 - At the end of May, 56% of the essential laboratory items were reported at less than one-month supply in the Central Laboratory and Blood Bank Department.
- There is a persistent shortage in essential drugs and disposables, this includes non-communicable disease (NCD) medicines and maternal and child health medications with 66% less than one-month supply.



Attacks against health

- According to data reported to WHO by the Ministry of Health, PMRS, PRCS, UHWC and other health providers, in May 2019 at least 10 health workers were injured, while 1 facility and 4 health vehicles were damaged, in 11 attacks against healthcare in the Gaza Strip. Of the health workers injured, 1 was hit with live ammunition, 4 with gas canisters, 3 by rubber bullets, and 2 suffered injury with gas inhalation.
- Cumulative figures on attacks against health: From 30 March 2018 to 31 May 2019, three health workers have been killed and 755 injured in 473 recorded incidents against health staff and facilities. 106 ambulances were damaged, as well as 10 other forms of health transport and 7 health facilities (including 3 medical points).

Access for patients referred out of Gaza

- WHO continues to monitor barriers to the right to health, including barriers to access for patients. For WHO's latest monthly access report click [here](#).
- As of 31 May 2019, according to Gaza's Coordination and Liaison Office, there had been 554 applications to Israeli authorities by those injured in demonstrations to exit Gaza via Erez crossing to access health care. Of those applications, 18% were approved, 27% were denied and 55% were delayed.

Emergency Response

- **WHO** procured and delivered to MoH Central Drug Store in Gaza, 10 drug items with a total value of around USD 89,000, estimated to benefit more than 85,000 patients. Under WHO's Trauma & Emergency Care programme, WHO also procured and delivered drugs and disposables for Trauma Stabilisation Units of the MoH and PRCS, estimated to benefit around 1,500 injured people per month; and delivered medical equipment to the Limb Reconstruction Unit at Nasser Hospital.
- **United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)** provided 174 injured people with surgical dressings and medication, bringing the total of beneficiaries, since the start of the demonstrations, to 6,015 patients.
- **Palestine Children's Relief Fund (PCRF)** had 3 missions:
 - Paediatric and adult urology mission to Nasser and Shifa hospital, screened 48 and conducted 23 surgical procedures.
 - Vascular mission to Nasser and EGH hospitals, screened 19 and operated 14
 - Vascular and kidney transplant mission to Indonesian and Shifa, screened 15 and operated 12.
- **MSF – France** admitted 78 trauma patients and conducted 98 surgical procedures benefitting 77 people and conducted 7,446 wound dressings and 5,004 Physiotherapy sessions. Since April 2018, MSF-F provided various services to 3,855 injured patients.
- **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** provided MoH with 270 wheelchairs, 40,000 bottles of glucose 5% IV fluid, 2 pallets of 3,500 oxytocin ampules, 10 Neonatal incubators (3 Double wall & 7 conventional ones) and multiple shipments of different types of vaccines (Penta and DTP).
- **Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS)** provided first aid to 305 people injured during the demonstrations, out of which 30 were shot with live bullets. Since the start of demonstrations, PMRS added 36 new patients to their postoperative care services, raising the total of beneficiaries to 1,250. PMRS also distributed 55 assistive devices to 35 persons with injury and has provided first aid services to 6,778 casualties.
- **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** supported Shifa Hospital On May 15th with the installation of a tent to extend the capacities of the Emergency Department in preparation for an increase in number of patients. The tent was able to increase the amount of beds up to 20. On May 15th ICRC deployed their ED team to the hospital to support the assistance in the triage area and the intensive care beds of the emergency department. ICRC donated 20 dressing sets to PRCS, Civil Defence and MMS as part of their contingency plan.
- **Union of Health Work Committees (UHC)** provided emergency hospital care to 42 injured patients in the Al-Awda Hospital, 16 injuries were gunshot, 1 gas inhalation, 14 bruises, 9 rubber bullets and 2 injuries with shrapnel.
- **Médecins du Monde-France (MdM- F)** Expanded the Emergency Room of Al Aqsa Hospital to accommodate the potential influx of injuries, and interfered with a team of 11 persons, 5 of them were physicians assisting in the Triage and management of minor cases. 16 cases were triaged and 10 cases received MHPSS, 8 of them were patients and 2 caregivers.
- **Dar Essalam hospital** transferred 5 cases to different governmental hospitals and provided 48 cases with outpatient consultation and dressing services, also provided antibiotics and analgesic to 169 injuries after discharging from governmental hospitals.
- **Physicians for Human Rights–Israel (PHRI)** organized a mobile clinic visit to Gaza on the 30th of May, consisting of 11 high level doctors and psychologists. PHRI ran a workshop on models for treating trauma, together with the Ministry of Health. More than 250 people attended, including social workers, psychiatrists, psychologists and other mental health professionals. The mobile clinic also examined more than 220 patients in partnership with the Basmat Amal non-profit, including 40 patients. PHRI's psychologists also provided support to local psychologists in examining cases of 50 families. PHRI donated medications and medical equipment estimated at USD 70,000, including e.g. insulin, blood thinners, equipment needed for endoscopies.

- **Humanity and Inclusion (HI)** in partnership with four local organizations (Baitona for community development in North Gaza, Palestinian Avenir for Childhood foundation in Gaza, National Society for Rehabilitation in both Middle Area and Khan Younis, EL-Amal Rehabilitation Society in Rafah) has mobilized 10 multidisciplinary outreach teams constituting of 50 rehabilitation professionals. HI and partners assessed a total of 80 persons with injuries, out of whom 48 have received multidisciplinary rehabilitative services. 65 persons with injuries have been readmitted to receive other cycles of rehabilitation intervention. Those injured benefitted from 5,260 multidisciplinary sessions, HI has also distributed 28 assistive devices including wheelchairs, elbow and axillary crutches, and anti-bed sore mattresses. HI conducted 87 family raising awareness sessions on social inclusion to the targeted beneficiaries. HI also procured 1700 assistive devices. Since the beginning of the demonstrations on 30 March 2018, HI has provided a total of 40,000 multidisciplinary sessions.
- **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** supported the health system resilience by training 50 healthcare providers (nurses and doctors) on safe delivery and referrals in emergencies when women are not able to reach maternity wards in time due to a variety of reasons, such as military conflict. The providers also received safe delivery kits in case of emergency. The 50 healthcare providers are in addition to 175 providers who have been previously trained for the “Safe Delivery Network”.
- **Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP – UK)** supported the local limb reconstruction team to conduct 57 clinical assessments. Additionally, 6 limb reconstruction surgeries were conducted (5 Shifa and 1 EGH). A limb reconstruction mission will be conducted in June 2019. MAP– UK delivered a total of 9 drugs at zero stock level to the MoH expected to benefit 26,600 patients.
- **Assalama Society** provided multidisciplinary post-operative consultations and services to 4,175 clients, including medical consultations, wound dressing, medication and assistive devices.
- **Hayfa Hospital** provided first aid for 40 cases in the field and transferred 31 injured patients to the TSPs, conducted 3 peripheral nerves surgical operations. The hospital also provided 93 patients with wound dressings and followed 101 injured patients at the Out Patients Department.
- **Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS)** teams provided first aid services to 644 casualties including 55 Palestinians shot with live ammunition, 13 were killed, 288 tear gas suffocation cases, 104 tear gas canister wounds; PRCS’ Psychosocial Support Team offered Psychological First Aid (PFA) to more than 973 wounded persons and their families and 65 emergency providers in the Gaza Strip. PRCS Hospitals received and treated 188 cases at Al Quds hospital.

Coordination and Information:

- A Gaza Health Cluster meeting took place on 13 May, attended by 35 people representing 24 organizations. Meeting minutes can be found [here](#).
- WHO led a Trauma Working Group meeting on 28 May with participation from 12 partner organizations to update partners on the current situation.
- On 28th May, WHO and the Health Cluster briefed the Rt Hon Andrew Murrison, Minister for Middle East on the trauma challenges in Gaza.
- On 30th May, ECHO and the Italian Cooperation conducted a field visit alongside the Health Cluster to the Limb Reconstruction Unit at Nasser Hospital.



WHO and ECHO partner for the Limb Reconstruction Unit in Gaza. Credit: WHO/Sara Halimah

Urgent Funding Needs

- In order to respond to the growing health needs, the Health Cluster requires a total of \$ 28.2 million. Out of this, \$ 16.2 million has been received, leaving a funding gap of **\$ 12 million**. Further information can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2HWPjwz>.
- An additional \$1.5 million is required to ensure the **minimum needed resources are available to prepare for and respond to the first 96 hours of a potential escalation**.
- The Health Cluster partners also require **\$ 32 million USD** to address health needs of the most vulnerable communities in the occupied Palestinian territory for 2019, targeting 900,000 people out of the 1.2 million people in Gaza, West Bank (including East Jerusalem). See the [Humanitarian Response Plan 2019](#).

Contact:

Gerald Rockenschaub, Head of WHO oPt Office, email rockenschaubg@who.int