

oPt Emergency Situation Update

Issue 25

7 Oct 2023 - 12 Mar 2024 at 16:00

Gaza Strip

Overview

Source: Ministry of Health. As of 12 March 2024



31,272 Fatalities

72% are said to be women and children



73,024 Injuries



+7,780

reported missing or under the rubble



1.7M People

(75% of population) displaced

According to Israeli authorities, over 1200 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed inside Israel, and approximately 5,400 reported injuries. There have been 247 reported fatalities and 1,476 reported injuries of Israeli soldiers since the start of the ground operation in the Gaza Strip. One hundred and thirty four hostages remain in Gaza.

Health Care Functioning, Access and Risks

Hospitals



33%

12/36 Hospitals partially functioning

Estimated average bed occupancy: 327%



3%

1/36 Hospitals minimally functional



67%

2/3 field Hospitals fully functional

UAE Field Hospital
IMC Field Hospital



33%

1/3 field Hospitals minimally functional

Jordanian Military Hospital



24.4%

20/82* Primary health care facilities are functional

* The number of PHCCs includes active NGOs.

Malnutrition



27 children Died of malnutrition

Northern Gaza: **10-13%** of children with acute malnutrition (**3%** of children with severe acute malnutrition)

Southern Gaza: **2-6%** of children with acute malnutrition



Referrals abroad through Rafah since start of war **2,613** including **1,698** wounded and **915** ill, accompanied by **1,785** companions

As of 10 March 2024

Communicable Diseases

Ongoing outbreaks of diarrheal illness and hepatitis A. Cases recorded since mid-October:



524,363 Cases of acute respiratory infections



296,152 Cases of diarrhea <5 years: **97,144***



75,864 Cases of scabies and lice



42,822 Cases of skin rashes



6,486 Cases of chickenpox



15,601 Cases of jaundice[§]

* As of Jan 1st, figures include those reported by MoH only.

§ Presumed Hepatitis A after samples tested positive

Health Attacks



410 Health attacks



685 People killed in attacks



902 People injured in attacks



118 Health workers detained/arrested



99 Health facilities affected



30 Hospitals damaged



104 Ambulances affected



54 That sustained damaged



430 Fatalities



4,700 Injuries

Health Attacks

403 Health attacks



11 People killed in attacks



69 People injured in attacks



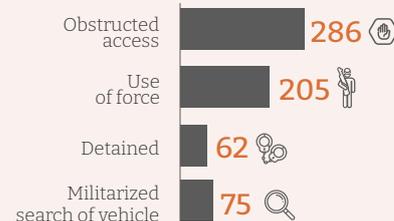
48 Health facilities affected



16 mobile clinics
Including



275 Ambulances affected



Key concerns

- Continued dismantling of the health system. Hospitals in Rafah are overwhelmed and struggling to keep up with the needs. Out of 15 hospitals in the south of Gaza (including MOH, NGO, and field hospitals), only two field hospitals are fully functional; five are non-functional, including the Nasser Medical Complex in Khanyounes that remains non-functional for the fourth week; and two hospitals operate at minimal functionality. This, accompanied by the influx of internally displaced persons (IDPs) migrating to Rafah, is straining the capacity of the health system to meet the health care needs of the population in the south.
- Continuing high level of insecurity, destroyed roads and infrastructure, and lack of proper facilitation of humanitarian missions continue to hinder health access. A sustained operational deconfliction mechanism is needed to facilitate multiple daily humanitarian missions across the Gaza Strip.
- Access of Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) to North Gaza hospitals has not been possible due to the security situation, with no current EMT activities conducted in this area.
- Alarming rates of malnutrition, given extreme levels of food insecurity and disease outbreaks. Opportunistic screening efforts have revealed significantly increased levels of moderate and severe malnutrition among children. According to MOH reports, a total of 27 children died in northern Gaza due to complications of severe malnutrition.
- Estimated 8,000 critical patients need to be medically evacuated out of Gaza, including over 6,000 trauma-related patients, and 2,000 patients with serious chronic conditions (e.g. cancer).
- Partner operations continue to be negatively affected by the displacement of staff, social stresses, and lack of telecommunication.
- Limited access to proper WASH facilities continues to contribute to infectious disease outbreaks.
- Ongoing outbreaks of infectious disease, including diarrhoeal illness and hepatitis A, with increases of bloody diarrhea observed.

Response

• WHO

- To date, WHO has procured \$17.37 million in health commodities, 61% of which is already delivered to Gaza (499 metric tonnes), including essential Trauma Emergency Supply Kits (TESK), NCD Kits, and Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). Procurement also includes critical medications and supplies that are needed to maintain provision of essential mental health, oncology, and haemodialysis services.
- The healthcare service package, for primary and secondary care, was updated and finalised.
- WHO continues with an ongoing mapping of trauma capacities in key hospitals and primary healthcare centres, to assess the needs and strengthen the health system's response.
- The standard operating procedures for transporting laboratory samples to Egypt was finalized, and sample kits were distributed to partners.
- To support outbreak preparedness, a two-pager was developed to sensitize healthcare workers on what signs and symptoms of cholera to lookout for.
- WHO delivered SAM kits to Kamal Adwan hospital (the only paediatric hospital in the North), to benefit 500 children with severe acute malnutrition.
- WHO conducted an initial assessment of mental health service in Rafah, focusing on general hospitals and primary healthcare centers.





Partners

- The co-chair of the MHPSS IASC group provided a session to MHPSS partners, on the use of psychotropic medications in emergency and how to calculate quantities.
- The new Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) Stabilization centre (5 beds) at Tal Al Sultan clinic in Rafah implemented by MOH, WHO and Med Global started its activities, receiving its first patient. Admission and referral criteria have been disseminated among Health Cluster partners and EMTs.
- The standard operating procedures explaining entry and exit processes of EMTs to and from the Gaza Strip, including coordination of movements inside Gaza, has been updated and disseminated with EMT teams.

WHO Mission Update

4 - 12 March 2024



4

Missions planned
(in the North and South)



4

Missions facilitated



0

Missions impeded
(ie. delays/unpassable routes)



0

Missions denied

Update on missions since 4 March:

- **On 9 March**, WHO led a mission to Al-Ahli and Sahaba hospitals in Northern Gaza. During the missions, WHO delivered food parcels and fuel to Sahaba hospital, in collaboration with World Central Kitchen, to benefit 5,000 people. Additionally, WHO provided 13,000L of fuel to Al-Ahli hospital, and 12,000L to Sahaba, in addition to essential medical supplies, including anaesthesia medication, external fixators, and child vaccines.
- **On 11 March**, WHO led a life-saving mission to Shifa and Al Helou hospitals in Gaza City, to assess the hospitals needs and functionality. During the mission, WHO delivered critical medicines and medical supplies to serve approximately 42,000 patients. WHO also provided 24,050L of fuel to Shifa, to maintain hospital functionality, in addition to provision of food parcels to medical staff and patients.
- **On 13 March**, WHO conducted a mission to Al-Aqsa hospital in Deir Al-Balah, delivering essential medications and supplies to benefit 42,000 patients.

WHO Recommendations

- Immediate ceasefire
- Expand and sustain humanitarian access into Gaza for fuel, water, food, medicines and other necessary supplies
- Expand humanitarian corridors and ensure safe passage to allow delivery of humanitarian aid within Gaza
- Active protection of civilians and health care , preserving the function of remaining health facilities
- Establish and strengthen a routine process for medical evacuation for all patients in need, without distinction of any kind, ensuring timely referral of the +8,000 critical patients that need to be medevaced out of Gaza.

Funding

\$320M funding required for WHO Operational Response

110M for Oct 2023 - Mar 2024

210M for Apr 2024 - Dec 2024

\$90M secured

\$35M
Pledged

- The inter-cluster Flash Appeal has been revised and the funding requirement for humanitarian health response is \$204.2M* and is targeting 2.5M people in Gaza and West Bank, of which 50% is funded.

Further information:

- Dr Richard Peepkorn,
WHO oPt Representative,
peepkornr@who.int

- Dr Ayadil Saparbekov,
WHO oPt Emergencies Lead,
asaparbekov@who.int

- Bisma Akbar,
WHO oPt Communication Officer,
akbarb@who.int