

oPt Emergency Situation Update

Issue 28



7 Oct 2023 - 20 Apr 2024 at 16:00



World Health Organization

occupied Palestinian territory

Gaza Strip

Overview

Source: Ministry of Health. As of 20 April 2024



34,049 Fatalities

72% are said to be women and children



76,901 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



31%

11/36 Hospitals partially functioning

Estimated average bed occupancy: 254%



0%

0/36 Hospitals minimally functional



100%

6/6 Field Hospitals fully functional



0%

0/6 Field Hospitals minimally functional



30%

26/88* Primary health care facilities are functional

* The number of PHCCs includes active NGOs.

Malnutrition



28 patients Reportedly died of malnutrition

Northern Gaza: **16-25% of children (6-59 months)** with acute malnutrition (**2-4%** of children with severe acute malnutrition)

Southern Gaza: **3-7%** of children (6-59 months) with acute malnutrition



Referrals abroad through Rafah since start of war: **5,187 patients were approved for medical evacuation (53% approval rate), out of which, 4,215 managed to successfully evacuate***.

* The difference between approved and evacuated patients is attributed to patients passing away while awaiting approval, patients not being timely informed, or encountering access restrictions.

Communicable Diseases

Reported cases covering the period from 16 October 2023 to 14 April 2024, with MoH figures covering until 4 April.



673,851 Cases of acute respiratory infections



359,378 Cases of diarrhea <5 years: 106,344



87,800 Cases of scabies and lice



51,055 Cases of skin rashes



7,827 Cases of chickenpox



43,150 Cases of acute jaundice syndrome

Health Attacks



442 Health Attacks



723 People killed in attacks



924 People injured in attacks



118 Health workers detained/arrested



100 Health facilities affected



31 Hospitals damaged
Including



106 Ambulances affected



54 That sustained damaged
Including



483 Fatalities



4,800 Injuries

Health Attacks

446 Health attacks



12 People killed in attacks



95 People injured in attacks



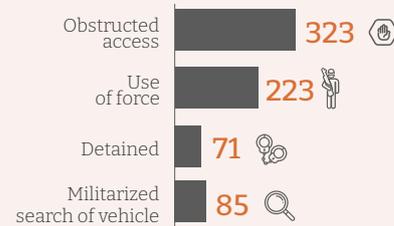
52 Health facilities affected



18 Mobile clinics Including



298 Ambulances affected



Key concerns

- Continued dismantling of the health system, jeopardizing health service provision, access to health, and delivery of life-saving supplies. This is further straining the capacity of the health system to meet the health care needs of the vulnerable population.
 - In northern Gaza, five hospitals remain partially functional, providing limited health care services to the vulnerable population: two in the northern governorate and three in Gaza City.
 - In the southern, six hospitals are currently operational, two in Deir al-Balah, two in Khan Younis, and three in Rafah, in addition to six field hospitals: UAE, IMC, Jordanian, UK-Med, Indonesian, and Qatari Field hospitals.
- The planned Rafah incursion will have disastrous impact on the already existing humanitarian crisis. WHO and Health partners are developing a contingency planning to ensure the health system is prepared to cope with the influx in casualties.
- Increasing insecurity, destroyed roads and infrastructure, and lack of proper facilitation of humanitarian missions continue to hinder health access. A sustained and functional deconfliction mechanism is needed to facilitate safe delivery of humanitarian aid across the Gaza Strip, as per International Humanitarian Law.
- The Union of Gaza Strip Municipalities is warning of an impending environmental and public health catastrophe, with around 270,000 tons of solid waste accumulating across the Strip.
- An estimated 9,000 critical patients need to be medically evacuated out of Gaza, including over 6,000 suffering from trauma-related injuries, and 3,000 with serious chronic conditions (e.g. cancer).
- Partner operations continue to be negatively affected by the displacement of staff, operational challenges, and disrupted telecommunication.
- Limited access to proper WASH facilities continue to contribute to the rise in infectious disease, including diarrhoeal illness and hepatitis A.

Response

• WHO

- To date, WHO has procured \$24.5 million worth of health commodities, 57% of which have already been delivered to Gaza (658 metric tonnes), including essential trauma emergency supply kits (TESK), NCD and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) kits. Procurement also includes critical medications and supplies that are needed to maintain provision of essential mental health, oncology, and haemodialysis services.
- WHO and partners continue missions to support patient transfers, conduct needs assessment, support the deployment of EMTs and field hospitals, and deliver food, water, and medical supplies to health facilities, across the Gaza Strip.
- WHO continues its support to the severe acute malnutrition (SAM) stabilization centres in the Gaza Strip. To date, 46 cases of SAM with complications have been admitted to the SAM stabilization centres: 35 in Kamal Adwan, 7 in Tal Al-Sultan, and 4 at the IMC stabilization centre.



- WHO, in collaboration with MoH, conducted an assessment of medical points in Western Rafah, identifying 8 points as ready to provide urgent delivery services. A similar assessment is being done for medical points in the Middle Area and Khan Younis.
- WHO carried out a mapping assessment of the available mental health services in Rafah, focusing on primary health care centers and general hospitals. Assessment results will be used to inform future interventions.
- To maintain provision of mental health services, WHO delivered essential psychotropic medications to MoH, in addition to supporting Gaza Community Mental Health Program (GCMHP) and UNRWA with MHPSS kits.
- In coordination with the GBV sub-cluster, WHO procured 100,000 dignity kits to serve the needs of vulnerable women and girls. Additional 100,000 kits are in the pipeline.
- WHO continues to support preparedness and response to outbreaks through leading the Surveillance Working Group, and developing protocols for wounds management to prevent multidrug resistance.
- WHO provided essential supplies for infection prevention and control, including ethyl alcohol and povidone iodine to cover the needs of MoH facilities for approximately two months.
- On 9 April, James McGoldrick, Humanitarian Coordinator for Palestine, together with Dr Rik Peeperkorn, WHO oPt Representative, visited Al-Fukhari -the largest site hosting displaced people in east Khan Younis. The only two operational medical points near the shelter are inundated with daily cases of hepatitis, skin diseases, and diarrhea, and are critically low on medical supplies. WHO has delivered essential medical supplies through UNRWA, including dignity kits.
- On 17 April, a WHO team facilitated the visit of Sigrid Kaag, Senior Humanitarian and Reconstruction Coordinator (SHRC) for Gaza, to Nasser Medical complex and IMC field hospital. During the visit, the SHRC was briefed on the health situation and the challenges of securing entry and supply of urgently needed medical items.
- WHO is working closely with MoH and partners to revive Nasser Medical Complex and re-establish health service provision, following suspension of services after the last targeted military operation and looting incidents.

• Partners

- The Health Cluster launched the Health Service Delivery Point Survey, which will provide an overview of health services provided by partners across Gaza and the West Bank
- The standard operating procedures on referrals of patients to south Gaza have been reviewed and endorsed by Health Cluster and MoH.
- An emergency medical team (surgical SCT) has been deployed to Al-Awda hospital in north Gaza, to support trauma response.
- The Health Cluster reported a total of 188 medical points are currently operating throughout the Gaza Strip, providing essential primary health care services to the vulnerable population.
- Efforts are underway to strengthen the MHPSS inter-cluster coordination and ensure integration of MHPSS within the Health, Protection, and Education Clusters' response, in line with the global MHPSS Reference Group
- UNFPA prepositioned 2 Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (CEmONC) mobile units to UK-med and IMC field hospitals.
- IMC field hospital resumed their 7 SAM stabilization beds in Mawasi Rafah, raising the total bed capacity for SAM stabilization to 21 beds, across the Gaza Strip (10 in North Gaza and 11 in Rafah).

WHO Mission Update

3- 20 April 2024



16

Missions planned
(in the North and South)



10

Missions facilitated
(including partially facilitated)



4

Missions impeded
(ie. delays/unpassable routes)



2

Missions denied
(including canceled)

- **On 4 April**, WHO led a joint mission to As-Sahaba and Al-Ahli hospitals in Gaza City to assess their functionality status and needs. During the mission, WHO delivered critical medical supplies and 24,050L of fuel, to maintain service provision at the health facilities, covering the needs of 1,000 patients for two weeks.
- **On 5 April**, WHO led a mission to assess the situation at Al-Shifa hospital, following the end of the military operation there. Most of the buildings in the hospital complex were found to be extensively destroyed, with the majority of assets damaged or reduced to ashes.
- **On 6 April**, WHO and partners reached Al-Awda and Kamal Adwan hospitals in north Gaza to deliver essential medical supplies and 12,000 litres of fuel each. An international emergency medical team was also deployed to Al-Awda hospital to support trauma response.
- **On 8 April**, WHO and partners conducted a mission to Al-Shifa hospital to support the Ministry of Health in organising dignified burials for the unidentified bodies on the hospital premises after the latest siege.
- **On 10 April**, WHO conducted a mission to Nasser, Al-Amal and Al-Kheir hospitals in Khan Younis, to assess their current capacity, in light of the evolving situation.
- **On 13 April**, WHO led a mission to Al-Ahli hospital to assess the functionality status provide essential medications and supplies, including delivering 19,400L of fuel, of which 5,000L were provided to As-Sahaba hospital, to maintain continuity of health response. In addition to that, WHO and partners facilitated the referral of three critical patients and their two companions to the UK-Med field hospital in Mawasi area in the south.
- **On 14 April**, WHO and partners carried out a visit to Kamal Adwan hospital, and transferred two patients to IMC field hospital in the south: a 7-year-old girl with severe acute malnutrition and dehydration and 34-year-old woman with multiple facial injuries and fractures.
- **On 15 April**, WHO conducted a mission to PMRS primary health centre, Al-Shifa and Indonesian hospitals, in northern Gaza, to assess the current capacity and needs of the health facilities.
- **On 20 April**, WHO and CADUS Emergency Medical Team (EMT) conducted a mission to Kamal Adwan hospital, and successfully evaluated four critical patients and referred them to two hospitals in the south of Gaza.

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 +9,000 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

\$92M secured

**\$34M
Pledged**

- The inter-cluster Flash Appeal has been revised and the funding requirement for humanitarian health response is **\$408.5M*** and is **targeting 2.9M people in Gaza and West Bank.**

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