

oPt Emergency Situation Update

Issue 26



7 Oct 2023 - 25 Mar 2024 at 16:00



World Health Organization

occupied Palestinian territory

Gaza Strip

Overview

Source: Ministry of Health. As of 25 March 2024



32,226 Fatalities

72% are said to be women and children



74,518 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



28%

10/36 Hospitals partially functioning

Estimated average bed occupancy: **323%**



8%

3/36 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 Reportedly died of malnutrition

Northern Gaza: **12.4-16.5% of children (6-59 months)** 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 **3,413 including 2,198 wounded and 1215 ill accompanied by 2,185 companions**

As of 25 March 2024

Communicable Diseases

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



586,402 Cases of acute respiratory infections



318,926 Cases of diarrhea <5 years: **99,581**



81,259 Cases of scabies and lice



46,195 Cases of skin rashes



7,037 Cases of chickenpox



19,117 Cases of jaundice[§]

§ Presumed Hepatitis A after samples tested positive

Health Attacks



417 Health attacks



685 People killed in attacks



902 People injured in attacks



118 Health workers detained/arrested



100 Health facilities affected



30 Hospitals damaged



104 Ambulances affected



54 That sustained damaged



450 Fatalities



4,750 Injuries

Health Attacks

412 Health attacks



11 People killed in attacks



71 People injured in attacks



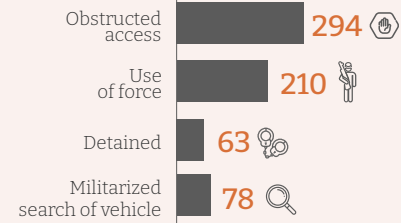
50 Health facilities affected



18 mobile clinics Including



278 Ambulances affected



Key concerns

- Continued dismantling of the health system. While the Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis remains non-functional for the fifth week. Resumed hostilities in the vicinity of Al-Shifa hospital, Al-Helou hospital in Gaza City and Al-Amal hospital in Khan Younis, have made them minimally functional. This jeopardizes health service provision, access to health, and delivery of life-saving supplies, further straining the capacity of the health system to meet the health care needs of the vulnerable population.
- Continuing high-level of insecurity, destroyed roads and infrastructure, and lack of facilitation of humanitarian missions continue to hinder health access. A better and sustained deconfliction mechanism is needed to facilitate multiple daily humanitarian missions across the Gaza Strip.
- Latest evidence confirms that famine is imminent in the northern governorates of the Gaza Strip*. About 2.13 million people across the Gaza Strip face high levels of acute food insecurity classified as IPC Phase 3 or above (crisis or worse) between 15 February and 15 March, including nearly 677,000 experiencing catastrophic food insecurity (IPC Phase 5). According to MoH, 27 children have died due to complications related to dehydration and severe acute malnutrition (SAM).
- Access of Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) to North Gaza hospitals has not yet been possible due to the security situation. No EMT activities conducted in this area.
- An estimated 9,000 critical patients need to be medically evacuated out of Gaza, including over 6,000 trauma patients, and 3,000 patients 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 continues contributing to infectious disease outbreaks, including diarrhoeal illness and hepatitis A.

* The IPC Acute Food Insecurity Situation Report, issued on 18 March 2024.

Response

• WHO

- To date, WHO has procured \$20.5 million in health commodities, 63.7% of which is already delivered to Gaza (602 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.
- WHO continues to deliver fuel, food and water to patients and staff as part of its missions to hospitals, and to support the transfer and medical evacuation of patients within and outside of Gaza.



- Guidance for urgent delivery services at medical points was drafted and shared with sexual and reproductive health (SRH) working group for review and endorsement.
- WHO continues its support to the SAM stabilization centres in Kamal Adwan hospital in the north (10 beds) and Tal el-Sultan primary health centre in Rafah (5 beds), through the provision of technical guidance, training of staff, and provision of critical medications and supplies, including SAM kits.
- WHO is working closely with UNICEF and the Nutrition Cluster to accelerate the implementation of Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) activities across the Gaza Strip.
- In order to ensure adequate prevention and response to sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (PRSEAH), WHO is mapping out available health partners' PRSEAH policies and procedures.
- WHO continues with an ongoing mapping of trauma capacities in key hospitals and primary health care centres, to assess needs and strengthen the health system's response.
- WHO continues its implementation of the the Health Resources and Services Availability Monitoring System (HeRAMS). So far, information on 10 MoH health facilities has been collected and uploaded on the system.
- The implementation of the electronic early warning, alert and response system (EWARS in a box) has been extended to cover not only UNRWA but also MAP-UK with consideration of extension to several partners. A dashboard consolidating data from all relevant sources is being developed.
- Reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health interventions (RMNCH) key indicator list (minimum data set) is under development; indicators have been agreed.

• Partners

- Area-based coordination expanded to cover all five governorates, with partners (WHO, Project Hope, MAP-UK, Juzoor, PMRS) delegated to represent the Health Cluster. The assigned partners will receive an overview on humanitarian and partnership principals, to enable them to implement their roles.
- The Health Cluster is closely collaborating with the newly activated Site Management Group in order to assess the availability, accessibility and barriers to health within the shelters. Survey results will be used to guide and plan future health interventions.
- The EMTCC finalized the standard operating procedures for referring patients from the north to the south of the Gaza Strip.

WHO Mission Update

13 - 25 March 2024



10

Missions planned
(in the North and South)



7

Missions facilitated



1

Missions impeded
(ie. delays/unpassable routes)



2

Missions denied

Update on missions since 13 March:

- **On 16 March**, WHO led a mission to European Gaza hospital in Khan Younis, delivering essential medical supplies estimated to benefit 80,000 patients.
- **On 17 March**, WHO led a multi-agency mission to Nasser Medical Complex, to assess the hospital's needs, and plan and prepare for resuming its functionality, as it remains non-operational following the February military operation. During the mission, WHO replenished the fuel supply with 10,500L of fuel, and delivered a 500KW generator to support operating the hospital.
- **On 18 March**, WHO conducted critical missions to Al-Awda and Kamal Adwan hospitals in north Gaza. An assessment of needs was conducted during the mission together with delivery of supplies, including SAM kits, and F-100 and F-75 therapeutic milk to the acute malnutrition stabilization centre at Kamal Adwan to benefit 500 children. During the missions, WHO also delivered 15,000L and 9,000L of fuel to Kamal Adwan and Al-Awda, respectively.
- **On 23 March**, WHO and partners managed to evacuate two six-year-old patients from Kamal Adwan hospital in Gaza, to receive care abroad. One child had cystic fibrosis, the other leukemia. Two caregivers were also evacuated with them.



23 March 2024



Kamal Adwan hospital



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

\$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:

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