

# oPt Emergency Situation Update

Issue 17



As of 14 December 2023 at 15:00



World Health Organization

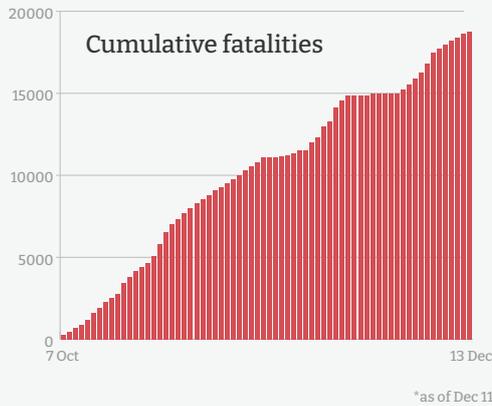
occupied Palestinian territory

## Gaza Strip

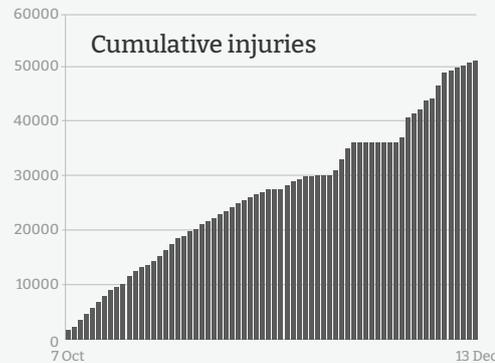
## Overview

Source: Ministry of Health

**18,787 Fatalities**  
5,153 women and 7,729 children\*



**50,897 Injuries**



**More people**  
reported missing  
or under the  
rubble



**1.93M People**  
(85% of population)  
displaced

## Health Care Functioning and Access

A public health catastrophe is rapidly evolving in Gaza with high levels of violent deaths and injuries, mass displacement, overcrowding, major disruption and dysfunction of the health system, and damage to water and sanitation infrastructure. Severe stressors for mental health are affecting the whole population, including bombardment and siege. Destruction and hostilities are gravely obstructing ambulance access to the injured and health facilities.

### Hospitals functionality



**22%**

**8/36** Hospitals  
partially  
functioning

Estimated average bed  
occupancy: **209%**



**8%**

**3/36** Hospitals with  
extremely limited  
capacity

Al Shifa Medical Hospital  
Al Awda Hospital-North  
Assahaba Medical Complex



**100%**

**2/2** field Hospitals  
fully functional

UAE Field Hospital  
Jordanian Military Hospital

### PHCCs functionality



**25%**

**18/72** Primary health  
care facilities are  
functional

A higher proportion not functioning  
in North Gaza and Gaza City



Referrals abroad through  
Rafah since start of war  
**803** including **413**  
injured and **390** patients  
in addition to **550**  
companions



**Separation of North  
Gaza and Gaza City**  
from governorates  
in the south, along  
with evacuation  
orders



**Disease surveillance  
disrupted**  
including early disease  
detection, laboratory  
capacity and response

## Acute shortage of supplies at health facilities



**Fuel and  
Electricity**



**Water**



**Food**



### Medicines and medical supplies:

- anaesthetics
- antibiotics
- IV fluids
- pain medications
- insulin
- blood and blood products



### Medical equipment

Increasingly not  
functional at hospitals,  
(e.g. monitors,  
ventilators, incubators,  
x-ray and CT, lab  
analyzers, anaesthesia  
machines), which are  
dependent on  
electricity

## Gaza Strip Health Needs and Risks

### Water and Sanitation



#### Almost 1.3M IDPS

out of the 1.93 million displaced are in 155 UNRWA installations across the Gaza Strip\*

 **486** people per toilet in Rafah



#### 59-89%

Less water consumption than pre-hostilities (21 Nov - 4 Dec)



#### Open defecation

Observed at shelters in Rafah due to lack of sanitation facilities



Lack of WASH facilities in health care settings means increased risk of healthcare-associated infections

\* The situation might be worse in makeshift shelters

### Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health



**52,000** Pregnant women

~183 Births per day  
**5,500** Babies have been born in the last month



**130** Premature infants depend on incubators

**61%** Incubators are in the north, requiring electricity

### Long term conditions



**1,100** Patients in need of kidney dialysis



**71,000** Patients living with diabetes



**225,000** People with high blood pressure



**+485,000** People with mental health disorders\*



**+2,000** People diagnosed with cancer each year, including 122 children



**45,000** Patients living with cardiovascular disease

\* People in Gaza facing daily intense psychological stressors, including bombardment and severe barriers to fulfilling basic needs

Data: MoH Annual Report 2022, WHO STEPS

### Health Attacks



**238** Health attacks



**570** People killed in attacks



**746** People injured in attacks



**61** Health facilities affected



**26** Hospitals damaged  
Including



**76** Ambulances affected



**38** That sustained damages  
Including

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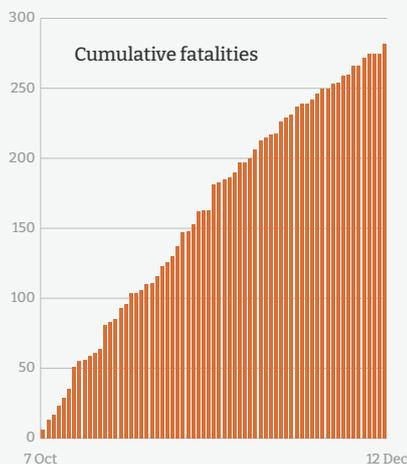
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## West Bank, including east Jerusalem

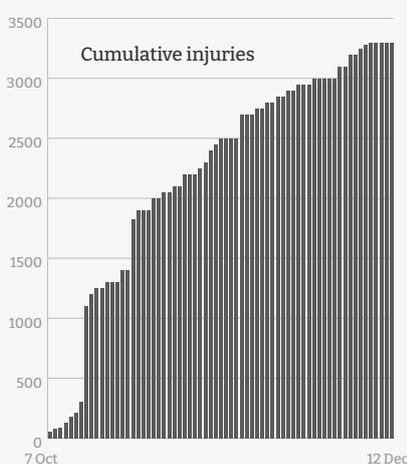
## Overview

Source: Ministry of Health

### 282 Fatalities



### 3,300 Injuries



1,257 people displaced amid settler violence and access restrictions.

338 people displaced following demolitions in Area C and East Jerusalem

68 people displaced following punitive demolitions



### Increased settler and military violence

Including airstrikes and live ammunition. Complete obstruction at checkpoints between Palestinian towns and closure of several communities

## Health Needs and Risks



### Increased injuries

Placing a high demand for emergency medical supplies for first response at hospitals



### +270 Patients/day

Need access to health care in east Jerusalem, from the rest of the West Bank



### 5,491 People displaced from Gaza

Are stranded in the West Bank, increasing the pressure on the health system

## Health Care Functioning and Access



**+270 Patients** are in need of referral outside the West Bank for health care daily. Now only oncology and life-saving cases are being allowed. Permit application and approval rates for health care are reduced.



### Obstructed access for ambulances, health care workers, and patients

Due to checkpoint closures, insecurity, movement restrictions, and attacks on health



### First response capacities overstretched

By increased casualties, with high demand for emergency medical supplies



### Increased shortages of essential medicines and medical supplies

Affecting first response, primary care, and hospital care

## Health Attacks

### 251 Health attacks



7 People killed in attacks



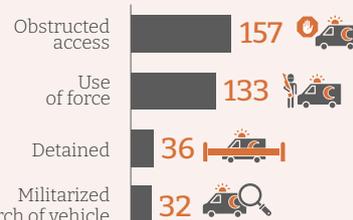
45 People injured in attacks



20 Health facilities affected



193 Ambulances affected





## UPDATES

### Gaza

- Hostilities continue and since December 7th, there have been **1,431 fatalities and 4,594 injured**.
- **Only 8 of 36 (22%) hospitals in the Gaza strip are partially functioning** (1 in north and 7 in south). **Three hospitals** (Al Shifa Hospital, Al Awda-North, Assahaba Medical Complex) in northern Gaza Strip are functioning at **minimal capacity**. As a result, **bed occupancy in functioning hospitals averages 222% and ICU bed occupancy of 245%**.
- Al Ahli hospital has been **substantially damaged, and in acute need of oxygen and essential medical supplies, water, food and fuel**. Critically, the hospital needs additional health personnel.
- Kamal Adwan Hospital has been **under siege since December 8**. The hospital was already minimally functional due to acute shortages of fuel, water, food and medical supplies even before the siege.
- **Navigating the delivery of medical supplies poses significant risks**, particularly in areas where active shelling and artillery fire are ongoing.
- Syndromic disease surveillance has demonstrated **increases in infectious diseases, including acute respiratory infections, diarrhoea, bloody diarrhoea, and acute jaundice syndrome**. These are likely to continue worsening due to overcrowding of shelters for displaced people, destruction of water and sanitation systems, and decreased availability of health services.
- According to Israeli authorities, **over 1200 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed, 9038 injured, 251 being held hostage of whom 114 have been released** since the hostilities started.

### West Bank

- Dec 12 - Dec 14 During the Israeli military incursion into Jenin camp and surrounding areas that lasted for 2.5 days, 12 fatalities were reported by the Ministry of Health. Due to access restrictions around Jenin Governmental Hospitals, injured and medical patients were referred to Al Razi and Ibn Sina hospitals. Al Razi and Jenin Governmental hospitals reported nearly 100% occupancy of their ICU beds.

## HEALTH RESPONSE

### WHO

- Dec 8, WHO delivered critical supplies to cover the health needs of 4500 patients for European Gaza Hospital.
- Dec 9, WHO and partners in Gaza managed to deliver essential trauma and surgical supplies to Al-Ahli hospital to cover the needs of 1500 people, and to transfer 19 critical patients with 14 companions to Nasser Medical Complex in south Gaza, where they can receive a higher level of care.
- Dec 9, WHO team visited Cairo Administrative Capital Hospital to check up on the babies' progress. WHO staff helped evacuate those babies from Al-Shifa Hospital in north Gaza on 19 November as part of a WHO-led mission.
- Dec 14, WHO delivered 4,200 body bags with support from the Contingency Fund for Emergencies (CFE), underscoring the critical need to prioritise healthcare and safeguard civilians.



## WHO RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Immediate ceasefire.**
- **Establish and sustain protected humanitarian access** for the immediate entry of adequate quantities of humanitarian supplies – including fuel, water, food, medicines, and other essential supplies - and personnel into the Gaza Strip and unimpeded access for patient evacuation.
- **Prioritization of the shipment of fuel** to operate desalination plants, hospital generators, ambulances.
- **Sustained, orderly, unimpeded and safe medical evacuations** of critically injured and sick patients into Egypt.
- **Ensure safe passage** for medical supplies and civilians within the Gaza Strip. Ensure WHO medical supplies can safely reach major hospitals in Gaza City and North Gaza and hospitals in south Gaza.
- **Ensure the respect and the protection of health care as well as civilians and civilian infrastructure** against attacks.
- **Ensure the injured have immediate and unhindered access to health care.**
- **Ensure continuity of essential health services.**
- **Rapidly reinforce infectious disease surveillance and control measures.**
- **Preserve the function of remaining health facilities** given the fragility of the health system and increasing health needs.
- **Restore the functionality of all hospitals and primary healthcare clinics.**
- **WHO calls for protection of humanitarian space in Gaza following serious incidents in high-risk mission to transfer patients, deliver health supplies.**

## FUNDING

- **WHO released its Operational Response Plan October 2023 – January 2024 with a total budget of \$110M.** The operational plan supports:
  1. Health service delivery, including emergency medical teams and a few complementary field hospitals
  2. Public health surveillance, early warning, disease prevention and control
  3. Supplies and logistics support
  4. Coordination.
- **So far WHO has secured approximately \$43.4M with additional \$35M in pledged Funds from partners.**
- 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.

\* Excludes funding requirement for emergency nutrition interventions, as they now fall under Nutrition Cluster

### Further information:

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