

WHO-Egypt Flash Appeal 2025

Responding to escalation of conflict in the
occupied Palestinian territory



Overview

This WHO Flash Appeal provides a snapshot of the current and anticipated health emergency situation in Egypt due to the conflict in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt).

The ongoing conflict has had direct consequences for Egypt, which serves as the primary operational hub for cross-border humanitarian operations into Gaza, providing support to vulnerable and at-risk populations including women, children, elderly people and people with disabilities. Egypt also receives medical evacuees from Gaza, whether to be treated in local healthcare facilities or to be stabilized for evacuation abroad.

As a result of the conflict, an influx of Palestinians with urgent health needs was received through the Rafah border crossing between 1 November 2023 and 7 May 2024, after which the border was closed.

On 1 February 2025, the Rafah crossing was reopened, and 37 medical evacuees accompanied by 39 companions entered Egypt. Further arrivals are expected soon, as an estimated 15,500 sick/injured people in Gaza are in need of urgent medical evacuation.



More than
47,354
people have been killed in Gaza



The number of
injuries exceeds
111,563



More than
10,000
people are missing or under
rubble, of whom **1,500** are
children



More than
1.5 million
internally displaced



19 out of 36
hospitals are non-functional



85 out of 142
primary healthcare facilities are
not operational



+750,000
people suffering from
noncommunicable diseases
(NCDs)



+ 480,000
people with mental health
disorders

Country Context

Egypt borders three WHO emergency-graded countries: Libya (Grade 2 Emergency), Sudan (Grade 3 Emergency), and the occupied Palestinian territory (Grade 3 Emergency). As a result, Egypt faces a significant burden due to its pivotal regional role as a humanitarian hub and as a receiving country of influxes of forcibly displaced people. Additionally, Egypt's economy has come under pressure in recent years due to external factors, soaring inflation rates and a foreign currency shortage, with significant impacts on living standards and poverty rates.

Egypt's health sector is characterized by complexity and fragmentation, as well as low levels of public funding and high out-of-pocket spending. This leaves the health system vulnerable and reduces capacity to accommodate the increased demand created by regional emergencies. Major reform efforts have taken place in recent years, including the rollout of the first stages of a new Universal Health Insurance (UHI) system.

The rollout of the new system has also increased the immediate costs of healthcare for non-Egyptians, including refugee communities, which may lead to high healthcare costs for new arrivals.



107,000,000

Egypt's population



9,000,000

migrants in Egypt



861,318

registered refugees and
asylum-seekers



1,200,000

major influx of Sudanese
nationals since April 2023



100,000

displaced Palestinians



+50,000

third country nationals (TCNs)
also crossed into Egypt



4,953

medical evacuees crossed the
border into Egypt to receive
required medical treatment



6,814

companions

National Response

Egypt's Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) has prepared for the reopening of the border by providing a fleet of fully equipped ambulances staffed by trained emergency care providers to support medical evacuation. The referral pathway of medical evacuees is as follow:



1st line of referral (500 beds):

North Sinai governorate

- Sheikh Zowayed hospital
- Al-Arish general hospital
- Beir El-Abd hospital
- Nekhl hospital



2nd line of referral (2,000 beds):

Hospitals in Ismailia, Suez, and Port Said governorates.



3rd line of referral:

Cairo, Giza, Damietta, Sharqia and other governorates.



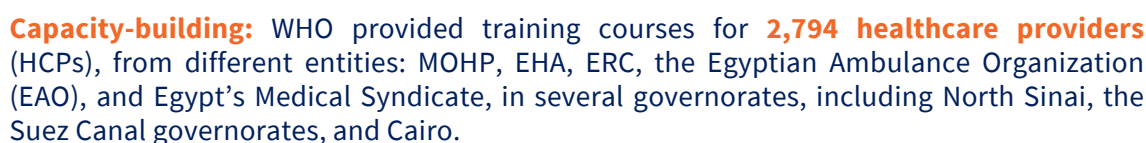
WHO Egypt Response

WHO Egypt is working closely with national stakeholders, including Egypt's MOHP, the Egyptian Healthcare Authority (EHA) and the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC), to strengthen the Egyptian healthcare system to effectively respond to the ongoing crisis, while also addressing the needs of host communities.



Coordination: WHO has developed an online platform for Egypt's health emergency response, supporting regular meetings with active participation of UN agencies. Under this platform, the UN Egypt Health Emergency Response Plan 2024 has been developed, and work is ongoing on the 2025 plan, ensuring its alignment with the national plans of MOHP and ERC.





Developing and regularly updating **a real-time dashboard** reporting on the **interventions** done by health partners in the main fields including procurement, capacity-building and healthcare expenses coverage programme. The dashboard presents a real-time overview of the **funding status** of the **Gaza emergency response**, underlining the funding gap.





Launch of the new **Healthcare Expenses Coverage Programme** to cover the expenses of healthcare services for Palestinian patients at public healthcare facilities. The programme has covered the cost of **114 healthcare services** for **43 patients**, including **advanced skin and bone grafting, muscular reconstruction and renal dialysis**.

114

healthcare services



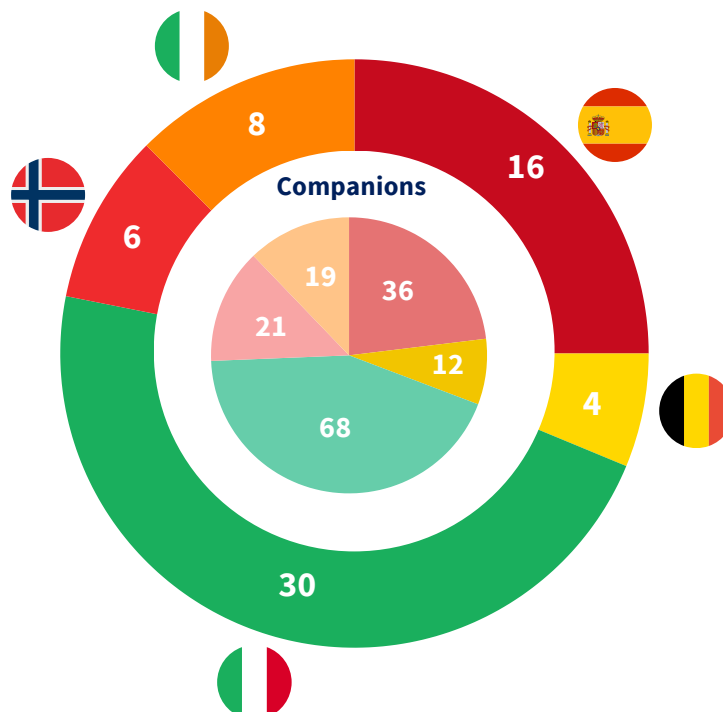
43

patients



WHO Egypt has coordinated the **medical evacuation** of **64 evacuees**, along with **156 companions**, to European countries, including Spain, Belgium, Italy, Norway and Ireland, as part of the activated **European Union Civil Protection Mechanism**.

Evacuees



Strategic partnership with the **Egyptian Red Crescent** to strengthen risk communication and community engagement activities and support the organization's pivotal role in the response to the crisis.



Humanitarian service point in North Sinai



Upscaling **MHPSS unit** to deliver telemedicine



Deployment of **75 community health volunteers** at the border

WHO Egypt Response Pillars

1 Pillar 1: Coordinating health emergency response

- 1.1 Conducting regular needs assessments to identify priority gaps and ensure timely, evidence-based responses.
- 1.2 Coordinating health and humanitarian efforts with key partners through joint planning, resource optimization, and advocacy.
- 1.3 Monitoring the impact of interventions through data collection and real-time reporting for stakeholders and donors, to enable progress tracking and course correction as needed.

2 Pillar 2: Strengthening Egypt's healthcare system to provide the required healthcare for the medical evacuees and their companions

- 2.1 Assessing and addressing acute and chronic health needs through the WHO Healthcare Expenses Coverage Programme.
- 2.2 Ensuring the availability of medical supplies, trauma care essentials, and medications, with a focus on oncology patients.
- 2.3 Deploying community health and MHPSS volunteers to support Palestinians and frontline workers.
- 2.4 Providing healthcare support for patients' families and companions.
- 2.5 Coordinating medical evacuations to EU member states via the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, led by the Egyptian MOHP.
- 2.6 Enhancing IPC/WASH infrastructure, equipment, and supplies to ensure safe healthcare practices.

3 Pillar 3: Developing healthcare providers' capacities to effectively respond to emergencies

- 3.1 Enhancing the resilience and emergency response capacities of healthcare providers through conducting training courses focusing on mental health & psycho-social support, mass casualty management, basic emergency care, patient safety and others.
- 3.2 Developing standardized training modules focused on preventing errors during emergency care, including triage safety, effective communication, and infection prevention & control
- 3.3 Strengthening risk communication and community engagement to ensure clear, timely, and culturally sensitive information during crises.

4 Pillar 4: Strengthening disease surveillance and outbreak control measures

- 4.1 Strengthening surveillance for high priority disease pathogens and AMR, especially at high-risk areas.
- 4.2 Ensuring access to essential laboratory services, diagnostics, and antimicrobial use monitoring.
- 4.3 Maintaining Rapid Response Teams for prompt investigation of public health alerts.
- 4.4 Enhancing vaccination coverage, including additional doses for evacuees.
- 4.5 Strengthening vector control measures.

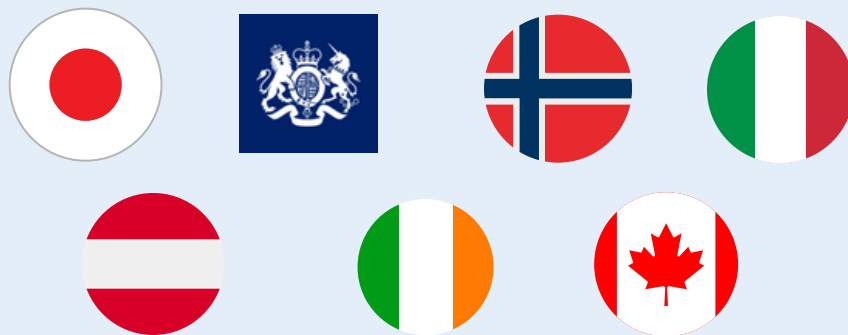
5 Pillar 5: Responding to gender-based violence and preventing and responding to sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment

- 5.1 Enhancing the capacity of frontline workers, healthcare providers, and volunteers by providing comprehensive training on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).
- 5.2 Empowering medical service providers through specialized training on provision of first-line support and clinical management of rape (CMR) for GBV survivors.
- 5.3 Fostering strong partnerships and collaboration with UN agencies to ensure a coordinated and comprehensive approach to PSEA awareness and reporting in emergency response efforts.

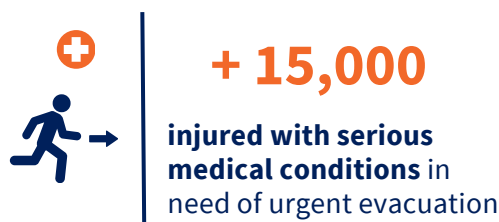
WHO Egypt funding requirements

WHO Egypt would like to express its sincere gratitude to the government of Egypt for its exceptional leadership and unwavering commitment in responding to the Gaza crisis. Through its swift humanitarian efforts, diplomatic initiatives, and continuous support, Egypt has demonstrated remarkable solidarity, making a profound difference in the lives of those affected by the crisis.

WHO Egypt expresses its deepest gratitude to all donors for their invaluable contributions and unwavering support during initial response for Gaza crisis, enabling us to deliver critical healthcare assistance to those in need.



Based on current estimations, and with the reopening of borders in February 2025, Egypt is **expected to receive 15,000 injured evacuees** with serious medical conditions.



WHO Egypt is appealing for a total of **US\$ 30,000,000**

(January 2025 - December 2025)

Response Pillars (budget line)	Required budget (US\$)	%
Coordinating health emergency response	US\$ 300,000	1%
Strengthening Egypt's healthcare system to provide the required healthcare for the medical evacuees and their companions	US\$ 21,000,000	70%
Developing healthcare providers' capacities to effectively respond to emergencies	US\$ 800,000	2.7%
Strengthening disease surveillance and outbreak control measures	US\$ 5,000,000	16.6%
Responding to gender-based violence and preventing and responding to sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment	US\$ 800,000	2.7%
PSC	US\$ 2,100,000	7%
Total	US\$ 30,000,000	100%

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