



Patients with kidney disease who need life-saving haemodialysis two or three times weekly have camped outside Shifa hospital to guarantee their access to treatment ©WHO.

Occupied Palestinian Territory
Conflict escalation in Gaza – complex emergency



1.8 MILLION
AFFECTED



290,000+
DISPLACED



1.2 MILLION -
1948 REFUGEES



10,224
INJURED



2,047
DEATHS

WHO

52 STAFF (39 IN JERUSALEM/WEST BANK AND 13 IN GAZA)

HEALTH ASSISTANCE TO MOH



25 % FUNDED
US\$60 M REQUESTED BY WHO FOR MOH

HEALTH SECTOR

35 HEALTH SECTOR PARTNERS (30 IN GAZA)

HEALTH FACILITIES

16 HOSPITALS DAMAGED (OF 32: 14 MOH, 15 NGO AND 3 OTHER)
6 HOSPITALS CLOSED
45 CLINICS DAMAGED (OUT OF 97)
17 CLOSED



DAILY REFERRALS

0-20 PATIENTS VIA EREZ/ISRAEL
0-10 PATIENTS VIA RAFAH/EGYPT

HIGHLIGHTS

- Sporadic ceasefires affect daily conditions and health access in Gaza
- Killed and injured (MoH, as of 19:00 August 20):
 - 2,047 Palestinians killed, including 553 children, 253 females (aged 18-60) and 96 elderly.
 - 10,224 Palestinians injured, including 3,106 children, 1,970 females (aged 18-60) and 368 elderly.
- UN agencies begin preliminary assessment process for needs and recovery plans

Prior to the renewed violence, the temporary ceasefires during the past week had allowed some improvement in the humanitarian situation, most importantly by increasing personal safety and security, but also by allowing for movement for families to resupply with essentials, return to damaged homes, recover household possessions and access health services. Two hospitals that had closed due to extensive damage reopened on an emergency basis and received patients using alternative facilities. The assessment process of damage and needs in each sector began to be carried out by UN agencies, ministries, local governments and organizations.

Hospitals

The Ministry of Health has established a task force with the International Medical Corps to review recommendations on needs for foreign medical teams into Gaza to support health service provision. MoH is reviewing its previous appeal (for specialists in vascular, neuro, plastic and orthopedic surgeries and in management of burns and infections) following the increase in referrals to outside hospitals for specialized treatment.

The MoH Central Drug Store issued a report on drug stocks in July which indicated that 130 drug items of 481 (27%) and 472 medical disposables are at zero stock (52%), similar to the same period in 2013, demonstrating that the high consumption for the increased number of inpatients may be offset by incoming donations.

Primary health care

Since the enhancing of disease surveillance on 13 communicable diseases through the early warning system, analysis of disease notifications from UNRWA clinics shows an increase in cases of diarrhea (bloody, watery < 5 years, watery > 5 years), but not yet at the level of outbreaks. Cases of viral meningitis have also increased, but not to levels of public health concern. Existing protective factors in outbreak prevention include effective vaccination coverage in Gaza and improved health and hygiene behaviour. UNRWA reports that it is continuing to give priority to water and sanitation activities, as well as disease surveillance with daily data collection.

The ceasefires allowed several NGOs to conduct clean-up and repairs in clinics that were lightly damaged so that they could be safely reopened to receive patients.

Damage to health facilities and closures

15 out of 32 hospitals have been damaged since July 7, and 6 are closed. One of the closed hospitals, al Wafa Hospital, which had been totally destroyed, opened a facility nearby to treat patients. Beit Hanoun Hospital, which was extensively damaged, opened to accept emergency patients since it is the only MoH hospital serving the northern sector.

Out of 97 clinics now being monitored for damage and closures, 45

reported damage and 17 are closed. (See **Annex 1**)

Referrals

Referrals of casualties are being coordinated by the Ministry of Health with receiving hospitals and sponsoring governments, especially Turkey and Germany, and for access with Egyptian authorities at Rafah, and with Israeli authorities at Erez checkpoint. Out of the 185 casualty cases coordinated for travel through Erez checkpoint to the West Bank and East Jerusalem hospitals, 4 patients were denied permits.

Four patients traveled to Egypt for transfer to hospitals in Germany and Turkey, with the support of those governments. According to the Ministry of Health, more patients will be referred abroad, 40 to Germany and up to 150 for treatment in Turkey. While the delay from security clearance procedures at Erez checkpoint has been greatly reduced, it still requires 20 minutes per patients traveling by ambulance, which limits the number that can be processed during Israeli checkpoint working hours (20 hours per day).

In a preliminary analysis of 167 referrals, 70% were males and 30% females, and 29% were children aged 0 to 17. Most of the injuries were due to multiple trauma and crush injuries involving complex vascular, neurological and bone damage, and required specialized care to reduce the risk of complications such as renal failure, amputations, infected wounds and permanent nerve damage and disability.

Referral destinations of casualty patients (July 7 - Aug. 20, 2014)

Primary Destination	No. of patients
Egypt	233
East Jerusalem	137
West Bank	43
Jordan (including 32 patients referred directly by the Jordanian field hospital)	39
Turkey	*39
Palestinian hospitals in Israel	3
Israeli hospitals	1
	495

*Excluding 3 Gaza patients transferred to Turkey from West Bank hospitals and 3 patients who travelled via Egypt.

Public health concerns

- Water-borne diseases as a result of overcrowded shelters for displaced persons, reduced functioning of water and sanitation systems due to damage and loss of electricity.
- Complications in casualty patients developing following initial treatment of injuries and discharge from hospitals.
- With 238,000 displaced persons taking shelter in 81 UNRWA schools, half of whom having no homes to return to, there is risk of decline in population physical and mental health status from prolongation of emergency period without improvements in social determinants of health.

Health needs, priorities and gaps

- Support specialized medical teams in reconstruction and rehabilitation of casualty patients.
- Continued vigilance of health situation among displaced families in shelters.
- Health access for people in outlying areas where clinics may be closed.
- Repair and rehabilitation of damaged health facilities.
- Maintain critical supplies of fuel, medicines and medical disposables in hospitals sufficient for emergency preparations.

WHO action

The Interagency Standing Committee endorsed the reactivation of the Health Cluster in view of the ongoing humanitarian emergency in Gaza and challenges to the health system. The reactivation was requested by WHO in order to better coordinate health responses in the UN Cluster system through multi-clusters and multi-agencies approaches. The Health Cluster was deactivated in 2012 but health coordination had been continuing through WHO leadership with Health and Nutrition Sector partners. The initial meeting of the Health Cluster was held in Ramallah and Gaza WHO offices on August 18, and will continue on a weekly basis until further notice.

WHO and Health Cluster partners (MDM Spain, MAP UK, UNFPA, UNICEF) participated in the collection of data for the OCHA-organized rapid assessment (MIRA) which was completed on August 19. Tools are being developed and data collectors are being trained for a more detailed assessment of the health sector to follow. A preliminary report is expected by early November.

19 Health Cluster partners have detailed more than 150 activities which are ongoing or fully implemented since July 7 in response to the humanitarian emergency in Gaza. The support was implemented directly

by the health partner or provided to the MoH or to smaller NGO health providers, and it targeted hospitals, clinics, shelters or communities. Activities ranged from operating mobile clinics, providing specialist medical teams, procuring drugs, assistive devices, fuel, hygiene kits, emergency staff for drug warehouses, psychosocial support services, nutritional support for children, meals for hospitals, primary health services, post-operative care for patients who were discharged, community-based rehabilitation, repair of damage to health facilities, and advocacy for the right to health, including access.

Resource mobilization

A total of US\$ 10.8 million in drugs and medical disposables have been received by the health sector in Gaza since July 7 to help meet the needs of this emergency, with most of the donations destined for Ministry of Health hospitals.

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ANNEX 1

Table 1. Hospitals in Gaza damaged and closed (July 7, 2014 to August 20, 2014)

	Hospital	Authority	Beds	District	Location	Damaged	Occasions	Status
1	Abu Yousef Najjar Hospital	MOH	108	Rafah	Rafah	Light	Multiple	open
2	Al Ahli Arab Hospital	NGO	80	Gaza	Palestine Sq.	Moderate	Multiple	open
3	Al Amal Hospital	NGO	100	Khan Younis	Al Amal	Light	Single	open
4	Al Aqsa Martyrs Hospital	MOH	164	Middle area	Deir Al Balah	Moderate	Single	open
5	Al Karameh Hospital	NGO	25	North	Ard al Shanti	Moderate	Single	open
6	Al Quds Hospital	NGO	49	Gaza	Tel al Hawa	Moderate	Single	open
7	Al Shifa Hospital	MOH	890	Gaza	North Rimal	Light	Single	open
8	Al Wafa Medical Rehabilitation	NGO	50	Gaza	Shajieyah	Extensive	Multiple	destroyed;
9	Algerian Specialized Hospital	PMMS	30	Khan Younis	Abasan Kabira	Light	Single	closed
10	Balsam Hospital	PMMS	68	North Gaza	north Beit Lahiya	Extensive	Multiple	closed
11	Beit Hanoun Hospital	MOH	66	North Gaza	Beit Hanoun	Extensive	Multiple	closed; opened only
12	Cardiac Hospital	NGO	37	Gaza	Al Samer	Light	Single	open
13	El Durra Pediatric Hospital	MOH	91	Gaza	Tuffah	Moderate	Single	closed
14	Gaza European Hospital	MOH	249	Khan Younis	Khan Younis/Rafah	Light	Single	open
15	Harazeen Hospital	MOH	6	Gaza	Shajaiiyah	no reports		closed
16	Patients' Friends Hospital	NGO	26	Gaza	Sabra	Light	Single	open
17	Public Aid Hospital	NGO	26	Gaza	Sabra	Light	Single	open
	TOTAL					16		6

PMMS=Palestinian Medical Military Services

*Shading indicates hospital is closed.

Source: WHO (7/7/14 – 8/20/14)

Table 2. Primary Health Clinics in Gaza damaged and closed, July 7 to August 20, 2014

No.	Name of PHC	Provider	District	Locality
1	Shuhada Al Sheikh Radwan Clinic	MoH	Gaza	Shaikh Radwan
2	Al Salam Clinic	MoH	Gaza	Sabra
3	Al Surani Clinic	MoH	Gaza	Tofah
4	Al Rahma Clinic	MoH	Gaza	Shija'yia
5	Sabha Medical Center	MoH	Gaza	Shija'yia/ Al Jdaida
6	Shuhada Al Shate' Clinic	MoH	Gaza	Beach Camp
7	Atta Habib Clinic	MoH	Gaza	Shija'yia
8	Hala Al Shawa Clinic	MoH	Gaza	Zaytoon
9	Al Qoba Clinic	MoH	Gaza	Shija'yia
10	Physically HandiCaped Clinic	MoH	Gaza	Zaytoon
11	Al Fokhari Clinic	MoH	Khan Younis	Fukhari
12	Abassan Al Jadeeda Clinic	MoH	Khan Younis	Abassan Al-Jadida
13	Khuzaa Clinic	MoH	Khan Younis	Khuzaa
14	Shuhada Al Nuseirat Clinic (New nus.)	MoH	Mid Zone	Nusairat Camp
15	Juhr Al Deik Clinic	MoH	Mid Zone	Wadi Gaza
16	Al Bureij New Clinic	MoH	Mid Zone	Buraij Camp
17	Al Bureij Central Clinic (old Bureij)	MoH	Mid Zone	Buraij Camp
18	Heker Al jame Clinic	MoH	Mid Zone	Deir El-Balah
19	Al Moghraqa Clinic	MoH	Mid Zone	Moghra'a
20	Wadi Al Salqa Clinic	MoH	Mid Zone	Wadi El- Salqa
21	Shuhada Jabalia Clinic	MoH	North Gaza	Jabalia city
22	Beit Hanoun Clinic	MoH	North Gaza	Beit Hanoun
23	Jamila Al Ashi Clinic	MoH	North Gaza	Twam Area
24	Al Saifa (Al Atatra) clinic	MoH	North Gaza	Al Atatra
25	Shuhada Rafah Center	MoH	Rafah	Rafah City
26	Al Shokah Clinic	MoH	Rafah	Shoka
27	Mawasi Rafah Clinic	MoH	Rafah	Mawasi Rafah
28	Jabalia	UNRWA	North Gaza	Jabalia Camp
29	Beit Hanoun	UNRWA	North Gaza	Beit Hanoun
30	Dair El-Balah	UNRWA	Mid Zone	Deir Al Balah
31	Nusairat	UNRWA	Mid Zone	Nuseirat
32	Maghazi	UNRWA	Mid Zone	Maghazi
33	Buraij	UNRWA	Mid Zone	Buraij
34	Mae'n	UNRWA	Khan Younis	Mae'n
35	Tal Al Sultan + Rafah Clinic	UNRWA	Rafah	Rafah
36	El-Nasser	UNRWA	Rafah	El-Nasser
37	Abu T'aima Health Center	PMRS - NGO	Khan Younis	Abasan Jadidia
38	Ezbat Beit Hanoun Health Centre	PMRS - NGO	North Gaza	Izbat Beit Hanoun
39	Chronic Diseases Centre	PMRS - NGO	Gaza	Gaza City
40	Haidar Abdel Shafi Health Centre - Gaza	RCS Gaza- NGO	Gaza	Rimal Area
41	Red Crescent Society - Abassan Al-Kabeera	RCS Gaza- NGO	Khan Younis	Abassan Al-Kabeera
42	Al-Awda Health Centre - Rafah	UHWC - NGO	Rafah	Rafah
43	Khalil Al Wazir Health Center	PRCS - NGO	Gaza	Sheikh Ajleen
44	Jabalia Health Center	PRCS - NGO	North Gaza	Jabalia
45	Hijazi Clinic	PMMS	North Gaza	Al Twam
Note:	Closed but not reporting damage:			
1	Gaza Town (Daraj)	UNRWA	Gaza	Daraj
2	Shouka	UNRWA	Rafah	Rafah

*Shading indicates hospital is closed.

Source: WHO (7/7/14 – 8/20/14)