



WHO ACTIONS

- Provision of essential medical and trauma supplies, including for COVID-19 and essential health services
- Support to Trauma Stabilization Centres
- Training of health care workers in improved management of mass casualty incidents and basic emergency care
- Mental health and psychological first aid (PFA) to the victims of violence across the occupied Palestinian territory
- Advocacy for equal and safe access to health care
- Deployment of specialist staff, including Trauma EMTs

SITUATION

From 7 to 19 May, there have been **227 fatalities and 1620 injuries** reported for the Gaza Strip, with **27 fatalities and 6772 casualties** in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

Several casualties among health care providers and damage to critical health infrastructure: At least 42 health care workers have been injured and 24 hospitals and primary health care clinics have been damaged.

FUNDING NEEDS

US\$ 7 million to enable a comprehensive emergency response in the next 6 months.

Current Situation and Impact on Health Sector

Escalation of violence in the occupied Palestinian territory since May 10 2021 has resulted in a substantial number of fatalities and casualties, placing considerable strain on a health system already overwhelmed by the strains of the global COVID-19 pandemic. In the Gaza Strip, the functioning of health care and the public health of the population has been affected by damage and destruction to buildings, including health facilities, and essential infrastructure. Extensive damage to roads is obstructing ambulance access while lack of electricity and the scarcity of fuel for generators has meant the closure of a hospital providing essential care to cancer patients. Destruction of water and sanitation structures, along with the displacement of 72,000 Palestinians including 58,000 seeking shelter in UNRWA schools across the Gaza Strip as of 19 May, presents hygiene risks and limits physical distancing measures for the effective prevention of COVID-19 transmission.

In the West Bank, there is an urgent need to support essential and emergency health care provision, including supply of medicines, disposables and equipment, including to designated trauma emergency departments.

In addition to fatalities and injuries, there are significant mental health consequences from exposure to violence, loss of family and loved ones, and the frustrations of lack of control from worsening poverty, unemployment, and insecurity in the occupied Palestinian territory. Before the current escalation, there was an already high need for mental health and psychosocial support, with an estimated 210,000 people or more one in ten people, suffering severe or moderate mental ill health in the Gaza Strip at the start of 2021.

WHO Response

WHO has developed a comprehensive emergency response plan to reduce preventable mortality and morbidity through provision of quality trauma and emergency care, including mental health interventions and advocacy activities to promote unhindered access to essential health services and the protection of health care during escalations.

The emergency response plan pursues four focus areas and key activities, which will be complemented by a strong Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) structure to document impact. The response plan will be across the occupied Palestinian territory, with a focus on the priority needs in the Gaza Strip.





Focus Area I: Trauma & Emergency Care

To enhance the trauma referral pathway from the point of injury through to rehabilitation

At pre-hospital level:

- Provide essential medicines, medical supplies, consumables, equipment and fuel and equipment to support the Prehospital Health Care services (list is available), including PPE equipment to protect frontline workers from COVID-19
- Establish and support Trauma Stabilization Centres
- Provide tailored training to selected physicians and nurses from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to improve the management of mass casualty incidents and basic emergency care.
- Support trauma coordination, through the established EMT- Coordination Cell and Trauma Working Group

At hospital level:

- Enhance mass casualty management (MCM) capacity through direct technical support to frontline providers, paramedics and staff working in the emergency departments.
- Provide essential medicines and medical supplies such as trauma kits and surgical supply kits
- Provide essential medical equipment
- Collect and analyse trauma data to assess the impact on the civilian population

Focus Area II: Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

- Provide psychological first aid (PFA) to the victims of violence in Gaza and east Jerusalem
- Deliver PFA training for healthcare workers from selected health centers
- Conduct a needs assessment to provide MHPSS support in Gaza, East Jerusalem and West Bank
- Increase access to mental health services (availability of services at primary and secondary care)

Focus Area III: Advocacy

- Monitor and document attacks against health care and obstructions to accessing essential health care during escalations of violence
- Analyse data and synthesize information on health attacks and barriers to health access as the basis for protection information and public advocacy products
- Effectively disseminate protection information and public advocacy products to promote protection of health care and unhindered access to health services.

Focus Area IV: Maintain access to essential healthcare services, including COVID-19

- Maintain and strengthen essential health services at the PHC level, including for the ongoing COVID-19 response
- Minimize disruptions in COVID-19 vaccination campaign; restart activities ASAP in light of security
- Monitor the availability of essential health services at PHC and hospital level

Funding Needs

Focus Areas	Amount in US\$
Focus Area I: Trauma & Emergency Care	3,500,000
Focus Area II: Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)	500,000
Focus Area III: Advocacy	300,000
Focus Area IV: Maintain access to essential health services, incl. COVID-19	2,400,000
Coordination of the partners activities (Health cluster)	300,000
Total	7,000,000

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