



### PEOPLE AFFECTED

**1.27 million** people affected by Gaza's collapsing health system

### HEALTH RISKS

*If funding is not immediately secured:*

**1,715** patients will immediately face a life threatening situation, including:

- 113** newborns
- 100** patients in intensive care units
- 702** patients requiring hemodialysis
- 200** patients in need of surgery
- 100** women in need of obstetric surgeries
- 500** patients in need of emergency care

*Without funding in 2018:*

**14** public hospitals and 49 primary health care facilities will face full or partial closure, impacting 1.27 million people, including:

- 412,000** emergency patients
- 2,400** patients in intensive care units
- 14,100** patients requiring critical surgery

### FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

**US\$ 11.2 million** immediately required by health partners to fill priority health needs for three months. Of this amount, **WHO requires US\$ 2.4 million.**

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Four newborns share a neonatal bed in the intensive care unit of Gaza's largest hospital, Shifa. Dwindling medical resources are increasing the risk of infections.

### Current Situation

The occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) is affected by a protracted crisis and chronic humanitarian needs. Palestinians are suffering from prolonged occupation, blockade of the Gaza Strip and longstanding restrictions on the movement of people and goods to and from Gaza.

There has been a **further deterioration of the humanitarian situation** in Gaza which impacts 2 million people and is life-threatening for vulnerable patients.

The **limited main electricity supply** from the grid and depleted fuel for back-up generators is severely disrupting the delivery of basic services such as health, water, and waste management. The situation was further exacerbated in February 2018, when the health, water and sanitation services were on the brink of collapse from the shortage of electricity. Any disruption in the power supply will be immediately life-threatening for patients relying on electrical devices. In total, over 1.27 million people will be directly affected by the closure of health facilities.

The Ministry of Health (MoH) has implemented strict contingency measures, including the temporary **closure of three hospitals**, Beit Hanoun Hospital, Durrah Hospital, Psychiatric Hospital, and partial closure of an additional 13 MoH primary healthcare clinics, immediately impacting over 300,000 people.

**Hospitals in Gaza are already over-stretched**, with a bed occupancy rate of more than 90%. These temporary closures further impact key services in the remaining 11 hospitals – including surgery, general medical wards and diagnostic services.

Supplies of **drugs are severely diminishing**. By the end of January, 40% of the essential drugs were depleted and 43% were at less than one month's supply. The most critically affected patients are emergency patients, intensive care unit patients and those in need of lifesaving surgery.



## WHO Response

WHO is working with the Ministry of Health to minimize the impact on Gaza's most vulnerable patients by prioritizing health services.

WHO is also working towards supporting fuel-preserving measures, including through the use of solar, which would offer a more sustainable option to support essential health facilities.

WHO is currently distributing over US\$1 million worth of medical equipment and procuring over US\$ 1.2 million worth of medicines and disposables, but these medicines will only be sufficient to cover less than 400,000 patients for one month.

Due to the electricity crisis in Gaza, **water supply** through the network reaches most homes for just 3-5 hours every day, and 96% of the water is not suitable for human consumption. As a result, there is an **increased risk of waterborne diseases and outbreak**.

Alongside the rapidly depleting resources, over 6,000 employees, including doctors and nurses, working in hospitals and primary healthcare clinics have not been paid their salaries regularly since July 2014, and receive an average of 40% of their salary every 40 to 50 days. Modest progress of the inter-Palestinian political reconciliation and changing dynamics in the internal Palestinian political divide have led to some 500 doctors returning to work after 10 years. However, those health professionals have had no formal training to update their skills, so professional training is urgently needed.

The unfolding humanitarian crisis in Gaza is coupled with the increasingly deteriorating primary healthcare system. The capacity of the local authorities to respond is extremely limited due to the lack of financial resources, trained healthcare staff, the 10-year blockade and the access restrictions on goods and people.

## WHO and health sector planned activities

WHO and health partners urgently require **US\$ 11.2 million** to fill priority health needs for three months. Of this amount, WHO requires **US\$2.4 million**. These requirements will cover the most urgent health sector priorities.

*See activity table on next page.*



Activity	Affected Population in 2018	Estimated budget (US\$) March-May 2018
Provide essential life-saving medical equipment and spare parts, drugs, laboratory kits, laboratory reagents and generators		5,500,000
Support the collection, storage and transportation of blood across the Gaza Strip	450,000	300,000
Deploy emergency medical teams (EMT) to conduct life-saving surgery	20,000	200,000
Ensure adequate lifesaving neonatal care services through provision of drugs, equipment, medical supplies and training	10,000	325,000
Install solar panels at priority health facilities		1,600,000
Ensure the provision of reproductive health services	150,000	315,000
Address life-saving and critical health and nutrition needs of newborns and children	140,000	350,000
Provide emergency non-communicable disease kits to ensure access to healthcare for the most acutely vulnerable non-communicable disease patients	200,000	1,700,000
Ensure outreach care for acutely vulnerable elderly people and people with disabilities in Gaza	92,500	400,000
Enhance the capacity of health facilities located near the buffer zone to manage trauma cases by equipping and training	10,000	330,000
Improve monitoring tools and coordination to enhance the humanitarian health response		112,500
Advocate for the protection and access of health staff and patients at health facilities		75,000
		<b>US\$ 11,207,500</b>