Two donors have responded so far to the World Health Organization's urgent appeal for US$ 10 million to provide essential medicines and medical disposables for Gaza Strip. The financial support from Norway and Mercy Relief in Singapore, channelled through the World Health Organization, total US$ 620 000. The donations will contribute towards alleviating the severe shortages of life-saving medicines and medical disposables in Gaza Strip made critical by the recent 8-day escalation of violence resulting in more than 1500 casualties.

The most recent donation, from Norway, was made on 5 December 2012 by the Minister Counsellor from the Representative Office of Norway, who signed an agreement for a donation of US$ 600 000 to WHO oPt.

The donation will be utilized to procure 13 medicines and 31 medical disposable items currently at zero stock. The charity foundation Mercy Relief, based in Singapore, donated US$ 20 000 for urgently needed laboratory supplies and essential medicines. The first items were procured and delivered to Gaza Strip in December for use in public health facilities.

WHO is working with the Ministry of Health and other health partners to ensure that the supplies are delivered to the health facilities where they are most needed.
WHO oPt Situation Report: Gaza Strip, 20 November 2012

The latest casualty figures according to the Ministry of Health in the Gaza Strip are (as of November 19; 12:00 pm):

- 132 persons killed (97 males; 19 females; 16 not identified) of whom 30 (23%) are children;
- 17 children are less than 5 years old.
- Injuries include severe burns, head injuries, with some of the injured in critical condition.

WHO has appealed to the international community for support in providing essential medical supplies by coordinating donations according to the specific needs of the Ministry of Health (see press release below).

A 40-bed Jordanian field hospital, which has operated in Gaza City since 2009, was hit by a missile November 19 which penetrated two floors of the hospital, damaging the in-patient department nursing station in the centre of the hospital. Patients had been evacuated only 10 minutes earlier following attacks in the surrounding area. The hospital was partially functioning with the Ministry of Health, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Gaza Strip, and Mercy Relief donation to WHO

As of Saturday November 19, one hospital, two ambulance centres and one ambulance department were reported damaged by nearby airstrikes. Four health staff were evacuating wounded were reported damaged by nearby airstrikes. Four health staff were

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WHO EMRO | Update: emergency situation in the Gaza Strip, November-December 2012

WHO oPt situation report: Gaza Strip, 20 November, 2012 [pdf 387.82kb]

See also

BBC, Press release November 17, 2012 - Gaza Hospitals need more drugs