

Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) in Gaza health response

1 Jan 2024 - 2 Oct 2025



occupied Palestinian
territory

Since October 2023, people in Gaza have endured relentless and escalating conflict, leading to massive loss of life, countless injuries, and repeated waves of displacement. Civilian infrastructure - including hospitals, primary health centers, and other health facilities - has been severely damaged or destroyed, leaving the majority out of service.

At the same time, severe shortages of medicines, medical supplies, equipment, electricity, water, fuel, and communications, combined with the lack of safe access to facilities, have crippled Gaza's health system, cutting people off from essential primary, secondary, and specialized care.

As a critical component of the health response, the Ministry of Health activated the international Emergency Medical Team (EMT) initiative in December 2023, to reinforce the capacity of Gaza's health system through the deployment of medical teams. WHO responded swiftly by establishing the EMT Coordination Cell (EMTCC) in both Gaza and Cairo, providing operational coordination, technical guidance, and quality assurance, while also supporting access and registration processes for deployed medical teams, and with donations of critical medical supplies.

Despite these efforts, EMT operations continue to face severe access constraints, including denials and delays that hinder partner organizations and their staff from reaching those in urgent need.

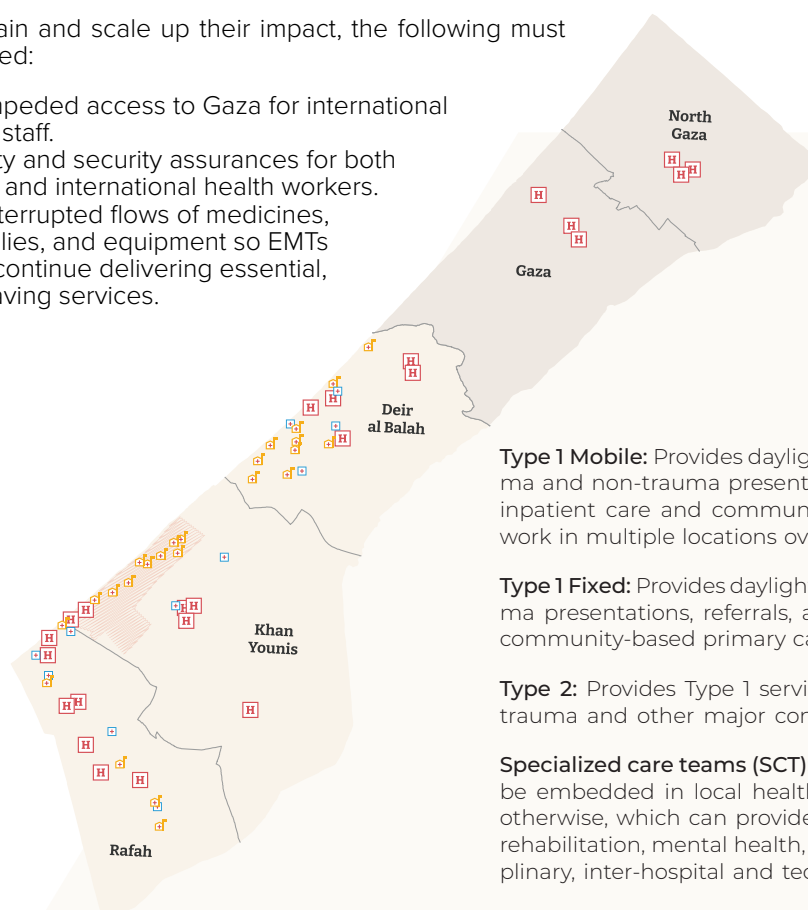
Over the past 22 months, 28 EMT partner organizations have deployed 54 teams across Gaza, delivering essential health services through the establishment of 5 Type-2 field hospitals, 15 Type-1 clinics, including 3 trauma stabilization points (TSPs), and 34 Specialized Care Teams (SCTs). Since January 2024, deployed EMTs have supported a wide range of public health services, including emergency and trauma care, specialized surgery, primary health care, sexual and reproductive health, pediatrics and malnutrition management, as well as nephrology and hemodialysis services.

Under the guidance of the EMTCC, two National EMTs have been relaunched during this response, providing a significant contribution to the overall health service delivery across Gaza. Their engagement has strengthened localization of resources and enabled technical skill transfer through structured mentorship programmes jointly implemented with WHO and international EMT partners.

EMTs have operated with agility and a strong commitment to quality, delivering rapid responses to urgent health needs across Gaza. They have stood in solidarity with local health workers, ensuring their sustained presence throughout the ongoing crisis.

To maintain and scale up their impact, the following must be ensured:

- Unimpeded access to Gaza for international EMT staff.
- Safety and security assurances for both local and international health workers.
- Uninterrupted flows of medicines, supplies, and equipment so EMTs can continue delivering essential, lifesaving services.



Services provided by EMTs since January 2024



3 512 808
General medical
consultations



50 907
Emergency
surgeries



179 241
Critical trauma
patients treated



239 967
Patients treated for
noncommunicable
diseases



23 987
Referrals



8067
Patients treated
for severe acute
malnutrition



12 056
Births supported

Type 2/SCT

Type 1 Fixed

Type 1 Mobile/TSP

Al-Mawasi Area

Type 1 Mobile: Provides daylight hours care for stabilization of acute trauma and non-trauma presentations, referrals for further investigation or inpatient care and community-based primary care with the ability to work in multiple locations over the period of a deployment.

Type 1 Fixed: Provides daylight hours care for acute trauma and non-trauma presentations, referrals, and for ongoing investigation or care and community-based primary care in an outpatient fixed facility.

Type 2: Provides Type 1 services plus general and obstetric surgery for trauma and other major conditions as well as inpatient acute care.

Specialized care teams (SCT): Additional specialized care teams that can be embedded in local health-care facilities or Type 2 unless specified otherwise, which can provide the following services: outbreak, surgical, rehabilitation, mental health, reproductive and newborn care, interdisciplinary, inter-hospital and technical support.