



World Health  
Organization

occupied Palestinian  
territory



# ESTIMATING TRAUMA REHABILITATION NEEDS IN GAZA

MAY 2026 UPDATE

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This technical note is an update to the [2024](#) and [2025](#) Gaza injury estimates published by the World Health Organization. It was developed using the same methodology and summarises the status of rehabilitation services and supplies in Gaza, and the challenges in meeting the needs of those injured.

The report uses multiple data sources to provide insights into the number and distribution of conflict-related injuries by type, including data from Emergency Medical Teams, the retrospective registration of people with key injuries and other rehabilitation data shared by service providers. No data source is without limitations but taken together can increase understanding of the situation on the ground. This is crucial to help meet the current urgent demand for trauma and rehabilitation-related services and anticipate future needs, enabling effective allocation of resources, timely response, and comprehensive care, as well as helping plan for the long-term needs of the population.

By utilizing estimates of conflict-related injuries, stakeholders can better address the immediate and ongoing physical, psychological, and social needs of survivors. The findings are striking and support the previous reports. A quarter of all injuries are potentially life-changing, with an estimated 43 011 people, or 2% of the population of Gaza now affected. Up to a quarter of those are children. At the same time, rehabilitation services remain constrained by limited equipment, supplies and human resources. There remains an urgent need to expand specialized surgical and rehabilitation services to effectively treat those injured and support their full recovery.









A patient with limb injury being treated at Al-Tayyeb clinic in the North Gaza. WHO ©

## KEY FINDINGS

- 172 043 people have been injured since 7 October 2023 (as of 1 April 2026).
- 43 011 (25%) of these people or 2% of the entire population of the Gaza Strip's pre-conflict population are estimated to have potentially life-changing injuries.
- Between 49 462 and 55 914 injuries require extended rehabilitation.
- 4667 injuries have been reported since the last report (24 September 2025). Of these, 1943 have occurred since the ceasefire. Trends in emergency medical team data indicate a shift towards more minor injuries during this period, but this does not significantly affect overall estimates.
- Over 5000 limb amputations are estimated to have taken place since October 2023. One in five amputees is a child.
- Despite the ceasefire, the importation of rehabilitation equipment, supplies and assistive products continues to face significant constraints. No rehabilitation equipment (such as exercise equipment) for rehabilitation facilities entered Gaza between May 2024 to 14 April 2026. The average waiting time for pending shipments containing assistive products is 136 days (as of 14 April 2026).
- While the availability of rehabilitation services has increased since the last report, the number of hospitals providing rehabilitation services and specialist inpatient rehabilitation remain below the pre-October 2023 baseline. Currently, **no rehabilitation facilities are fully functional**; all are operating with severe constraints in staffing, equipment or supplies.
- More than 400 patients remain on waiting lists for specialized rehabilitation beds. Admitted patients are frequently discharged early, interrupting recovery and increasing the risk of permanent disability.
- Rehabilitation needs in Gaza extend beyond injuries. There remains an **urgent need to scale up and sustain essential rehabilitation services** for people with chronic health conditions and disabilities who are vulnerable to the consequences of malnutrition, disease and displacement, and who continue to face disruptions in access to regular care.

## 1. INJURIES

	<b>Types of major injuries</b>	<b>% Of overall injuries</b> (since Oct 2023)	<b>Range</b> (0-30% polytrauma)
	Spinal cord injury	<b>1.2</b>	2065 – 2684
	Major traumatic brain injury	<b>0.8</b>	1376 – 1789
	Major extremity injury	<b>13</b>	22 366 – 29 075
	Limb amputation	<b>3</b>	5161 – 6710
	Major burn	<b>2</b>	3441 – 4473
	Other major injury	<b>5</b>	8602 – 11 183



### Limb Reconstruction Needs

**13 645** Patients registered  
(July 2025 - May 2026).

**2117** Patients assessed (by 1 May 2026).

**1031 (48%)** Patients requiring reconstructive surgery, including **926** adults and **105** children.



### Amputations

**2277** Amputees evaluated  
(September 2024 – May 2026).

**502** Prosthetics fitted.

**18%** Children among evaluated amputees.

**76%** Lower limb amputations among evaluated amputations.

**32%** Above the knee amputation among evaluated amputations.

**225** People needing stump revision surgery.

**8** Prosthetists working in Gaza.



### Assistive Products and Supplies

**18** Pending assistive product shipments  
(since 14 April 2026).

**136** days, the average waiting time for these pending shipments, with so far a maximum wait of **526** days reported.




A child is fitted with an assistive product as part of his rehabilitation. WHO ©


## 2. REHABILITATION SERVICE CAPACITY

WHO established an interactive rehabilitation service mapping platform to support coordination, referrals and improved access to rehabilitation services across the Gaza Strip. The platform provides updated information on available rehabilitation services, facility functionality and service coverage to support patients, service providers and humanitarian actors in navigating rehabilitation pathways more effectively.

Rehabilitation service level	Facility types included	Total number prior to October 2023	April 2026 (including field hospital capacity)
Level 1: outreach / community-based rehabilitation	Outreach program	12	6 programs provide rehabilitation services through 44 teams
Level 2: outpatient (OPD) and primary health care (PHC) rehabilitation services	Fixed point, health centre, medical point, OPD, PHC, wound care unit	21	25
Level 3: early rehabilitation at hospital level	Hospital	17	16
Level 4: specialized rehabilitation and prosthetics and orthotics services (P&O)	Inpatient department (IPD), short stay unit, specialist centre, P&O facility/ workshop	5 3 inpatients rehab hospital 165 beds 2 P&O workshops	6 3 specialized hospitals (160 beds) 4 P&O workshops



**400+** Patients waiting for specialized rehabilitation beds.



**50** Rehabilitation professionals killed since October 2023.

The number of hospitals providing rehabilitation services and specialist inpatient rehabilitation remains below the pre-October 2023 baseline, although the availability of rehabilitation services has increased across all service categories compared with the peak of the conflict. However, no facilities are fully functional, and all are operating with significant constraints of supplies, human resources and rehabilitation equipment.

Critically, these figures reflect conflict-related injuries only. They do not account for routine rehabilitation needs (for example, stroke, cerebral palsy, musculoskeletal disorders and chronic disease), pre-existing disabilities requiring ongoing care, or rehabilitation needs associated with ageing populations.

Rehabilitation Task Force (RTF) partners report that more than 400 people remain on waiting lists due to the limited capacity of specialized rehabilitation beds. As a result, rehabilitation services have been forced to prioritize complex trauma cases, particularly people with spinal cord injury (SCI) and traumatic brain injury (TBI). This has led to reduced access for people with other serious medical conditions requiring rehabilitation, such as Guillain–Barré Syndrome (GBS).

### 3. REHABILITATION EQUIPMENT AND ASSISTIVE PRODUCT PROVISION

In December 2025, WHO estimated that 32 835 mobility products were required to meet unmet needs in Gaza. Of these, WHO has supported the provision of approximately one third.

WHO established a tracking system for assistive product distribution to strengthen the effectiveness, accountability, and efficiency of the response. Between January 2025 and May 2026, 12 146 mobility products were tracked through this system, of which more than 90% were directly supported by WHO.

The tracking system has increased awareness of potential duplication in provision to patients.

The operating environment in the Gaza Strip presents significant challenges for assistive product use and sustainability. Damaged infrastructure, rough terrain and the severe lack of maintenance and repair services place considerable strain on mobility products, shortening their functional lifespan and increasing the need for replacement and ongoing support.

#### Total items distributed via tracker



6318

Wheelchair



1564

Walking frame



3506

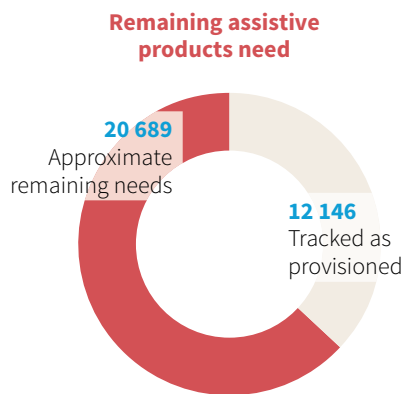
Crutches



758

Cane

#### Rehabilitation-related shipments that are pending or rejected



UN2720<sup>1</sup> data were examined for rehabilitation-related items. UN2720 data from the past 6 months show that, as of 14 April 2026, 4 shipments labelled as “assistive products” have been rejected from entering the Gaza Strip. As of 14 April 2026, 18 shipments were pending. The average waiting time for these pending shipments is 136 days, with so far a maximum wait of 526 days. Pending items include wheelchairs (for adults and children), prosthetic limbs, equipment for rehabilitation facilities (such as sand weights, stationary bicycles and footsteps), and items for supportive and personal care, such as shower chairs and commodes.

#### Priority actions

Urgent priorities include:

- Expanding specialized inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation services;
- Scaling up community-based rehabilitation and long-term follow-up services.
- Increasing the rehabilitation workforce, particularly prosthetic and orthotic specialists, while also building the capacity of existing staff.
- Accelerating importation of rehabilitation equipment, prosthetics and assistive products. Assistive products must enter Gaza at scale, without delays;
- Strengthening referral systems, continuity of care and patient tracking.

1. The UN2720 Mechanism enables humanitarian partners to register on an integrated application portal and database, where all planned aid consignments intended for Gaza are tracked. More details available at: [info.un2720.org](http://info.un2720.org).



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