

WHO Special Situation Report occupied Palestinian territory, Gaza 15th -20th April 2018



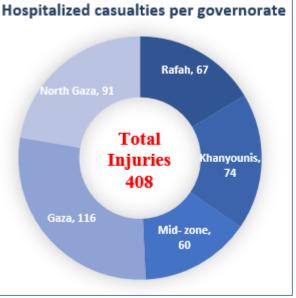


Highlights

- Following the fourth mass demonstration by Palestinians on the Gaza side of the perimeter fence with Israel, which took place on the 20th April 2018, 4 Palestinians were killed (including 1 child) and 832 were injured by Israeli forces, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH).
- Out of the 832 injuries, 408 required immediate transfer to the MoH hospitals or to NGO hospitals (including 65 children, 16 females and 392 males). From the hospitalized injuries, 4 cases were critically life threatening, 166 moderately critical and the remaining 238 were mild cases.



- Further 424 injuries were managed at the primary healthcare centers and the trauma stabilization points by the MoH, Union Health Workers Committee (UHWC) NGO and by the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS).
- The casualties occurred during the mass demonstrations by Palestinians on the Gaza site of the perimeter fence with Israel. People from all over the Gaza Strip gathered near the fence, where the Israeli army imposes a 'No Go Zone', to mark the Palestinian 'Land Day', the fourth of a series of mass protests leading up to the 70th anniversary of what Palestinians refer to as the 1948 'Nakba', on 15 May.
- For the fourth week in a row, mass gatherings took place across Gaza, 500-700 meters away from the perimeter fence, in the following 5 locations:
 - An-Nahda area in the east of Rafah
 - o Al-Najar area east of Khuza'a in Khanyounis
 - o Al Bureij camp in the Middle Area
 - $\circ \quad \mbox{Malaka area east of Gaza City}$
 - Abu Safiya in Jabalia and at the checkpoint in Beit Hanoun, North Gaza





Type of casualties treated at the MoH and NGO hospitals¹

Casualties disaggregated by injury, gender and age at MoH and NGO hospitals (cases: 408)²

	Total	By gender		By affected body part							By age	
		Male	Female	Gas inhalation	Head and neck	Upper limbs	Lower limbs	Chest and back	Abdomen and pelvis	Other	Children	Adults
	408	392	16	86	18	26	154	6	12	106	65	343

- 5 medical type 1 trauma stabilization points (TSP) were set up by the Ministry of Health (MoH), beside the mass gatherings. The medical camps were staffed with up to 10 doctors and 15 nurses; the healthcare staff were also supported by volunteers, and ambulances were on stand-by. Each camp was equipped with first aid medication, and had 3-4 beds; mattresses were also used to support the increasing number of casualties. An additional 5 MoH primary health centers opened to provide support.
- Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) has also set up 5 trauma stabilization points (TSP). Each point is an inflatable tent that is equipped with beds, emergency equipment and surgical items, supported by 3 doctors, 4 nurses and 4 paramedics. Furthermore, UHWC opened 3 primary health centers, in the north Gaza, Middle Area and in Rafah.
- A total of 424 casualties were managed at the 10 trauma stabilization points and primary healthcare clinics across the five governorates in Gaza.



¹ Source: Ministry of Health

² Source: Ministry of Health

Accumulative caseload

- Since the mass demonstrations began, on the 30th March, according to the MoH, a total of 37 people have been killed and 5,111 people have been injured. From this total, a cumulative 3,268 (64%) were admitted to hospitals including MoH hospitals and NGO hospitals (AI Awda Hospital and AI Quds Hospital). The remaining 1,843 cases (36%) were treated at the primary healthcare facilities and medical points by the MoH, UHWC and by PRCS.
- From the total number of hospitalized cases since the 30th March, 2,704 (83%) were adults and 564 (17%) were children.

Access through Erez

20 patients injured in the demonstrations since 30th March applied to exit Gaza for health care. 9 applications were approved (acceptance rate of 45% - 15% lower than the overall acceptance rate of 60% for the first quarter of 2018) and 11 were denied (55% - significantly higher than the overall denial rate of 8% for the first quarter of 2018).

Violations against health

- According to data provided by the Ministry of Health in Gaza on 23rd April 2018 for MoH medical services for the period of 15th to 20th April 2018:
 - **36 health personnel** were injured by tear gas inhalation;
 - **1 ambulance** was damaged.
- From 30th March to 23rd April, at least 77 health personnel were injured and 14 ambulances damaged since the start of mass demonstrations, according to data provided by the Palestinian Red Crescent Society and the MoH in Gaza.

Health Cluster Response

- PRCS provided immediate care to 27 cases of tear gas inhalation in the field and transferred 370 cases to hospitals, including 114 ammunition injuries.
- Doctors Worldwide Turkey are responding to post-operative rehabilitation needs by increasing the capacity of outreach rehabilitation teams from 4 to 8 teams. A total of 170 new casualties have been treated.
- Palestine Children's Relief Fund (PCRF) deployed surgeons to MoH hospitals to conduct complex surgeries. In the coming week, PCRF will deploy pediatric orthopedic surgeons.
- Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP-UK) deployed reconstructive and orthopedic surgeons and also propositioned 14 drugs and 12 disposables.
- UNICEF is procuring 27 drug items and 7 medical consumables in order to respond to the wider public health crisis.
- Union of Health Work Committees (UHWC) teams provided first aid and hospital services to 85 injured cases.
- WHO, as the cluster lead agency is coordinating the 6-month "Health Cluster event specific emergency preparedness and response plan" and cluster meetings are taking place weekly in Gaza.

Immediate health priorities and unmet needs

- In order to meet the essential health needs and respond to the humanitarian needs from the 30th March until the 31st May, the Health Cluster requires a minimum \$5.9 million USD. To date, \$1.8 million USD has been secured through reserve funds currently being released by the Humanitarian Coordinator. The focus for the Health Cluster will be on the following three key elements:
 - Strengthen the trauma pathway

Enhance trauma pathway in order to decrease risk of death or disability amongst injured cases. This includes access to frontline emergency care, adequate transportation of casualties, injury management at the hospital, and post-operative and multi-disciplinary rehabilitative care (such as physiotherapy and mental health support).

• **Protection of healthcare**

Monitor, verify and record attacks and violence against healthcare; and advocate for the protection of health under international humanitarian law and human rights law

• Ensure access to essential healthcare of other non-trauma emergency needs Ensure access to non-trauma emergency patients in need of essential healthcare.

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