

# WHO Special Situation Report occupied Palestinian territory, Gaza 9th- 14th April 2018



3 KILLED









## **Highlights**

- Following the third mass demonstration by Palestinians on the Gaza side of the perimeter fence with Israel, which took place on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018, 3 Palestinians were killed and 1,201 were injured by Israeli forces, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH).
- Out of the 1,201 injuries, 651 required immediate transfer to the MoH hospitals or to NGO hospitals (including 110 children, 43 females and 608 males)<sup>1</sup>. From the injuries,

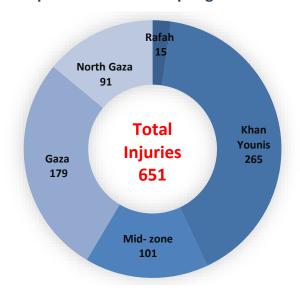


- 29 cases are critically life threatening, 268 moderately critical, 313 mild cases and 41 unspecified.
- A further 550 injuries were managed by primary healthcare centres and by the trauma stabilization points by the MoH, Union Health Workers Committee (UHWC) NGO and by the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS).
- Since the mass demonstrations began, on the 30<sup>th</sup> March, according to the MoH, a total of 33 people have been killed and 4,279 people have been injured. From this total, an accumulative 2,860 (67%) were admitted to hospitals including MoH hospitals and NGO hospitals (Al Awda Hospital and Al Quds Hospital). The remaining 1,419 cases (33%) 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 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2,361 (83%) were adults and 499 (17%) were children.
- 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 third of a series of mass protests leading up to the 70th anniversary of what Palestinians refer to as the 1948 'Nakba', on 15 May.

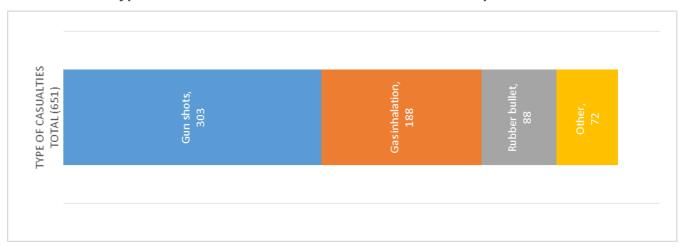
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 499 were admitted to MoH hospitals out of the total 651 injuries

- For the third week in a row, mass gatherings took place across Gaza, 500-700 meters away from the perimeter fence, in the following 5 locations:
  - o An-Nahda area in the east of Rafah
  - Al-Najar area east of Khuza'a in Khan Younis
  - o Al Bureij camp in the Middle Area
  - o Malaka area east of Gaza City
  - Abu Safiya in Jabalia and at the checkpoint in Beit Hanoun, North Gaza

#### Hospitalized casualties per governorate



Type of casualties treated at the MoH and NGO hospitals<sup>2</sup>



# Casualties disaggregated by injury, gender and age at MoH and NGO hospitals (cases: 651)<sup>3</sup>

	Total	Gender		Injury							Age	
		М	F	Various body parts	Head and neck	Upper limbs	Lower limbs	Chest and back	Abdomen and pelvis	Other	Children	Adults
	651	608	43	6	44	150	253	37	44	117	110	541

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Source: Ministry of Health

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Source: Ministry of Health

were set up by the Ministry of Health (MoH), beside the mass gatherings. They were equipped with emergency supplies to stabilize injuries before referring them to nearby hospitals. 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.

- 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 550 casualties were managed at the 10 trauma stabilization points and primary healthcare clinics across the five governorates in Gaza.
- During the mass demonstration from 9<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> April, 18 violations were recorded affecting 6 health transport and 15 health personnel:
  - 6 PRCS ambulances were targeted by tear gas cartridge. All 6 ambulances were partially damaged.
  - o **15 ambulance workers** were injured (2 by direct fire, and 13 by tear gas inhalation).
- The accumulative data on health attacks indicate that at least 41 health personnel have been injured and 13 ambulances damaged since the start of mass demonstrations, which began on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Data in this report has been provided by the PRCS and the MoH for the period 30<sup>th</sup> March to 14<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Health Cluster Response**

- PRCS provided immediate care to 54 cases of tear gas inhalation in the field and transferred
   404 cases to hospitals, including 152 live bullet injuries.
- PCRF deployed two medical missions this week, including reconstructive surgeons.
- Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP-UK) has delivered 11 essential drug items which will support approximately 7,000 patients, and 13 medical disposables items that will support approximately 50,000 patients in response to the broader public health crisis. In addition, MAP-UK is upscaling its support to increase blood collection across Gaza.

- UNICEF has released 27 drugs items and 16 medical disposable items out of the prepositioned emergency stock. UNICEF is intending to release the rest of their prepositioned items in the coming days in response to the wider drug shortages facing the MoH.
- Union of Health Work Committees (UHWC) teams provided first aid and hospital services to 136 injured cases.
- WHO, as the cluster lead agency is coordinating the 6-month "Health Cluster event specific emergency preparedness and response plan".

#### Immediate health priorities and unmet needs

• In order to meet the essential health needs and respond to the humanitarian needs from the 30<sup>th</sup> March until the 31<sup>st</sup> May, the Health Cluster requires a minimum \$4.5 million USD. The focus will be on the following three key elements:

#### Injury Management

Enhance injury management in order to decrease risk of death or disability amongst injured cases through deployment of emergency medical teams, and provision and proposition of medical supplies

#### Mental Health Support

Provide mental health support to injured patients suffering from acute severe mental health problems through outreach teams

#### 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 by enhancing the WHO surveillance system

#### Contacts:

Gerald Rockenschaub, Head of oPt, WHO email: rockenschaubg@who.int
Mahmoud Daher, Head of Gaza sub-office, WHO email: daherm@who.int
Sara Halimah, Health Cluster Coordinator & Emergencies, WHO email: halimahs@who.int
Abdelnaser Soboh, Health Sub- Cluster Coordinator & Emergencies, WHO email: soboha@who.int