

WHO Special Situation Report occupied Palestinian territory, Gaza 6th - 8th April 2018





Highlights

- Following the second mass demonstration by Palestinians on the Gaza side of the perimeter fence with Israel which took place on the 6th April 2018, 11 Palestinians were killed and 1,356 were injured by Israeli forces, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH).
- Out of the 1,356 injuries, 754 required immediate transfer to the MoH hospitals or to NGO hospitals (including 81 children, 24 females and 730 males)¹. From the injuries, 35 cases are critically life threatening and 347 may result in temporary or permanent disability. The remaining 947 are unspecified.
- A further 602 injuries were managed by primary healthcare centres and medical points by the MoH, Union Health Workers Committee (UHWC) NGO and by the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS).
- Since the mass demonstration began, on the 30th March, according to the MoH, a total of 30 people have been killed and 2,901 people have been



injured². From this total, an accumulative 1,814 were admitted to hospitals including MoH hospitals and NGO hospitals (Al Awda Hospital and Al Quds Hospital). A further, 1,366 cases were treated at the primary healthcare facilities and medical points by the MoH UHWC 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 second of a series of mass peaceful protests leading up to the 70th anniversary of what Palestinians refer to as the 1948 'Nakba', on 15 May.

¹ From a total 754, 655 were admitted to MoH hospitals

² According to the MoH report, 15 people were killed and 1,545 were injured during the first mass demonstration which took place on the 30th April, and a further 4 died as a result of sustained injuries. 10 people were killed and 1.356 were injured during the second mass demonstration on the 6th April and one died as a result of sustained injuries.

³ Source: Ministry of Health and the UHWC

⁴ Source: Ministry of Health

- For the second 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
 - Al-Najar area east of Khuza'a in Khan Younis
 - Al Bureij camp in the Middle Area
 - Malaka area east of Gaza City
 - Abu Safiya in Jabalia and at the checkpoint in Beit Hanoun, North Gaza



TOTAL

INJURIES

1356

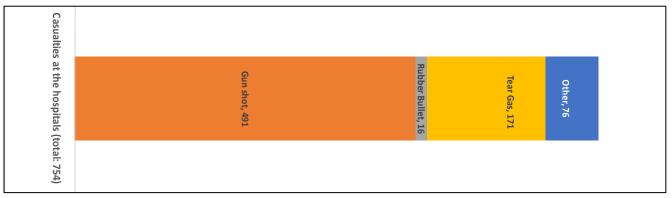
Middle Area, 118

Gaza City, 233

Khan Younis, 300

Casualties per governorate

Type of casualties treated at the MoH and NGO hospitals³



Casualties disaggregated by injury, gender and age at MoH hospitals (cases: 655)⁴

	Total	Gender		Injury							Age	
		Σ	F	Various body parts	Head and neck	Upper limbs	Lower limbs	Chest and back	Abdomen and pelvis	Other	Children	Adults
	655	631	24	12	56	139	303	28	23	94	81	574

- 5 medical type 1 camps 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 advanced medical posts. Each post 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 602 casualties were managed at the medical camps and primary healthcare clinics across the five governorates in Gaza.
- During the mass demonstration on the 6th April, healthcare facilities, including staff faced health attacks and violence:
 - 5 ambulances were targeted by live ammunition and tear gas cartridge. This included 1 civil defense ambulance, 3 PRCS ambulances and 1 medical services ambulance. All 5 ambulances were partially damaged
 - 4 paramedics were injured (3 by direct fire to the lower limbs and one by a tear gas cartridge to the head)



4 paramedics were injured on the 6th April. Photo credit: WHO

• **29 healthcare staff** suffered from tear gas inhalation

Health Cluster Response

- PRCS provided immediate care to 9 cases of tear gas inhalation in the field and transferred 695 cases to hospitals, including 326 live bullet injuries. 6 bodies were also safely removed from the field by the PRCS.
- MDM France, has deployed two emergency doctors to European Gaza Hospital and Al Aqsa Hospital to support the emergency response.
- Palestinian Children's Relief Fund (PCRF); continues bringing specialized medical missions to Gaza during the period of the great return March. In the previous week, PCRF hosted three medical missions which were: Maxillofacial, Plastic and Urology missions.
- Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP-UK) are in the process of procuring 15 essential drug items which will support approximately 148,700 patients, and 33 medical disposables items that will

support approximately 44,500 patients. 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 211 cases, 19 of which required lifesaving surgery at AI Awda Hospital.
- WHO is in the process of delivering 10 essential drugs items and 16 medical disposables items to meet the lifesaving needs of casualties over the next few weeks.

Immediate health priorities and unmet needs

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- 59 essential drugs worth \$1.1 million USD, 128 medical disposable worth \$539,000 USD, and 5 essential laboratory reagents worth approximately \$70,000 USD, are urgently required at the MoH hospitals to meet the immediate needs of casualties.
- Health Cluster requires funding to support the MoH in conducting blood donation campaigns to replenish blood bank units across Gaza
- Health Cluster requires an estimated \$1 million USD to support NGO hospitals, field medical teams and the Central Blood Bank society
- Health Cluster requires funding in order to immediately preposition;
 - 5 IEHK to meet the basic needs of 50,000 patients in an emergency
 - 10 Emergency trauma Kit A + Kit B to treat 1,000 patients in need of surgical care
 - 10 Surgical supply kit (SSK) to cover all requirements for disposables to treat 1000 surgical interventions for 10 days
 - \circ $\;$ 'Weapon wounded kit' to treat 50 serious cases or 100 moderate wounds
 - Two 'dressing set kits' to treat 100-200 patients
 - 65 essential drugs and 200 essential disposables to be immediately prepositioned across the five governorates in Gaza
- WHO requires funding to enhance emergency information collection through hiring of field data collectors

Further information can be found here: <u>Health Cluster Meeting Minutes.</u>

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