

World Health Organization SITUATION REPORT occupied Palestinian territory, Gaza 01 – 31 July 2019



# 589



25 IN



UPTO 22 HOURS OF ELECTRICITY AVAILABLE EVERY 24 HOURS IN HOSPITALS

# Highlights

- From 01 to 31 July 2019, two Palestinians were killed and 589 were injured<sup>1</sup>.
- According to the MoH, since the start of the demonstrations in Gaza, 315<sup>2</sup> people have been killed including 62 children and 33,523 injured. WHO was able to verify patients records of 30,724 injured people and 315 deaths. 7,381 people have suffered from gunshot wounds, of which 6,437 (87%) presented limb wounds<sup>3</sup>.
- In July 49% out of the essential medications were reported at less than one-month supply at the MoH Central



Injured child is being provided with emergency pre-hospital care at a TSP east Gaza. Credit: WHO

Drug Store (CDS); out of which 90% were completely depleted.

- The electricity situation has improved given the efforts to connect the grid lines to nine out of the 14 public hospitals. These hospitals now have access to up to 22 hours of electricity every day.
- In order to respond to the growing health needs in Gaza, the Health Cluster requires a total of \$ 28.2 million. Out of this, \$ 16.2 million has been received, leaving a funding gap of \$ 12 million. Further information can be found here: <u>https://bit.ly/2HWPjwz</u> . An additional \$1.5 million is required to ensure the minimum needed resources are available to prepare for and respond to the first 96 hours of a potential escalation.
- The Health Cluster oPt Humanitarian Response Plan, requires \$32 million USD and 43% has been funded by the end of July 2019. A breakdown reveals over \$ 12 million USD allocated for Gaza and approximately \$1.2 million USD for the West Bank.

# Trauma Analysis 01 - 31 July

- Casualties:
  - $\circ$  589 Palestinians were injured.
  - In June, the hospitals reported 338 emergency consultations for patients injured during the mass demonstrations, from which, 166 were injured by gunshots. See figure 1 below.
  - $\circ$  From the cohort of casualties referred to hospitals during this reporting period, 144 were

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Ministry of Health (MoH)

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 2}$  3 of the the deaths were at fetus stage 7 – 8 months

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Ministry of Health (MoH)

children (43%), 15 (4%) were female and 323 (96%) were male. See figure 2 below.



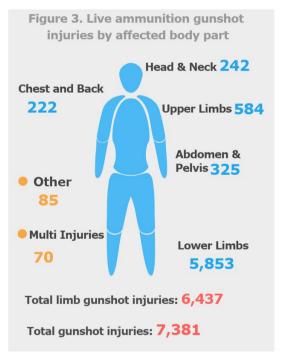
TYPE OF CASUALTIES TOTAL (338)	166			77		26	25	20	13	11
	Live bullets Rubber bullets		Falls, hits, and cuts	Gas canister	Shrapnel		Gas inhalation		Other	

#### Figure 2: Emergency consultations at hospitals disaggregated by gender and age 01 to 31 July 2019

Total	By gender		By age		
Total	Male	Female	Children	Adults	
338	323	15	144	194	

### **Cumulative Trauma Analysis**

- Deaths: From 30 March 2018 until 31 July 2019, a total of 315 people have been killed<sup>4</sup>.
- Injuries: The total figure of people injured stands at 30,724<sup>5</sup>.
- Trauma Stabilisation Points: Out of the total people injured, 15,358 were treated at the TSPs and discharged. This has reduced the burden of casualties arriving at the hospitals by an average of 50%.
- Hospital caseload: The remaining 18,165 casualties arrived at the emergency departments (ED) of MoH and NGO hospitals. Of them, 3,872 were children.
- Gunshot injuries: Out of 18,165 casualties who presented to emergency departments (ED), 7,381 cases were gunshot injuries; these account for 41% of the total casualties arriving at the hospitals. Out of 7,381 gunshot injuries, 87% are limb gunshot injuries. Refer to figure 3 for a breakdown of gunshot wounds by affected body part.
- Permanent disability:
  - Amputations: 148 amputations have taken place as a result of injuries during the mass demonstrations, including 30 children. 122 were lower limb amputations and 26 upper limb amputations<sup>6</sup>.
  - **Paralysis:** 24 patients, including two in a coma, are currently paralyzed due to spinal cord injuries.
  - Eye injuries: 15 people suffered permanent loss of vision as a result of injuries caused during the mass demonstrations.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Out of 11 bodies reported by OCHA to be held the Israeli authorities, 4 have been reported by MoH.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Although the MoH report 33,523 injured, WHO was able to verify 30,724 patient records.

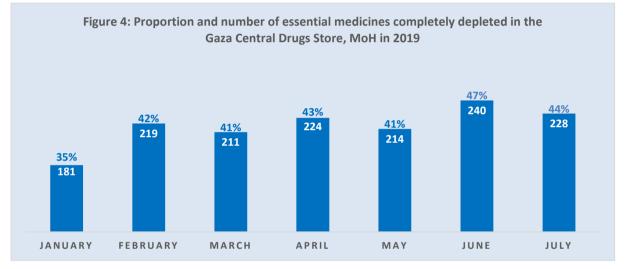
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> According to Assalama Society

# **Electricity in Gaza**

 The electricity situation has improved given the progress in recent efforts to connect the grid lines to nine out of the 14 public hospitals, including Al Shifa, Indonesia, Al Aqsa, Nasser, Al Dora, Ophthalmic Hospital, Paediatric, Psychiatric, Specialized Paediatric Hospital. These hospitals have access to up to 22 hours of electricity every day.

### **Medicines, Disposables & Laboratory Supplies**

- Availability of medicines, disposables and laboratory reagents:
  - 254 items (49%) out of the essential medications were reported at less than one-month supply at the MoH Central Drugs Store (CDS) in Gaza, out of which 228 items are totally depleted (44%). See Figure 4.
  - 225 items (26%) out of the essential medical disposables were reported at less than one-month supply at the MoH CDS in Gaza.



# Attacks against health

#### Contribution: WHO

- According to data reported to WHO by the Ministry of Health, PMRS, PRCS, UHWC and other health providers, in July 2019 at least 19 health workers were injured and 4 ambulances damaged in 17 attacks against healthcare in the Gaza Strip. Of the health workers injured, 1 was hit with a gas canister and 4 with rubber bullets, while 12 suffered injury from gas inhalation and 2 sustained combined injuries.
- **Cumulative figures on attacks against health:** From 30 March 2018 to 31 July 2019, three health workers have been killed and 803 injured in 519 recorded incidents against health staff and facilities in the Gaza Strip. 112 ambulances have been damaged, as well as 10 other forms of health transport and 7 health facilities (including 3 medical points).

### Access for patients referred out of Gaza

#### Contribution: WHO

• As of 31 July 2019, according to Gaza's Coordination and Liaison Office, there had been 575 applications to Israeli authorities by those injured in demonstrations to exit Gaza via Erez/Beit Hanoun crossing to access health care. Of those applications, 18% were approved, 27% were denied and 56% were delayed.

### **Emergency Response Activities**

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) continued the support to the MoH and PRCS TSPs by delivering 5 consumable items that are expected to benefit 150 patients, and 5 medical instruments that are estimated to benefit more than 500 patients annually. WHO also procured and delivered 5 items of medical equipment that are expected to benefit around 1,000 patients per month, and one hygiene item that is expected to benefit all TSP staff and TSP patients due to improved hygiene conditions. WHO continued the support to the MoH in coaching the staff of three NGO hospitals (Public Aid hospital, Patients' Friends Benevolent Society hospital and Al-Karamah hospital) in Gaza on life-saving early essential newborn care (EENC) practices. By the end of July, 80% of staff in these hospitals received training and practice acquired skills during the child birth. More than 11,000 newborns will benefit every year.
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) with support from the CERF, delivered shipments of disposables to MoH and NGO hospitals to support safe delivery in maternity wards across Gaza. The supplies will help alleviate the high levels of stock out for maternal health disposables. In addition, UNFPA, in partnership with PMRS, trained 21 people on the Minimal Initial Service Package for Reproductive Health in Emergencies, which helps health care providers to respond to the ongoing emergency, as well as prepare for any future acute crises.



Emergency Obstetric Care (EmOC) workshop. Credit: UNFPA

UNFPA and PMRS also trained 79 health care providers on Emergency Obstetric Care during two workshops.

- Hayfa Hospital provided first aid for more than 37 cases in the field and transferred 18 injured patients to the TSPs. The hospital also provided 64 injured patients with wound dressings and follow-up care for 20 injured patients.
- National Center for Community Rehabilitation (NCCR) provided 1,205 multidisciplinary postoperative care sessions, including medical examination, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, psychological support and nursing for 163 patients. NCCR also distributed 14 assistive devices, 15 medical kits, 27 hygiene kits and referred 6 cases in need for further medical treatment to medical centres.
- Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP UK) supported the local limb reconstruction team to conduct 120 clinical assessments and 9 operational procedures in Shifa and EGH hospitals. Additionally, 31 limb reconstruction surgeries were conducted (24 in Shifa and 7 in EGH). With funds from the oPt HF, MAP-UK delivered a total of 3 drugs, 1 disposable and 5 laboratory reagents to the MoH expected to benefit 41,538 patients. A further 2 drugs and 1 disposable were prepositioned, expected to benefit 2,575 patients.
- Union of Health Work Committees (UHWC) teams provided first aid and emergency health services to 23 cases. The 23 cases including 10 gunshot injuries who were transferred to the emergency department of Al-Awda Hospital for further interventions.
- United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) provided 135 injured people with surgical dressings and medication, bringing the total of beneficiaries since the start of the demonstrations to 6,262 patients.
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) provided the MoH with 13 essential and lifesaving drug items that

are expected to benefit 191,000 patients and with 2 conventional incubators. UNICEF also provided UHWC with 1,400 oxytocin ampules.

- Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS) provided first aid to 292 people injured during the demonstrations, out of which 46 were shot with live bullets. PMRS added 25 new patients to their postoperative care services, raising the total of beneficiaries to 1,293. PMRS also distributed 31 assistive devices. Since the start of demonstrations, PMRS has provided first aid services to 7,299 casualties.
- Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) teams provided first aid services to 631 casualties including 117 live ammunition, 305 tear gas suffocation cases, and 200 tear gas canister wounds. PRCS' Psychosocial Support Team offered Psychological First Aid (PFA) to more than 483 wounded persons and their families and 64 emergency providers in the Gaza Strip. PRCS hospitals received and treated 4 cases at Al Quds hospital.
- Assalama Society provided 299 injured patients with assistive devices and medical supplies and 828 with medication. Assalama also performed 630 physiotherapy sessions and 110 wound dressing sessions inside their clinic and the outreach teams provided 119 patients with physiotherapy and 199 patients with wound dressings and performed 300 medical examinations.
- Gaza Community Mental Health programme (GCMHP) provided specialized mental health

Injured child is being provided with physiotherapy. Credit: Assalama Society

services including medications to 160 cases, including 81 children and 35 women, who were affected by the mass demonstrations and have displayed symptoms of severe psychological distress. GCMHP also provided free telephone counselling service for 47 case, including 15 children and 16 women, who were unable to reach mental health centres due to economic or social barriers.

### **Coordination and Information**

The Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) workshops took place in Gaza on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> July respectively. The same workshop was conducted in the West Bank on the 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> July. Partners reviewed the humanitarian needs of the health sector, updated the numbers of people in need (PiN) and set priorities required to address those needs.



Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) workshop. Credit: WHO

### Key dates of the HPC process

- Finalization of Health Cluster HNO numbers and narrative: 25<sup>th</sup> August
- Finalization of Health Cluster HRP inputs: 15<sup>th</sup> September
- Partners upload projects: 1<sup>st</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> October
- Vetting process: 14<sup>th</sup>- 24<sup>th</sup> October
- Approval of projects: 1<sup>st</sup> November
- Final global submission: 7<sup>th</sup> November
- Global and local launch of the HNO and HRP for oPt: December date tbc

# **Urgent Funding Needs**

- In order to respond to the growing health needs in Gaza, the Health Cluster requires a total of \$28.2 million.
  Out of this, \$16.2 million has been received, leaving a funding gap of \$12 million. Further information can be found here: <a href="https://bit.ly/2HWPjwz">https://bit.ly/2HWPjwz</a>.
- An additional \$1.5 million is required to ensure the minimum needed resources are available to prepare for and respond to the first 96 hours of a potential escalation.
- The Health Cluster partners also require \$ 32 million USD to address health needs of the most vulnerable communities in the occupied Palestinian territory for 2019, targeting 1 million people out of 1.2 million people in need of humanitarian health interventions in Gaza and West Bank (including East Jerusalem). See the Humanitarian Response Plan 2019.

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