

The regional escalation that began on 28 February 2026, and its spillover effects are impacting the delivery and continuity of health care services in the occupied Palestinian territory.

Situation in the Gaza Strip

Crossings and Movement of Supplies

- The Rafah crossing between the Gaza Strip and Egypt re-opened on 18 March 2026, enabling the resumption of medical evacuations from the next day. The Kerem Shalom crossing has remained open for fuel and humanitarian supplies since 3 March, following a brief closure between 28 February and 2 March 2026. All other crossings into the Gaza Strip have remained closed since 28 February 2026, limiting the entry of medical supplies and their efficient delivery to health facilities.
 - At WHO's Global Logistics Hub in Duabi, 57 metric tonnes of health supplies in support of the Gaza response are staged and ready for dispatch. Shipment options are being explored given ongoing flight disruptions caused by the regional crisis.
 - Dubai Humanitarian is sponsoring a second overland convoy to Al-Arish, Egypt, carrying medicines in support of WHO's response in Gaza, with departure expected soon.
 - Five WHO medical supply trucks carrying ICU beds, nutrition products and medicines, along with 13 containers of hemodialysis supplies, have been approved and are awaiting entry into the Gaza Strip from Al-Arish.
 - At Ashdod port, 58 pallets of assistive devices, 128 pallets of medicines and 175 pallets of fortified biscuits — used for preventing and treating moderate acute malnutrition — are awaiting entry into the Gaza Strip.
 - In Jerusalem, 400 pallets of WHO medical supplies are ready for dispatch, along with 20 pallets of medicines and medical consumables for partners awaiting dispatch from the West Bank.
 - On 13 March 2026, an interagency mission to collect supplies that had entered the Gaza Strip via the Kerem Shalom crossing the previous week was denied access. WHO successfully retrieved the shipment of 183 pallets two days later, on 15 March. The shipment included 48 hospital beds (12 pallets) and 171 pallets of essential medicines, including paracetamol, aspirin, ibuprofen, furosemide, carbamazepine, nystatin, and metronidazole.
 - Since 4 March 2026, WHO has dispatched and delivered 462 pallets of medical supplies from its warehouses in the Gaza Strip to health facilities. Of this, 298 pallets were delivered to the Ministry of Health and 164 pallets to partners.
- ▶ **Response:** WHO has accelerated distribution of available supplies within the Gaza Strip, prioritizing lifesaving services and facilities at highest risk of stock depletion. WHO is also expanding pre-positioned health stocks outside the Gaza Strip, enabling rapid scale-up and immediate surge capacity once crossings reopen.



WHO staff assists a patient during a medical evacuation from Gaza - March 2026. Photo: WHO

Fuel

- Fuel has been entering Gaza since 3 March 2026 following the reopening of the Kerem Shalom crossing. However, quantities remain below what is needed, forcing health partners to ration supplies and prioritize essential services including emergency care, maternal and neonatal services, communicable disease management and trauma care. Partners are closely monitoring fuel consumption and adjusting operations accordingly.
 - As part of the inter-agency fuel distribution mechanism, WHO supported the distribution of approximately 570,000 litres of fuel already available inside Gaza between 5 and 25 March 2026, helping sustain the functioning of health facilities.
- ▶ **Response:** WHO is reprioritizing the most lifesaving health services to guide fuel allocation toward critical facilities and functions. Joint advocacy with UN and other humanitarian partners is ongoing for ensuring sustained and predictable entry of fuel.

Medical Evacuation

- Medical evacuation via Kerem Shalom has remained suspended since 28 February 2026.
- Medical evacuation via the Rafah crossing was also suspended from 28 February 2026 following the regional escalation but resumed on 19 March after the reopening of the crossing the previous day. A total of 16 patients and 30 companions were medically evacuated to Egypt during two missions on 19 and 22 March 2026.
- WHO suspended medical evacuations via the Rafah crossing from 23 to 25 March 2026, as conditions were not in place to safely continue operations.
- ▶ **Response:** Medical evacuation via the Rafah crossing resumed on 26 March 2026. A total of 17 patients and 30 companions were evacuated to Egypt on the same day. Since October 2023, a total of 11,209 patients and 13,215 companions have been evacuated from the Gaza Strip to over 30 countries.

Emergency Medical Teams

- Emergency Medical Team (EMT) rotations into the Gaza Strip resumed on 8 March 2026, following a brief interruption caused by the closure of crossings into Gaza due to the regional conflict. Since then, 14 EMTs have entered the Gaza Strip to provide surge support to health facilities.
- With EMT entry currently limited to one day per week, the number of personnel able to rotate is significantly reduced. As a result, some EMT staff currently deployed in Gaza may be required to extend their deployments beyond originally planned timelines, placing additional strain on personnel already working in an extremely demanding environment.
- A new EMT dashboard has been launched to provide key figures and data. It can be accessed [here](#).
- ▶ **Response:** There are currently 32 international Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) and two national EMTs deployed inside Gaza. WHO has been supporting and coordinating the entry of EMTs into Gaza since December 2023. Advocacy is ongoing for the sustained entry of specialized EMTs through regular rotations, along with their specialized supplies.

Health Care Coordination

- Growing number of generator failures in hospitals have been reported due to the lack of spare parts and lubricating oil. These generators are running nearly 24/7. Humanitarian partners are coordinating fuel support and continue to engage with authorities and others for the entry of generators, supplies to maintain them and energy solutions to prevent further disruptions in health services.
- Partners report that ectoparasitic infections continued to rise, with cases increasing from 19,700 in January to 24,700 in February — a 20 per cent increase. Overcrowding, deteriorated shelter materials and fabric partitions, and inadequate WASH facilities have created a high-transmission environment. Critical shortages of hygiene kits, insecticides, and scabies treatments are severely limiting the response. Many items have been denied entry and stocks remain extremely limited, with partners only able to implement targeted distributions as supplies arrive. Urgent scale-up of lice kits, insecticides, family hygiene kits, and soap is needed to prevent further escalation.
- Shortages of critical supplies due to limited entry of medical supplies is affecting the availability of essential items for the ongoing treatment of patients with non-communicable diseases, including cardiology and hemodialysis supplies and cancer medicines. Critical supplies for maternal and child health are also impacted, including essential medicines for neonates and for safe delivery.
- ▶ **Response:** Health Cluster partners continue delivering services across the Gaza Strip despite major operational constraints related to fuel dependency, damaged infrastructure and limited entry of medical supplies. According to Health Cluster partner reporting, approximately 260,000 people are reached weekly with health services, primarily through general clinical consultations delivered via hospitals, primary health care centres and medical points.



WHO setting up new tents at Al-Shifa Hospital to increase capacity and strengthen healthcare services - 26 March 2026. Photo: WHO.

Situation in the West Bank

Access to Health Care

- Health partners continue to report delays affecting ambulance access and patient transport across multiple governorates due to checkpoint closures and movement restrictions.
 - WHO has received reports that ambulance medical teams have had to take longer alternative routes to reach patients and, in some instances, crews were required to transport patients on foot through closed gates after ambulances were blocked.
 - Among the most affected governorates are Nablus, Hebron, Jericho, Qalqilya and Ramallah.
 - Ambulances and mobile health clinics continue to operate and reach patients despite delays and obstructions caused by increased checkpoints and road closures.
- ▶ **Response:** The Health Cluster continues supporting the deployment of mobile medical teams and the provision of essential supplies to key hospitals, to maintain continuity of care and reach underserved and high-risk areas.

Health Attacks

- Between 28 February and 25 March 2026, WHO recorded 15 attacks on health care in the West Bank.
 - Of these, 10 incidents between 28 February and 3 March 2026 affected ambulances. WHO received reports from health partners that ambulance medical staff were denied access at checkpoints and searched. Under WHO's Surveillance System on Attacks on Health Care (SSA), these are classified as attacks on health care as they constituted obstruction and interference with the delivery of health services.
 - Between 4 and 5 March 2026 alone, five attacks on health care were reported by partners, including a settler attack on paramedics that resulted in at least two injuries requiring hospital follow-up.
- ▶ **Response:** WHO continues to monitor attacks on health care and advocate for the protection of health care workers, patients and facilities.

Trauma and Emergency Care

- Prior to the ongoing regional escalation, acute shortages of medical supplies were already reported in primary healthcare centers (PHCs), mobile clinics, and Trauma Stabilization Points (TSPs) located in hot spot areas (notably Jenin, Tulkarm, Nablus, and the Jordan Valley). Many facilities report a total lack of Tranexamic Acid (crucial for hemorrhage control) and anesthetics like Midazolam or Etomidate. Supplies for treatment of noncommunicable diseases like insulin and hypertension medications were already reaching zero-stock levels in rural clinics.
- ▶ **Response:**
- WHO is preparing the delivery of medical supplies to Trauma Stabilization Points across three sites in Atara and Khirbet Abu Falah. The two villages have seen a steep increase in trauma injuries and fatalities due to settler violence. Following a recent assessment of Primary Health Care Clinics in both villages, WHO will deliver essential medical equipment to strengthen their capacity to provide life-saving interventions.
 - WHO is planning the distribution of Trauma and Emergency Surgical Kits (TESK) and Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) as part of its stockpiling preparedness initiative, comprising 145 functional kits and sets with modular components, which will benefit an estimated 242,000 people. All items will be delivered to the Central Pharmacy for distribution based on evolving needs.
 - WHO is planning a face-to-face Mass Casualty Management training in April, targeting 140 trainees across seven hospitals, with the aim of establishing a firm foundation and standardised protocol for mass casualty response.

Mental Health

- Access to mental health services has become increasingly difficult across many areas of the West Bank due to checkpoint and road closures, at a time when needs are rising amid the ongoing regional escalation.
 - Shortages of psychotropic drugs persist, hindering the delivery of mental health care services.
- ▶ **Response:** As co-chair of the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Technical Working Group, WHO is supporting the coordination and delivery of emergency MHPSS services. WHO has received a list of essential psychotropic drugs from the Ministry of Health and is working to procure them.