

# oPt Emergency Situation Update

Issue 27

7 Oct 2023 - 2 Apr 2024 at 16:00

## Gaza Strip

## Overview

Source: Ministry of Health. As of 2 Apr 2024



**32,975 Fatalities**

72% are said to be women and children



**75,577 Injuries**



**+7,780**

Reported missing or under the rubble



**1.7M People**

(75% of population) displaced

According to Israeli authorities, over 1200 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed inside Israel, and approximately 5,400 reported injuries. There have been 247 reported fatalities and 1,476 reported injuries of Israeli soldiers since the start of the ground operation in the Gaza Strip. One hundred and thirty four hostages remain in Gaza.

## Health Care Functioning, Access and Risks

### Hospitals



**28%**

**10** Hospitals  
**36** partially functioning

Estimated average bed occupancy: 323%



**0%**

**0** Hospitals  
**36** minimally functional



**80%**

**4** field Hospitals  
**5** fully functional

UAE Field Hospital  
IMC Field Hospital  
Indonesian field hospital  
UK-Med field hospital



**20%**

**1** field Hospitals  
**5** minimally functional

Jordanian Military Hospital



**30%**

**27** Primary health care facilities are functional  
**89\***

\* The number of PHCCs includes active NGOs.

### Malnutrition



**28 patients** Reportedly died of malnutrition

Northern Gaza: **12.4-16.5% of children (6-59 months)** with acute malnutrition (**3%** of children with severe acute malnutrition)

Southern Gaza: **2-6%** of children with acute malnutrition



Referrals abroad through Rafah since start of war: **4,373 patients were approved for medical evacuation (47% approval rate), out of which, 3,528 managed to successfully evacuate\***.

\* The difference between approved and evacuated patients is attributed to patients passing away while awaiting approval, patients not being timely informed, or encountering access restrictions.

### Communicable Diseases

Ongoing outbreaks of diarrheal illness and hepatitis A. Cases recorded since mid-October:



**643,254** Cases of acute respiratory infections



**345,768** Cases of diarrhea <5 years: 105,635



**83,450** Cases of scabies and lice



**47,949** Cases of skin rashes



**7,293** Cases of chickenpox



**34,830** Cases of acute jaundice syndrome<sup>§</sup>

§ Jump in figures is due to retroactive reporting

## Health Attacks



**435 Health Attacks**



**722** People killed in attacks



**902** People injured in attacks



**118** Health workers detained/arrested



**100** Health facilities affected

**30** Hospitals damaged  
Including



**104** Ambulances affected

**54** That sustained damaged  
Including



**456 Fatalities**



**4,750 Injuries**

## Health Attacks

### 421 Health attacks



**11** People killed in attacks



**85** People injured in attacks



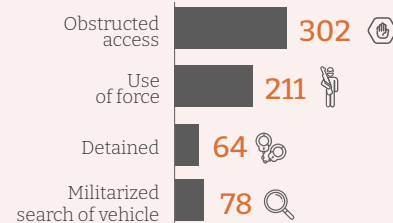
**50** Health facilities affected



**18** mobile clinics Including



**281** Ambulances affected



## Key concerns

- Continued dismantling of the health system, jeopardizing health service provision, access to health, and delivery of life-saving supplies. This further strains the capacity of the health system to meet the health care needs of the vulnerable population.
  - Following the latest military operation, Al-Shifa Hospital - the largest hospital in the Gaza Strip - remains non-functional. The hospital has suffered massive destruction. Reportedly, 21 patients died during the siege. Prior to the siege, Al-Shifa served as the main referral hospital in the Gaza Strip with a 750-bed capacity, a laboratory, and a blood bank, providing secondary and tertiary services to more than 250,000 people annually, including some 17,000 surgical operations.
  - The situation in Khan Younis, in south Gaza, is also critical. Nasser Medical Complex remains out of service for the sixth week. Al-Amal hospital also remains non-functional following the latest raid and hostilities.
- Increasing insecurity, destroyed roads and infrastructure, and lack of proper facilitation of humanitarian missions continue to hinder health access. On 1 April, seven World Central Kitchen (WCK) team members were killed during a strike. The team was traveling in a deconflicted zone in two armored cars branded with the WCK logo. WHO calls for a sustained and functional deconfliction mechanism to facilitate safe delivery of humanitarian aid across the Gaza Strip, as per the International Humanitarian Law.
- According to the Gaza Strip Interim Damage Assessment conducted by the World Bank, the European Union (EU), and the United Nations (UN), ongoing hostilities have so far damaged or destroyed 84% of all health facilities, costing USD554 million. Those remaining partially functional lack access to medicines, ambulances, basic lifesaving treatments, electricity and water. This has severely compromised the health system's response capacity, and disrupted delivery of essential health services.
- The IPC Acute Food Insecurity Situation Report stated that Famine is imminent in the northern Gaza and is projected to occur anytime between mid-March and May 2024. About 2.13 million people across the Gaza Strip face high levels of acute food insecurity classified as IPC Phase 3 or above (Crisis or worse) between 15 February and 15 March, including nearly 677,000 experiencing catastrophic food insecurity (IPC Phase 5).
- Alarming rates of malnutrition: since January, a total of 28,180 children across the Gaza Strip have been screened for malnutrition, as part of opportunistic screening, with close cooperation with the Nutrition Cluster. In the north, 22% of screened children were identified to be suffering from acute malnutrition - 3.5% cases of severe SAM; 18.7% moderate cases of MAM. 5.4% children screened in the south were found malnourished, including 1.2% suffering from SAM and 4.2% with MAM. According to MOH reports, 28 patients have died due to complications of dehydration and SAM, including 25 children less than five years old.
- Access of Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) to north Gaza hospitals has not been possible due to the security situation. Only one EMT has managed to deploy in the area.
- Estimated 9,000 critical patients need to be medically evacuated out of Gaza, including over 6,000 trauma-related patients, and 3,000 patients with serious chronic conditions (e.g. cancer).
- Partner operations continue to be negatively affected by the displacement of staff, operational challenges, and disrupted telecommunication.
- Limited access to proper WASH facilities continues contributing to infectious disease outbreaks.
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## • WHO

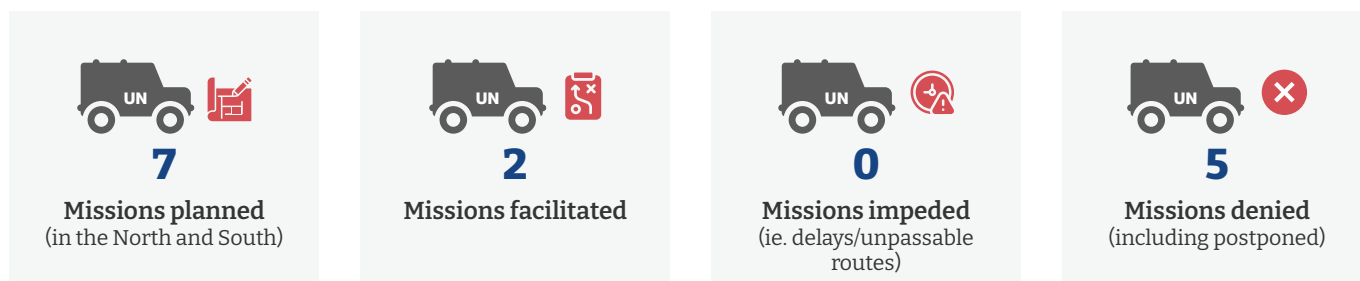
- To date, WHO has procured \$24 million worth of health commodities, 54.4% of which has already been delivered to Gaza (602 metric tonnes), including essential trauma emergency supply kits (TESK), NCD kits, and Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) kits. Procurement also includes critical medications and supplies that are needed to maintain provision of essential mental health, oncology, and haemodialysis services.
- WHO is supporting the newly established SAM stabilization centre (6 beds), operating within the IMC Field Hospital. Support includes provision of SAM kits and technical guidance. There are now three nutrition stabilization centers functional in the Gaza Strip. To date, 21 cases with SAM with complications have been admitted, 20 in the north and one in Tal el-Sultan.
- WHO provided 24 solar fridges to enhance the cold chain and ensure safe storage of medicines, even during power outages. The fridges are being used across the Ministry of Health, Médecins Sans Frontières, and UNRWA health facilities, aiding in uninterrupted health care delivery.
- The electronic early warning, alert, and response system (EWARS in a box) has been piloted at 13 UNRWA sites, with preparations taking place to expand it to 15 additional MAP-UK medical points.
- WHO conducted an assessment of WASH capacities at five hospitals in the south, i.e. European Gaza Hospital (EGH), Al-Najjar, Al-Aqsa, Kuwait, and Emirati hospitals. Assessment results will inform interventions aiming to strengthen infection prevention and control at the targeted health facilities.
- WHO assessed the laboratory capacities at Al-Aqsa hospital, in addition to delivering two meningitis diagnostic kits to Al-Aqsa and European Gaza hospitals, which will serve the needs of 192 patients.
- To date, WHO has led and participated in 96 missions aimed at supporting patient transfers, conducting needs assessment, supporting deployment of EMTs and field hospitals, and delivering food, water and medical supplies to hospitals. Of these, 52 were facilitated, 36 were denied, 7 postponed, and 1 withdrawn.

## • Partners

- While EMT access to northern Gaza hospitals is still challenging, one emergency medical team (surgical SCT) has been successfully deployed to Kamal Adwan hospital in north Gaza, ensuring the first international presence in that area since the beginning of the crisis. The EMT includes one general surgeon, one emergency doctor, one orthopaedic surgeon and one anaesthetist.
- The Health Cluster reported that an average of 200,000 people are receiving primary and secondary health care across the Gaza Strip, on a weekly basis.
- A total of 185 medical points are currently operating throughout the Gaza Strip, providing essential primary health care services to the vulnerable population.
- An inter-sectoral collaboration between Health, Food, Shelter, and Site Management teams is ongoing to develop a support package for discharged patients and families staying in hospitals, who are unable to leave due to lack of shelters.

## WHO Mission Update

26 March - 2 April 2024



### Update on missions since 26 March:

- **Since 25 March**, six WHO requests to reach Al-Shifa hospital for conducting an assesment and transfer of patients were denied.
- **On 28 March**, WHO and partners conducted a mission to Kamal Adwan Hospital, during which they transferred a 12-year old child with cystic fibrosis to IMC field hospital in Rafah, to be later evacuated abroad to continue her treatment.
- **On 31 March**, WHO conducted a mission to Al-Aqsa hospital in Deir Al-Balah, to assess needs and collect incubators to be sent to the north of Gaza. During the mission, a tent camp inside the hospital was struck, killing 4 people and injuring 17 others.



28 March 2024



Kamal Adwan hospital



## WHO Recommendations

- Immediate ceasefire.
- Expand and sustain humanitarian access into Gaza for fuel, water, food, medicines and other necessary supplies.
- Expand humanitarian corridors and ensure safe passage to allow delivery of humanitarian aid within Gaza.
- Active protection of civilians and health care , preserving the function of remaining health facilities.
- Establish and strengthen a routine process for medical evacuation for all patients in need, without distinction of any kind, ensuring timely referral of the +9,000 critical patients that need to be medevaced out of Gaza.

## Funding

### \$320M funding required for WHO Operational Response

**110M** for Oct 2023 - Mar 2024

**210M** for Apr 2024 - Dec 2024

**\$92.5M secured**

**\$34M Pledged**

- The inter-cluster Flash Appeal has been revised and the funding requirement for humanitarian health response is \$204.2M\* and is targeting 2.5M people in Gaza and West Bank, of which 50% is funded.

Further information:

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