

oPt Emergency Situation Update

Issue 19



As of 29 December 2023 at 13:00



World Health Organization

occupied Palestinian territory

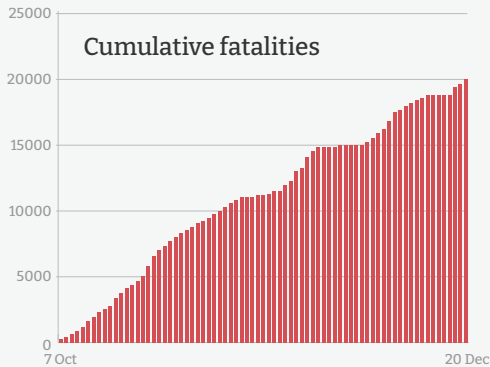
Gaza Strip

Overview

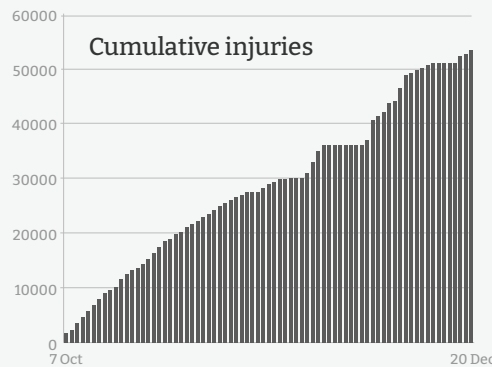
Source: Ministry of Health

21,110 Fatalities

70% are said to be women and children



55,243 Injuries



7,000

reported missing
or under the
rubble



1.93M People

(85% of population)
displaced

Health Care Functioning and Access

A public health catastrophe is rapidly evolving in Gaza with high levels of violent deaths and injuries, mass displacement, overcrowding, major disruption and dysfunction of the health system, and damage to water and sanitation infrastructure. Severe stressors for mental health are affecting the whole population, including bombardment and siege. Destruction and hostilities are gravely obstructing ambulance access to the injured and health facilities.

Hospitals functionality



36%

13/36 Hospitals
partially
functioning

Estimated average bed
occupancy: 351%



5.5%

2/36 Hospitals with
extremely limited
capacity

Al Shifa Medical Complex
Al Ahli Arab Hospital



100%

3/3 field Hospitals
fully functional

UAE Field Hospital
Jordanian Military Hospital
Rafah Field Hospital



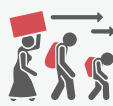
26%

19/72 Primary health
care facilities are
functional

No information available about north,
Gaza and Khan Younis



Referrals abroad through
Rafah since start of war
972 including 571 injured
and 401 patients in
addition to 772
companions



Separation of North
Gaza and Gaza City
from governorates
in the south, along
with evacuation
orders



Disease surveillance
disrupted
including early disease
detection, laboratory
capacity and response

Acute shortage of supplies at health facilities



Fuel and
Electricity



Water



Food



Medicines and medical supplies:

- anaesthetics
- antibiotics
- IV fluids
- pain medications
- insulin
- blood and blood products



Medical equipment

Increasingly not
functional at hospitals,
(e.g. monitors,
ventilators, incubators,
x-ray and CT, lab
analyzers, anaesthesia
machines), which are
dependent on
electricity



Gaza Strip Health Needs and Risks

Water and Sanitation



Almost 1.9M IDPs

out of the 1.93 million displaced are in 156 UNRWA installations across the Gaza Strip*



486 people per toilet in Rafah



59-89%

Less water consumption than pre-hostilities (21 Nov - 4 Dec)



Open defecation

Observed at shelters in Rafah due to lack of sanitation facilities



Lack of WASH facilities in health care settings means increased risk of healthcare-associated infections

* The situation might be worse in makeshift shelters

Communicable Diseases

Imminent risk of communicable disease outbreaks. Cases recorded since mid-October:



179,003 Cases of acute respiratory infections



136,418 Cases of diarrhea <5 years: 70,753



55,472 Cases of scabies and lice



38,010 Cases of skin rashes



5,330 Cases of chickenpox



4,683 Cases of jaundice

Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health



52,000 Pregnant women

~183 Births per day

5,500 Babies have been born in the last month



130 Premature infants depend on incubators

61% Incubators are in the north, requiring electricity

Long term conditions



1,100 Patients in need of kidney dialysis



71,000 Patients living with diabetes



225,000 People with high blood pressure



+ 485,000 People with mental health disorders*



+ 2,000 People diagnosed with cancer each year, including 122 children



45,000 Patients living with cardiovascular disease

* People in Gaza facing daily intense psychological stressors, including bombardment and severe barriers to fulfilling basic needs

Data: MoH Annual Report 2022, WHO STEPS

Health Attacks



294 Health attacks



600 People killed in attacks



764 People injured in attacks



65 Health workers detained/arrested



94 Health facilities affected



26 Hospitals damaged



76 Ambulances affected



38 That sustained damaged

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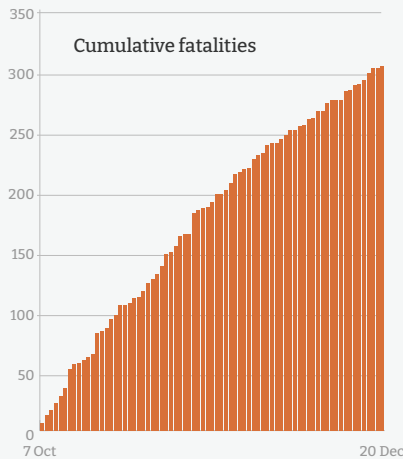
occupied Palestinian territory

West Bank, including east Jerusalem

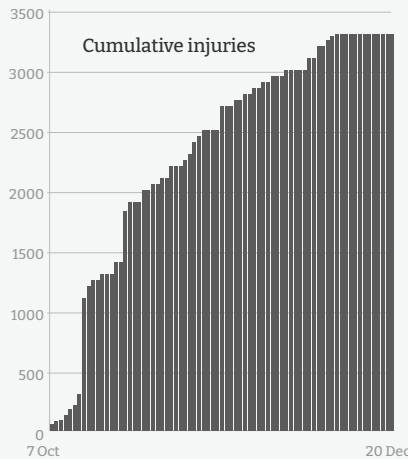
Overview

Source: Ministry of Health

304 Fatalities



3,812 Injuries



1,208 people displaced amid settler violence and access restrictions.

429 people displaced following demolitions in Area C and East Jerusalem

95 people displaced following punitive demolitions



Increased settler and military violence

Including airstrikes and live ammunition. Complete obstruction at checkpoints between Palestinian towns and closure of several communities

Health Needs and Risks



Increased injuries

Placing a high demand for emergency medical supplies for first response at hospitals



+270 Patients/day

Need access to health care in east Jerusalem, from the rest of the West Bank



5,491 People displaced from Gaza

Are stranded in the West Bank, increasing the pressure on the health system

Health Care Functioning and Access



+270 Patients are in need of referral outside the West Bank for health care daily. Now only oncology and life-saving cases are being allowed. Permit application and approval rates for health care are reduced.



Obstructed access for ambulances, health care workers, and patients

Due to checkpoint closures, insecurity, movement restrictions, and attacks on health



First response capacities overstretched

By increased casualties, with high demand for emergency medical supplies



Increased shortages of essential medicines and medical supplies

Affecting first response, primary care, and hospital care

Health Attacks

276 Health attacks



7 People killed in attacks



48 People injured in attacks



24 Health facilities affected



205 Ambulances affected

Obstructed access 180

Use of force 149

Detained 42

Militarized search of vehicle 41



UPDATES

Gaza

- **Fatalities and Casualties since Dec 22:**

- Hostilities continue and since December 22nd, there have been 1,053 fatalities and 1,923 injured.

- **Food insecurity:**

- The need for food continues to be acute across the Gaza Strip. The entire population of Gaza – almost 2.2M people – are in crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity.

- **Disease Surveillance:**

- Almost 180 000 cases of upper respiratory infection and numerous cases of meningitis, skin rashes, scabies, lice and chickenpox have been reported.
- Over 136,000 cases of diarrhoea have been reported since mid-October. Half of these are among young children under the age of 5 years.

- **Hospital Functionality:**

- Only 13 of 36 (36%) hospitals in the Gaza strip are partially functioning including 9 in the south and four hospitals (Patients Friends Association Hospital, Al Helou international Hospital, Asshaba Medical Complex and Al Awda Hospital-North) in Gaza and the north.
- Average bed occupancy in functioning hospitals is 351% and ICU bed occupancy of 261%.
- Al-Shifa Hospital, currently minimally functional, needs to urgently resume at least basic operations to continue serving the thousands in need of lifesaving health care.

- According to Israeli authorities, **over 1200 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed, 9038 injured, 251 being held hostage of whom 114 have been released** since the hostilities started.

HEALTH RESPONSE

- **Outbreak Prevention:**

- **The Early Warning, Alert and Response System (EWARS)** list for syndromic surveillance is revised and agreed by the Ministry of Health and UNRWA.
- **WHO's electronic early warning, alert, and response system in emergencies "EWARS in a box"** is in pipeline and will be delivered to Gaza soon. This system will help in detecting disease outbreaks early and will improve real time data flow from the shelters overcoming the persistent internet and electricity challenges.
- **WHO procured lab samples needs** which are currently in Egypt awaiting entry to Gaza.
- **Infection, prevention, control (IPC) hospital needs** have been compiled and are in process for procurement.
- **Ministry of Health and UNRWA are conducting a critical mapping of health services** at several shelters currently lacking any provision of health services, to ensure health services can be delivered to the displaced people.



HEALTH RESPONSE

• High Risk Missions:

- **Until December 28nd, WHO and partners conducted 12 high risk missions** to deliver supplies, with partners, to hospitals in Northern and Southern Gaza witnessing intense hostilities in their vicinity, high patient loads and overcrowding caused by people displaced by the conflict seeking refuge.
- **During the week 23-28 December** the following missions took place:
 - **Dec 23**, WHO and partners (UNOCHA, UNICEF, World Central Kitchen) supported by UNDSS and UNMAS visited, and delivered supplies to, Al-Shifa Hospital, and visited three other hospitals in multiple convoys. The supply of 19,200 litres of generator fuel was delivered to Shifa Hospital.
 - The joint mission also visited the NGO-run Patient Friends Hospital, which provides maternity, trauma, and emergency care. It performs 6-8 operations a day but lacks specialized vascular surgeons, neurosurgeons, and intensive care staff, plus antibiotics, pain relief medicines and external fixators.
 - Al-Helou Hospital, which specializes in maternity care, manages 10-15 deliveries daily, including four C-sections. It urgently needs fuel, food and drinking water.
 - **Dec 25**, WHO visited Al-Aqsa hospital to assess its situation. The hospital is taking in far more patients than its bed capacity and staff can handle. It is currently running five operating theatres in the hospital and two more are being supported by MSF, but it is still not enough.
 - **Dec 26**, WHO team visited two hospitals - Al-Shifa in the north and Al-Amal Palestine Red Crescent Society in the south – to deliver supplies and assess needs on the ground.
 - At Al-Shifa, WHO delivered fuel to keep essential health services running. With UNICEF, WHO also delivered medical supplies for the hospital. In support of NGO partner, the World Central Kitchen delivered materials to support a kitchen at Al-Shifa.
 - Medical supplies were also delivered to the Gaza Central Drug Store, which will act as a medical supply hub to deliver to other hospitals and will be supported by WHO and partners.

• Delivery of Medical Supplies

- **Until December 28, WHO managed to enter 51 trucks** into Gaza with medical supplies and disposables including facilitating entry of trucks for several partners such as MFS and ANERA.
- **During Dec 22 to Dec 28, WHO managed to get 15 trucks** of medical supplies and medications and supported MSF to transport **six medical supplies truckloads into Gaza**.
- WHO trucks included a range of medical supplies: dialysis supplies (144 pallets), medications (33 pallets), trauma bags (13 pallets), six solar fridges (10 pallets), body bags (35 pallets) and IV fluids (80 pallets).

• Delivery of Fuel:

- During Dec 22 to Dec 28, WHO coordinated with UNRWA the delivery of fuel to hospitals, ambulances, PHCCs, and NGOs as follows: 36300 Liter to the whole of Gaza, 26300 liters in the south, and 10000 to the north.

• Emergency Medical Teams:

- **There are currently 11 Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs)** operating in Gaza, including partners serving 410 beds and 7 operation theatres.
- During the first two weeks of 2024, there will be **additional two surgical specialized care teams (SCT) and rotation of existing SCTs** to other facilities.
- Beginning of 2024, it is also planned to have **3 incoming EMTs and field hospitals with bed wards (140 beds) and 2 surgical teams**.

• Core Primary Healthcare Services Package:

- WHO and UNRWA are defining a set of core primary healthcare services MoH based on priority needs, operational feasibility, and high impact health interventions. The basis of this package is the latest version of the Gaza Health Service Package, the UNRWA Emergency Health Assistance SOPs, and the H3 (high priority health services in humanitarian settings package).
- The package will be used by health partners to ensure uniformity in health service delivery during the emergency in Gaza.



WHO RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Immediate ceasefire.**
- **Establish and sustain protected humanitarian access** for the immediate entry of adequate quantities of humanitarian supplies – including fuel, water, food, medicines, and other essential supplies - and personnel into the Gaza Strip and unimpeded access for patient evacuation.
- **Prioritization of the shipment of fuel** to operate desalination plants, hospital generators, ambulances.
- **Sustained, orderly, unimpeded and safe medical evacuations** of critically injured and sick patients into Egypt.
- **Ensure safe passage** for medical supplies and civilians within the Gaza Strip. Ensure WHO medical supplies can safely reach major hospitals in Gaza City and North Gaza and hospitals in south Gaza.
- **Ensure the respect and the protection of health care as well as civilians and civilian infrastructure** against attacks.
- **Ensure the injured have immediate and unhindered access to health care.**
- **Ensure continuity of essential health services.**
- **Rapidly reinforce infectious disease surveillance and control measures.**
- **Preserve the function of remaining health facilities** given the fragility of the health system and increasing health needs.
- **Restore the functionality of all hospitals and primary healthcare clinics.**
- **WHO calls for protection of humanitarian space in Gaza following serious incidents in high-risk mission to transfer patients, deliver health supplies.**

FUNDING

- **WHO released its Operational Response Plan October 2023 – January 2024 with a total budget of \$110M.** The operational plan supports:
 1. Health service delivery, including emergency medical teams and a few complementary field hospitals
 2. Public health surveillance, early warning, disease prevention and control
 3. Supplies and logistics support
 4. Coordination.
- **So far WHO has secured approximately \$49.5M with additional \$43.7M in pledged Funds from partners.**
- 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.

* Excludes funding requirement for emergency nutrition interventions, as they now fall under Nutrition Cluster

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