

# **OPT EMERGENCY SITUATION REPORT**

Issue 6
As of 21 October 2023, 15:00



4385	13561	84	1400	143*
Number of Palestinians killed in Gaza	Number of Palestinians injured in Gaza	Number of Palestinians killed in the West Bank	Number of Palestinians injured in the West Bank	Attacks on Health Care since 7 October *WHO SSA
1M Estimated number of people displaced	20%  Hospitals not currently functioning	65%  Ministry of Health primary health care clinics closed	64% UNRWA primary health care clinics closed	3 Liters of water available per person per day

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

Since 7 October, 1400 Israelis, including foreign nationals have been killed and more than 4,629 injured.

Gaza: Largescale fatalities and casualties with continued siege preventing entry of essential supplies. Humanitarian workers unable to enter or exit, no evacuation of the injured and sick. Mass displacement of 1 million people, including 600,000 from the north to south of Gaza and 527,500 taking shelter in UNRWA schools.

West Bank, including east Jerusalem: Escalations of settler and military violence with complete obstruction at checkpoints between Palestinian towns and closure of several communities, preventing entry/exit for patients, health personnel and ambulances.

#### **HEALTH NEEDS AND RISKS**

#### Gaza

- High incidence of casualties and fatalities as the result of bombardment. MoH reported that its daily use of medical consumables during the war is equivalent to its monthly consumption before the war.
- **350,000** non communicable diseases patients, obstetric care, patients in need for kidney dialysis, cardiovascular diseases, and communicable diseases.
- 50,000 pregnant women, with 5,500 deliveries each month.
- 130 premature infants are dependent on incubators, which require electricity to keep them alive.
- **An imminent public health catastrophe looms** in the setting of mass displacement, overcrowding of shelters, damage to the water and sanitation infrastructure.
- Mental health toll affecting all facing continuing bombardment and siege.

#### West Bank, including east Jerusalem

- Increased injuries placing a high demand for emergency medical supplies for first response and at hospitals.
- Over 270 patients per day need access to health care in east Jerusalem, as well as in Israeli facilities, from the rest of the West Bank.
- At least 400 patients and companions from the Gaza Strip stuck in the West Bank, including east Jerusalem

## **HEALTH CARE FUNCTIONING AND ACCESS**

#### Gaza

- Acute shortage of fuel is seriously affecting the most critical functions at all hospitals and the ability of ambulances to respond. Fuel depletion risks the lives of over 1000 patients dependent on dialysis, in addition to patients in intensive care, those requiring surgery or neonatal incubators.
- Prevention of entry/exit for humanitarian supplies and people from Gaza
  - Affecting fuel, water and sanitation, food and nutrition, medicines, medical supplies and equipment for health care.
  - All drugs and medical supplies are depleting, including those needed for immediate response to casualties (e.g. saline, anesthesia) and those needed for treatment of long-term conditions (e.g. insulin).
  - Shortage of blood at hospital blood banks.
  - o Non-entry of health workers for humanitarian response, including management of casualties
  - o Prevention of exit and evacuation of **patients and casualties**. 95 patients per day are unable to access the specialized health care they would usually receive outside the Gaza Strip.
- Health services functioning affected as a consequence of critical shortages.
  - 65% (47/72) of primary care facilities not functioning; a higher proportion not functioning in North Gaza (92%) and Gaza City (79%)
  - o **20% (7/35) of hospitals not functioning**; 103% of hospital beds currently occupied in the 8 major hospitals. Hospitals are adding beds in installed tents, outpatient departments, corridors, and any available space.
  - o Limited fuel supplies affecting **ambulance functioning** and access to the sick and injured.
  - o Medical equipment increasingly non-functional, affecting diagnostic and treatment capacities
  - 55% of the Health Cluster partners stopped or limited operations because of the insecurity and mass infrastructure damage which makes it difficult to move.
- Evacuation orders affecting the north of the Gaza Strip
  - The 23 hospitals in Gaza City and North Gaza have been issued evacuation orders. Due to damage or other limitations, only 18 of those hospitals are currently functional. Evacuation orders would impact over 2000 patients and is not possible: bed capacity in the south (1/3 of that in the north) cannot accommodate; there is insufficient ambulance capacity and roads have been damaged. The lives of patients would be at immediate risk.
  - o Most dialysis capacity (80%) located in the North Gaza and Gaza City, in the area ordered for evacuation.
- **Destruction** affecting all infrastructure in the Gaza Strip and obstructing ambulance access and access to the injured
  - o **1400** people estimated to be trapped under the rubble, obstacles to providing first aid response.

• **Routine surveillance systems** including for communicable diseases are not currently functioning, hampering effective detection, analysis, and response to public health threats.

## West Bank, including east Jerusalem

- **First response capacities overstretched by increased casualties,** with a high demand for emergency medical supplies at hospitals.
- Checkpoint closures, insecurity, movement restrictions, and attacks on health are making movement of
  ambulances difficult and restricting access for patients to primary and hospital care between towns in the West Bank
  and in east Jerusalem and at Israeli hospitals. Nur Shams refugee camp and Tulkarem have been closed off and
  declared closed military zone limiting health partner and ambulance access.
- Over a 1000 Palestinians from the Gaza Strip who had been working in Israel on 7 October are sheltering in the West Bank, where they require primary health care support and provision of medications for chronic conditions.

**Area C remains inaccessible to partners running mobile clinics,** leaving the population without access to essential healthcare services.

## **HEALTH ATTACKS**

From 7 to 20 October, WHO documented 143 attacks on health care in the occupied Palestinian territory.

- **62** attacks in the Gaza Strip have resulted in 491 fatalities and 370 casualties, including 16 fatalities of health care workers and 28 injuries of health workers on duty. The attacks have affected 29 health care facilities (including 19 hospitals damaged) and 23 ambulances.
- 81 attacks on health care in the West Bank affecting 64 ambulances and including 45 attacks involving obstruction to delivery of health care; 44 involving physical violence towards health teams; 16 involving detention of health staff and ambulances; and nine involving militarised search of health assets.

## **HEALTH RESPONSE**

## WHO

- Four Trucks of WHO essential medical supplies enough for more than 300,000 patients entered the Gaza Strip today via the Rafah crossing. The supplies will support in responding to urgent trauma needs and also maintaining essential health services. WHO coordinating with Palestine Red Crescent Society to urgently deliver the supplies to underpressure hospitals.
- Two additional flights arrived to Al Arish, Egypt carrying trauma and surgical supplies, essential supplies for 100,000 people, medicines for treatment of 150,000 people suffering from noncommunicable diseases, medical tents, and vitally needed water tanks for hospitals.
- WHO is coordinating with MOH, UNRWA and others partners to establish **early warning systems** to support disease surveillance and control measures, especially in over-crowded shelters.
- WHO-supported mass casualty response plans and protocols are in place at seven Gaza hospitals. WHO prepositioned supplies have been depleted.
- WHO continues to **systematically monitor health attacks** within the Surveillance System for Attacks on Health Care, as well as to document and report on health needs and restrictions on health access.

# **Health partners**

- Partners have prepositioned supplies and other resources in Egypt to support the health response in Gaza.
- Fourteen global EMT (Emergency Medical Team) partners are on standby ready to be deployed to support management of patients in Gaza.
- Health Cluster coordination includes tracking of partner commitments for procurement.
- Health Cluster partners continue to support emergency and trauma care needs across the West Bank.

#### WHO RECOMMENDATIONS

• Immediate end to hostilities.

- Establish and sustain humanitarian access for the immediate entry of urgently needed humanitarian supplies including water, food, medicines and other essential supplies and personnel into the Gaza Strip and unimpeded access for patient evacuation and outside referral.
- **Prioritization of the shipment of fuel** to operate desalination plants, hospital generators, ambulances and other essential
- Ensure safe passage for medical supplies and civilians within the Gaza Strip. Ensure WHO medical supplies can safely reach four major hospitals in Gaza City and North Gaza, including Shifa Hospital, and four 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.

## **FUNDING**

- WHO estimates \$50 million needed to support response efforts in the coming three months \$30 million for essential medicines and supplies and \$20 for other health interventions.
- WHO has secured \$4.1 million from the WHO Contingency Fund for Emergencies and \$2.5 from Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) (of which, \$500,000 is allocated for West Bank) for the immediate procurement of essential medications and supplies. Additionally, it is reprogramming \$1 million to procure urgently needed medical supplies from the local market to ensure the continuity of essential health services, including emergency obstetric care, management of chronic diseases, and infectious disease control.
- Under CERF, Gaza allocated \$2 million and West Bank \$500,000 for health.

Intervention	Partners	\$
Delivered prepositioned supplies	WHO, MAP, AWDA	800,000
Delivered local procured supplies	WHO, MedGlobal, Islamic Relief Palestine, MAP	4,307,000
Confirmed incoming funding	WHO, MAP, AWDA, PMRS, MdM France, MdM Suisse, MdM Spain	9,165,000
Total support committed/ delivered	14,272,000	

#### **Further information:**

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