

Gaza Strip

Overview As of 20 Aug 2024

Source: Ministry of Health.



40,223
Fatalities



92,981
Injuries



+10,000
Reported missing
under the rubble

Source: Palestinian Civil Defense

Health Facility Functionality and Access



16/36 (44%)
Hospitals **partially functional (HPF)***
Bed capacity 1,490, including inpatient, maternity and ICU beds.†



58/132§ (44%)
Primary health care (PHC) facilities are **functional**

§ The number of PHCCs includes active NGOs.



4 Field hospitals **partially functional (FHFP)**



4 Field hospitals **fully functional (FHFF)**



3 Accessible



1 ICU



2 Surgeries



2 FHFP



2 Inpatient



3 FHFP



0 Accessible



0 Surgeries



0 Inpatient



0 ICU



1 FHFP



1 FHFP



3 Accessible



3 Inpatient



3 Surgeries



2 ICU



7 Accessible



6 Inpatient



5 Surgeries



2 ICU



3 Accessible



1 ICU



3 Surgeries



1 FHFP



3 Inpatient



0 FHFP

* Partially functional facility: when a health facility is unable to fully provide some or all of the services as normal, or there is an interruption in any of the services provided at the facility, due to various reasons.

- Of the 16 partially functional hospitals, 12 are partially accessible due to insecurity or physical barriers, such as damage to both patient and ambulance entrances, and surrounding roads.
- Thirteen health service points, including the Indonesian hospital, 4 PHCs, and 8 medical points, are within the evacuation areas announced on 16 and 17 August, affecting areas in North Gaza, Khan Younis and Deir Al-Balah.
- Al-Aqsa Hospital is approx. 850m within the evacuation area, one medical point is 30m away, and 10 other medical points are within 600m or less.



505 Health Attacks As of 20 Aug 2024



752 People killed in attacks



982 People injured in attacks



128 Health workers remain detained/arrested



110 Health facilities affected
Including **32** Hospitals damaged



115 Ambulances affected
Including **63** Sustained damage



First confirmed case of polio in the Gaza Strip

- A 10-month-old unvaccinated child from Deir al-Balah, Gaza, has been confirmed to have polio — the first case in Gaza in 25 years.
- WHO and partners urgently worked to collect and transfer stool samples from the child for testing at a WHO-accredited laboratory in the region. Genomic sequencing confirmed the virus is linked to the variant poliovirus type 2 detected in environmental samples collected in June from Gaza's wastewater.
- The child, who developed paralysis in the lower left leg, is currently in a stable condition.
- Given the high risk of poliovirus spread in Gaza and the region, the Palestinian Ministry of Health, WHO and UNICEF are working to implement two rounds of polio vaccination in the coming weeks to halt transmission.

Malnutrition



165 Patients admitted due to severe acute malnutrition with complications

Source: Ministry of Health

Medical evacuation



5,012 Patients*
(35% of 14,192 requested cases)
have been evacuated since October

* Medical evacuation is halted.

Long term conditions



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



>1,500 Patients in need of kidney dialysis to maintain life[§]



>60,000 People with raised blood glucose*



45,000 Patients living with cardiovascular disease



>650,000 People with raised blood pressure*



+ 485,000 People with mental health disorders*

§ Source: Ministry of Health

* Source: STEPS Survey 2022

- According to MoH reports, there are 60 hemodialysis machines currently available across the Gaza Strip (compared to 182 prior to the war). Therefore, the provided services are severely decreased to two dialysis sessions of two hours per week, instead of three weekly sessions of three to four hours. This has a detrimental impact on the quality of life of these patients and could lead to fatal consequences.
- Only one out of originally six MoH Community Mental Health Centers is operational -at minimum capacity-, while the only existing Psychiatric Hospital went out of service in November 2023 after an attack. Medication shortages, continued hostilities, recurrent displacement and lack of proper shelters are negatively affecting the mental health of the vulnerable population, particularly those with pre-existing mental health disorders.

Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health



~ 50,000
Women are pregnant



~ 5,500 Women are due to give birth within the next month including

~ 1,400 Requires Cesarean section
~ 180 Deliveries / day

- More than 500,000 women in the reproductive age lack access to essential services including antenatal care, postnatal care, family planning and management of sexual transmitted infections.
- Maternity services are provided at eight out of 16 partially functioning hospitals, and at four field hospitals (ICRC, IMC, UKMED, and Kuwait FHs).

West Bank, including east Jerusalem

Overview As of 20 Aug 2024

Source: Ministry of Health.



635 Fatalities



5,670 Injuries



538 Health Attacks As of 20 Aug 2024



23 People killed in attacks



100 People injured in attacks



54 Health facilities affected

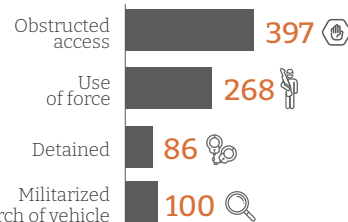


20 Mobile clinics

Including



374 Ambulances affected



Situation Update

Gaza Strip

- OCHA reported that as of 19 August, around 213,000 Gazans have been affected by nine evacuation orders since the beginning of August.
- To date, around 86% of the Gaza Strip has come under evacuation orders since 7 October. Overcrowding, lack of proper shelter infrastructure, poor water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) conditions has a grave impact on public health. Population is forced to live close to solid waste dumping sites and open sewage areas.
- Medical evacuation of patients outside of Gaza remains limited since 7 May. As of 19 August, out of 14,192 cases requested for medical evacuation, only 5,012 (35%) have been evacuated, since October 2023. Of utmost urgency is the restoration of medical evacuations from Gaza to the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, where hospitals are ready to receive patients. Patients must also be facilitated to be transferred to Egypt and Jordan, and from there to other countries when needed. WHO appeals for the establishment of multiple medical evacuation corridors to ensure sustained, organized, safe and timely passage of patients via all possible routes, including Rafah and Kerem Shalom.
- Persistent fuel shortages continue to threaten humanitarian interventions, including health care provision, impacting the functionality of hospitals, PHCCs and ambulance services.
- Since January to 9 August 2024, around 237,000 children were screened for acute malnutrition: 14,692 were admitted for treatment due to malnutrition, including 1.3% with SAM and 4.8% with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).
- According to Israeli authorities, over 1,200 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed inside Israel, and approximately 5,400 reported injuries. As of 19 August, there have been 332 reported fatalities and 2,219 reported injuries of Israeli soldiers since the start of the ground operation in the Gaza Strip. One hundred and fifteen hostages remain in Gaza.

Response

WHO

- WHO has procured more than USD33.7 million worth of health commodities, 54% of which has already been delivered to the Gaza Strip. Procured items include essential trauma emergency supply kits (TESK), NCD and SAM kits, in addition to critical medications and supplies that are needed to maintain provision of essential health services.
- WHO and partners continue to carry out missions, support patient transfers, conduct needs assessment, support deployment of emergency medical teams (EMT) and field hospitals, and deliver food, water, and medical supplies to health facilities, across the Gaza Strip.
- Preparations are ongoing to implement the two-round Novel Oral Polio Vaccine Type 2 (nOPV2) vaccination campaign, scheduled for September, pending the delivery of vaccines and availability of reliable cold chain. The campaign will target children under 10 years old (with a population estimate of 640,000 children), aiming to achieve more than 95% coverage to ensure cessation of the outbreak and mitigate risks of re-emergence.
- WHO conducted a training of trainers for 35 vaccinators that will be participating in the upcoming polio vaccination campaign. During the sessions, the trainees were briefed on the key principles and operations of the campaign, including data recording and reporting, cold chain management, key monitoring activities, appropriate risk communication and community engagement activities.
- Follow up cascading training sessions are planned on 21 and 22 August, to cover 280 team supervisors from MOH, UNRWA, and other health partners in both North and South Gaza. Further cascading training will be conducted for the 1,400 healthcare workers that will participate in the campaign.
- Referral criteria for SAM stabilization centers, with Arabic and English referral templates, were finalized and disseminated to partners.
- WHO is working with UNICEF on mapping neonatal and child health services and reporting indicators.
- WHO is developing a capacity building plan covering six sexual, reproductive, maternal, neonatal, and child health topics, as identified in the training needs assessment conducted by the Sexual And Reproductive Health Technical Working Group.
- Mapping of paediatric services with a focus on intensive care capacity is ongoing.
- The Health Cluster and WHO regularly update the oPt [Unified Health Dashboard](#), providing a snapshot of conflict-related casualties, communicable disease surveillance, medical evacuations, attacks on health, and overall Health Cluster response in the oPt, with emphasis on the ongoing emergency in the Gaza Strip.

Partners

- The Health Cluster reported that 63 partners are currently operational in the Gaza Strip, reaching a weekly average of 325,600 people with various healthcare services and supplies. In total, 242 health service points, including 159 medical points, are currently operating throughout the Gaza Strip, providing essential primary health care services to the vulnerable population. Mapping of population density and health service points availability is ongoing to identify gaps in service delivery.
- The Health Cluster is working closely with other clusters, such as Shelter, Food, Nutrition, Protection, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), to address the comprehensive healthcare needs of populations, considering the social determinants of health.
- The Emergency Medical Team Coordination Cell (EMT CC) reported the deployment of the first MHPSS EMT to Nasser hospital. In addition to provision of psychiatric care, the team will provide MHPSS support to health care workers.
- Ongoing efforts to reactivate national EMTs to operate the emergency department of El-Shifa Hospital.

WHO Mission Update

14 - 20 Aug 2024



4

Missions planned
(in the North and South)



1

Missions facilitated
(including partially facilitated)



0

Missions impeded
(ie. delays/unpassable routes)



3

Missions denied
(or canceled)

Operations have been severely impacted by the deteriorating security situation.

- On 14 August, WHO conducted a logistics mission to Kerem Shalom Crossing to facilitate the entry of 16 pallets of critical medications and supplies. The shipment included ten pallets of psychotropic medications that are estimated to benefit 15,000 mental health patients. The medications were provided as an in-kind support to the Gaza Community Mental Health Program, funded by the oPt Humanitarian Fund.

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 +10,000 critical patients that need to be medevaced out of Gaza.

Funding

WHO oPt total funding ask

\$110M

Operational plan
(Oct 23 to Mar 24)

\$222.2M

Operational plan
(Apr 24 to Dec 24)

\$275.55

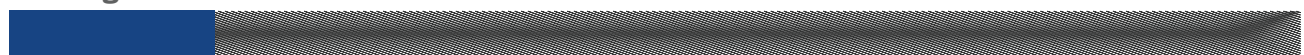
Operational plan
(Apr 24 to Dec 24)



Funding received

\$605.75M

The total needed



\$102.13M

Received to date

- The inter-cluster Flash Appeal has been revised and the funding requirement for humanitarian health response is **\$408.5M*** and is targeting **2.9M people in Gaza and West Bank**.



[The WHO Operational Response Plan for the occupied Palestinian territory \(oPt\) for April 2024 to December 2024](#) was published, on 29 May 2024.

Further information:

• Dr Richard Peeperkorn,
WHO oPt Representative,
peeperkornr@who.int

• Dr Ayadil Saparbekov,
WHO oPt Emergencies Lead,
asaparbekov@who.int

• Bisma Akbar,
WHO oPt Communication Officer,
akbarb@who.int