



Photo: Courtesy of health authorities, Gaza

	Gaza Strip	West Bank including East Jerusalem
Palestinian fatalities	230	27
Palestinians injured	1,760	4,739
Attacks on health care <sup>1</sup>	28	89

Photo: Ten tents for strengthened triage and treatment supplied by WHO have been set up outside six MoH Emergency Departments across Gaza

**US\$ 11m**

Needed for urgent health response in first 3 months

**US\$ 7m**

Appeal by WHO for health response over next 6 months

## TRAUMA NEEDS

- Substantial fatalities and injuries across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem (EJ), and Gaza Strip risk overwhelming health facilities
- From 7 to 20 May 2021, 257 reported Palestinian fatalities and 8,538 injured across the oPt
  - In Gaza, 230 Palestinian fatalities including 65 children and 39 women; and 1,760 injured, almost all from blast injuries
  - In West Bank, including East Jerusalem, 27 Palestinian fatalities including four children; and 6,778 injured. This includes 701 injuries from live ammunition
- Emergency admissions: 242 in the Gaza Strip; 489 in EJ; 1,099 in West Bank outside EJ
- Emergency surgeries: 193 required emergency surgery in Gaza Strip

## HEALTH ATTACKS<sup>1</sup>

- 117 health attacks since start of Ramadan: 89 in West Bank including East Jerusalem, and 28 in Gaza Strip
- In Gaza, 30 health facilities damaged including destruction of Hala Al-Shawa primary health care clinic
- Significant damage to Rimal Clinic 17 May housing main COVID-19 laboratory; injury of two health care workers, including severe injury of doctor (in ICU)
- In West Bank, 54 health workers injured, and 25 health vehicles damaged, detained or confiscated

<sup>1</sup> For more information: [Stopping attacks on health care \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/news/item/18-05-2021-stopping-attacks-on-health-care)

## IMPACT ON HEALTH FACILITIES AND PUBLIC HEALTH

- Health facilities in the Gaza Strip
  - 30% of hospitals and 12% of PHCs sustained partial damages; one PHC destroyed
  - 93% of hospitals (28/30) partially functioning; two not functioning
  - 61% of PHCs (57/93) not functioning; 39% (36/93) partially functioning
  - 46% of essential drugs and 33% of essential medical supplies at zero stock (<1 month)
- MHPSS: 50% of community mental health centres (3/6) & one psychiatric hospital continuing services
- COVID-19 and public situation in Gaza Strip
  - Damaged desalination plants serving 400,000 people and displacement of 75,000 people creating high risk for COVID-19
  - Electricity outages and damaged WASH structures risk for waterborne disease outbreak
  - Cessation of COVID-19 testing following damage to main laboratory; MoH plans to re-establish

## ACCESS CHALLENGES

- Continued closure of Beit Hanoun/Erez from Gaza since 11 May – affecting patient and health worker access between Gaza Strip and rest of the occupied Palestinian territory
- No entry of medical supplies to Gaza through Karam Abu Salem/Kerem Shalom checkpoint since 11 May; Jordanian convoy entered through Erez checkpoint on 18 May, but UN convoy unable to pass
- 18 injured persons evacuated from Gaza across Rafah border terminal to Egypt since 17 May
- Heavy damage to road infrastructure in Gaza obstructing ambulance access
- 39 recorded incidents of obstruction to access for medical teams in the West Bank since 12 May, including prevention of humanitarian health access to at least two persons fatally wounded

## HEALTH RESPONSE AND NEEDS

- Deployment of ten triage and treatment tents by WHO outside six MoH emergency departments in Gaza
- Continued technical support to MoH Joint Emergency Operations Room for the West Bank and Gaza Strip
- Health Cluster coordination for assessment of health needs and response planning
- WHO provision of US\$ 240K essential medicines/consumables to support trauma care and ambulance services in the Gaza Strip, with a further US\$ 500K on standby, including COVID-19 rapid antigen tests
- Delivery of 75K litres of fuel for PRCS ambulances in the Gaza Strip
- WHO provision of US\$ 200K of essential medicines/consumables to East Jerusalem
- Continued advocacy and monitoring for protection of health care and barriers to health access
- WHO supporting coordination of MHPSS response and rapid needs assessment
- **Launch of WHO appeal for US\$ 7million over the next six months**, focusing on: trauma & emergency care; mental health & psychosocial services; advocacy; and maintaining essential health services
- **Health Cluster need for US\$ 11 million for the humanitarian health response over the next three months**

## WHO RECOMMENDATIONS

- **End violence and ensure respect and protection** of civilians and health care
- **Facilitate immediate and regular access** for health supplies, health workers and patients in/out of Gaza
- **Establish humanitarian corridors** within the Gaza Strip to allow evacuation of the injured and promote access to essential health care during escalations
- **Ensure provision and equitable distribution** of needed resources for an effective health response and the protection of public health, including against COVID-19

## Further information:

Dr Richard Peeperkorn, WHO oPt Head of Office, [peeperkorn@who.int](mailto:peeperkorn@who.int)

Dr Ayadil Saparbekov, WHO oPt Health Emergencies Team Lead, [asaparbekov@who.int](mailto:asaparbekov@who.int)

Nicola Baldwin, WHO oPt External Relations and Communications Officer, [baldwinn@who.int](mailto:baldwinn@who.int)