



## Highlights

- During the reporting period from 17 to 31 December 2018, five **Palestinians were killed**, including one child, and **366 were injured**.<sup>1</sup> From this total, 232 were referred to hospitals for emergency care.
- Since the start of the mass demonstrations in Gaza on 30 March, 255 people have been killed and a total of 26,405 people injured. 12,333 were treated and discharged from the Trauma Stabilisation Points (TSPs) and the remaining 14,072 casualties were transferred to MoH and NGO hospitals. 6,239 people had live ammunition gunshot wounds, of which 5,429 (87%) presented limb gunshot wounds<sup>2</sup>.
- In November 2018, the **Central Drug Store** of the MoH in Gaza reported 39% of essential drugs at less than one month's supply. The 49 MoH primary healthcare clinics are critically impacted, with 57% of essential primary healthcare drugs at zero stock.
- Since the start of 2018, the international community have collectively donated \$4 million USD for emergency fuel to sustain Gaza's critical health facilities<sup>3</sup>. According to OCHA, 4.29 million liters of fuel were provided to Gaza's health sector to support 80 health facilities. **However, the MoH estimates that the critical public hospitals in Gaza will run out of fuel during the month of January 2019.** If funding for fuel is not secured, this will have a **life-threatening** impact for patients whose life is dependant on electrical medical appliances.
- UNICEF and WHO** worked with the Ministries of Health of the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Israel to ensure a continued and uninterrupted supply of vaccines for the Palestinian Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI). To-date a total of 124,000 doses of BCG, 54,900 doses of DT, 58,050 doses of Td, 81,000 doses of DPT and 351,000 doses of b-OPV vaccines were procured using PA MoH funds and delivered to the cold store.



Photo: Paramedics transferring an injured to a trauma stabilisation point. Credit: WHO

<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Health (MoH)

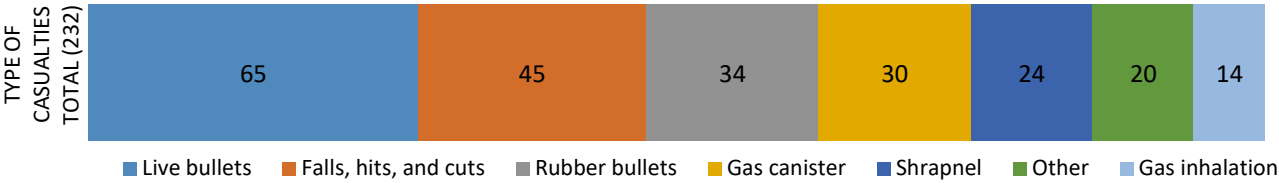
<sup>2</sup> Ministry of Health (MoH)

<sup>3</sup> OCHA Fuel Dashboard

# Trauma Analysis 17 - 31 December 2018

- **Casualties:** According to the Ministry of Health, from 17 to 31 December 2018, five Palestinians were killed, including one child, and 366 were injured by the Israeli forces, 232 were referred to hospitals. 65 out of the 232 injured people referred to the hospital had live ammunition gunshot wounds. *See figure 1 below.*

**Figure 1: Type of emergency consultations at hospitals 17 to 31 December**



- From the cohort of casualties referred to hospitals during this reporting period, 63 were children (27%), 15 were female (6%) and 217 (94%) were male. *See figure 2 below.*

**Figure 2: Emergency consultations at hospitals disaggregated by gender and age**

Total	By gender		By age	
	Male	Female	Children	Adults
232	217	15	63	169

- Furthermore, from the total 232 people referred to hospital, three were critically life-threatening cases (1%), 86 moderate (37%), 132 mild (57%), and the remaining 11 were unspecified cases due to limited data collection<sup>4</sup>.

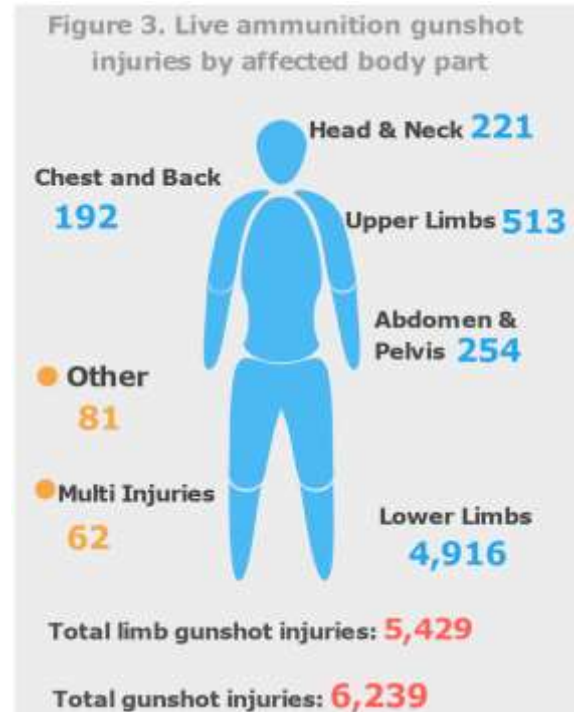
# Cumulative Trauma Analysis since 30 March 2018

- **Deaths:** From 30 March until 31 December 2018, 255 people have been killed<sup>5</sup>.
- **Injuries:** The total figure of people injured stands at 26,405.
- **Trauma Stabilisation Points:** Out of 26,405 people injured, 12,333 were treated at the TSPs and immediately discharged. This has reduced the burden of casualties arriving at the hospitals by an average of 47%. The TSPs are managed by MoH and PRCS; the breakdown of treated and discharged is as follows:
  - MoH TSPs treated and discharged 57% of the casualties.
  - PRCS TSPs treated and discharged 23% of the casualties.
- **Hospital caseload:** The remaining 14,072 casualties were stabilized and transferred for treatment at the emergency departments (ED) of MoH and NGOs hospitals.

<sup>4</sup> Source: Ministry of Health

<sup>5</sup> 10 bodies have been reported to be held by Israeli authorities, according to OCHA. The remaining 245 have been reported by the Ministry of Health (MoH).

- **Live ammunition gunshot injuries:** Out of the total 14,072 referred to emergency departments (ED) at hospitals, 6,239 cases were live ammunition gunshot injuries. This is 44% of the total casualties arriving at the hospitals. From the total of 6,239 live ammunition gunshot injuries, 5,429 are limb gunshot injuries (87%). Refer to figure 3 for a breakdown of gunshot wounds by affected body part.
- **Permanent disability:**
  - **Amputations:** As a result of the conflict, **113 amputations** have taken place since the start of the mass demonstrations. This includes 20 children and one female. Out of this total, 98 were lower limb amputations and 15 upper limb amputations<sup>6</sup>.
  - **Paralysis:** 21 patients are currently paralyzed due to spinal cord injuries.
  - **Eye injuries:** Nine people have permanent loss of vision as a result of injuries caused during the mass demonstrations.



## Electricity in Gaza

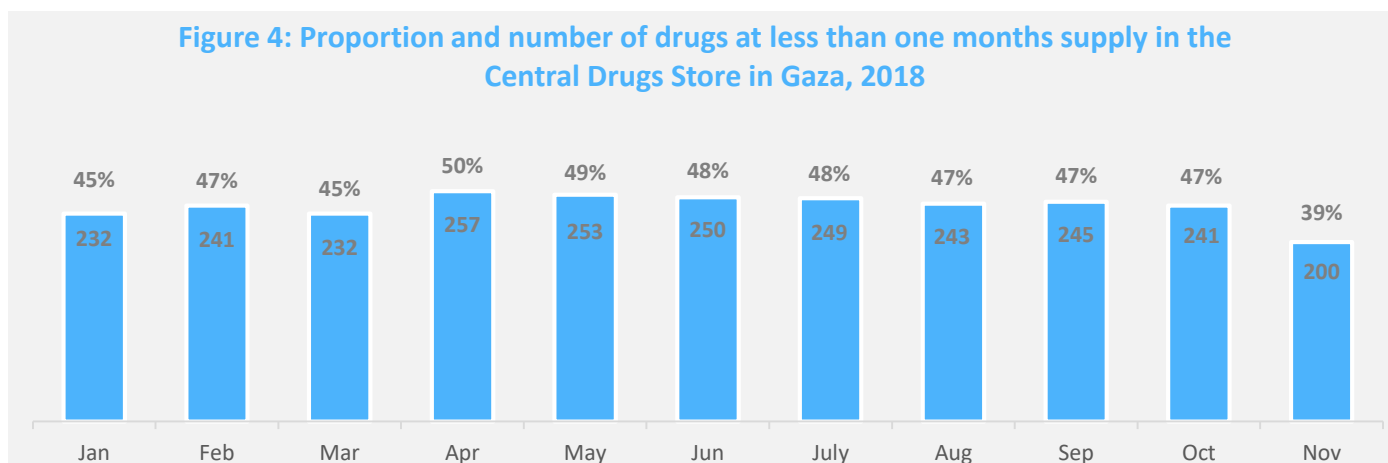
- Since the Gaza Power Plant resumed operations, switching on three turbines in late October, power supply in Gaza has increased from an average of 4-5 hours per day to up to 12-16 hours per day till the end of November 2018, then dropped down to up to 8 – 9 hours per day during December 2018. This is due to the increased need and consumption to respond to the cold weather and the non-functioning of electrical lines to supply 30 megawatts of electricity from Egypt. The drop in electricity supply has increased the the amount of emergency fuel required to support critical health facilities. On 19 December 2018, the MoH in Gaza has issued a statement to alert the international community on the expected fuel shortage crisis, as the available fuel reserve is estimated to only cover the minimal essential hospitals’ services from 1 – 3 weeks.
- Since the start of 2018, the international community have collectively donated \$4 million USD for emergency fuel to sustain Gaza’s critical health facilities<sup>7</sup>. According to OCHA, 4.29 million liters of fuel were provided to Gaza’s health sector to support 80 health facilities. **However, the MoH estimates that the critical public hospitals in Gaza might run out of fuel during the month of January 2019.**
- If funding for fuel is not secured, this will potentially impact over 1,500 patients, including 113 newborns, 200 patients in intensive care units, 100 patients in need of emergency surgery, and 801 patients requiring hemodialysis.

<sup>6</sup> According to Assalama Society

<sup>7</sup> OCHA Fuel Dashboard

## Depleting essential medical supplies

- The Central Drug Store in Gaza supplies all 14 MoH hospitals (2,243 beds) and 49 MoH primary healthcare clinics (PHC) in Gaza. These health facilities provide 40% of Gaza’s primary healthcare, covering approximately 600,000 people and 90% of all hospital care services.
- According to Gaza’s Central Drug Store, at the end of November, **39% of essential drugs** (200 essential medicines out of the total 516 essential medicines list) **and 24% of essential disposables** (202 essential disposables out of the total 853 essential disposables list) **were at less than one month’s supply** at the MoH store in Gaza. *See also figure 4 below.*



## Access for patients referred out of Gaza

WHO continues to monitor the access of patients from Gaza and attacks against healthcare across the oPt. For additional information on access barriers for Palestinian patients, see WHO’s latest monthly [access report](#).

As of 31 December 2018, according to Gaza’s Coordination and Liaison Office, there had been 435 applications to Israeli authorities by those injured in demonstrations to exit Gaza via Erez crossing to access health care. Of those applications, 82 (19%) were approved, 130 (30%) were denied and 223 (51%) were delayed.

## Attacks against health

According to provisional data reported to WHO by the Ministry of Health, PMRS, PRCS and other health providers, for the period of 18 to 31 December 2018, at least 14 health workers were injured and 2 ambulances were damaged in 9 incidents of attacks on healthcare in the Gaza Strip. Of the health workers, 9 were hit by gas canisters, 1 by shrapnel, and 4 suffered injury from gas inhalation.

**Cumulative figures on attacks against health:** From 30 March to 31 December 2018, three health workers have been killed and 560 injured in 357 recorded incidents against health staff and facilities. 84 ambulances were damaged, as well as 5 other forms of health transport and 3 health facilities.

## Emergency Response

### Provision of medical supplies:

- **Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP- UK)** delivered 5 drug items, enough to meet the needs of 2,267 patients, to the Central Drug Stores of the Ministry of Health.

### Partners' response:

- **Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS)** paramedics provided first aid to 127 cases, out of which 21 were live bullets injuries. PMRS outreach teams also provided post-operative care services to 20 new patients, raising the total of beneficiaries to 910, out of which 226 are still receiving postoperative care and 365 have received assistive devices. Since the start of demonstrations, PMRS has provided first aid services to a total of 5,017 injuries.



*Photo: PMRS paramedics evacuating a patient from the field in Zikim. Credit: PMRS*

- **Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS)** emergency medical teams provided first aid services to 201 demonstration casualties, including 46 live gunshot injuries. PRCS teams at Al-Quds hospital also provided secondary healthcare services to 3 cases. In addition to that, PRCS provided psychological first aid (PFA) to 71 patients and caregivers, in addition to 10 emergency providers.
- **The National Center for Community Rehabilitation (NCCR)** teams conducted home care evaluation visits targeting 90 patients in all the five governorates. Out of those, 45 cases were provided with a total of 540 multidisciplinary postoperative care sessions, including medical follow-up, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, psychological support and wound dressing. Since the start of the project in mid-November, NCCR teams conducted 196 home evaluation visits and provided 106 cases with a total of 907 multidisciplinary postoperative sessions.
- **MAP- UK** continued its support to the local teams of limb reconstruction units at Shifa and Gaza European Hospitals. During the reporting period, the teams assessed 30 trauma cases at the outpatient clinics and conducted 5 orthopedic surgeries.
- **Médecins du Monde-France (MdM-F)** supported five MoH Primary Healthcare Centers in providing 344 postoperative care consultations to a total of 134 trauma patients. 26 patients were also referred from hospitals and received treatment at the clinics. In addition to that, 223 patients and caregivers benefitted from psycho-education sessions conducted by MdM-F in Bani Souhaila and Abassan Kabira PHCs.
- **Caritas Jerusalem** medical team provided wound care and dressing services, including provisions of drugs, to 141 cases of trauma (?) in all the five governorates.
- **Haifa Charity Hospital** staff and ambulances provided first aid to 31 injured patients in the field and transported 12 trauma cases to the medical points in Malaka area, east of Gaza. The hospital also conducted 5 peripheral

neurosurgeries and provided 264 post-operative consultations, including provision of medication, consumables, laboratory and x-ray services and wound dressing.

- **Union of Health Work Committees (UHC)** teams provided first aid to 67 trauma cases, including 13 gunshot and 5 rubber bullet injuries, at their medical points in Rafah and the Middle Zone. In addition, Al Awda hospital provided emergency services for 19 cases at their emergency department.
- **Humanity and Inclusion (HI)** in partnership with four local disability partners<sup>8</sup> has deployed 10 multidisciplinary teams in all the five governorates of Gaza Strip. So far, HI has provided nursing and rehabilitation services for 1,665 injured persons with 26,000 multidisciplinary sessions. HI also readmitted 115 people with injury for a second round of rehabilitation interventions due to their injury progressing condition. The readmitted patients has so far received a total of 1,890 multidisciplinary sessions. In addition to that HI distributed 603 assistive devices and has mobilized two center-based teams in North Gaza and Gaza governorates.
- **Assalama Charitable Society** has provided more than 370 patients with 1,780 multidisciplinary postoperative consultations, including wound dressings, assistive devices, physiotherapy, medicines, disposables and psychosocial support.
- **United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)** provided 85 post-operative consultations offering medication and wound dressing. Since 30 March, UNRWA has provided a total of 5,086 postoperative consultations at their 22 primary healthcare clinics.



Photo: HI train injured patient on assistive device usage. Credit: HI

### Coordination and Information:

- The Health Cluster team supported the OCHA team in a field to visit for monitoring projects funded by the humanitarian reserve allocation fund, implemented by WHO, MAP and MDM. The field visit included the MoH Central Drug Store, Shifa, Aqsa, EGH hospitals, Deir Al Balah PHC, CBBS and UHC.
- **Physicians for Human Rights- Israel (PHRI)**, along with Al-Mezan Center for Human Rights, appealed to the Israeli High Court of Justice on behalf of medical patients whose travel permits were conditioned by COGAT upon the return of their relatives from the West Bank back to Gaza.



Photo: WHO and OCHA monitoring field visit to EGH hospital. Credit: WHO

<sup>8</sup> Baitona for community development, Palestinian Avenir for Childhood foundation, National Society for Rehabilitation, and EL-Amal Rehabilitation Society

## Urgent Funding Needs

- Health Cluster partners require **\$ 32 million USD** to address acute health needs of the most vulnerable communities in the occupied Palestinian territory for 2019, targeting 900,000 people out of the 1.2 million Palestinians are in need of humanitarian health assistance. See the [Humanitarian Response Plan 2019](#).

### Contacts:

Gerald Rockenschaub, Head of WHO oPt Office, email [rockenschaubg@who.int](mailto:rockenschaubg@who.int)  
Mahmoud Daher, Head of WHO Gaza sub-office, email [daherm@who.int](mailto:daherm@who.int)

***For WHO's emergency operations, please contact:***

Ayadil Saparbekov, WHE Team Lead, email [asaparbekov@who.int](mailto:asaparbekov@who.int)

***For Health Cluster (including working groups), please contact:***

Sara Halimah, Health Cluster Coordinator, email [halimahs@who.int](mailto:halimahs@who.int)

Abdelnaser Soboh, Health Sub- Cluster Coordinator, email [soboha@who.int](mailto:soboha@who.int)