



Al Wafa Medical Rehabilitation Hospital in Shejaiyah neighbourhood, Gaza city, before and after its destruction in late July 2014 (photos provided by al Wafa).

occupied Palestinian territory
Conflict escalation in Gaza – complex emergency



1.8 MILLION
AFFECTED



290,000+
DISPLACED



1.2 MILLION -
1948 REFUGEES



11,066
INJURED



2,130
DEATHS

WHO

52 STAFF (39 IN JERUSALEM/WEST BANK AND 13 IN GAZA)

HEALTH ASSISTANCE TO HEALTH SECTOR



US\$ 11 M FUNDED BY DONORS
US\$60 M REQUESTED BY WHO FOR MOH

HEALTH SECTOR

35 HEALTH SECTOR PARTNERS (30 IN GAZA)

HEALTH FACILITIES

17 HOSPITALS DAMAGED (OF 32: 14 MOH, 15 NGO AND 3 OTHER)
6 HOSPITALS CLOSED
50 CLINICS DAMAGED (OUT OF 97)
30 CLOSED (AS OF AUGUST 27)



DAILY REFERRALS

0-20 PATIENTS VIA EREZ/ISRAEL
0-10 PATIENTS VIA RAFAH/EGYPT

HIGHLIGHTS

- Long term ceasefire begins August 26
- Casualties (MoH, as of 19:00 August 25):
 - 2,130 Palestinians killed, including 577 children, 102 elderly.
 - 11,066 persons injured, including 3,374 children, 410 elderly).
- WHO, health cluster partners and UN agencies begin field work for needs assessments and recovery plans
- 51% of all major hospitals and clinics damaged since July 7 (map in Annex)
- 27% of the hospitals closed due to damage or insecurity

Situation update

Between August 23 and 26, 38 persons were killed, 457 were injured, and four high commercial and residential tower blocks were destroyed. 30 clinics that had been damaged were closed as of August 27. This has hindered access for residents especially in outlying areas. Power cuts prevailed throughout Gaza for up to 18 hours or more daily, as lines from Israel were damaged again earlier in the week. However, more than 60% of the water network was reported to be again functioning.

The process of field assessment for damage and needs in each sector was delayed during the ceasefire breakdown but by August 27 began to be carried out by UN agencies, ministries, local governments and organizations.

Hospitals

Damage to health facilities has reduced the provision of health care. However, some damaged hospitals have managed to continue functioning, and three closed hospitals are providing services through alternative venues.

The 50-bed Al Wafa Medical Rehabilitation Hospital, which was totally destroyed on July 25, and patients temporarily evacuated to Al Sahaba hospital for 2 weeks, later relocated to the al Wafa Nursing Home in al Zahara with 40 beds set up for patients, the hospital director reported to WHO. Currently services include medical rehabilitation (physiotherapy, occupation therapy, psychosocial support, and nursing care); the new temporary location cannot support surgical services.

Beit Hanoun Hospital, the only MoH hospital located in the northern district, was closed from July 26 to August 18 due to insecurity and damage to the water and piped oxygen system, and to both of its buildings, including the wall of the administration building and female medical-surgical ward, broken equipment and furniture, and door and window damage. During the ceasefires, repairs were carried out to the damaged oxygen and water pipes and to some windows and doors sufficient for the hospital to partially open to accept patients for emergency room services only. Only one third of the staff are working and treating an average of 100 patients daily, without in-patient or out-patient services.

Balsam hospital, operated by the Palestinian medical military services for personnel and their families, located in Beit Lahiya in the northern district, was damaged and closed, but has moved some staff to the premises of the Patients' Friends Benevolent Society in Rimal where it is providing services to its patients.

The 120-bed pediatric hospital Al Nasser in Gaza reports 180% bed occupancy rate after the closure of the damaged Al Durra Pediatric Hospital

Zero stocks of essential drugs were reported by the Ministry of Health in

Gaza at 27% (130 items) and medical disposables at 48% (431 items) in mid August. Although no change was seen in drug stocks, an improvement in disposable stocks was noted from 52% at zero stock at end July.

Primary health care

The early warning system for communicable disease did not detect any outbreak in communicable diseases that would be of public health concern, although the MoH is remaining vigilant in view of the reduced social determinants of health. The early warning system monitors 13 notifiable communicable diseases: diarrheal disease, typhoid, mumps, scabies, impetigo, acute respiratory infections, polio (acute flaccid paralysis), meningitis (aseptic, meningococcal, other bacterial meningitis), food poisoning, measles, infectious hepatitis, cholera and others.

The early warning system for communicable disease monitored a mild increase in watery diarrhoea mainly in Gaza city and in the north as well as a mild increase in viral meningitis in Gaza City, but the situation remains stable. Skin diseases (scabies, impetigo, lice) are still occurring. The MOH reports that the situation is under control and no cause for alarm at present. MOH continues to monitor the situation closely.

UNRWA reported that none of its disease monitoring thresholds for alerts or alarms had been exceeded. The surveillance system includes 97.3% of Palestinian refugees in Gaza, according to UNRWA. Consultations in UNRWA clinics indicate the degree to which health provision depends on safe access: the number of patients utilizing clinics ranged from 24,000 in mid-July to 117,000 in the last week.

Palestinian Medical Relief Society teams providing home health care note that patients who had early discharge from hospital and whose injuries



were managed at home have presented with complications such as wound infections. Follow up of these early discharge cases has been sometimes difficult due to the displacement of families.

(A 28-year old woman who lost her husband and her 2-year-old child was treated in Shifa hospital for multiple trauma, including a complex fracture of her leg, shown above with external fixation. Injured persons whose families have been displaced are at particular health risk from medical complications following hospital discharge. © WHO)

The Palestinian Red Crescent Society is operating a field hospital consisting of tents and caravans in Rafah (the Emirati field hospital). The facility opened on August 9 with a small medical team of four physicians and support staff and received from 100 to 400 outpatients daily for emergencies and wound care.

Damage to health facilities and closures (see map in Annex)

Of 32 hospitals being monitored, a total of 17 reported damage ranging from light to extensive since July 7. Six hospitals are closed, although 3 of these which had been damaged opened limited services and using different venues (*detailed below*). One NGO Hospital in Gaza City (Al Wafa Medical Rehabilitation) was totally destroyed.

Of 97 clinics now being monitored by WHO for damage and closures, 50 reported damage and 30 are closed as of August 28, 13 more clinics than one week ago (See **Annex.**)

Eight of the 50 damaged clinics were totally destroyed. Five were Ministry of Health primary health clinics located in areas of great need and alternatives are urgently required for residents (Shajaiyeh, Gaza city, Juhra al Deek, Khuza'a and Khan Younis). The Palestinian Red Crescent clinic, Khalil al Wazir health center in Gaza city, and the Hijazi clinic, operated by the Palestinian Medical Military Services (PMMS) in the northern district, were also totally destroyed.

Referrals

According to data of the Ministry of Health, a total of 465 casualty patients exited Gaza from July 7 to August 24 for medical treatment in Palestinian hospitals in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, or to hospitals in the region or Europe, with the majority leaving Gaza in August. Another 50 patients are expected to be transferred to Turkey in the next week.

	Patients referred	Patients returned	Patient deaths
Egypt	233	58	26
WB & EJ	149	12	13
Jordan	34	0	4
Turkey	46	0	1
Germany	3	0	0
Total	465	70	44

WHO Advocacy project issued the July monthly report on Gaza Referrals Abroad which highlighted the low numbers of patients who were referred during the violence in July. Only one third of the usual number of patients received referrals during the month (580 in July compared to 1,805 in June), due to the severe security restrictions on movement within Gaza, and Ministry of Health priorities during the emergency.

Of all patients needing access permits through Erez checkpoint in July, only 65.5% were approved; 70 were denied, including 14 children and 9 elderly persons, and 307 patients received no response to their applications prior to their medical appointments.

On August 27, Erez Crossing reportedly returned to its usual procedures of operations which had been in effect prior to June 13 for exit of patients and their companions.

Public health concerns

- About 1,200 fewer patients than average with non communicable diseases, including genetic conditions, orthopedic problems, cancer and neurological conditions, or requiring diagnostics, were given Ministry of Health referrals during July; levels in August remain low.
- The presence of thousands of unexploded weapons in urban and rural areas represents a public health hazard, especially for children.
- Follow up care for the hundreds of seriously injured persons discharged early from hospitals and who lack adequate home care continues to be a concern, while health providers are using proactive measures to mitigate risks of complications through mobile teams, home care and outpatient follow up.

Health needs, priorities and gaps

- The Health cluster “4 W” database indicates that 23 national and international health partners are providing or planning to provide 212 emergency response activities across all 5 districts in Gaza although ongoing activities had to be put on hold during last week breakdown of the ceasefire, including community based mental health and psychosocial support programmes.
 - Health facilities that have been affected by damages and closed due to insecurity, as well as continuing problems of access of staff to clinics, have hindered the delivery of health services.
 - A number of hospital generators have broken down or need spare parts and maintenance due to overload caused by electricity shortages and prolonged use.
 - The Ministry of Health in Gaza reported outstanding debts of US\$ 467,000 to providers of contracted general services such as cleaning and food services.
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WHO action

WHO and Health Cluster partners (MDM Spain, MAP UK, UNFPA, UNICEF) participated in the collection of general data for the OCHA-organized rapid assessment (MIRA) which was completed on August 19.

WHO with participation from Health Cluster partners in the field is leading the work of health teams for the more detailed assessment of the health sector to follow, focusing on infrastructure damage, reproductive health, general services (communicable disease, non communicable disease and key health indicators), drugs and supplies, and cross-cutting issues. A preliminary report is expected by early November.

WHO's mental health program communicated to health partners a message concerning assessing mental health needs in order to avoid unnecessary or unuseful interventions in Gaza. The key points:

- 1) make use of existing mental health data,
- 2) use standard mental health assessment tools,
- 3) consult with WHO and Health Cluster before conducting a survey.

<http://www.emro.who.int/pse/palestine-infocus/gaza-after-the-conflict-assessing-mental-health-needs-august-2014.html>

WHO Advocacy issued its monthly report on Gaza referrals and access for July 2014. <http://www.emro.who.int/countries/pse/index.html>

Resource mobilization

A total of US\$ 10.8 million in drugs and medical disposables have been received by the health sector in Gaza since July 7 to help meet the needs of this emergency, with more than half of the donations destined for Ministry of Health hospitals.

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ANNEX

Table 1. Hospitals in Gaza damaged and closed (July 7, 2014 to August 27, 2014)

	Hospital	Provider	District	Location	Comments on status
1	Kamal Adwan	MOH	North Gaza	North Gaza	Open
2	Beit Hanoun	MOH	North Gaza	Beit Hanoun	Closed (damaged); reopened only emergency room services
3	Psychiatric	MOH	Gaza	Nasser	Open
4	Ophthalmic	MOH	Gaza	Nasser	Open
5	Rantisi Specialised Pediatric	MOH	Gaza	Nasser	Open
6	El Durra Pediatric	MOH	Gaza	Tuffah	Closed (damaged)
7	Al Nasser Pediatric	MOH	Gaza	Nasser	Open
8	Shifa	MOH	Gaza	North Rimal	Open (damaged)
9	Harazeen Maternity	MOH	Gaza	Shajieyah	Open (damaged)
10	Al Aqsa Martyrs	MOH	Middle area	Deir Al Balah	Open (damaged); some services closed
11	Gaza European	MOH	Khan Younis	E. Khan Younis	Open (damaged)
12	Nasser	MOH	Khan Younis	West Khan Younis	Open
13	Al Helal al Emirati Maternity	MOH	Rafah	Tel El Sultan	Open
14	Abu Yousef Najjar	MOH	Rafah	Rafah	Open (damaged)
15	Al Awdeh	NGO	North Gaza	Tel al Zaatar	Open
16	Al Shawa Specialized	NGO	North Gaza	Beit Hanoun	Closed (security)
17	Al Karameh	NGO	North Gaza	Ard a-Shanti	Open (damaged)
18	Al Wafa Medical Rehabilitation	NGO	Gaza	Shajieyah	Closed (destroyed); relocated some services to al Wafa Nursing Home
19	Al Sahaba Medical	NGO	Gaza	Al Daraj	Open
20	Cardiac (Public Aid Society)	NGO	Gaza	Al Samer	Open (damaged)
21	Ophthalmic Specialized (Public Aid Society)	NGO	Gaza	Al Rimal	Open
22	al Ahli Arab	NGO	Gaza	Palestine Sq.	Open (damaged)
23	Al Quds	NGO	Gaza	Tel al Hawa	Open (damaged)
24	General Hospital (Public Aid Society)	NGO	Gaza	Sabra	Open (damaged)
25	Patients' Friends	NGO	Gaza	Gaza	Open (damaged)
26	Kuwaiti Specialized	NGO	Rafah	Rafah	Open
27	Jaffa	NGO	Middle area	Deir Al Balah	Closed (security)
28	Al Amal	NGO	Khan Younis	Amal	Open (damaged)
29	Dar al Salam	NGO	Khan Younis	Al Sater Al Sharqi	Open
30	Balsam	PMMS	North Gaza	north Beit Lahiya	Closed (damaged); relocated some services to Patients' Friends Benevolent Society
31	Algerian Field	PMMS	Khan Younis	Abasan alKabira	Open (damaged); closed 7pm to 8 am
32	Jordanian Field	JMS	Gaza	Tel Al Hawa	Open

(Shading indicates closed.)

PMMS=Palestinian Medical Military Services

Source: WHO.

Table 2. Primary Health Clinics in Gaza damaged and closed, July 7 to August 27, 2014

No.	Name of PHC	Provider	District	Locality
1	Shuhada Al Sheikh Radwan Clinic	MoH	Gaza	Shaikh Radwan
2	Al Salam Clinic	MoH	Gaza	Sabra
3	Al Surani Clinic	MoH	Gaza	Tofah
4	Al Rahma Clinic	MoH	Gaza	Shija'yia
5	Sabha Medical Center	MoH	Gaza	Shija'yia/ Al Jdaida
6	Shuhada Al Shate' Clinic	MoH	Gaza	Beach Camp
7	Atta Habib Clinic	MoH	Gaza	Shija'yia
8	Hala Al Shawa Clinic	MoH	Gaza	Zaytoon
9	Al Qoba Clinic	MoH	Gaza	Shija'yia
10	Physically HandiCaped Clinic	MoH	Gaza	Zaytoon
11	Al Fokhari Clinic	MoH	Khan Younis	Fukhari
12	Abassan Al Jadeeda Clinic	MoH	Khan Younis	Abassan Al-Jadida
13	Khuzaa Clinic	MoH	Khan Younis	Khuzaa
14	Al Zana Clinic	MoH	Khan Younis	Zanna
15	Shuhada Al Nuseirat Clinic	MoH	Mid Zone	Nusairat Camp
16	Juhr Al Deik Clinic	MoH	Mid Zone	Wadi Gaza
17	Al Bureij New Clinic	MoH	Mid Zone	Buraj Camp
18	Al Bureij Central Clinic	MoH	Mid Zone	Buraj Camp
19	Heker Al jame Clinic	MoH	Mid Zone	Deir El-Balah
20	Al Moghraqa Clinic	MoH	Mid Zone	Moghra'a
21	Al Msadar Clinic	MoH	Mid Zone	Msadar
22	Wadi Al Salqa Clinic	MoH	Mid Zone	Wadi El- Salqa
23	Al Birka	MoH	Mid Zone	Deir El-Balah
24	Shuhada Jabalia Clinic	MoH	North Gaza	Jabalia city
25	Beit Hanoun Clinic	MoH	North Gaza	Beit Hanoun
26	Jamila Al Ashi Clinic	MoH	North Gaza	Twam Area
27	Al Saifa (Al Atatra) clinic	MoH	North Gaza	Al Atatra
28	Shuhada Rafah Center	MoH	Rafah	Rafah City
29	Mawasi Rafah Clinic	MoH	Rafah	Mawasi Rafah
30	Jabalia	UNRWA	North Gaza	Jabalia Camp
31	Beit Hanoun	UNRWA	North Gaza	Beit Hanoun
32	Dair El-Balah	UNRWA	Mid Zone	Deir Al Balah
33	Nusairat	UNRWA	Mid Zone	Nuseirat
34	Maghazi	UNRWA	Mid Zone	Maghazi
35	Buraj	UNRWA	Mid Zone	Buraj
36	Mae'n	UNRWA	Khan Younis	Mae'n
37	Tal Al Sultan + Rafah Clinic	UNRWA	Rafah	Rafah
38	Shouka	UNRWA	Rafah	Rafah
39	El-Nasser	UNRWA	Rafah	El-Nasser
40	Abu T'aima Health Center	PMRS - NGO	Khan Younis	Abasan Jadidia
41	Ezbat Beit Hanoun Health Centre	PMRS - NGO	North Gaza	Izbat Beit Hanoun
42	Chronic Diseases Centre	PMRS - NGO	Gaza	Gaza City
43	Haidar Abdel Shafi Health Centre - G	RCS Gaza- NGO	Gaza	Rimal Area
44	Red Crescent Society - Jabalia	RCS Gaza- NGO	North Gaza	Jabalia Camp
45	Red Crescent Society - Abassan Al-Ka	RCS Gaza- NGO	Khan Younis	Abassan Al-Kabeera
46	Al-Awda Health Centre - Rafah	UHWC - NGO	Rafah	Rafah
47	Al-Quds Health Centre	UHWC - NGO	North Gaza	Beit Hanoun
48	Khalil Al Wazir Health Center	PRCS - NGO	Gaza	Sheikh Ajleen
49	Jabalia Health Center	PRCS - NGO	North Gaza	Jabalia
50	Hijazi Clinic	PMMS	North Gaza	Al Twam
Note: Closed but not reporting damage.				
1	Gaza Town (Daraj)	UNRWA	Gaza	Daraj
2	Al Shokah Clinic	MoH	Rafah	Shoka

*Shading indicates clinic is closed.

Source: WHO.

Status of Hospitals in the Gaza Strip

7 July to 27 August 2014

