

# oPt Emergency Situation Update

Issue 16



As of 7 December 2023 at 15:00



World Health Organization

occupied Palestinian territory

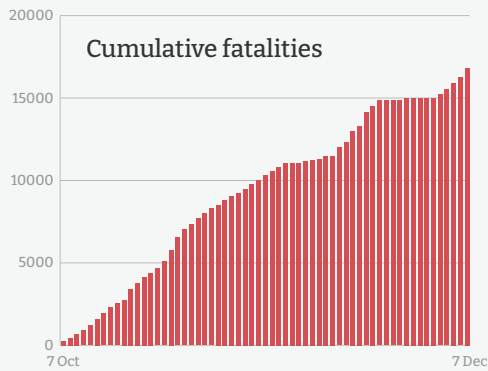
## Gaza Strip

## Overview

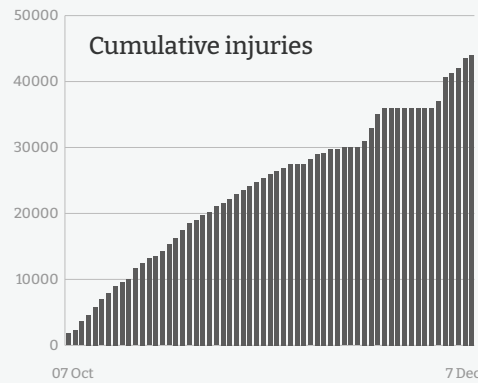
Source: Ministry of Health

**17,487 Fatalities**

70% women and children



**46,480 Injuries**



**More people** reported missing or under the rubble



**1.9M People** (85% of population) displaced

## Health Care Functioning and Access

A public health catastrophe is rapidly evolving in Gaza with high levels of violent deaths and injuries, mass displacement, overcrowding, major disruption and dysfunction of the health system, and damage to water and sanitation infrastructure. Severe stressors for mental health are affecting the whole population, including bombardment and siege. Destruction and hostilities are gravely obstructing ambulance access to the injured and health facilities.

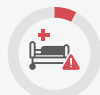
### Hospitals functionality



**39%**

**14** Hospitals partially functioning  
**36**

Estimated average bed occupancy: 209%



**8%**

**3** Hospitals with extremely limited capacity  
**36**

AL Shifa Medical Hospital  
Al Awda Hospital- North  
Kamal Adwan Hospital



**100%**

**2** field Hospitals functional  
**2**

UAE Field Hospital  
Jordanian Military Hospital

### PHCCs functionality



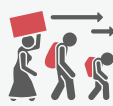
**29%**

**21** Primary health care facilities are functional  
**72**

A higher proportion not functioning in North Gaza and Gaza City



Referrals abroad through Rafah since start of war **618** including **407** injured in addition to **211** companions.



Separation of North Gaza and Gaza City from governorates in the south, along with evacuation orders



Disease surveillance disrupted including early disease detection, laboratory capacity and response

## Acute shortage of supplies at health facilities



Fuel and Electricity



Water



Food



### Medicines and medical supplies:

- anaesthetics
- antibiotics
- IV fluids
- pain medications
- insulin
- blood and blood products



### Medical equipment

Increasingly not functional at hospitals, (e.g. monitors, ventilators, incubators, x-ray and CT, lab analyzers, anaesthesia machines), which are dependent on electricity



## Gaza Strip Health Needs and Risks

### Water and Sanitation



**Nearly 1.2 million** out of the 1.9 million displaced are in 156 UNRWA facilities across the Gaza Strip\*



**700** people share each toilet



**59-89%** Less water consumption than pre-hostilities (21 Nov - 4 Dec)



### Open defecation

Observed at shelters in Rafah due to lack of sanitation facilities



Lack of WASH facilities in health care settings means increased risk of healthcare-associated infections

\* The situation might be worse in makeshift shelters

### Communicable Diseases

Imminent risk of communicable disease outbreaks. Cases recorded since mid-October:



**129,230** Cases of acute respiratory infections



**94,858** Cases of diarrhea <5 years: **48,698\***



**28,606** Cases of scabies and lice



**24,355** Cases of skin rashes



**2,703** Cases of chickenpox



**1,126** Cases of jaundice

\* <5 diarrhea cases registered for one month during the war is 20 fold higher than the average cases per month in 2021 and 2022.

From 26 Nov until 3 Dec: Figures include only data received from UNRWA.

### Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health



**52,000** Pregnant women

**~183** Births per day  
**5,500** Babies have been born in the last month



**130** Premature infants depend on incubators

**61%** Incubators are in the north, requiring electricity

### Long term conditions



**1,100** Patients in need of kidney dialysis



**71,000** Patients living with diabetes



**225,000** People with high blood pressure



**+485,000** People with mental health disorders\*



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



**45,000** Patients living with cardiovascular disease

\* People in Gaza facing daily intense psychological stressors, including bombardment and severe barriers to fulfilling basic needs

Data: MoH Annual Report 2022, WHO STEPS

## Health Attacks



**213** Health attacks



**565** People killed in attacks



**732** People injured in attacks



**56** Health facilities affected



**24** Hospitals damaged  
**Including**



**59** Ambulances affected



**35** That sustained damaged  
**Including**

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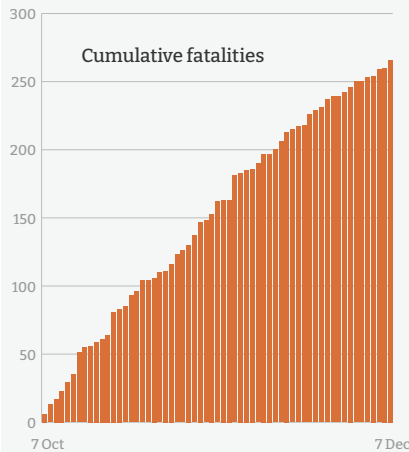
occupied Palestinian territory

## West Bank, including east Jerusalem

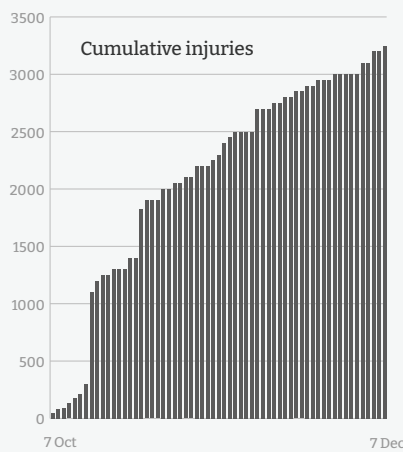
## Overview

Source: Ministry of Health

### 266 Fatalities



### 3,250 Injuries



1014 people displaced amid settler violence and access restrictions.

283 people displaced following demolitions in Area C and East Jerusalem

63 people displaced following punitive demolitions



### Increased settler and military violence

Including airstrikes and live ammunition. Complete obstruction at checkpoints between Palestinian towns and closure of several communities

## Health Needs and Risks



### Increased injuries

Placing a high demand for emergency medical supplies for first response at hospitals



### +270 Patients/day

Need access to health care in east Jerusalem, from the rest of the West Bank



### 5,491 People displaced from Gaza

Are stranded in the West Bank, increasing the pressure on the health system

## Health Care Functioning and Access



### +270 Patients

Referred from the West Bank to East Jerusalem



### Obstructed access for ambulances, health care workers, and patients

Due to checkpoint closures, insecurity, movement restrictions, and attacks on health



### First response capacities overstretched

By increased casualties, with high demand for emergency medical supplies



### Increased shortages of essential medicines and medical supplies

Affecting first response, primary care, and hospital care

## Health Attacks

### 236 Health attacks



6 People killed in attacks



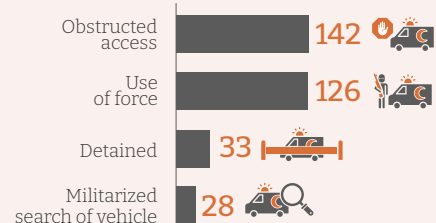
42 People injured in attacks



20 Health facilities affected



178 Ambulances affected





## UPDATES

- Hostilities resumed on 1 December, following a humanitarian pause that lasted 7 days. Since then, there have been **1,827 fatalities and 7,046 injured**.
- Syndromic disease surveillance has demonstrated increases in infectious diseases, including acute respiratory infections, diarrhoea, bloody diarrhoea, and acute jaundice syndrome. **These are likely to continue worsening due to overcrowding of shelters for displaced people, destruction of water and sanitation systems, and decreased availability of health services.**
- Only **14 of 36 (39%) hospitals in the Gaza strip are partially functioning (2 in north and 12 in south)**. Three hospitals (Kamal Adwan, Shifa Hospital, Al Awda) in northern Gaza Strip are functioning at minimal capacity.
- As a result, **bed occupancy in functioning hospitals averages 262% and ICU bed occupancy of 227%**.
- According to Israeli authorities, **over 1200 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed, 9038 injured, 251 being held hostage of whom 114 have been released** since the hostilities started.

## HEALTH RESPONSE

### WHO

- Dec 3, WHO team visited Nasser Medical Complex in southern Gaza. Conditions at the hospital are worsening. **With 1000 patients and hundreds seeking shelter, the hospital is operating at 3 times beyond its capacity. The emergency ward is overflowing with patients.**
- Dec 5, **WHO moved medical supplies from the warehouse in Khan Yunis to a smaller warehouse in Rafah.** This resulted in a postponement of the planned delivery of medicines to MSF and UNRWA for their health facilities.
- Dec 7, WHO delivered trauma and emergency care supplies to European Gaza Hospital and Nasser Medical Complex in southern Gaza **to cover the health needs of 4500 patients.** The very intense fighting is making it increasingly difficult to run any health operations. This was the first delivery mission by WHO since 29 November.
- **29 Trucks with medical supplies** entered Gaza from 21st October to date from WHO including other partners.

### Health Cluster

#### Gaza Strip

- 150 mobile teams provided primary healthcare services to IDPs in shelters.
- Ongoing efforts by partners to expand primary healthcare service access by increasing the number of mobile teams and reopening some of their forcibly closed facilities
- There were about ~40,000 primary healthcare consultations daily through fixed and mobile services, including shelters in the north.
- An average of 500 post-natal care and high-risk pregnancy consultations daily.
- 600 individual clean delivery kits were distributed to 13 shelters and 10,000 hygiene kits were distributed to IDPs in shelters in North Gaza governorate.
- 455 patients in North Gaza governorate with non-communicable diseases received cash to procure their needed medications.
- 11,000 people benefitted from MHPSS services delivered.

#### West Bank

- 1,200 people benefitted from MHPSS services delivered.
- ~3,000 people in Area C benefitted from mobile clinic services.
- 15 healthcare workers in West Bank were trained in mental health integration using the mhGAP.



## WHO RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Immediate ceasefire.**
- **Establish and sustain protected humanitarian access** for the immediate entry of adequate quantities of humanitarian supplies – including fuel, water, food, medicines, and other essential supplies - and personnel into the Gaza Strip and unimpeded access for patient evacuation.
- **Prioritization of the shipment of fuel** to operate desalination plants, hospital generators, ambulances.
- **Sustained, orderly, unimpeded and safe medical evacuations** of critically injured and sick patients into Egypt.
- **Ensure safe passage** for medical supplies and civilians within the Gaza Strip. Ensure WHO medical supplies can safely reach major hospitals in Gaza City and North Gaza and 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.**
- **Preserve the function of remaining health facilities** given the fragility of the health system and increasing health needs.
- **Restore the functionality of all hospitals and primary healthcare clinics.**

## FUNDING

- **WHO released its Operational Response Plan October 2023 – January 2024 with a total budget of \$110M.** The operational plan supports:
  1. Health service delivery, including emergency medical teams and a few complementary field hospitals
  2. Public health surveillance, early warning, disease prevention and control
  3. Supplies and logistics support
  4. Coordination.
- **So far WHO has secured approximately \$41M with additional \$36M in pledged Funds from partners.**
- The inter-cluster Flash Appeal has been revised and the funding requirement for humanitarian health response is **\$204.2M\* and is targeting 2.5M people** in Gaza and West Bank.

\* Excludes funding requirement for emergency nutrition interventions, as they now fall under Nutrition Cluster

### Further information:

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