Statement by WHO Director General- Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on the attack against PRCS Al Amal Hospital-2.1.2024 (Posted on X)

(2.1.2024) I deplore today's strikes on the Palestie Red Crescent-run Al-Amal hospital in the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis, which severely damaged the Palestine Red Crescent Society training centre located within the hospital complex.

My WHO and UNOCHA colleagues today undertook a mission to the facilities, where they witnessed extensive damage and displacement of civilians

The attacks, according to the PRCS, killed at least five civilians, including a 5-day old infant. 14,000 people were sheltering at the hospital in the besieged southern Gaza city of Khan Younis. Many of them have now left, and those remaining are extremely fearful for their safety and planning to leave a place they had turned to for refuge and protection.

Hospitals, ambulances, health workers, and people seeking care must be protected, at all times, under international humanitarian law. Today's bombardments are unconscionable. Gaza's health system is already on its knees, with health and aid workers continuously stymied in their efforts to save lives due to the hostilities.

I join international calls for an immediate ceasefire, including urgent action to ensure the accelerated and unimpeded flow of food, medical supplies, water and other essential items to millions of civilians forced to live in unspeakable conditions of hunger, disease spread, and lack of hygiene and sanitation. Gazans are still receiving only a fraction of the supplies they had access to before the war, just as only a fraction of Gazans in need of medical evacuation are being evacuated. This is unacceptable in light of the dire humanitarian catastrophe which has unfolded over three months.

Indeed, WHO's movements, particularly in northern Gaza and increasingly in the south, have been severely impeded by the ongoing violence inside Gaza. Our operations are further impeded when essential local partners, like the @PalestineRCS, are themselves needlessly impacted by the strikes.

This on top of widespread deaths, suffering and decimation of homes, roads and other infrastructure across this tiny coastal strip of land. If the conditions for a cease-fire in hostilities have not been met by now, I do not know what it will take.

WHO reiterates that health must never be a target during conflicts, and all effort must be taken to protect health facilities, health workers, and patients.