oPt Emergency Situation Update

Issue 20

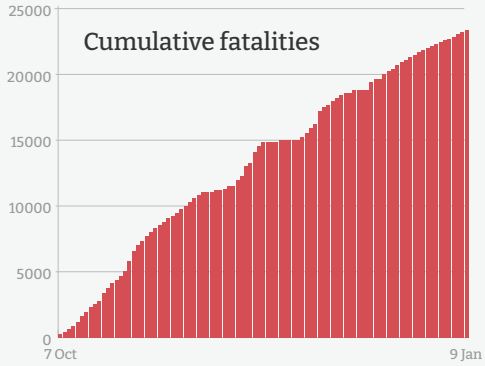
As of 11 January 2024 at 13:00

World Health Organization
occupied Palestinian territory

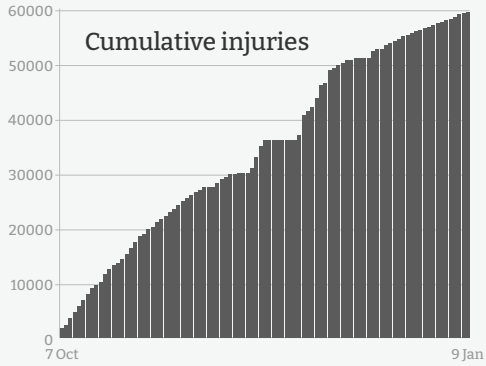
Gaza Strip Overview

Source: Ministry of Health

23,357 Fatalities
70% are said to be women and children



59,410 Injuries



7,780
reported missing or under the rubble

1.93M 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

42%
15/36 Hospitals **partially functioning**
Estimated average bed occupancy: **351%**

100%
3/3 field Hospitals **fully functional**
UAE Field Hospital
Jordanian Military Hospital
Rafah Field Hospital

PHCCs functionality

18%
13/72 Primary health care facilities are **functional**
No information available about north, Gaza and Khan Younis

Referrals abroad through Rafah since start of war **1,445 including 707 injured and 438 patients in addition to 913 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

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Gaza Strip Health Needs and Risks

Water and Sanitation

1.93M IDPs
Nearly 1.72 million IDPs are sheltering in 155 UNRWA facilities

No access to clean water in the Northern Governates

Heavy rainfall last week has led to flooding in various locations, raising concerns about potential sewage contamination in the floodwaters

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

Communicable Diseases

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

213,086 Cases of acute respiratory infections

152,734 Cases of diarrhea
<5 years: 81,466*

68,486 Cases of scabies and lice

44,437 Cases of skin rashes

6,609 Cases of chickenpox

7,276 Cases of jaundice

* 23 fold increase from baseline 2022

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

309 Health attacks

612 People killed in attacks

776 People injured in attacks

65 Health workers detained/arrested

94 Health facilities affected

Including **26** Hospitals damaged

83 Ambulances affected

Including **45** That sustained damaged

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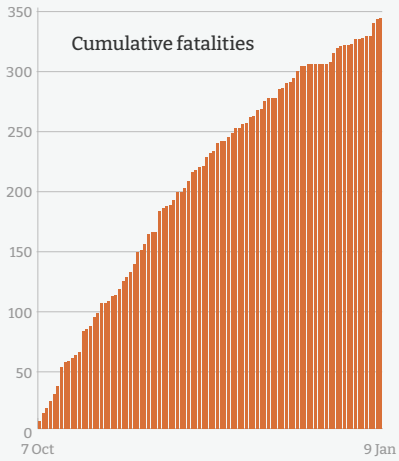
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West Bank, including east Jerusalem

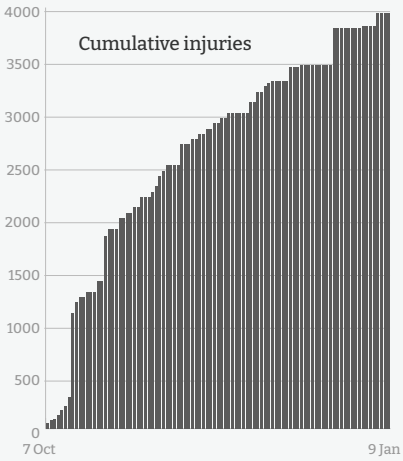
Overview

Source: Ministry of Health

341 Fatalities



3,949 Injuries



1,208 people displaced amid settler violence and access restrictions.

429 people displaced following demolitions in Area C and East Jerusalem

95 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 are in need of referral outside the West Bank for health care daily. Now only oncology and life-saving cases are being allowed. Permit application and approval rates for health care are reduced.

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

319 Health attacks

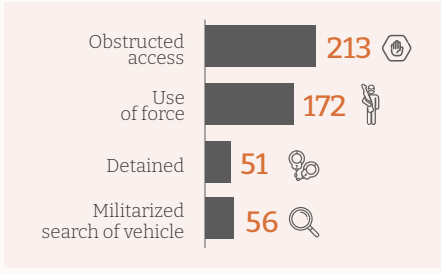
7 People killed in attacks

58 People injured in attacks

35 Health facilities affected

Including **10** mobile clinics

216 Ambulances affected



UPDATES

Gaza

- **Food insecurity:**
  - The need for food continues to be acute across the Gaza Strip. The entire population of Gaza – almost 2.2M people – are in crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity.
- **Disease Surveillance:**
  - Almost 215,000 cases of upper respiratory infection and numerous cases of jaundice, skin rashes, scabies, lice and chickenpox have been reported.
  - Over 152,000 cases of diarrhoea have been reported since mid-October. Over half of these are among young children under the age of 5 years.
- **Hospital Functionality:**
  - Only 15 of 36 (42%) hospitals in the Gaza strip are partially functioning including 9 in the south and 6 hospitals in Gaza and the north.
  - Average bed occupancy in functioning hospitals is 340% and ICU bed occupancy of 242%.
  - Al-Shifa Hospital, currently minimally functional, needs to urgently resume at least basic operations to continue serving the thousands in need of lifesaving health care.
- According to Israeli authorities, **over 1200 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed, 9038 injured, 251 being held hostage of whom 115 have been released** since the hostilities started.

HEALTH RESPONSE

- **Outbreak Prevention::**
  - The **Early Warning, Alert and Response Network (EWARN)** list for syndromic surveillance is revised and agreed by the Ministry of Health and UNRWA. .
  - **WHO's electronic early warning, alert, and response system in emergencies "EWARN in a box"** is in pipeline and will be delivered to Gaza soon. This system will help in detecting disease outbreaks early and will improve real time data flow from the shelters overcoming the persistent internet and electricity challenges.
  - **Ministry of Health and UNRWA are conducting a critical mapping of health services** at several shelters currently lacking any provision of health services, to ensure health services can be delivered to the displaced people.
- **High Risk Missions & Delivery of Supplies:**
  - **From the 29th December until 12th January 2024**, WHO carried out 4 mission to deliver supplies, with partners to hospitals in Northern and Southern GAza witnessing the continuing intense hostilities in their vicinity, high patient loads, and overcrowding caused by displaced people seeking refuge.
  - **January 2nd, 2024:** The mission observed extensive damage and displacement at medical facilities of Al-Amal hospital in Khan Younis. Highlighted the urgency of protecting hospitals, ambulances, health workers, and civilians, and called for an immediate ceasefire and unimpeded flow of essential items.
  - **January 5th, 2024:** WHO delivered medical supplies to the Ministry of Health's central drug storage facility in Khan Younis, southern Gaza. Supplies included 8 refrigerators, 8 solar panels, 15 ICU beds, hospital beds, medical supplies for surgeries, and clean delivery kits for safe births.
  - **January 7th, 2024:** Reported that most health staff had to leave due to evacuation orders and safety concerns, leaving only 5 doctors at a key hospital. Delivered supplies to support dialysis and trauma care for patients and planned the deployment of an emergency medical team to support remaining health workers.

HEALTH RESPONSE

- **Emergency Medical Teams:**
  - There are currently 10 Emergency Medical Teams (EMT's) operating in Gaza. The operational presence of these teams are: 9 EMTs in South, 1 EMT in middle, 0 EMTs in North.
  - The EMTs include 4 type one facilities, 3 type 2 facilities and are made up of seven specialised teams.

- **Health Cluster partners response:**
  - There are 33 partners supporting the response in Gaza, 20 directly implementing humanitarian activities. In the West Bank, there are 25 partners with 15 directly implementing activities.
  - Since the beginning of the war, an estimated 600,000 people (500,000 in Gaza and 100,000 in the West Bank) have benefitted from the humanitarian health support from partners. This is about 24% of the Flash Appeal target population.
  - The Health Cluster continues to track Gaza supplies needs and commitments from partners with 16 partners providing information. Based on the reports 26% of medical supplies needs have been delivered to Gaza.

- **Partners' operational challenges:**
  - **Gaza challenges:**
    - The security situation, access, transport, and deconfliction are extremely challenging.
    - Lack of supplies including medical supplies, food, water, fuel and support to health workers.
    - Partner operations continue to be negatively affected by the displacement of staff and telecommunication challenges.
  - **West Bank challenges:**
    - Closures and long delays at checkpoints.
    - Insecurity and targeting of health workers continue to present challenges to emergency responses and prevent some people from seeking care.
    - Limited funding leaving 64 communities (with almost 37,000 people) without mobile health services.

- **Core Primary Healthcare Services Package:**
  - WHO and UNRWA are defining a set of core primary healthcare services MoH based on priority needs, operational feasibility, and high impact health interventions. The basis of this package is the latest version of the Gaza Health Service Package, the UNRWA Emergency Health Assistance SOPs, and the H3 (high priority health services in humanitarian settings package).
  - The package will be used by health partners to ensure uniformity in health service delivery during the emergency in Gaza.

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.**
- **WHO calls for protection of humanitarian space in Gaza following serious incidents in high-risk mission to transfer patients, deliver health supplies.**

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 $52M with additional $42.9M in pledged Funds form 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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