oPt Emergency Situation Update

Issue 70

7 Oct 2023 - 31 May 2026

World Health Organization
occupied Palestinian territory

Gaza Strip Overview As of 31 May 2026

Source: Ministry of Health.

72 941 Fatalities

172 967 Injuries

Health Facility Functionality and Access

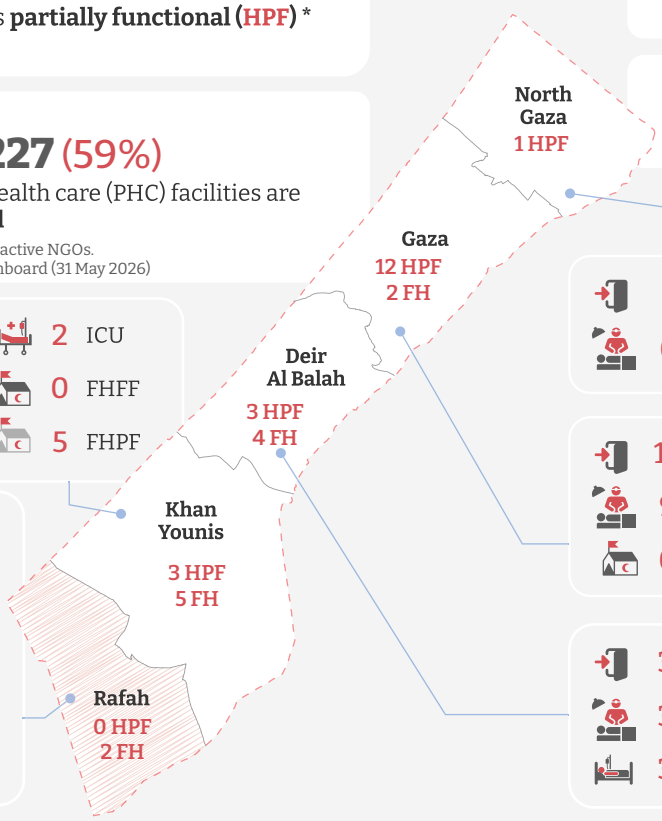
19/36 (53%)
Hospitals **partially functional (HPF)** *

133/227 (59%)
Primary health care (PHC) facilities are **functional**

§ The number of PHCCs includes active NGOs.
Source: oPt Unified Health Dashboard (31 May 2026)

13 Field hospitals **partially functional (FHPF)**

0 Field hospitals **fully functional (FHFF)**



3 Accessible	2 ICU
2 Surgeries	0 FHFF
2 Inpatient	5 FHPF

1 Accessible	1 Inpatient
0 Surgeries	0 ICU

12 Accessible	9 Inpatient
9 Surgeries	5 ICU
0 FHFF	2 FHPF

0 Accessible	
0 Surgeries	
0 Inpatient	
0 ICU	
0 FHFF	
2 FHPF	

3 Accessible	1 ICU
3 Surgeries	0 FHFF
3 Inpatient	4 FHPF

The above disaggregation of accessibility and availability of inpatient, surgery and ICU services covers hospitals only, and does not apply to field hospitals.
Source: Health Resources and Services Availability Monitoring System (HeRAMS).

Total hospital bed capacity is currently at 3120, including 2199 inpatient beds, 107 ICUs, and 115 incubators.

968 Health Attacks As of 31 May 2026 Source: SSA.

1002 People killed in attacks

176 Health facilities affected
Including **36** Hospitals damaged

1676 People injured in attacks

257 Ambulances affected

* Partially functional facility: When a health facility is unable to fully provide some or all of the services as normal, or there is an interruption in any of the services provided at the facility, due to various reasons.

Malnutrition



2120 Patients admitted due to severe acute malnutrition with complications

Source: Nutrition Cluster/WHO. 1 Jan 2024 - 31 May 2026

Medical evacuation



12 020 Patients have been evacuated since October 2023

Source: MoH. As of 31 May 2026

Long term conditions



>2000 People diagnosed with cancer each year, including 122 children



>1100 Patients in need of kidney dialysis to maintain life§



>71 000 People with raised blood glucose



45 000 Patients living with cardiovascular disease



>225 000 People with raised blood pressure*



1M People with mental health disorders*

§ Source: MoH (2024 estimates)

Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health



~ 50 000 Women are pregnant



~ 5500 Women are due to give birth within the next month including

~ 1400 Require Cesarean section
~ 180 Deliveries / day

Source: MoH.

More than 500 000 women of reproductive age lack access to essential services including antenatal care, postnatal care, family planning, and management of sexual transmitted infections.

Situation Update

1 - 31 May 2026

Since escalation of hostilities in October 2023, health conditions have remained critical across the Gaza Strip.

Health updates

Casualties

- Between 1 and 31 May 2026, the Ministry of Health (MoH) reported that 340 Palestinians were killed and at least 548 injured in the Gaza Strip, underscoring the fragility of the ceasefire in place since 10 October 2025. Cumulatively, since October 2023, over 72 941 people have been killed and approximately 172 967 injured.
- An estimated 25% of injured individuals (>43 000 people) have life-altering injuries requiring long-term, and potentially lifelong, rehabilitation. As of 30 April 2026, more than 2300 patients had undergone screening for limb reconstruction needs in the Gaza Strip; among them, 933 required surgical intervention, including 645 major and 288 minor limb reconstruction cases.
- The MoH estimates that more than 18 500 injured and chronically ill patients currently require medical treatment that is not available in the Gaza Strip due to the lack of specialized services and are awaiting medical evacuation.

Malnutrition

- Despite the ceasefire, malnutrition remains an acute concern in the Gaza Strip amid continued food insecurity, limited access to safe water and healthcare, and ongoing displacement.
- With only six operational severe acute malnutrition (SAM) stabilization centres (SC) across Gaza (two in Khan Younis, one in the Middle Area, and three in Gaza City), access to life-saving treatment for SAM cases with medical complications remains critically constrained.
- Since January 2026, nearly 571 children have received treatment for SAM across these centres, including 123 admissions in May alone, underscoring the sustained severity of the nutrition crisis. Infants under six months accounted for 31% of all admissions, highlighting the disproportionate impact on the youngest and most vulnerable children.

Communicable disease burden

- Between epidemiological weeks 18 -22 (26 April – 30 May 2026), infectious diseases accounted for 20% of consultations reported to EWARS, with acute respiratory infections (ARI) remaining in the leading cause of morbidity (48% of reported conditions).
- Ectoparasitic and other skin diseases and acute watery diarrhea (AWD) were the second and third most reported conditions, showing an increasing trend, representing 30.5% and 20% of morbidity, respectively.
- Nine (9) Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) cases were reported so far in 2026, and no cVDPV2 has been detected in environmental or human samples for 12 consecutive months, bringing the Gaza Strip closer to declaring the outbreak closed.
- A rodent-associated diseases risk assessment is ongoing as part of outbreak preparedness efforts.

NCDs and Mental Health Gaza

- At the primary healthcare (PHC) level, screening, diagnosis and follow-up services for diabetes mellitus (DM) and hypertension (HTN) remain severely constrained by shortages of essential diagnostic equipment and supplies, including blood pressure monitors, glucometers, test strips and laboratory reagents. Severe shortages of cardiovascular medicines and insulin syringes continue to disrupt continuity of care.
- An estimated 70 000 people are living with diabetes in the Gaza Strip, approximately 25% of whom are insulin-dependent. Insulin syringe availability remains critically low, with an estimated monthly requirement of 670 000 syringes and current stocks sufficient for only limited short-term coverage, placing life-sustaining insulin therapy at risk of disruption.
- Cardiac catheterization services remain largely suspended and are currently limited to life-saving or highly urgent interventions due to shortages of critical supplies, consumables and specialized equipment.
- As of May 2026, approximately 700 end-stage renal failure (ESRF) patients receive weekly hemodialysis across four partially functional dialysis units. Critical shortages of erythropoietin, bicarbonate powder, dialyzers and vascular consumables continue to disrupt services. Shortages of sodium bicarbonate dry powder for Fresenius 5008 machines could affect 40-50% of functional machines, threatening dialysis capacity and increasing the risk of complications and mortality.
- Mental health services remain only partially accessible amid growing needs. UNICEF estimates that more than one million children require psychosocial support, while access to specialized mental health services remains.

Health system status

- Attacks and restrictions on the entry of supplies have systematically degraded Gaza's health system, with all 36 hospitals and most primary health care centres (PHCs) damaged. As of 30 May, 53% (19/36) of hospitals assessed through WHO's HeRAMS were partially functional. Health Cluster reporting further indicated that 297 of 677 (44%) mapped Health Service Points (HSPs) were operational across Gaza, including 13 field hospitals, 58% (132/226) of primary healthcare centres (PHC), and 110 medical points/mobile clinics. The remaining 380 were non-functional, reflecting significant gaps in service availability. NGOs operate the largest share of functional facilities, followed by INGOs, UN agencies, and government-supported sites.
- Laboratory services remain severely disrupted, with more than half of laboratories non-functional and over 60% of laboratory equipment damaged.
- Damage to infrastructure – including main data center in key health facilities – has severely compromised Gaza's health information system, undermining routine data collection, disease surveillance, medical records and timely life-saving decision making.
- The recently published Gaza Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA) highlights the extensive destruction of health infrastructure, estimating health sector recovery and reconstruction needs at US$10.03 billion, including US$2.6 billion required over the first 18 months to address immediate and medium-term priorities.

Response

Gaza

A. Essential health service delivery

- In May 2026, more than 30 health facilities and partner organizations across Gaza received WHO-delivered lifesaving medical supplies to sustain essential health services. Key deliveries included essential medicines, such as analgesics, antibiotics, antihypertensives and antidiabetics; core consumables, including IV fluids, syringes and trauma kits; as well as assistive products and laboratory reagents.
- WHO continued to provide fuel to health facilities, ambulance providers and partners across the Gaza Strip to sustain health operations. In May 2026, over 657 790 liters were supplied and consumed by recipient health facilities and partners, with the majority delivered to hospitals (>482 642 liters), followed by ambulance service providers (>44 693 liters) and field hospitals (>26 852 liters).
- WHO continues its support to maternal, child and adolescent health and nutrition in the Gaza Strip:
    - WHO continues to support all six operational SAM stabilization centres in Gaza with technical assistance and critical supplies, enabling the treatment of nearly 571 children since January 2026, including 123 admissions in May. WHO also delivered 12 cartons of therapeutic milk (F-75 and F-100) to meet May operational needs.
    - Between 6 and 7 May, WHO trained 21 MoH healthcare workers on the management of complicated SAM cases, strengthening the quality of care at SAM SCs.
    - WHO distributed 40 specialized infant feeding devices for newborns with cleft palate through the Gaza Infant Nutrition Alliance (GINA) and IMC, supporting access to life-saving feeding interventions.
    - WHO received neonatal screening supplies, including PKU and TSH testing kits, sufficient to support the screening of more than 30 000 newborns for congenital disorders.
    - In collaboration with UNICEF and ACF, WHO provided technical support for the revision of the national maternal and child nutrition protocol and continued participation in technical working groups on maternal nutrition, infant and young child feeding (IYCF), and the nutrition of newborns under six months of age.
    - WHO developed assessment tools to identify needs and gaps for the establishment and strengthening of breastfeeding corners, baby-friendly rooms and breastfeeding clinics. Assessments are planned across 15 health facilities, including maternity hospitals and primary healthcare centres.
- WHO, in coordination with the Ministry of Health, Health Cluster partners and the NCD Technical Working Group, continues to monitor service availability, support emergency procurement and redistribution of supplies, and advocate for the prioritization of essential NCD medicines and consumables to sustain life-saving services across the Gaza Strip.
    - Oncology services at Al-Shifa Medical Complex have resumed, including day-care chemotherapy and inpatient care.
- WHO continues to support the delivery of inpatient and outpatient mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services in Gaza.
    - Renovation of the inpatient psychiatric unit at the Ophthalmic Hospital in Gaza City has entered the tendering phase, while plans for an outpatient unit are pending approval. The assessment of Berka PHC Clinic in Deir Al-Balah has been completed, with the facility proposed to provide outpatient mental health services and limited inpatient psychiatric care.
    - WHO provided 12 psychotropic medicines to the MoH to address critical stock shortages and support continuity of mental health services.
    - WHO trained 11 Ministry of Health mental health professionals on Problem Management Plus (PM+).
    - As co-chair of the MHPSS Technical Working Group (TWG), WHO continues to lead coordination and strategic planning efforts for the MHPSS response across Gaza.
- In May, WHO continues to support GBV and PSEA services as through:
    - Training 82 personnel on PSEA, GBV and the clinical management of rape (CMR);
    - Conducting three partner monitoring visits;
    - Supporting referrals of 10 GBV and 10 child protection cases to specialized services;
    - Facilitating a wellbeing event for 22 female staff members; and
    - Supporting eight partners to complete PSEA assessments through the UN Partner Portal (UNPP)
- Since October 2023, WHO has supported local health authorities in the medical evacuation of 12 020 patients for specialized care unavailable in the Gaza Strip, including more than 350 patients evacuated in May 2026.

B. Public health intelligence, early warning, communicable disease prevention/control

- WHO continues to support disease surveillance through EWARS, ensuring routine reporting from health facilities, timely detection of public health threats, and rapid investigation and response to alerts across the Gaza Strip.
- WHO continues to support the strengthening of laboratory services across the Gaza Strip, through:
  - Support to the MoH with 27 laboratory items (primarily microbiology supplies and consumables), including 100 electrolyte reagent kits enabling approximately 100 000 tests for ICU and emergency patients
  - Provision of neonatal screening reagents and screening cards, including supplies for PKU and n-TSH testing, sufficient to support screening for congenital disorders among more than 30 000 newborns
  - Supply of 8000 and 6000 HemoCue Hb 301 microcuvettes to PRCS and IMC hospitals, respectively, and
  - Deployment of a specialist histopathologist to Nasser Hospital, in collaboration with the Emergency Medical Teams (EMT), who reviewed 350+ delayed histopathology cases at Nasser Hospital.
- WHO and partners continue to strengthen infection prevention and control (IPC) capacity across the Gaza Strip through targeted training, preparedness activities, and operational support, including:
  - Training more than 500 healthcare workers across the five major referral hospitals in Gaza on IPC principles, including standard and transmission-based precautions, outbreak preparedness and response, and patient isolation measures
  - Providing IPC supplies to the Ministry of Health, UNRWA, Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and other partners, supporting approximately 105 health facilities operated by more than seven health partners across Gaza
  - Procuring and prepositioning additional IPC supplies to prevent stock ruptures and ensure continuity of essential IPC measures.
  - Collecting and analysing 1033 water samples across Gaza in May. Based on monitoring results, Rapid Response Teams implemented corrective actions at 74 locations, including health facilities, desalination plants, water trucks, municipal networks, IDP sites and other community settings

C. Health emergency coordination

- WHO continues to lead the overall emergency health response in Gaza through the Health Cluster, ensuring coordination, gap analysis, and operational alignment among partners.
  - In May 2026, Health Cluster partners delivered an average of over 367 000 consultations per week across the Gaza Strip. Approximately 33% of consultations were delivered in Gaza City and North Gaza. The main thematic areas reported were general medicine, followed by Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).
  - Despite severe operational constraints, partners reached around 8000 individuals with lifesaving sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services and distributed six IARH kits across 20 facilities. However, without urgent replenishment of supplies and sustained humanitarian access, service disruptions and risks of increased maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality are expected to escalate.
  - Health Cluster reporting shows that UNRWA continues to serve as the largest primary healthcare provider in Gaza, delivering services through 10 health centres and 28 medical points and providing over 12.5 million consultations since October 2023.
  - The Health Cluster is leading a coordinated multi-sectoral response to the escalating rodent and vector infestation across Gaza, informed by a rapid risk assessment conducted by the Ministry of Health and leading partners which indicates high public health risk. Key progress includes:
    - In coordination with MoH, WHO and UNDP, initial interventions have begun in health facilities, while the WASH Cluster is driving large-scale operational response through an ongoing pest control campaign. To date, WASH partners have reached over 1100 locations, including health facilities and identified hotspots, with rodent and vector control activities continuing across priority areas.
    - Despite progress, critical gaps persist. Current pest control methods are largely limited to outdoor use due to safety concerns, leaving a major gap in safe indoor solutions for hospitals, shelters, and overcrowded sites.
    - Complementary efforts across Shelter and Site Management are addressing key environmental risk factors, including waste accumulation and overcrowded living conditions, while RCCE partners are scaling up community awareness and risk mitigation messaging. The Health Cluster continues to guide technical coordination, including strengthening surveillance, laboratory capacity, and joint data-sharing to support prioritization and scale-up of the response.
- As of May 2026, 36 Emergency Medical Team (EMT) partners continue to support the emergency response, with 36 active EMTs comprising around 70 international and 310 national personnel:
  - Between January 2024 and May 2026, Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) provided 4.8 million general medical consultations, conducted 67 396 emergency surgeries, treated 255 266 critical trauma patients and 468 173 patients with noncommunicable diseases, and supported 22 068 live births.

D. Early recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation of Health Infrastructure

- WHO continues to lead efforts to support the early recovery of the health sector despite significant operational and access challenges.
- Ongoing deployment and utilization of mobile and prefabricated health units (RHUs) are helping to sustain primary health care and essential health services in areas where health facilities have been damaged or destroyed.
- Technical assessments and site readiness activities are ongoing to support the phased installation of prefabricated clinics and health facilities in priority locations throughout the Gaza Strip.
- In collaboration with the World Bank and the European Union, WHO supported the updated Gaza Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA) to evaluate health infrastructure damage, losses, and recovery and reconstruction needs, providing evidence to inform health sector recovery planning and prioritization.

WHO Recommendations

- **Uphold the ceasefire.**
- **Ensure the humanitarian health response can be scaled-up through increased entry of medical supplies in a timely manner and in sufficient quantities, as well as removal of restrictions on the flow of supplies and equipment.**
- **Expand humanitarian corridors and ensure safe passage to allow delivery of humanitarian aid and personnel within Gaza and the West Bank, including those considered dual-use.**
- **Active protection of civilians and health care, preserving the function of remaining health facilities.**
- **Reopen the medical referral route to the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.**

Funding

In 2026, a total of US$333.21 million is required to support essential health response and recovery activities across the oPt. Key priorities include maintaining lifesaving and life-sustaining health services, strengthening disease surveillance and outbreak preparedness, enhancing health emergency coordination, and advancing early recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction of health facilities, workforce, and information systems.



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