



Caption: Injured patients inside an ambulance to be transferred to the hospital. Photo: Palestine Red Crescent Society

occupied Palestinian territory - Gaza

Emergency type: Complex

Reporting period: 01-31 October 2019

 **2.5 M NEED ASSISTANCE**

 **1.4 M TARGETED**

 **0.7 M REACHED**

 **576 INJURED REACHED**

 **2 DEATHS**

HIGHLIGHTS

- From 01 to 31 October 2019, **two Palestinians were killed** and 576 were injured¹ as a result of mass demonstrations in Gaza.
- Since the start of the Great March of Return demonstrations in March 2018, **32 512 injured people and 321 deaths were verified by WHO**. Of those injured, 7824 people suffered from gunshot wounds, and 88% of those presented limb wounds², putting severe strain on an already overstretched health system.
- In October, **46% out of the essential medications were reported at less than one-month supply** at the Ministry of Health Central Drug Store in Gaza, 2% less compared with last month; out of which 91% were completely depleted.
- Funding status:** The Health Cluster's Humanitarian Response Plan, requires US\$ 42 million to date, a total of US\$ 20 million has been received (47%), leaving a gap of US\$ 22 million.



70 health cluster partners including local and international NGOs and UN agencies

MEDICINES DELIVERED TO HEALTH FACILITIES/PARTNERS*



31 medicine items delivered
178 585 beneficiaries
56 prepositioned items

HEALTH FACILITIES



32 total number of functioning hospitals
149 total number of functioning primary health care clinics

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TEAMS (EMTs)



12 EMTs deployed
60 surgeries conducted
300 consultations conducted

AVAILABILITY OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES



235 items of essential medicines, less than one month supply
213 items of essential medicines totally depleted

FUNDING STATUS



47 % funded
US\$42M requested

¹ Ministry of Health (MoH)

² Ministry of Health (MoH)

* Reached until end of June 2019

Public health risks, priorities, needs and gaps

Trauma and injury | Contribution: Trauma Working Group

- 576 Palestinians were **injured** in October and hospitals reported 319 emergency consultations for patients injured during demonstrations, from which, 113 were injured by gunshots. See Figure 1.
- From the cohort of **casualties** referred to emergency departments in October, 147 were children (46%), 10 (3%) were female and 309 (97%) were male.
- From 30 March 2018 until 31 October 2019, a total of 321 people have been **killed** and 32 512 **injured**³. Of those injured, 16 081 were treated at the **Trauma Stabilisation Points (TSPs)** and discharged. This has reduced the burden of casualties arriving at the hospitals **by an average of 49%**. The remaining 19 230 casualties arrived at the emergency departments (ED) of Ministry of Health (MoH) and NGO hospitals. Of them, 4328 were children. Out of 19 230 casualties presented to emergency departments (ED), 7824 cases were **gunshot injuries**; this accounts for 41% of the total casualties arriving at the hospitals. Of these gunshot injuries, 88% are limb injuries. Figure 3 provides a breakdown by affected body part.
- Permanent disability** has occurred because of demonstrations, including 155 amputations, of which 94 (61%) were secondary amputations, including 30 children. 126 were lower limb amputations and 29 upper limb amputations⁴. Twenty-five patients, including three in a coma, are currently paralyzed due to spinal cord injuries and a further 20 people suffered permanent loss of vision because of injuries caused during the demonstrations.

Figure 1: Type of emergency consultations at hospitals 1 - 31 October 2019

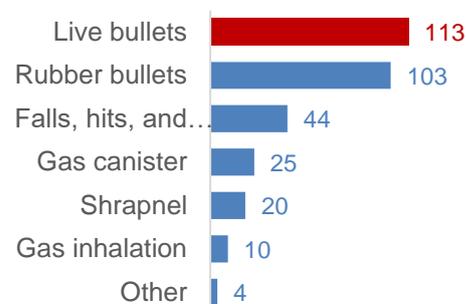
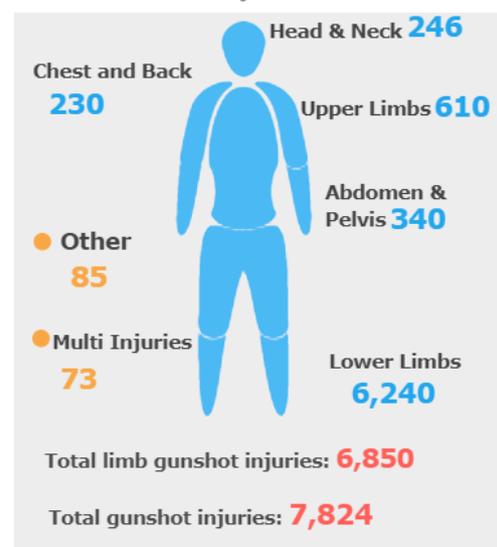


Figure 2 Live ammunition gunshot injuries



Reproductive health | Contribution: UNFPA

- In October, an additional maternal health death occurred one week after a caesarean section, raising the number of registered **maternal deaths** in 2019, which are already exceeding the number of deaths in 2018. Access to essential **sexual and reproductive health services** continue to be restricted with chronic stock outs of essential drugs and disposables, including micronutrients, despite some improvement in iron and folic acid supplies. In October, 48% of maternal and child health medicines were reported at less than one-month supply in the Ministry of Health (MoH). Limited access to family planning services continued in October, including zero stocks of male condoms.

³ Although the MoH report 35,311 injured, WHO was able to verify 32,512 patient records.

⁴ According to Assalama Charitable Society

Non communicable diseases (NCD) and mental health | Contribution: WHO

- Key challenges for NCD care in Gaza include **supply gaps of essential medicines**, particularly in MoH facilities, compounded by service providers not always using the same treatment protocols.
- The escalation of violence since March 2018 has led to an increased number of people exposed to violence or armed conflict experience and consequently there is an elevated risk of **psychological distress and morbidity**. In addition, other events linked to the political and humanitarian situation in Palestine and especially in Gaza Strip such as poverty and political instability, impact the psychosocial and mental health of Palestinians.

Availability of medicines, disposables and laboratory reagents

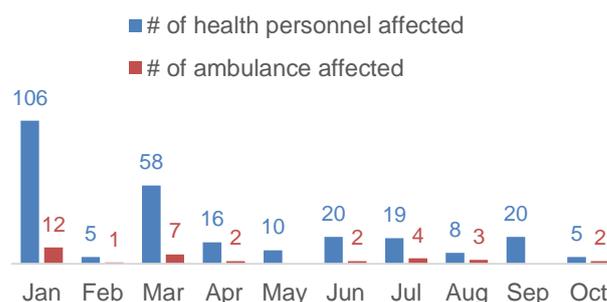
- 235 items (46%) out of the **essential drugs** list, were reported at less than one-month supply at the MoH Central Drugs Store (CDS) in Gaza. Out of the 235 items, 213 items are totally depleted (91%), representing 41% from the essential drugs list. Additionally, 239 items (28%) of the essential medical disposables were reported at less than one-month supply.

Attacks against health and health access for patients injured during demonstrations

Contribution: WHO

- At least **five health workers were injured** in the Gaza Strip in October, while two ambulances were damaged in seven **attacks against healthcare**. Of the health workers injured, two were hit with gas canisters, two with rubber bullets and one with shrapnel⁵. Figure 3 illustrates the monthly trend of affected health personnel and ambulances.
- From March 2018 to 31 October 2019, three **health workers have been killed** and 838 injured in 558 recorded incidents against health staff and facilities in the Gaza Strip. A total of 117 ambulances have been damaged, in addition to 10 other forms of health transport and seven health facilities.
- As of 31 October 2019, according to Gaza's Coordination and Liaison Office, there had been 596 **applications to Israeli authorities by those injured in demonstrations** to exit Gaza via Erez/Beit Hanoun crossing to access health care. Of those applications, 18% were approved, 27% were denied and 55% were delayed

Figure 3: Attacks on health care in Gaza 2019



⁵ This is according to data reported by the MoH, PMRS, PRCS, UHWC and other health providers.

Health Cluster Action

Health Cluster assessment

The Health Cluster led the vetting process for HRP projects in the West Bank and Gaza and panel members consisted of representatives from the Ministry of Health (MoH), NGOs and UN agencies. Key technical staff also joined the vetting, including the gender, protection, and disability focal points.

Provision of essential drugs and supplies

- ✓ Nine medicine items procured and delivered to the MoH Central Drugs Store (CDS) in Gaza by WHO, expected to benefit 140 375 patients.
- ✓ Four medicine items delivered by MAP-UK, expected to benefit 5000 kidney disease patients and four disposables expected to benefit 1566 patients. These items were at zero stock level in the CDS.
- ✓ Three medicine items delivered by UNICEF are expected to benefit 10 850 mothers and children and provided UHWC with 12 medicine items benefiting 2000 high risk pregnant mothers.
- ✓ UNICEF delivered bOPV vaccine on behalf of PA to benefit 225 000 children and provided MoH with Misoprostol 200mcg to benefit 360 patients.
- ✓ Medication provided, including insulin to treat 35 patients, anti-coagulants to treat 26 female patients and 12 weeks' treatment for one kidney failure patient by Physicians for Human Rights–Israel (PHRI), which were reported to be unavailable in Gaza.

Trauma and injury care

- ✓ Mobilized 12 multidisciplinary outreach teams composed of physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, psychologists, nurses and social workers covering all governorates of Gaza through a partnership with Humanity and Inclusion (HI) and two local organizations
- ✓ Provided multidisciplinary rehabilitative services to 502 people and persons with injuries and disabilities benefitted from 7250 multidisciplinary sessions. HI has also distributed 48 assistive devices and conducted 22 psychosocial support sessions.
- ✓ Technical training delivered to 17 rehabilitation nurses on wound, pain management and infection control by MSF-Belgium.

- ✓ 699 sessions of medical examination, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, psychological support and nursing provided by National Centre for Community Rehabilitation (NCCR).



- ✓ 44 cases (including 15 gunshot injuries) provided with emergency care in Al Awda Hospital by Union of Health Work Committees (UHWC).
- ✓ A limb reconstruction mission was deployed to Shifa and European Gaza Hospital by MAP-UK. Eighty-one cases were examined and 18 limb reconstruction surgeries operated.
- ✓ First aid provided to a total of 263 people injured during the demonstrations by Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS). PMRS continued with postoperative care services, and currently following up with 123 of 1348 injured patients registered with the society since the beginning of demonstrations.
- ✓ Health services provided to 93 injured people during demonstrations by Red Crescent Society for Gaza Strip as well as advanced medical imaging and diagnostic tests (273 MRI examination, 137 CT scans and 101 histopathological tests were conducted).
- ✓ 156 injured patients were provided with assistive devices, 139 patients with medical supplies and 622 patients with medication by Assalama Society. In addition to 714 physiotherapy sessions, 312 wound dressing sessions, and 66 patients with psychosocial support. Assalama provided 124 patients with physiotherapy, 185 patients with wound dressings, and 223 patients with medical examinations.
- ✓ 180 cases of demonstration casualties were assessed by Assalama for hearing and vision problems and referred for thorough medical evaluation.

- ✓ 55 operations (which included surgical training) in Shifa hospital and EGH were conducted by Physicians for Human Rights Israel and more than 200 consultations for children were provided.

10 Missions were deployed by the Palestine Children's Relief Fund (PCRF) including an:

- ✓ Two paediatric orthopedic mission, (screened 109 and operated on 19 people); paediatric cardiac mission, (screened 37 and operated 13); paediatric mission (screened 107).
- ✓ Orthoptist (screened 25 and fixed the prosthesis for 13 cases).
- ✓ Kidney transplant mission, screened 12 and operated 6.
- ✓ Emergency medicine mission, conducted training courses for the local doctors and nurses; and a palliative care mission.

Reproductive and Child Health

- ✓ During the reporting period, international and local NGO's from the Nutrition Working Group delivered nutrition services through clinics, community mobilization and home visits, targeting high risk pregnant and lactating mothers and their babies in the most vulnerable areas of Gaza. A total of 13 687 young children were assessed for malnutrition and early childhood development, 1307 children were treated for malnutrition and 1208 children were treated for anaemia.
- ✓ A total of 5854 high risk pregnant and lactating mothers benefited from 85 educational sessions and individual counselling sessions on child health, nutrition and hygiene. Additionally, 104 cooking demonstrations benefiting 1308 women were conducted. A total of 31 nurses and 40 community activators received training and improved their capacity to deliver community outreach interventions and counselling. Two community mobilization workshops were conducted for 50 community leaders on the importance of ECD and the first 1000 days.
- ✓ A Maternal Infant Young Child Nutrition action plan in Emergencies has been developed within the Nutrition Working Group as a foundation for the future interventions.
- ✓ Currently, UNICEF in partnership with WFP and a local partner is conducting a nutrition barrier analysis in vulnerable communities in the Gaza governorates. The analysis is focusing on the six nutrition behaviours,

including the infant and young child responsive feeding, complementary feeding and diet diversity, and behaviours that contribute to anaemia among pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls.

- ✓ Coaching for staff of Kamal Udwan maternity hospital on quality newborn care in labour rooms and neonatal intensive care units delivered by MOH with WHO support. A coaching plan established for Al-Awda hospital, which covers the majority of births among NGOs hospitals.
- ✓ A second training course delivered for 22 MoH midwives on perineal repair (tears occurring during delivery) by UNFPA, through Palestine College of Nursing. In partnership with Juzoor,
- ✓ Conducted a national workshop on integration of SRH into primary health care and family medicine as a key component to achieving universal health coverage for the Palestinian community.
- ✓ Provided 1682 beneficiaries with SRH services and 121 family planning and



contraceptives means. 386 children received health care. Four health education lectures on breast cancer were conducted benefiting 150 women. All provided by Red Crescent Society for Gaza Strip.

- ✓ 273 children were assessed by Japan International Volunteer Center through home visits and followed up 45 children with mild malnutrition problems and referred 12 children to Ard El Insan.
- ✓ Maternal care for 161 women by Caritas Jerusalem with 95 breast clinical examinations and 700 consultations and treatments provided for 700 children.

Mental health and psychological support

- ✓ Two training workshops on I-DEAL methodology (War Child methodology structured Group PSS intervention for children) conducted by War Child – Holland. Conducted 312 sessions of 'Team Up activities benefiting 650 children and 162 sessions of Caregivers Support Interventions (CSI) benefiting 216 adults.
- ✓ Gaza Community Mental Health programme (GCMHP) provided 100 new cases with specialized mental health services in addition to 340 follow-up cases at their three community centres and five mobile stations. GCMHP also provided 92 cases with telephone counselling service. GCMHP (in coordination with humanitarian partners), conducted two training courses on Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP) Interventions for 44 staff of TSP and ambulance service workers, child protection workers and case managers to enhance their skills in the detection of mental disorders.
- ✓ Physicians for Human Rights Israel participated in the third mental health conference in Gaza and presented research findings on detecting suicide-prone individuals, schizophrenia, drug addiction and family violence to over 400 people.
- ✓ 1382 clients provided with individual mental health and psychosocial support by Red Crescent Society for Gaza Strip and 4988

beneficiaries attended different MHPSS activities including workshops, lectures, home visits, and training courses.

- ✓ Three training workshops on 'mhGAP Humanitarian Intervention Guide', targeting 100 PHC health workers to respond to mental health needs due to the current emergency situation delivered by MoH with WHO support. In addition, MoH in coordination with other main MHPSS service providers and with the support of WHO, released the MHPSS Emergency Plan for Gaza Strip.

Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) and Palliative Care

- ✓ 907 patients with NCDs (143 with Diabetes Mellitus, 542 Hypertension, 19 epileptic patients) received medical care from Red Crescent Society for Gaza Strip.
- ✓ Caritas Jerusalem screened 2165 elderly people in Gaza for a project that aims to provide medication and awareness training sessions in Gaza.

Resilience and preparedness

- ✓ WHO conducted a training workshop on risk detection, verification and assessment, and trained 20 participants from MoH and UNRWA on how to detect signals, verify events, and conduct risk assessments.

Plans for future response

- Health Cluster Flood Contingency Plan will be revised with the most updated information. Health Cluster working with Ministry of Health is also looking at emergency stockpile for response. A total of US\$ 1 million is needed to adequately restock essential supplies in the Gaza Strip.
- On the 27 November 2019, the Health Cluster will conduct a joint Cluster meeting (West Bank and Gaza).
- The Trauma Working Group conducted a meeting on the 21 November, 2019 in Gaza. The new Emergency Medical Team Coordination Cell (EMT-CC) was presented to all partners.

Contacts:

- Dr. Gerald Rockenschaub | Head of WHO oPt Office | rockenschaubg@who.int
- Dr. Sara Halimah | WHO oPt Health Cluster Coordinator | halimahs@who.int
- Alice Plate | WHO oPt Communications Specialist | platea@who.int