



## Highlights

- From 01 to 31 March 2019, **eleven Palestinians were killed**, including 4 children and **2,135 injured**<sup>1</sup>.
- On the one-year anniversary of the Great March of Return (GRM) Saturday 30 March, **four people were killed** including three children and 316 injured (86 children), according to the MoH.
- Since the start of the demonstrations in Gaza in 2018, a **total of 277 people have been killed (52 children) and 31,214 injured**. 6,846 people suffered from gunshot wounds, of which 6,196 (91%) presented limb wounds<sup>2</sup>.
- As the current fuel reserve for hospitals declines, mitigation measures such as reduced sterilization, diagnostic imaging, cleaning, laundry and catering services continue to affect the health system.
- In order to respond to the growing cohort of health needs, the Health Cluster requires a total of \$ 28.2 million. Out of this, \$ 15.1 million has been received, with \$5.4 million USD recently released by the Country Based Pool Fund, leaving a funding gap of **\$ 13.1 million**. Further information can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2HWPjwz>.
- An additional \$1.5 million is required to ensure the **minimum needed resources are available to prepare for and respond to the first 96 hours of potential escalation**.



Injured patient receives pre-hospital care at the TSP. Credit: WHO



2,135 people were injured on 30 March. Credit: WHO

<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Health (MoH)

<sup>2</sup> Ministry of Health (MoH)

## Trauma Analysis 01 - 31 March

- **Casualties:**

- Eleven Palestinians were killed, and 2,135 were injured by Israeli forces.
- According to the available data, WHO found that there was a total of 1,408 ambulance movements during the mass demonstrations. From this total, 1,385 movements were from the field to the TSP's, 23 movements were directly from the field to the hospitals and 724 movements were from the TSPs to the hospitals.
- In March, 68% of patients that arrived to the emergency departments were triaged at the TSPs compared with to average of 57% in 2018.
- In March, the hospitals reported 1,158 emergency consultations for patients injured during the mass demonstrations. From which, 289 were for injured by gunshot. *See figure 1 below for type of emergency consultations.*
- From the cohort of casualties referred to hospitals during this reporting period, 324 were children (28%), 85 (7%) were female and 1,073 (93%) were male. *See figure 2 below.*

**Figure 1: Type of emergency consultations at hospitals 01 to 31 March 2019**



**Figure 2: Emergency consultations at hospitals disaggregated by gender and age 01 to 31 March 2019**

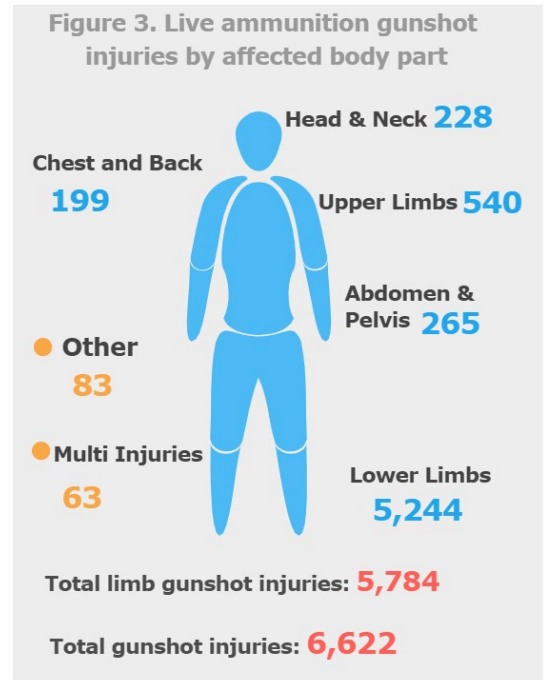
Total	By gender		By age	
	Male	Female	Children	Adults
1,158	1,073	85	324	834

## Cumulative Trauma Analysis since 30 March 2018

- **Deaths:** From 30 March until 31 March 2019, a total of 277 people have been killed<sup>3</sup>.
- **Injuries:** The total figure of people injured stands at 31,214.
- **Trauma Stabilisation Points:** Out of 31,214 people injured, 14,658 were treated at the TSPs and discharged. This has reduced the burden of casualties arriving at the hospitals by an average of 47%.
- **Hospital caseload:** The remaining 16,556 casualties arrived at the emergency departments (ED) of MoH and NGO hospitals. Of them, 3,310 were children.

<sup>3</sup> 7 bodies have been reported to be held by Israeli authorities, according to OCHA.

- **Gunshot injuries:** Out of the total 16,556 casualties that arrived to emergency departments (ED), 6,846 cases were gunshot injuries; which account for 41% of the total casualties arriving at the hospitals. From the total of 6,846 gunshot injuries, 87% are limb gunshot injuries. Refer to figure 3 for a breakdown of gunshot wounds by affected body part.
- **Permanent disability:**
  - **Amputations:** 128 amputations have taken place as a result of injuries during the mass demonstrations, including 30 in children<sup>4</sup>. 110 were lower limb amputations and 18 upper limb amputations<sup>5</sup>.
  - **Paralysis:** 22 patients are currently paralyzed due to spinal cord injuries.
  - **Eye injuries:** Nine people suffered permanent loss of vision as a result of injuries caused during the mass demonstrations.



## Electricity in Gaza

- As the current fuel reserves for hospitals decline, mitigation measures such as reduced sterilization, diagnostic imaging, cleaning, laundry and catering services continue to affect the health system. However, the Electricity Distributing Company has connected most of the hospitals with extra grid lines, which has decreased the dependency on fuel to run backup generators.
- So far, ad-hoc donations from various charities have prevented the closure of hospitals. Meanwhile, the MoH continues to highlight the potential threat facing the health sector, if the remaining fuel gets completely depleted.

## Payment of Healthcare Staff

- The MoH is running services through a network of 49 primary health care centres (PHCs) and 14 hospitals across the Gaza Strip, supported by a workforce of 10,492 staff.
- According to the MoH in Gaza, an additional 261 health employees had their salary payments suspended in January 2019, bringing the total to 853 health staff, since July 2007. Out of the 261 health employees, 213 continue reporting to duty, including 72 doctors, 37 nurses, 16 pharmacists, 18 laboratory technicians and x-ray technicians. 129 are working at the hospitals, 49 in primary care, and remaining 83 are administrative positions.
- Out of the total 10,942 staff, 6,066 staff have not received their salaries regularly since July 2014 and only receive an average of 40% out of the total salary every 40-50 days.

<sup>4</sup> In the previous Situation Report, the number of children was significantly lower, this is due to the fact that the partner reporting the number of amputations had incorrectly classified children as aged under 17. This has been corrected in the current Situation Report.

<sup>5</sup> According to Assalama Society

## Impact of Great March of Return on other services

- The persistent shortages of essential drugs and disposables for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) (60%) and maternal and child health (72%), reported by the Gaza Central Drug Store<sup>6</sup>, negatively impact the ability of PHC centres and hospitals to provide life-saving health services neonatal care and management of non-communicable diseases.

## Access for patients referred out of Gaza

- **WHO** continues to monitor the access of patients from Gaza and attacks against healthcare across the oPt. For additional information on access barriers for Palestinian patients, see WHO's latest monthly [access report](#). [March figures are currently not available](#).
- As of 28 February 2019, according to Gaza's Coordination and Liaison Office, there had been 499 applications to Israeli authorities by those injured in demonstrations to exit Gaza via Erez crossing to access health care. Of those applications, 18% were approved, 28% were denied and 54% were delayed.

## Emergency Response

- In preparation for the Great March of Return (GMR) anniversary, **WHO** delivered 10 TSP kits, estimated to benefit approximately 2,500 wounded patients. WHO also delivered 11 medical consumable items for intensive care and hemodialysis units enough to benefit 18,400 patients, including 900 patients in need of hemodialysis. On 12 March, WHO conducted a TSP workshop with the MoH and PRCS.
- WHO supported two Early Essential Newborn Care (EENC) clinical coaching session for 19 staff at Al Shifa Hospital. WHO has also supervised a monthly audit conducted by EENC teams in Al Shifa and Tahreer hospital to improve quality and allocate implementation gaps.
- **Palestine Children's Relief Fund (PCRF)** deployed 5 medical missions, including a spine surgery mission to European Gaza Hospital (66 patients and operated on 11 scoliosis cases); 2 maxillofacial teams (screened 74 patients and operated on 25 cases in Al Shifa hospital); a pediatric dental surgery mission (screened 31 children and operated on 12 patients). PCRF, jointly with **WHO**, conducted a 2-day training for health professionals in Gaza on district health information systems.
- **Humanity and Inclusion (HI)**, in a partnership with four local organizations (Baitona for community development in North Gaza, Palestinian Avenir for Childhood foundation in Gaza, National Society for Rehabilitation in both Middle Area and Khan Younis, EL-Amal Rehabilitation Society in Rafah), mobilized 10



<sup>6</sup> MoH Central Drug Store report, Gaza, February 2019 as reported in March 2019.



multidisciplinary outreach teams constituting of 45 rehabilitation professionals. HI and partners assessed a total of 2,278 persons with injuries, out of whom 2,225 have received multidisciplinary rehabilitative services. 351 persons with injuries have also been readmitted to receive other cycles of rehabilitation intervention. HI has also distributed 725 assistive devices including wheelchairs, elbow and axillary crutches, and anti-bed sore mattresses. HI also procured **800** assistive devices to be at partners' disposal in order to respond to persons with injuries' needs. Since the beginning of the demonstrations on 30 March 2018, HI has provided a total of 40,000 multidisciplinary sessions.

- **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** provided 4 essential lifesaving drug items enough to benefit 41,000 people, in addition to 193,500 doses of Penta vaccine, enough to benefit 193,500 children. UNICEF also delivered 135 pairs of different types of crutches. In preparation for the Great March of Return anniversary, UNICEF distributed 300 first aid kits to the MoH and 4 NGOs for prehospital care.
- **Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS)** provided first aid to a total of 515 people injured during the demonstrations, out of which 61 were shot with live bullets. PMRS added 44 new patients to their postoperative care services, raising the total of beneficiaries to 1,138. PMRS also distributed a total of 68 assistive devices to 57 persons with injury. Since the start of demonstrations, PMRS has provided first aid services to a total of 6,089 casualties.
- **Médecins du Monde-France (MdM- F)** provided support on trauma and postoperative care to 3 MoH PHC centers (Shuhada Deir el Balah, Old Buriej and Old Nuseirat). During this period, 952 new patients benefited from a total of 1,612. The clinics have referred 10 patients from PHCs to hospitals and have received 106 patients from hospitals at the PHCs. On 30 March, MdM- Fr set up two covered triage and management areas at Al Aqsa Hospital. MdM-Fr physicians sorted 101 incoming patients based on the START Triage, and created a highly visible parking space for the incoming ambulances, to facilitate the triage process. Drugs and disposables were also prepositioned for the response.
- **United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)** provided 235 people with injury with surgical dressings and medication, bringing the grand total of beneficiaries, since the start of the demonstrations, to 5,593 patients.
- **Union of Health Work Committees (UHWC)** teams provided first aid and emergency health services to 88 cases, including 8 gunshot injuries and 3 injuries with rubber bullets. Out of this total, 30 cases were provided with first aid services at the medical point in Rafah and 58 cases were transferred to the emergency department of Al-Awda Hospital for further interventions.
- **Caritas** provided treatment for 210 injured cases and delivered medicine for 161 injured persons.
- **Human Appeal International** provided 7 essential drug items worth of \$28,900 USD. Human Appeal has ongoing interventions, including the renovation of the CT room at Al Shifa Hospital and delivery of spare parts for the intensive care units and operating rooms at Al Shifa Hospital.
- **Doctors Worldwide – Turkey (DWWT)** provided **3,962** treatment sessions for **303** beneficiaries including, 11,866 nursing treatment sessions, 894 medical examinations, 1,038 physiotherapy and 14 psychosocial support.



Injured patient receives post-op care. Credit: DWWT

- **Dar Essalam Hospital (DES)** had 2 ambulances assigned at the TSPs that were able to transfer 28 injured casualties to MoH hospitals. The hospital also treated 16 casualties with gunshot injuries and conducted 12 peripheral neurosurgeries. During the reporting period, DES distributed 19 first aid bags.
- **MAP** released 21 drugs items, 16 medical disposables and 3 lab reagents from the repositioned items in order to prepare for the GMR anniversary, enough to treat 13,725 casualties. MAP continues to provide limb reconstruction services; 126 patients were screened and 6 surgeries were conducted at Al Shifa and EGH hospitals. MAP also delivered a shipment containing 252 surgical items for limb reconstruction surgery.
- **Hayfa hospital** medical teams provided first aid to 132 injured people in the field and transferred 75 patients to the TSPs. The hospital conducted 9 peripheral neurosurgeries. The hospital also provided more than 363 multidisciplinary consultations including wound dressings, x-ray and laboratory services, and provision of drugs and consumables.
- **Physicians for Human Rights–Israel (PHRI)** mobile clinic visited the Gaza Strip twice in the month of March. During the first visit, from the 1 to 3 of March, PHRI's volunteers carried out 19 surgeries and saw 270 patients. 200 healthcare workers attended a surgical seminar led by PHRI, which included lectures on lung cancer, rehabilitation after chest surgery and other cutting edge topics. The second visit, included a mental health workshop for 130 attendees, including psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and nurses. The workshop, led by a clinical psychologist, focused on the use of psychodrama and role playing. The same visit also marked International Women's Day, with a primarily female team of medical volunteers. PHRI also held the first ever medical conference on gynecology at the request of Al Shifa hospital. More than 230 physicians and medical students attended a series of lectures.
- **Patient Friends Benevolent Society Hospital (PFBS)** ambulances transported and provided first aid services to a total of 9 injured cases. Five cases were treated at the PFBS emergency department and 4 cases were directed to Al Shifa hospital.

### Coordination and Information:

- A Gaza Health Cluster emergency preparedness group meeting took place on 14 March, attended by 18 people representing 12 active organizations in emergency and preparedness. The first 96 hours response plan and the preparedness plan has been discussed and agreed upon. The operational response for Gaza 2019 can be accessed [here](#).
- The Health Cluster organized a visit for the Humanitarian Coordinator to Al Shifa Hospital, Al Quds Hospital and a TSP in Gaza City. The Humanitarian Coordinator was briefed on the situation in Gaza and the preparedness measures ahead of the anniversary of GMR.



Humanitarian Coordinator field visit to Al Shifa Hospital, Credit: WHO

## Urgent Funding Needs

- In order to respond to the growing cohort of health needs, the Health Cluster requires a total of \$ 28.2 million. Out of this, \$ 15.1 million has been received, with \$5.4 million USD recently released by the Country Based Pool Fund, leaving a funding gap of **\$ 13.1 million**. Further information can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2HWPjwz>.
- An additional \$1.5 million is required to ensure the **minimum needed resources are available to prepare for and respond to the first 96 hours of potential escalation**.
- The Health Cluster partners also require **\$ 32 million USD** to address health needs of the most vulnerable communities in the occupied Palestinian territory for 2019, targeting 900,000 people out of the 1.2 million people in Gaza, West Bank (including East Jerusalem). See the [Humanitarian Response Plan 2019](#).

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