



Health Situation in Gaza

Weekly Updates and Technical Recommendations

Introduction

The persistent situation in the Gaza Strip continues to inflict prolonged human suffering. The repeated episodes of violence place tremendous strain on the already exhausted healthcare system and fragile infrastructure, with more than 85 percent of the population living in poverty. That situation is drastically worsened by the current war that started on October 7, 2023. Consequently, a total siege was issued on October 9, 2023, in Gaza by the Israeli army, blocking the supply of food, water, medicines, fuel, and electricity. The direct attacks on hospitals burden the Healthcare system in Gaza.

In Numbers

 **6547** Related Mortalities

 **1.4 Million** Internally Displaced Populations

 **70%** Mortalities who are Women Children and Elderly

 **7** Hospitals Declared Out of Service

 **296** Average Number of Deaths Per Day

 **50,000** Pregnant Women Deprived of Healthcare Service

 **17,439** People Injured

 **45%** Shortage in Essential Medication

 **250** Attacks on Health Facilities

 **3L** Water Consumption Per Person

 **500** Resulting Death of Civilians

 **165,000** Housing Units Destroyed

 **42** Resulting Death of Health Workers

Numbers can be much more as the data was collected only from areas that could be reached. This tragic situation is expected to be serious, including long-term injury, disabilities, and the spreading of communicable diseases locally and maybe regionally. Based on the latest OCHA Flash Update 15, health partners have already detected cases of chicken pox, scabies, and diarrhea attributable to poor sanitation conditions and consumption of water from unsafe sources. Interruptions to routine health services threaten to increase morbidity and mortality due to Non-Communicable Diseases and chronic conditions. The long-term mental health consequences of war-related trauma must be considerable.

During this crisis, we call for immediate humanitarian access to Gaza to provide essential medical supplies, clean water, and food, recognizing the critical importance of healthcare access. We stress the need for safe passage for medical teams and emergency responders and support for psychosocial services, especially for children. Access to clean water and sanitation, public health education, and nutritional support for vulnerable populations is vital. Any delay in addressing these critical health issues will directly affect the public's health. Ideally, stopping war and lifting the siege is the solution to end the existing health issues that people in Gaza may encounter.

References

- MSF: <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/latest/five-ways-war-gaza-impacting-palestinians-health>
- Palestinian MOH: <https://www.moh.gov.ps/portal/#>
- WHO EMRO: <https://www.emro.who.int/opt/information-resources/emergency-situation-reports.html>
- State of Palestine Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS): https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/portals/_pcbs/PressRelease/Press_En_Preliminary_Results_Report-en-with-tables.pdf
- The Ministry of Housing in Gaza
- UN-OCHA: <https://www.ochaopt.org/updates>