



OVERVIEW

This is the 4 February update on the situation of the health sector situation since the outbreak of hostilities in the Gaza Strip on 27 December 2008.

- 4 Feb, UNDSS¹ advised UN facilities in Gaza to remain closed and UN staff to remain at home while UNMAS² teams neutralize unexploded ordinances.
- Post-ceasefire assessments to evaluate immediate health needs and damage to health facilities are being finalized.
- 122 health facilities assessed, about 48% found damaged or destroyed:
 - 15 hospitals and 41 PHC centers partially damaged;
 - 2 PHC centers destroyed;
 - 29 ambulances partially damaged or destroyed.
- Immunization resumes with an attendance rate higher than average.
- Electricity supplies improve at health facilities.



International Humanitarian Law requires all medical personnel and facilities be protected at all times, even during armed conflict. Attacks on them are grave violations of International Humanitarian and Human Rights laws. Access to health is a fundamental human right.

EMERGENCY STATUS

The emergency status declared by all MoH hospitals during the conflict was suspended on 22 January and all MoH facilities have resumed normal functionality.

CASUALTIES and AFFECTED

On 31 January, the MoH reported that 1380 Palestinian people had been killed³ since 27 December 2008, of whom 431 were children and 112 women. Approximately 5380 people were reported injured, including 1872 children and 800 women⁴. Injuries were often multiple traumas with head injuries, thorax and abdominal wounds. Among the casualties, 16 health staff were killed and 22 injured while on duty⁵.

¹ United Nations Department of safety and Security

² United Nations Mine Action Service

³ This number does not include those who have died due to lack of access to regular health care (including obstetric care and treatment for chronic diseases).

⁴ Ministry of Health, Ramallah

⁵ Information collected by the Palestinian Health Information Center

UNRWA reported that 3 out of the 50 emergency shelters established to accommodate displaced people continue operating for 445 displaced people.

HEALTH PERSONNEL

Before 27 December 2008, 5469 health personnel were regularly reporting to duty at the different MoH health facilities. 514 health personnel were unable to report to duty during the crisis due to insecurity, according to the MoH Director of Hospitals. For this reason, 89 health personnel were redeployed from their hospitals to others near their place of residence.

At MoH primary health care (PHC) level, around 1300 health personnel were reporting to work before 27 December. Most were unable to do so during the crisis but returned to duty with regular working hours after the cease-fire.

DAMAGE TO HEALTH FACILITIES

15 of Gaza's 27 hospitals suffered damage, 9 MoH⁶ and 6 NGO hospitals, among them Al-Wafa rehabilitation hospital, which is Gaza's only rehabilitation hospital.

Out of the surveyed PHC facilities, 41 PHC clinics were partially damaged and 2 destroyed: 28 MoH clinics, 7 UNRWA, and 8 NGO. (Annex I)

ELECTRICITY AND FUEL SUPPLY TO HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Electricity supply improved during the last week of January. Around 4 hours per day of electricity outage in all the Gaza Strip.

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Most health personnel are now reporting back to work. All services have fully resumed in the functioning centers, with some interruptions reported in laboratories and dental services during electricity outage hours at PHC centers that don't have generators.

53 out of 55⁷ MoH PHC centers are fully functioning and the other 2 are not as they were destroyed. The 10 PHC centers converted to emergency evacuation centers have returned to normal working hours. All UNRWA centers have resumed normal functioning.

There has been a significant increase observed in the attendance at PHC clinics for immunization services as compared to pre-27 December averages. UNRWA is providing catch-up immunization sessions at their immunization centers.

All MoH facilities have resumed regular working hours since the 18 January ceasefires. Trauma counseling activities are being provided to wounded patients and their families in addition to people living in the most affected areas. Other regular MoH services are functioning at community MoH centers and the psychiatric hospital.

The epidemiological surveillance system has resumed its activities, although with all preexisting limitations, especially related to fragmentation of the system and lack of resources.

Health education and promotion services have resumed at community and school levels, focusing on specific issues especially psychiatric disorders, post-traumatic stress disorders and hygiene-related issues.

The public health laboratory is collecting random water samples from the water networks, water wells and water treatment plant on a daily basis for microbiology testing to ensure water

⁶ There are 12 MoH Hospitals in Gaza, all MoH hospitals have been partially damaged, except Beit Hanun, Nasser and Gaza Psychiatric Hospitals, which remained unaffected

⁷ The 56 MoH PHC clinics reported up to now was a number taken from the last available assessment done by the MoH. From the assessment recently implemented it was discovered that, in two occasions, two clinics in north Gaza have been merged to form one PHC facility and one new clinic has been opened in Rafah. Accordingly the total number of the MoH PHC facilities is now 55.

quality, especially in areas with destructed/damaged networks. But support is needed for transportation, fuel for generators, medical supplies, kits and reagents.

The environmental health department is coordinating with the public health laboratory for issues related to water quality. Due to a lack of resources, this department has not yet resumed insect and rodent control to disinfect areas close to sewage pools and areas that reported damage to the sewage networks.

REFERRALS ABROAD

Injured patients needing referral outside Gaza for specialized care were evacuated exclusively through the Rafah border crossing. The MoH reported that between 29 December-22 January, 608 injured were evacuated through Rafah.

Table 1: Distribution of injured patients referred to the different hospitals during 29 Dec- 22 Jan

Hospital Name	No. of injured at hospitals	No. of discharged	No. of deaths
Egyptian Hospitals	512	17	26
Saudi Arabia hospitals	61	-	1
Jordan Hospitals	8	-	-
Morocco hospitals	4	-	-
Libyan hospitals	8	-	-
Turkish hospitals	9	-	-
Belgium hospitals	6	-	-
Total	608	17	27

The Referral Abroad Department (RAD) and the Erez crossing was closed for much of the period and only 30 patients were able to exit during the crisis.

97 applications for permits were submitted between 1-21 January, 18 (18.6%) patients had their permits granted and the other 79 (81.4%) had their applications delayed.

Table 2: Patients evacuated through Erez Crossing

Day	No. of patients crossed Erez
28 December	7 cases
31 December	7 cases
1 January	8 cases
20 January	4 cases
22 January	3 cases
25 January	1 case
Total	30 case

MEDICAL SUPPLIES

According to MoH/WHO operation room in Ramallah, **96% of the priority drugs** at the central levels have been either delivered or committed and **81% of the priority disposables** were either delivered or are in the pipeline.

At peripheral level, a full stock of pharmaceuticals is available at all MoH hospitals while some items are still in shortage at some PHC centers, especially in North Gaza, Khan Younis and the Middle Zone.

COORDINATION

WHO is undertaking a needs and health facilities assessment that is coordinated with Health Cluster partners. NGOs and doctors have also been asked to coordinate with WHO in Rafah and Jerusalem, as well as the MoH Operations Room in Ramallah, before deployment of health personnel into Gaza to ensure that the specialties being offered are needed by health services there.

WHO is coordinating the emergency health response through its Jerusalem, Gaza, Cairo and Geneva offices with the MoH in Ramallah and Health Cluster partners. [A WHO Emergency Operational Plan](#) has been launched for a range of urgent health interventions.

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ANNEX 1: 122 Surveyed health facilities with damage status: 27 December 2008-19 January 2009

No.	Facility Name	Provider	Damage to health infrastructure	No. of Beds
HOSPITALS				
1	Kamal Edwan Hospital	MoH	Partial Damage	71
2	Beit Hanoun Hospital	MoH	No Damage	42
3	Dorah- Gaza Hospital	MoH	Partial Damage Shelled three times, 3 and 13 Jan indirectly and 12 Jan directly. From 8-13 Jan, damages forced all services to halt, except for emergency services. From 13-18 Jan, all services stopped, including emergency care. Emergency care resumed 19 Jan.	64
4	Gaza Pediatrics' Hospital	MoH	Partial Damage Reported that all the windows were smashed due to reported shelling in the vicinity since 27 Dec. All in-patients were transferred to one ward, and plastic sheets placed over the windows.	150
5	Shifa Hospital	MoH	Partial Damage	596
6	Gaza Psychiatric Hospital	MoH	No Damage	42
7	Gaza Ophthalmic Hospital	MoH	Partial Damage	40
8	Aqsa Martyrs Hospital	MoH	Partial Damage	103
9	Nasser Hospital	MoH	Partial Damage Shelling in the vicinity smashed the windows and forced staff to relocate two nursery rooms inside the hospital	321
10	Gaza European Hospital	MoH	Partial Damage Artillery fire destroyed the northern wall of the hospital, severed main water pipes, damaged the main generator and cut electricity.	207
11	Yousif Najar Hospital	MoH	Partial Damage	59
12	Tal Sultan Hospital	MoH	No Damage	50
13	AL Quds - PRCS Hospital	NGO- PRCS	Partial Damage Directly hit by repeated shelling, this destroyed the administrative building, the pharmacy and the ambulance park. Around 50 patients and 500 people seeking refuge in the hospital were trapped for several hours inside the building, fearing the imminent explosion of the administrative building which was burning just adjacent to the hospital as well as continuing military attack. After hours, Israeli forces accepted the passage of firemen to extinguish the fire and evacuate all people	100
14	Patients Friends Benevolent Society Hospital	NGO	Partial Damage	42
15	Ahli Arab Hospital	NGO	Partial Damage Damaged by indirect fire. Its windows were smashed and infrastructure damaged.	80
16	Al- Awda Hospital	NGO- UHWC	Partial Damage	77
17	Al-Wafa rehabilitation hospital	NGO	Partial Damage Direct Israeli fire, eastern wall severely damaged.	50
18	Fata Rehabilitation Hospital	NGO	Partial Damage	NA

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CENTRES			
North Gaza District			
1	Jabalia Camp	MoH	Partial Damage
2	Ezbet Beit Hanun	MoH	Partial Damage
3	Beit Hanon	MoH	Partial Damage
4	Al-shiamaa	MoH	Partial Damage Damage to windows and electrical lines, destruction of the road that leads to the clinic
5	Beit El-Maqdes	MoH	Partial Damage
6	Alatatra	MoH	Completely Destroyed
7	Shohadaa Jabalia	MoH	Partial Damage
8	Abu Shbak	MoH	Partial Damage
9	Abu Shbak- mental health clinic	MoH	Partial Damage
10	Biet Lahia	MoH	No Damage
11	Beit Hanun	UNRWA	Partial Damage
12	Jabalia	UNRWA	Partial Damage
13	Al-Fakhora	UNRWA	No Damage
14	Om Nasser	NGO_PMRS	No Damage
15	Ezbt Beit Hanun	NGO_PMRS	No Damage
16	Jabalia	NGO_PMRS	No Damage
17	Al Luhidan	NGO-UHWC	Partial Damage
18	Al-Quds	NGO_UHWC	Partial Damage
19	Jabalia	NGO_PRCS	Partial Damage
20	UHCC Jabalia clinic	NGO_UHCC	No Damage
21	PRS Jabalia clinic	NGO_PRS	No Damage
Gaza District			
1	Al Zayton	MoH	No Damage
2	Al Salam	MoH	No Damage
3	Al Qubba	MoH	Partial Damage
4	Al Falah	MoH	No Damage
5	Ata Habeeb	MoH	No Damage
6	Al Surani	MoH	Partial Damage
7	Hala Shawwa	MoH	Completely Destroyed
8	Hurriya	MoH	Partial Damage
9	Daraj	MoH	Partial Damage
10	Sheikh Radwan	MoH	No Damage
11	Shuhada El-Shate'	MoH	Partial Damage
12	Remal	MoH	No Damage
13	Sabha EL-Harazeen	MoH	Partial Damage
14	Rahma	MoH	No Damage
15	Disabled	MoH	No Damage
16	Gaza city (Daraj)	UNRWA	No Damage
17	Zaytoon	UNRWA	No Damage
18	Al-Rimal	UNRWA	No Damage
19	Ashate'	UNRWA	No Damage
20	Chronic Diseases centre	NGO-PMRS	No Damage
21	UHCC Gaza clinic	NGO_UHCC	Partial Damage UHCC compound dhit by Israeli shelling, administrative building damaged
22	NECC Jdaida clinic	NGO_NECC	Partial Damage
23	NECC Daraj clinic	NGO_NECC	No Damage
24	Sheikh Ejleen	NGO_PRCS	Partial Damage
25	PRS Gaza clinic	NGO_PRS	No Damage
26	Caritas	NGO	No Damage
27	Al-Harazzen	NGO	No Damage
28	Haifa	NGO_Salah Association	No Damage
Middle Zone District			
1	Al Mughraqa	MoH	No Damage
2	Al Zahra	MoH	Partial Damage
3	Al Maghazy	MoH	Partial Damage
4	Dier Al Balah	MoH	No Damage

5	Heker Al Jame	MoH	No Damage
6	Wadi Al-Salqa	MoH	No Damage
7	Alzawaidah	MoH	No Damage
8	Al Mussadar	MoH	No Damage
9	West Nusairat	MoH	No Damage
10	New Buraij	MoH	Partial Damage
11	Johr El-Deek	MoH	Partial Damage
12	Al- Sawarha	MoH	Partial Damage
13	Old Nusairat	MoH	Partial Damage
14	Nusairat Martyrs	MoH	Partial Damage
15	Central Buraij	MoH	No Damage
16	Buraij	UNRWA	Partial Damage
17	Nusairat	UNRWA	No Damage
18	Dair-balah	UNRWA	No Damage
19	Maghazai	UNRWA	No Damage
20	Nusairat sub-centre	UNRWA	No Damage
21	Al-Khairia	NGO_UHWC	Partial Damage
22	Al-Maghazi centre	NGO- Salah association	No Damage
Khan Younis District			
1	Abasan Alkabera	MoH	No Damage
2	Khaldia Alagha	MoH	No Damage
3	Joret Al Loot	MoH	No Damage
4	Khuza'a	MoH	No Damage
5	Bany Suhaila	MoH	No Damage
6	Fukhari	MoH	No Damage
7	Abasan Al Saghera	MoH	No Damage
8	Al-Zanna	MoH	No Damage
9	Shuhada Khanyounis	MoH	Partial Damage
10	Qarrara	MoH	No Damage
11	Ma'an	UNRWA	Partial Damage
12	Khan Younis	UNRWA	No Damage
13	khan Younis Japanese	UNRWA	Partial Damage
14	Khan Younis	NGO_PMRS	No Damage
15	Ma'en	NGO_PRCs	No Damage
16	Al-Amal	NGO_PRCs	No Damage
17	UHCC Khan Younic Clinic	NGO_UHCC	No Damage
18	PRS Abasan clinic	NGO_PRS	No Damage
19	Ard El-Inssan	NGO	No Damage
Rafah District			
1	Al- Shuka	MoH	Partial Damage
2	Tal El Sultan	MoH	Partial Damage
3	Shuhada'a Rafah	MoH	Partial Damage
4	Al Shabura	MoH	Partial Damage
5	Rafah- El Bahar	MoH	No damage
6	Nasser	UNRWA	No Damage
7	Rafah	UNRWA	Partial Damage
8	Tal sultan	UNRWA	Partial Damage
9	Shabora sub- centre	UNRWA	No Damage
10	Shoka	UNRWA	No Damage
11	Al-Awda	NGO_UHWC	Partial Damage
12	Al-Mawassi	NGO_PRCs	No Damage
13	UHCC Rafah clinic	NGO_UHCC	No Damage
14	Kherb El-Addas	NGO_NECC	No Damage