



**Objective: To continue providing West Bank communities and Gaza continuity of emergency and primary healthcare during heightened emergency state**

Location: All high-risk and vulnerable Gaza and West Bank communities and, including current crisis points:

- Gaza City
- Khan Younis
- Gaza Strip
- Jenin
- East Jerusalem
- Shufat refugee camp
- Hebron - H2
- Ramallah
- Nablus
- Jordan Valley (including Bedouin Communities for example khan al Ahmar)
- Salfit

Current context

Since the escalation in violence on the 7th of October 2023, PMRS is in the current position of not having any stock left in Gaza to cope with the current or predicted demands. In the West Bank, our stock is low and there is an imperative need to organize teams in both Gaza and the West Bank to ensure Palestinians have access to emergency and primary healthcare.

In 24 hours alone, there have been 313 killed and 1990 injured in Gaza. 7 killed and 50 injured in the West Bank. In addition to 248 Palestinians killed by settlers and Israeli army since the beginning of the year. There are already 20,000 IDPs seeking refuge and shelter in UNRWA schools and most of the West Bank has been shut down with restricted access due to roadblocks and closed checkpoints.

Further, health infrastructures such as ambulances and hospitals have been attacked. During airstrikes, Israeli forces hit the Indonesian hospital in Beit Lahiya, northern Gaza, with a missile, killing two Palestinian men, including a staff member of the hospital, and injuring five others. Damage was also caused to the oxygen station inside the hospital. Additionally, at about 14:00, Israeli forces reportedly hit an ambulance stationed in front of Nasser Hospital in the city of Khan Yunis, in the southern Gaza Strip. Several Palestinian paramedics were reported injured.

The last 2 years have been the most violent and fatal for Palestinians across the oPt (OCHA). There are approximately 2.1 million Palestinians across the oPt in need of humanitarian assistance, and unfortunately, this figure is rising due to the recent increases in violence against Palestinians and the Israeli military's declaration of war yesterday (7th October) and consequent airstrikes on Gaza.

Immediate needs based on rapid needs assessment:

PMRS needs support to equip and mobilize its emergency teams across the Gaza Strip and West Bank. Current assessments indicate the need for at least 3 teams in Gaza and likely the same in the West Bank. Further, there is a great need to ensure the primary health teams can continue to provide essential primary healthcare services which will assist in reducing the burden of disease on secondary healthcare facilities such as hospitals and clinics. PHC is also essential at this time to ensure preventable deaths and complications can be avoided.

In the emergency teams, the types of injuries we are treating include:

- \* Trauma due to airstrikes and blasts
- \* Gunshot wounds to various parts of the body including head, chest, and limbs
- \* Tear gas inhalation/suffocation and temporary blindness/eye irritation
- \* Crush injuries and blunt force trauma
- \* Broken bones
- \* Limb amputation due to trauma
- \* Contusions (bruising) to face, chest
- \* Severe increase in mental health-related complications and need for mental health support
- \* Emergency care for peri-natal patients due to trauma and injuries

Emergency Equipment Needs:

- Emergency equipment for the emergency teams, including first aid kits, stretchers, and medications such as pain relief and oxygen for inhalation injuries, etc.
- Medications e.g. analgesia, anesthetics, adrenaline, cardiac, antibiotics.
- Disposables, dressings, bandages, PPE etc.

PHC Emergency Needs:

- Medications for non-communicable diseases e.g. diabetes, high blood pressure, chronic illness, etc.
- Fuel supply to run local generators in our medical facilities
- Assistive devices and rehabilitation support.
- SRHR, women and youth health support.
- Mental health professionals for mental health hotline and outreach teams.
- Food packages for those displaced and in great hardship.
- Supplies for mothers and babies e.g. diapers, formula, clothing and blankets
- Hygiene/ dignity kits are mostly for women and displaced people.

October 7, 2023

What the healthcare sector is now facing is a crisis on top of a crisis. The last 3 years since COVID-19, have seen the most rapid decline in healthcare infrastructure due to the pandemic and the ongoing nature of the humanitarian crisis in Palestine. This recent escalation and declaration of war will only further perpetuate systems of inequity and human rights violations.

Of particular concern is Gaza, with a population of just under 2 million – half of whom are children – and one of the highest population densities in the world, conflict-related trauma is a major burden of disease (WHO). Overall, it is important to acknowledge the impact of trauma is not only a burden on the health sector, and affects not only the victim but also the family and surrounding community. Investment in and strengthening of national and local systems and structures, when properly coordinated and supported by international partners, can provide effective and sustainable trauma care that saves lives in the immediate phase and beyond. PMRS needs the support and collective action to continue ensuring all Palestinians have access to quality healthcare, serving the most vulnerable communities first.