

War in Gaza

18-months on

Report on MSF response, October 2023—April 2025



Severely damaged buildings in the Al-Shifa hospital campus. Gaza City, Palestine, February 2025. © Nour Alsaqqa/MSF

Summary

Eighteen months after the war between Israel and Hamas broke out in the Gaza Strip, Palestine, and in the context of an uneasy ceasefire, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) teams are responding to the massive medical and mental health needs in the Strip. MSF teams are also responding amid increased violence and tightened movement restrictions in the West Bank since the war started in Gaza, and which worsened when a ceasefire came into effect in mid-January 2025.

MSF's activities in Palestine before October 2023

MSF started working in Palestine and in the Gaza Strip in 1988, when we provided physiotherapy to people injured during the First Intifada (Dec 1987 – Sep 1993).

Gaza

Before October 2023, we worked to fill gaps in the healthcare system in Gaza, which was already overstretched, underfunded and deeply impacted by a 16-year blockade. Working in three hospitals and several outpatient clinics, we offered comprehensive care for people with burns and trauma; this included providing surgery, physiotherapy, psychological support, occupational therapy and health education.

We also ran a reconstructive surgery programme in northern Gaza, which started in 2018. We worked in laboratories to identify and treat antibiotic-resistant infections and provided training and psychological support for local healthcare workers. Since early October 2023, these activities have been largely suspended or have been adapted to a context in which we now work with limited supplies, and at danger to our teams.



MSF teams set up a mobile clinic for people in Jabalia refugee camp. Gaza Strip, Palestine, February 2025. © MSF

West Bank

In the West Bank, Israeli occupation, violence, unemployment, and poverty have had a profound impact on the mental health of Palestinians. Our teams offered psychological support, in various forms, to both groups and individuals, in Hebron, Nablus, Tubas, and Qalqilya. In Jenin, MSF worked with the Ministry of Health in Jenin's main hospital to strengthen emergency response mechanisms. We also provided basic healthcare, through fixed clinics in Hebron's old city, and through mobile clinics in Masafer Yatta.

Context

Gaza

On 7 October 2023, Hamas, which has been in power in the Gaza Strip since 2007, launched a coordinated attack inside Israel, killing around 1,200 people and taking more than 250 hostages.

Israel subsequently declared war on Hamas and Israeli forces launched massive attacks on the Gaza Strip. Israeli forces systematically bombed and violently raided residential areas, schools, hospitals, health centres and ambulances, and refugee camps. In October 2023, Israel imposed a total blockade on Gaza, banning water and food, and severely restricting the import of essential supplies, including medications and medical supplies.

For 15 months, successive evacuation orders, followed by intense bombing and attacks – first, as Israeli forces progressively moved from north to south – left an estimated 90 per cent of Gaza residents displaced, mostly to the south, and many multiple times.¹ Over 50,000 people have been killed,² including an estimated 15,000 children.³

People have had very little food, water, shelter and little or no access to healthcare. In October 2024, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification reported that the entire Gaza Strip was classified as experiencing serious levels of acute malnutrition, with 133,000 people facing catastrophic food insecurity.⁴

The north of Gaza was particularly affected; for months, since October 2024, it was under a tight siege, essentially isolated, with virtually no humanitarian aid entering, as the area was heavily attacked. People were left without food to eat, and with very little access to healthcare for their injuries.

Gaza's health system has been decimated: most of the Gaza Strip has been destroyed or damaged – nearly 70 per cent of all structures in the Strip⁵ – and that includes healthcare facilities. Only 18 out of 36 hospitals are still at least partly functioning.⁶ Over 1,000 healthcare workers – including 10 MSF staff – have been killed in Gaza since 7 October 2023.

Supplies into the Strip have been negligible. For nearly nine months, the Rafah border crossing, on Gaza's border with Egypt and a main entry point for aid, was closed, following Israel's offensive in southern Gaza in May 2024. In addition, Israeli authorities imposed lengthy and burdensome administrative processes on aid entering, with entire shipments being blocked. The lack of aid entering the Strip meant our teams have experienced critical shortages of essential medicines and equipment.

In January 2025, Hamas and Israel agreed to a temporary ceasefire. The first phase came into effect on 19 January, and in late January, the Netzarim corridor, dividing the south and north of Gaza, reopened. Since then, over 560,000 people are estimated to have returned to their homes in northern Gaza.⁷ In the first weeks after the start of the ceasefire, an average of 600 trucks with aid were entering per day, with around 300 in the south and 300 in the north. However, even if more of our trucks were coming through, Israeli authorities still rejected medical equipment and other critical aid items, including razor blades, autoclave, specific spare parts, and water pumps.

As the first phase of the ceasefire was due to end in early March before the second phase begun, Israeli authorities announced that it was once again blockading the Gaza Strip. Israeli authorities are instrumentalising aid – a form of collective punishment – as a bargaining chip in the war. All aid has stopped going in as of the beginning March. Shortly after, electricity has been cut off, reducing water supplies. Once again, people in Gaza have been plunged into a precarious humanitarian situation.

In the early hours of 18 March, Israel shattered the two-month-old ceasefire, launching strikes with a brutal intensity across the entire Gaza Strip. Gaza authorities report over 400 people were killed. An MSF staff member was among them. At time of writing, the situation is evolving rapidly.

West Bank

Violence surged across the West Bank, especially in Jenin and Tulkarem, in parallel to the Gaza war. In the wake of the ceasefire starting in January 2025, Israeli forces have been inflicting extreme levels of violence on the territory. Since 7 October 2023, over 930 Palestinians have been killed in raids by Israeli soldiers or clashes with Israeli settlers⁸ – with nearly 100 killed in just January and February 2025 alone.⁹ Israeli forces regularly raid Palestinian areas across the territory, including refugee camps. There has been a spike in attacks on healthcare, with WHO having documented over 750 attacks in the West Bank until late February 2025, including on ambulances.¹⁰

Incursions on camps in neighbourhoods in the West Bank – which have had a devastating impact on people and their access to healthcare – have inflicted immense suffering for people since the Gaza ceasefire. In late January 2025, Israeli forces launched a military operation which has forcibly displaced tens of thousands of residents in Jenin and Tulkarem, severely damaged hundreds of homes, and blockaded towns, leading to a shortage of vital supplies including water, fuel, and electricity.

Israeli-imposed movement restrictions – which already made life difficult for people – have become severe since late January. Israeli forces enact road closures, prolonged delays at checkpoints, and the installation of new gates at village entrances, which makes every journey complicated for Palestinians, whether to go to work, visit relatives, or seek medical care.



MSF community mental health workers in Tulkarem refugee camp, regularly targeted by Israeli incursions. West Bank, Palestine, October 2024. ©Oday Alshobaki/MSF

MSF response

Gaza

Despite the restrictions, we continue to respond in Gaza where the security situation allows it. Our teams are offering surgical care, wound care, physiotherapy, maternal and paediatric care, basic healthcare, vaccination, and mental health services.

MSF staff – internationally mobile and local staff – plus MSF-supported staff¹¹ are working/have worked in the following facilities since 7 October:

(Note: facilities marked with an asterisk [*] are those in which we are working under MSF management as at time of writing; those in red are where there is no longer any MSF presence.)

Northern Gaza

- MSF clinic, Gaza City* - MSF staff who chose to remain in Gaza City during the siege provided, and continue to provide, care for people in our clinic close to Al-Shifa hospital. We provide general healthcare consultations, consultations for non-communicable diseases and for malnutrition. Our teams also undertake sexual and reproductive health activities, including antenatal and postnatal care, gynaecological consultations, and family planning services.
- Sheikh Radwan clinic – starting in January 2025, MSF staff are working with Ministry of Health staff in providing training to staff for malnutrition and emergency care, and donating supplies.
- Indonesian hospital – after MSF staff were forced to evacuate from Indonesian hospital in October 2023, we returned there in early March 2025. We're supporting the paediatrics department, treating children mostly for respiratory infections, skin conditions and gastrointestinal issues, and are also building a field hospital nearby to increase capacity.
- Mobile clinics – We run two mobile clinics in Jabalia and Beith Hanoun providing primary healthcare, treatment of non-communicable diseases, dressings and health promotion.
- Al-Awda hospital - MSF stopped working in Al-Awda at the end of December 2023, after our agreement (memorandum of understanding) with the Ministry of Health to work in the hospital ran out. However, some former MSF staff remained at Al-Awda and provided care until it was besieged by Israeli forces for five days in May 2024.
- Al-Shifa hospital – evacuated November 2023; last MSF staff left in February 2024. Before evacuating, we had scaled up our response in the hospital by opening an operating theatre on 10 October 2023. Following a two-week Israeli forces military operation inside the hospital which ended on 1 April 2024, the hospital was left in ruins and is no longer functional.

Middle Area

- Al-Aqsa hospital, Deir Al-Balah – we support the Ministry of Health by treating critical cases in the emergency room, including providing trauma surgery and advanced wound care. We also provide post-operative wound care, physiotherapy, health promotion, mental health support and screen for malnutrition.
- Al-Hekker clinic, Deir Al-Balah* - we provide general consultations, vaccinations, reproductive health services, wound dressing, and mental health services. We also provide health promotion and screen and treat malnutrition.
- Deir Al-Balah field hospitals x 2, Deir Al-Balah* – Located near Al-Aqsa hospital, we opened two tented field hospitals to provide extra capacity and support to Al-Aqsa. We treat people in an emergency room, provide inpatient treatment and outpatient consultations. We also provide follow up for non-communicable diseases, change wound dressings, screen for malnutrition, provide mental health sessions and treatment for sexual and reproductive health.
- Al-Martyrs clinic, Deir Al-Balah* - MSF staff provide wound care, mental health sessions, health promotion, physiotherapy, and malnutrition screening activities.

Southern Gaza

- Nasser hospital, Khan Younis – following the destruction of Al-Shifa, Nasser hospital is now the largest surgical centre in Gaza. MSF staff provide orthopaedic and plastic surgery, treating burns, and providing laboratory services, physiotherapy, and counselling. We run an outpatient unit for wound care and a unit for providing minor surgical interventions on a day patient basis. In both inpatient and outpatient wards, we provide mental health services. We also support and provide treatment in two paediatric wards, maternity services in the delivery, pre- and post-partum wards, and treat babies and children in the paediatric and newborn intensive care units. We also treat malnourished children in an inpatient therapeutic feeding centre.
- Al-Mawasi clinic, Rafah* - we work in a clinic in Al-Mawasi, where we provide general consultations, ante- and post-natal care, mental health services, physiotherapy, wound dressing changes, vaccination, minor surgery, and malnutrition screening and treatment. **We ended our support in a second clinic in October 2024.**
- Khan Younis clinic, Khan Younis* – MSF teams provide medical consultations, vaccination, mental health services, outpatient treatment for malnutrition, and pre-natal and sexual and reproductive health services. We also provide wound care and physiotherapy, and health promotion.
- Al-Attar clinic, Khan Younis* - we opened this clinic located between Al-Mawasi and Khan Younis to provide general and paediatric consultations, vaccination, emergency healthcare, wound care, family planning, antenatal and postnatal care, mental health care, health promotion services, and screening and treatment of malnutrition.
- European Gaza hospital, Khan Younis – no MSF staff. Activities stopped in March 2024 due to insecurity. We provided surgical services and changed wound dressings.
- Rafah Indonesian Field hospital, Rafah - working with the Ministry of Health, we provided care to patients in the inpatient and outpatient departments, as well as in the operating theatre. Teams provided surgery and post-operative care to war-wounded patients, including dressing changes, physiotherapy, and counselling. In mid-May 2024, we stopped our activities at the hospital due to the offensive on Rafah, as we could no longer guarantee the safety of patients.
- Al-Najar hospital - activities ended. We provided surgical and wound care, ending our activities at the end of March 2024.
- El-Emirati Maternity hospital, Rafah* - our teams, including gynaecologists, nurses and hygienists, provided postpartum care and managed complications in pregnancies in round-the-clock shifts. In early May 2024, we made the decision to hand over activities to the Ministry of Health, due to the ongoing offensive on Rafah, and relocated resources based on needs, given the shifting displacement of people.
- Al-Shaboura clinic, Rafah* - our team provided general consultations, vaccinations, reproductive health services, wound dressing changes, and individual and group mental health services until early May 2024. We also screened people for malnutrition. We suspended our activities due to the Rafah offensive and relocated resources where they were more needed.
- Trauma Stabilisation Point in Tal Al-Sultan, Rafah – on 14 May 2024, MSF opened a Trauma Stabilisation Point (basic facilities where patients are provided with initial treatment before being referred to hospitals if specialist care, like surgery, is required) near the front lines in Rafah. On the night of 26 May, 180 wounded and 28 dead were recorded at the stabilisation point after Israeli airstrikes hit a camp sheltering displaced people. During the night on 27 May, heavy bombardments and ground forces operating close to the stabilisation point forced its closure. All patients and staff were safely evacuated. The following day, we took the decision to permanently close the stabilisation point due to the intense fighting in the area.
- Beni Suhaila clinic - we provided basic health care, wound dressing, and mental health consultations, until Israeli forces ordered people to evacuate the area on 1 December 2023.

Water and sanitation

- Water and sanitation – In January 2025, MSF distributed around 500,000 litres of water per day through desalination in more than 64 water points in Al Mawasi, Khan Younis, Rafah, and Deir Al-Balah. Since the ceasefire our teams also started water trucking activities in the north. We are continuously working to increase this quantity, as drinkable water is a scarce source.
- Since February 2024, through partnership with PARC - Agriculture Development Association – we are implementing water and sanitation activities in camp shelters in Deir Al-Balah and Khan Younis. The partnership includes equipping a camp hosting 70 families (400 people) of people living with disabilities with the needed sanitary facilities (accessible latrines and showers).

Response in figures

Please note – figures are not exhaustive; covers 7 October 2023 – 26 January 2025 for OPT only (activities in Lebanon, Jordan and Cyprus relating to The Regional Fund – Gaza Emergency are not included)



Outpatient consultations:
549,000



People treated for
diarrhoea: **40,700**



Consultations for non-
communicable diseases:
50,000



Individual mental health
consultations: **34,300**



Antenatal consultations:
41,000



Inpatients admitted:
34,200



Surgical interventions:
11,800

West Bank

Since October 2023, access to medical care in the West Bank, which was difficult before the war in Gaza erupted, has been severely disrupted at times in some places. In response, we expanded our activities, working on providing emergency care, basic healthcare via mobile clinics, and mental health care in Hebron, Nablus, Tubas, Jenin and Tulkarem. However, since the Israeli military operation in January 2025, we've been forced to suspend some regular activities in Jenin and Tulkarem.

Hebron

- We provide medical care through 15 mobile clinics in areas outside and inside Hebron's Old City, and in the remote villages of Masafer Yatta in the Southern West Bank.
- We provide medical care support to four clinics, and provide personnel to increase the capacity of the maternity ward and emergency room in Halhoul hospital.
- We provide extra staff capacity in the emergency room at Al-Muktaseb hospital and provide mental health services.
- We also make donations to various hospitals and provide first-aid kits to community focal points in Beit Omar, Al-Fawwar camp, Al-Arroub camp, Al-Rshaydeh, and Umm Al-Kheir.
- We have trained medical staff in Al-Muktaseb, Hal-Hul, Dura, and Yatta hospitals in the wider Hebron area.
- Since October 2023, we've increased health promotion activities and the distribution of relief items, hygiene kits and food parcels to internally displaced Gazans, and West Bank residents affected by violence and forcible displacement.

Nablus

- We continue to offer individual and group mental health sessions, as well as psychiatric and sexual and reproductive health consultations, in Nablus, Qalqiliya and Tubas.
- In collaboration with the Palestinian Union of Social Workers and Psychologists we train psychologists, who undertake theoretical and practical training in the MSF clinic.
- MSF is also training Palestine Red Crescent Society volunteers as first aid providers and first responders in the governorates of Nablus, Tubas, and Qalqiliya.
- We have equipped six stabilisation points across Nablus, Qalqiliya and Tubas, to mitigate access constraints for patients and ambulances.
- MSF staff train doctors and nurses in the emergency room in Nablus, Tubas and Qalqiliya hospitals to enable staff to respond to trauma cases.
- Teams provide general and specialised healthcare consultations via a mobile clinic across six locations in Qalqiliya and Nablus governorates.

Jenin and Tulkarem

- We were providing extra capacity in the emergency room at Khalil Suleiman hospital in Jenin, and bedside training of emergency personnel – we ended these activities in late 2024.
- Until January 2025, we provided mental health sessions and psychological first aid to communities, including training for medical staff on the latter.
- Since January 2025, we have focused on delivering basics needs to people in displacement camps and hospitals in Jenin, including water, fuel, mattresses, food and medicines.
- We run mobile clinics in Jenin, providing healthcare to people.
- In Tulkarem displacement camp, we distribute food packages to families trapped by the military operation and items such as shelter, cooking and hygiene kits to families displaced outside of the camp.

MSF Expenditure

Please note – budgets include OPT activities and those in Lebanon, Jordan and Cyprus as per the TOR of The Regional Fund – Gaza Emergency.

Oct – Dec 2023: €27.4 million

Jan-Dec 2024: €100.7 million

Projected budgets 2025: €87.7 million.



Children play on the rubble of their home near the MSF clinic in Gaza City. Gaza Strip, Palestine, November 2024. ©MSF

1 According to OCHA.

2 According to Ministry of Health, Gaza.

3 According to UNICEF.

4 According to IPC, [IPC Famine Review Committee Alert Gaza Strip \(Published on 8 November 2024\)](#)

5 According to UNOSAT, as of 1 December 2024

6 According to WHO.

7 According to OCHA, 5 February 2025

8 WHO

9 According to WHO

10 WHO

11 MSF-supported staff refers to daily workers whose salaries are paid by MSF but who are not MSF employees. These staff do not work under MSF management.