



Tents for displaced Palestinians in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip.  
Credit: Yousef Masoud, New York Times

Two weeks into the conflict, there have been 5,087 deaths in Gaza, with 15,273 people injured, because of bombardment by air, sea and land.<sup>1</sup> More than 1.4 million people have been displaced, a majority of whom are in central and south Gaza. Increasing violence has also been reported on the West Bank.

The delivery of basic services—including health, protection, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)—has been significantly impacted, with supplies of water, food and fuel restricted. As of October 23, WHO has documented 72 attacks on healthcare facilities in Gaza (34 health facilities, including 19 hospitals and 24 ambulances), resulting in 16 fatalities of healthcare staff on duty.<sup>2</sup> This restriction in access to health services will exacerbate preexisting health conditions among the population and increase the risk of appearance of new, acute conditions, especially in vulnerable populations such as children under 5, pregnant and lactating women (PLW), the elderly, people with disabilities (PWDs) and other marginalized groups. Simultaneously, needs in mental health, protection and WASH are increasing daily. An estimated 20,000 patients need specialized mental health services and lack access to providers or medications.<sup>3</sup> The conflict is causing psychological distress and trauma to many, especially those who have witnessed or experienced violence, displacement, and loss of loved ones or livelihoods.

As all access routes have been closed off, supplies needed for basic survival—such as water, food, fuel and electricity—are reaching alarmingly low levels, which may have far-reaching consequences. The lack of potable water, linked to poor hygiene and sanitation, could trigger risks of infectious-disease outbreaks that the current health system will not be able to respond to. Increasing malnutrition is also a risk, especially for vulnerable groups that already may have issues accessing food (such as children, the elderly, and pregnant and/or lactating women). As in any

### FAST FACTS

- As of October 23, OCHA reported 5,087 fatalities and 15,273 injuries in Gaza, 70% of which are elderly, women and children.
- Following a command to evacuate Northern Gaza and Gaza City, about 1.4 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) have been reported, with nearly 590,000 sheltering in 150 UNRWA emergency shelters.
- As of October 23, 34 health facilities and 24 ambulances have been damaged, according to the WHO.

### OUR FOOTPRINT

- International Medical Corps has been present in the occupied Palestinian territories since 2008. Palestine includes the West Bank bordering Jordan and Gaza Strip.
- International Medical Corps provides health, protection and disaster risk-reduction services in all Gaza governorates.
- International Medical Corps works with a network of local community-based organizations (CBOs) and health provider partners that we have thoroughly vetted, ensuring that we are able to efficiently and effectively provide support to the most vulnerable communities in Gaza.

### OUR RESPONSE

- International Medical Corps has so far delivered 15 cubic meters of medicines and more than 370,000 items of medical consumables and supplies to support emergency and trauma healthcare services at Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City.
- Our staff and volunteers are providing psychological first aid to people in need.
- International Medical Corps is securing 3,000 dignity kits to be distributed at shelters and through local CBOs to displaced women.

<sup>1</sup> UNOCHA – Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel: Flash Update #17

<sup>2</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *ibid.*

conflict, the risk for gender-based violence, intimate partner violence and child abuse is also very high, and unaccompanied minors and orphans are at even greater risk of poor health, malnutrition and violence. The current conflict will therefore worsen the existing crisis in the Gaza Strip, where close to 1.4 million people— including 1 million children— depended on humanitarian aid before the outbreak of this conflict. The delivery of 20 trucks of UN humanitarian assistance on October 21 “is equivalent to about 4% of the daily average of imports into Gaza prior to the hostilities,” according to the UN.<sup>4</sup> Since then, additional aid trucks have been allowed into Gaza, however, the needs are well beyond what is being delivered at the moment.

## International Medical Corps Response

When the conflict started, International Medical Corps immediately focused on ensuring the safety and security of our staff, the majority of whom are now displaced after evacuating to the southern governorates of Deir Al-Balah, Khanyounis and Rafah.

We are working to procure and deliver essential medications, supplies and equipment to support hospitals and health facilities in Gaza. As of October 21, International Medical Corps had delivered 15 cubic meters of pharmaceuticals—including amoxicillin, ibuprofen, omeprazole, ciprofloxacin, acetaminophen and gentamicin—to Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City, which before the start of the conflict was covering a catchment population of nearly 750,000 people. We also have delivered more than 370,000 items of medical consumables and supplies to support emergency and trauma care, including personal protective equipment, bandages, gauze, syringes, sterilization pouches and catheters. In addition to these items, International Medical Corps is procuring 3,000 dignity kits, 500 hygiene kits, and food and non-food items to support internally displaced persons in Gaza.

International Medical Corps has also deployed an emergency response surge team to Egypt that includes medical and logistical staff who will meet with potential partners and coordinate with other stakeholders to discuss the supply chain and identify additional opportunities to support the immediate needs of people who have been displaced.

International Medical Corps also has been in discussion and close coordination with the WHO EMT Secretariat for potential deployment of our EMT Type 1 as needed in the region.



*An International Medical Corps staff member prepares medicines and medical supplies for donation to hospitals in Gaza.*

<sup>4</sup> UNOCHA – Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel: Flash Update #15