



Medical Teams Response to
hostilities in Gaza

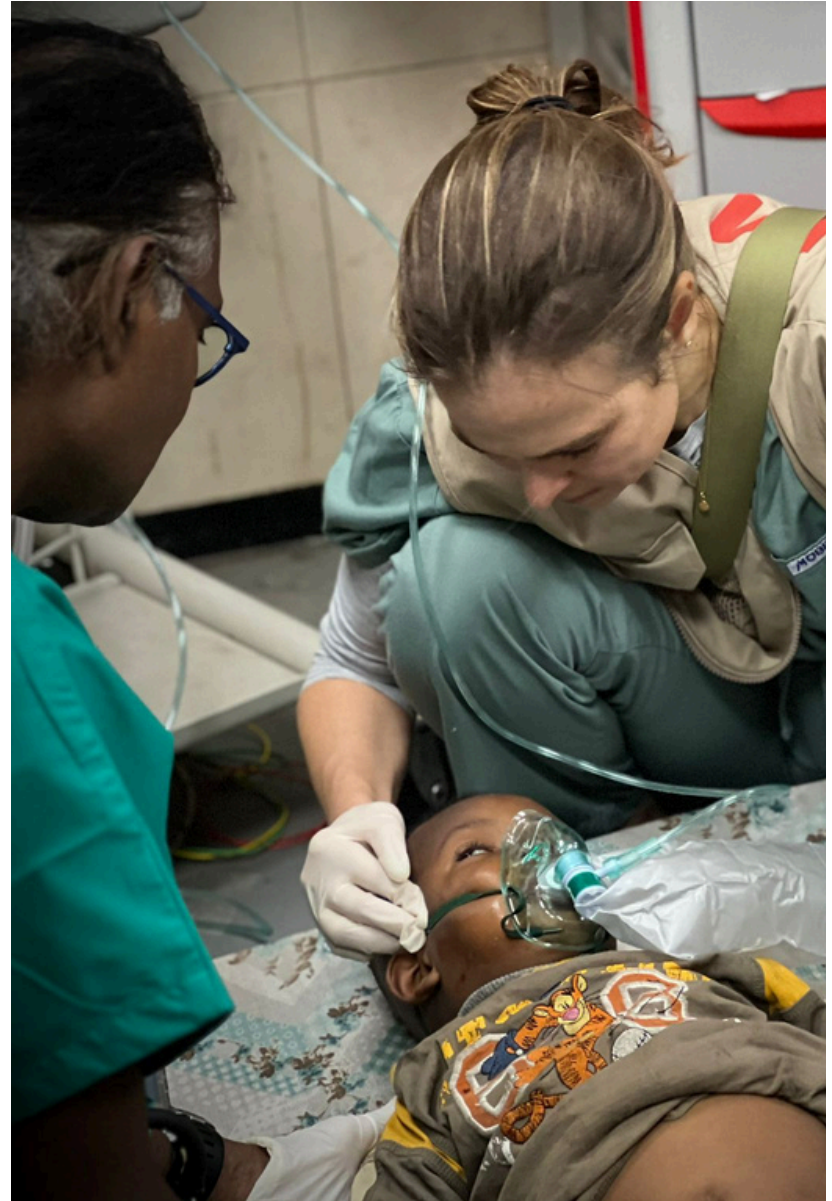


Background

Since October 2023, communities have been exposed to intense armed conflict resulting in lives lost, injuries and mass displacement of civilian population, as well as severe destruction and damage to civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, clinics, and other healthcare facilities.

Adequate access to primary, specialized, and secondary healthcare services is severely hampered by security constraints, lack of pharmaceuticals products, medical consumables, electricity, water, fuel, and communication.

As the hostilities in Gaza continues, the World Health Organization (WHO) is boosting the health system's capacity by coordinating and deploying emergency medical teams to key hospitals in the north and south.





Timeline

Following the attacks on the 7th of October, the escalation of hostilities became apparent in the coming weeks. Below is a timeline of the activation and mobilization of teams



17 OCT 23

Call for expressions of interest to deploy to Gaza issued to the EMT Network



3 NOV 23

EMT Coordination Cell activated in Cairo



8 NOV 23

First EMT Coordination meeting



10 NOV 23

First three medical teams deployed to Gaza

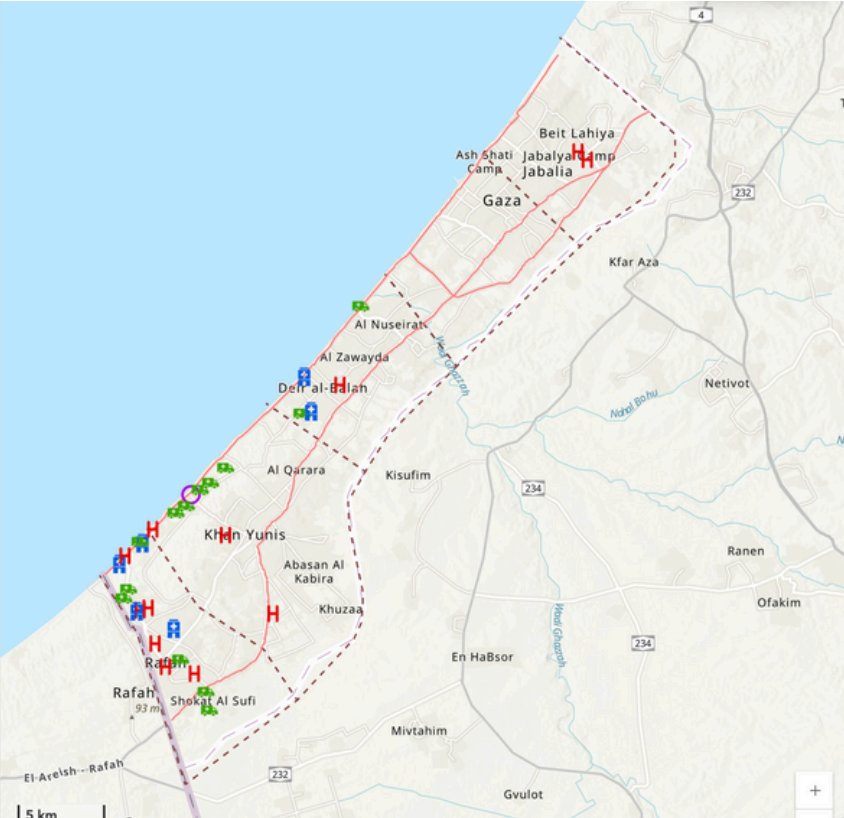


29 NOV 23

First EMT Coordinator deployed to Gaza

EMT Coordination

EMT Coordination Cells were activated in Cairo and Gaza. In Cairo, the EMTCC is fully staffed with experts of differing specialisations, from clinical care, logistics, information management and medical evacuation. In Gaza, the EMT network has deployed a Coordinator to support the national health systems to coordinate and quality assure as best possible the current teams responding including monitoring activities using the EMT networks minimum data set and documenting this on an external dashboard.



EMTs operational presence in Gaza										
Week 14 2024										
	Total	T1 Mobile	T1 Fixed	T2	T3	SCT Surge ry	SCT EM / Referrals	SCT Paeds - Obs - Gyn	IPD Bed s	OTs
Operational EMTs	20	4	8	4	0	10	1	2	464	8
Lined up EMTs	19	1	9	2	0	6	2	2	180	4
Phased out EMTs	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0

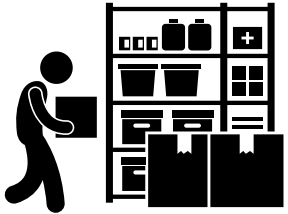




In 100 days, the WHO EMT Initiative supported the coordination and deployment of medical teams to establish field hospitals and reinforce existing facilities. These medical teams performed over 15,000 surgeries and provided primary care and specialized services on trauma care, pediatrics, maternal health, and medical evacuation to nearly 300,000 patients.

Challenges

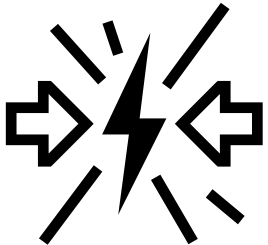
EMTs operating in Gaza are facing major constraints in ensuring the needs of the most vulnerable. Five recurring challenges were identified by the WHO supported EMT Coordination Cells in Gaza and Cairo



Essential medical supplies are **not readily available** to EMTs due to **access constraints** at the borders, **restrictive list** of allowed supplies and restrictions in movement and distribution.



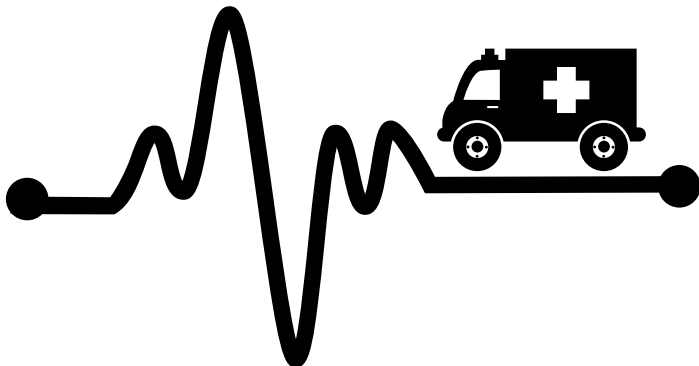
The **scope of healthcare services** available in the Gaza strip has been **greatly reduced** giving teams lesser capacity to refer patients for specialized services or access key services such as laboratories.



The **lack of deconfliction and rigorous checks to deploy** is impeding the swift and timely deployment of teams when and where most needed.



While teams are seeing a considerable number of patients daily, they represent only **a small fraction of the population in need of emergency or chronic healthcare** in a population of over two million people.



Disruption in continuity of care. Transfers of patients to third-party countries are **significantly slow**, as the requests for international evacuation are subject to very **restrictive criteria** set out by responsible authorities. To this date, only 55% of requests for medical evacuation of children with severe health needs have been approved.

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WHO calls for an immediate and lasting ceasefire and the removal of the obstacles to the delivery of urgent humanitarian assistance into and across Gaza, at the scale that is required. WHO additionally calls for the sanctity of health care to be respected. Parties to the conflict have the coordinates of health facilities: it is imperative they are actively protected and remain accessible to patients, health workers and partners. The safety of health and humanitarian workers must be guaranteed. Those striving to save lives should not have to endanger their own.



Contact Us



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Access the EMT Dashboard here: <https://bit.ly/GazaEMT>

