



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

IOM FLASH APPEAL

EGYPT RESPONSE TO HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY IN GAZA

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Homes have been shelled in Gaza as hostilities between Israelis and Palestinians continue (Source: UNOCHA 2021)

INTRODUCTION

IOM is launching its flash funding appeal to assist the urgent needs of Palestinian displaced populations (DPs) and stranded labour migrant who are in a vulnerable situation in the Gaza Strip and in need of urgent live-saving assistance and protection.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Since 10 May 2021, increased military and armed hostilities in Gaza Strip resulted in mounting casualties. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, between 10 and 17 May, 220 Palestinians were killed and 6,039 injured in the Palestinian Territories. The number of casualties in Gaza Strip includes a death toll of 198 Palestinians (58 children and 35 women), and injury to 1,300 Palestinians. Strikes further damaged essential infrastructure, including roads leading to two of the main hospitals, resulting in an additional decline in the public access to basic services. Since the start of the escalation, 94 buildings, comprising 461 housing and commercial units, have been destroyed. In addition, 285 housing units have been severely damaged, and rendered uninhabitable, leaving over 2,500 people homeless. Additionally, over 34,000 people have been displaced, most of them children, and more than 40 schools operated by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) are now serving as shelters.

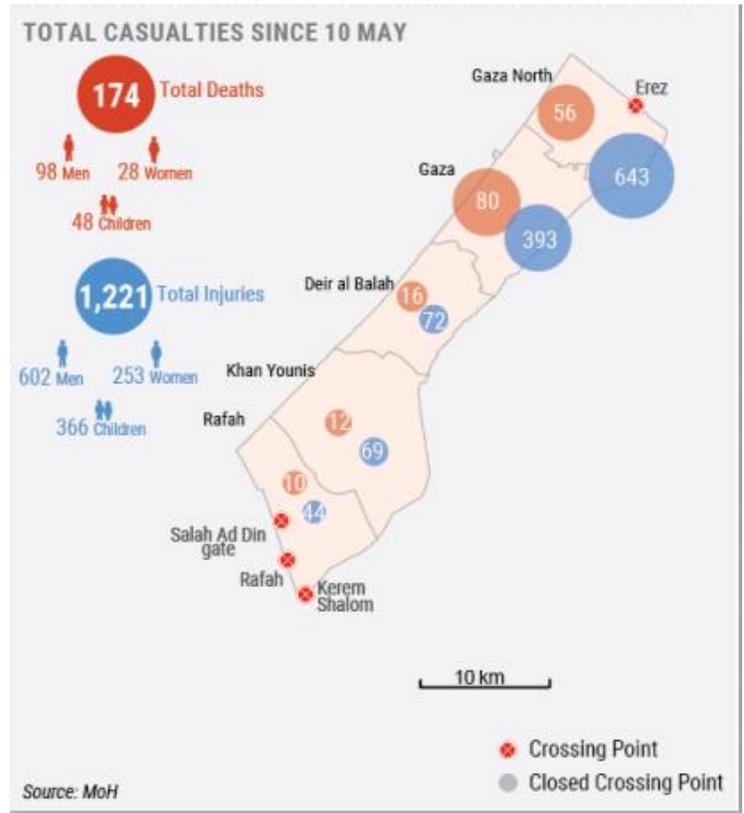


Photo 1: Palestinian casualties in Gaza Strip since 10 may (UNRWA, 16 May)

Power supply across Gaza has reduced to 6-8 hours per day, on average, with a number of feeder lines not functioning, disrupting the provision of health care and other basic services, including water, hygiene, and sanitation (WASH). In general, there is a reduction of up to fifty per cent in WASH services, with at least 600,000 people severely affected. As a result of severe injuries and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Intensive Care Unit (ICU) occupancy at hospitals is currently at 43 per cent and is expected to rise as the ongoing bombing on Gaza continues. Six hospitals and three clinics have been partially damaged, while one clinic has been destroyed. As the only COVID-19 testing lab has been hit by air strikes, there is a great risk of potential COVID-19 surge as the current conflict is severely affecting COVID-19 response including testing, treatment and vaccination.

An estimated 1,000 women will give birth in the next week in Gaza. The ongoing crisis is impacting women's ability to give birth safely due to the damage to health facilities, physical inaccessibility, and airstrikes (Gaza).

Egypt Provision of Aid and Humanitarian Assistance

On 16 May 2021, Egypt has reopened the Rafah Border Crossing for the movement of wounded people and labour migrants into Egypt and the provision of humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip. Egypt has so far sent 16 ambulances to pick-up casualties, most of whom had suffered serious injuries that required immediate surgical procedures. A Medical Committee is present at the border crossing to triage the casualties as they arrived and allocate them across three designated hospitals. On 17 May 2021, Egyptian authorities reported the arrival of 740 Palestinians.

PLANNED INTERVENTIONS

IOM Egypt works towards ensuring the emergency provision of life-saving humanitarian assistance and health services in coordination with Egyptian authorities and humanitarian organizations, including the Ministry of Health and Population and the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC). Coordination is ensured with the ICRC and other IOM partners.

To respond to urgent and growing needs of stranded migrants and Displaced Population (DP) in distress and trapped in the mist of conflict, IOM and its partners require 350,000 USD to increase their humanitarian interventions targeting the needs of the most vulnerable. All interventions are coordinated with the Government and humanitarian organisations to ensure an efficient and coordinated response.



HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

245,000 USD

- Emergency and life-saving interventions to support DPs, migrants and their families with increasing emergency health care response, with initial screening, referral, treatment, care and support.
- Delivery of emergency primary, secondary and tertiary migrant-friendly health-care services in North Sinai, increased with capacity-building of the needed ICU, emergency trauma ward and operational theatres.
- Safe delivery and essential new-born care to prevent maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality.
- Victims are safely and timely transferred to designated healthcare facilities.
- Labour migrants and DPs receive emergency psychological first aid and MHPSS services to early detect, diagnose and address conflict-induced mental health needs.
- DPs and migrants receive COVID-19 related assistance, including proper access to infection prevention items, testing, treatment and vaccination.
- Response to women's specific needs, including those of women-especially pregnant and lactating- and related to psychosocial support, childcare, reproductive and maternal health.



PROTECTION

50,000 USD

Strengthening existing protection mechanisms and social services to identify and support people in need of care or protection and refer them to appropriate services.

Non-Food Items (NFIs): Stranded migrants and DPs provided with relief items, PPE and hygiene kits.

Food: Affected migrants and DP provided with drinking water and food baskets.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Emergencies

5,000 USD

- DPs from Gaza and their families to safe and healthy sanitation and hygiene facilities and materials.
- WASH services in health-care facilities and Point of Entry.
- Support to women's specific needs, including menstrual hygiene health.
- Improving access to essential WASH with interventions designed to change hygiene practices.



LOGISTICS AND MOVEMENT ASSISTANCE

50,000 USD

- Affected vulnerable DP and migrants are safely transferred to the proper needed care from Rafah Border Crossing to designated healthcare facilities.
- Evacuation and movement assistance to labour migrants from Rafah Border Crossing Point to countries of origin.



IOM Egypt has been operational in the Arab Republic of Egypt since 1991 and an active member of the United Nations Country Team. Since entering into Agreement with the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, IOM has established excellent working relations with ministries and national authorities, as well as UN partners and civil society. Over the last 30 years, IOM Egypt has been a leading humanitarian agency with human rights protection and humanitarian assistance to all migrants and affected populations at the core of its mandate. IOM has proven capacity to operate complex and emergency assistance programming and has experience implementing activities under the Humanitarian-Development-Nexus. IOM proposed interventions under this Flash Appeal are in line with IOM Migration Crises Operational Framework and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

CONTACT US:

For further information, please contact:

Mr. Dejan Micevski

Head of Policy, Governance and Liaison Unit
IOM Egypt Country Office

Email: dmicevski@iom.int



International Organization for Migration

Egypt Country Office

47C Abu El Feda Street, 11211, Zamalek, Cairo, Egypt

Tel.: +202 2736 5140 Fax: +202 2736 5139

Email: iomegypt@iom.int Website: www.egypt.iom.int