



# Israel-Gaza Conflict

## Situation Report #10

June 21, 2024

**Project HOPE continues to provide critical health and humanitarian services in Gaza, where the conflict has raged for over eight months and displaced 8 in 10 Palestinians from their homes. In total, more than 36,000 Palestinians and over 1,200 Israelis have been killed.**

### Situation Update

Humanitarian needs in Gaza continue to deteriorate due to deeply insufficient health care access, entrenched food insecurity, and limited access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services. The vast majority of families have had their lives uprooted multiple times, with **1.9 million people internally displaced by the conflict** and living in crowded informal tent settlements, camps, or abandoned buildings.

As the Israeli Defense Forces continue a ground offensive in Rafah, it is clear that without a cessation of hostilities and a substantial increase in the amount of aid entering Gaza, the scale of humanitarian need will only continue to grow as more and more people suffer **preventable illness and death**.

Project HOPE continues to call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, the release of all hostages, and expanded humanitarian access to deliver urgent, lifesaving aid.

### Key Updates

- Project HOPE's health clinics in Gaza have provided medical consultations for **over 42,000 patients** since December 2023.
- A team of surgeons and emergency/trauma care specialists from Jordan Health Aid Society–International (JHASi) have supported **nearly 9,000 patients** and conducted **over 2,000 surgeries**.
- Through four local partners, Project HOPE has supported **mental health activities for over 14,600 Palestinians** in Gaza and the West Bank, where people are enduring the unimaginable combination of grief, trauma, uninterrupted acute stress, and the chaos of war.
- To address the immense shortage of medical supplies in Gaza, Project HOPE has imported **over 20,000 pounds** of equipment and consumables.

## Project HOPE's Response in the occupied Palestinian territories

Since October 2023, Project HOPE has implemented a dynamic response to the immense humanitarian needs in the occupied Palestinian territories, in coordination with local authorities, United Nations agencies, and civil society. By providing urgently needed health services, forming deep partnerships with mental health organizations, and delivering vital aid supplies, **our team supports those most affected by the crisis.**

To address the gap in basic health care services, Project HOPE opened two clinics in Deir Al Balah and Rafah in December 2023 to provide primary health consultations to the community. In Deir Al Balah, our static clinic consists of the primary health facility and a separate sexual and reproductive health services clinic. In contrast, the Rafah clinic was previously located in internally displaced community camps to provide care where it was most needed. Since then, in response to evacuations ordered by the Israeli Defense Forces at the beginning of the Rafah offensive, our staff in Gaza have suspended operations at the Rafah clinic and **established a new primary health care clinic in Khan Younis.**

On average, Project HOPE's health workers in Gaza see more than 200 patients a day, with **over 42,000 primary health consultations conducted since December 2023**, including over 5,000 children and 20,000 internally displaced people.



Health workers at Project HOPE's medical clinic in Deir al Balah, Gaza hold an educational class on breastfeeding and provide participants with free breast pumps. Photo by Project HOPE staff, 2024.

Due to the high levels of food insecurity across Gaza and rising concerns of famine in northern Gaza, Project HOPE's staff are examining patients for signs of malnutrition using the Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) measurement approach. To date, staff have screened 4,400 children under 5 and 2,000 pregnant women for malnutrition, with **10% of children under 5 years old and 25% of pregnant women showing signs of acute malnutrition.**

Hospitals in Gaza have been on the brink of collapse since the start of the conflict, with very few still operating. To support the critical work of physicians in Gaza, Project HOPE has partnered with the Jordanian Health Aid Society – International (JHASi), to deploy teams of surgeons and trauma and emergency care specialists to provide surge staffing

*“You can't imagine what it's like for more than 1 million people to be crammed in such a small area.”*

*-Moses Kondowe, Project HOPE's Gaza Team Lead*



support. Since the partnership began in January, six teams have rotated into Gaza, with a total of 32 staff working 104 days at Al Aqsa Hospital in Deir Al Balah.

As of last week, a specialist team deployed to Public Aid Hospital in Gaza City, which is one of only three hospitals functioning in northern Gaza. At this time, Project HOPE and JHASi are the only two INGOs providing medical care in northern Gaza due to access and safety concerns.

Surge staff have reported extremely dire conditions for patients and health workers alike, with medical teams conducting emergency surgery in the wake of airstrikes, caring for patients with burns on 50 to 90% of their bodies, and seeing outbreaks of hepatitis A and B. They are also seeing an increase in the number of people being discharged from health facilities with nowhere to go, including children who have lost their parents and have no other family left. Often, health workers have limited access to essential resources like medical supplies and electricity. To date, JHASi staff have treated **nearly 9,000 patients** and performed **over 2,000 surgeries**.



Surge staff with Project HOPE and JHASi's team of emergency and trauma care specialists donate blood while taking a break from caring for patients at Al Aqsa Hospital in Deir Al Balah, Gaza. Photo by JHASi for Project HOPE, 2024.

Project HOPE has formed partnerships with four local organizations to provide families with access to essential, lifesaving mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services. By working with staff from the Hakini Foundation, Sharek Youth Forum, SAWA Foundation, and the Treatment and Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, Project HOPE has provided **more than 14,600 Palestinians with psychosocial support**, including 6,390 people who received psychological relief sessions and 6,473 Palestinians in Gaza who participated in support group activities. In addition, due to the increased hardships for Palestinians living in the West Bank, Project HOPE has supported trauma-focused workshops in schools, reaching 1,652 community members.

Since humanitarian needs skyrocketed in October 2023, Project HOPE has facilitated the delivery of critical aid supplies like medicines, medical supplies, personal hygiene items, and other non-food items into Gaza. Our team has coordinated the delivery of six Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHKs) and seven Trauma Emergency Surgical Kits (TESK), the equivalent of over 87 pallets or **20,000 pounds of equipment and consumables**, to be used at Project HOPE's clinics and Al Aqsa Hospital.

Through local partners, Project HOPE has **provided 6,390 people with access to psychological relief sessions** and reached 6,473 Palestinians in Gaza with support group activities.



At our clinic in Deir al Balah, **nearly 10% of children under five and 25% of pregnant women** face acute malnutrition due to food insecurity.

Through Project HOPE's partnership with JHASi, **32 emergency and trauma specialists** have completed 104 days of staff support at Al Aqsa Hospital.

Project HOPE has also **distributed 2,750 dignity kits to displaced families** to provide them access to essential items like diapers, feminine hygiene products, and cleaning wipes. An additional 750 hygiene kits were distributed to prevent the spread of infectious diseases and improve personal hygiene due to the limited access to clean water and sanitation. Lastly, Project HOPE has distributed 12,000 blankets and 6,000 mattresses to displaced families since the start of the conflict.

## Project HOPE's Response in Israel

In Israel, Project HOPE has responded to humanitarian needs following the October 7 attacks, **prioritizing mental health support for affected civilians** and capacity strengthening for health facilities.

Project HOPE is supporting mental health needs through partnerships with the Yuri Shtern Center, Shamir Medical Center, and NATAL. Yuri Shtern has conducted stress management sessions through touch therapy, completing 2,527 sessions with 1,208 individuals displaced by the conflict. NATAL, a national mental health organization, has utilized its national network of professionals to provide psychotherapy sessions to over 60 individuals affected by the conflict. Lastly, Project HOPE has partnered with Shamir Medical Center to screen and treat patients for post-trauma stress disorder (PTSD) stemming from the October 7 attacks, including psychotherapy, social worker evaluations, and an innovative hyperbaric oxygen treatment protocol (HBOT) to reduce the physical manifestations of PTSD in the brain for those whose PTSD has remained treatment-resistant. To date, this support has provided **505 psychotherapy sessions** and started 61 individuals on the HBOT protocol treatment.

Our team has also procured equipment for several hospitals in Israel, including Sheba Medical Center, Barzilai Medical Center, Shamir Medical Center, and Hadassah Hospital. By providing equipment like mobile ultrasound monitors, specialty wheelchairs for patients with spinal cord injuries, and defibrillator monitors, Project HOPE is strengthening the capacity of local health workers.

As the crisis evolves and humanitarian needs deepen, Project HOPE continues to act in coordination with partners in Israel, Gaza, Egypt, the West Bank, Jordan, and Lebanon to assess how and when we can best support the health and humanitarian needs of impacted communities while **remaining committed to the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence.**

For further information, contact [media@projecthope.org](mailto:media@projecthope.org)