

Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan

Report by the Director-General

1. In 2025, the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly adopted decision WHA78(16), which requested the Director-General, inter alia, to report, based on field monitoring and assessment conducted by WHO, on progress in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report by the Director-General on the health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, to the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly, bearing in mind the legal obligation of the occupying power.¹ Owing to the hostilities, insecurity and access constraints in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, since 7 October 2023, followed by the ceasefire in October 2025, this report is restricted to a short summary on the activities conducted by WHO in support of the health system and Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, in the reporting period from 1 January to 31 December 2025. A separate report on the health implications and humanitarian impact of the current crisis is presented in document A79/12.

Summary of support and health-related technical assistance to the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, in the reporting period

2. The humanitarian crisis in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, has continued to place healthcare services under severe pressure, despite the ceasefire of October 2025. Between 1 January and 31 December 2025, Palestinian health authorities reported 25 985 deaths and 66 932 injuries.² The Palestinian Ministry of Health has estimated that, as at 31 December 2025, 52% of deaths were among women, children and persons over 60 years. In the Gaza Strip, approximately 25% of injuries are estimated to be life-changing, requiring long-term

¹ Decision WHA78(16).

² [Occupied Palestinian Territory unified health dashboard – Palestinian casualties](#). Geneva: World Health Organization; 2026 (accessed 27 March 2026).

care and rehabilitation.³ The healthcare system remains under severe strain due to widespread damage to hospitals and primary healthcare facilities, critical shortages of essential medicines, supplies and medical equipment, and the continued impact of 449 reported attacks on healthcare in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, in 2025. Forced displacement, damaged infrastructure and overcrowding have further exacerbated the risk of communicable diseases. In the West Bank, access to healthcare continues to be constrained by movement restrictions, violence and disruptions in essential services, with urgent needs for medicines and trauma care, as well as maternal health, rehabilitation and mental health services.

3. In response, WHO and Health Cluster partners have played a critical role in supporting the humanitarian and emergency health response across the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. During the ongoing hostilities prior to the ceasefire in October 2025, WHO and partners facilitated medical evacuations, deployed emergency medical teams and provided support for trauma care, maternal and child health, rehabilitation and mental health services. WHO and partners also supported vaccination campaigns and nutrition interventions, delivered essential medicines, supplies and fuel, and worked to maintain critical hospital and primary healthcare services. Since the ceasefire, WHO and partners have focused on restoring and strengthening healthcare services, including the partial reopening of hospitals and primary healthcare centres. WHO and partners have also delivered medical supplies, supported rehabilitation services, and strengthened disease surveillance and water, sanitation and hygiene capacities. Despite the progress made, many facilities in the Gaza Strip remain non-functional, and access to specialized care continues to be limited. In the West Bank, mobile clinics and emergency preparedness efforts have continued to reach vulnerable populations while at the same time training healthcare workers.

Update on the field assessment mission to the occupied Syrian Golan

4. In decision WHA78(16), the Health Assembly also requested the Director-General to report, based on field assessments conducted by WHO, on the health conditions of the Syrian populations in the occupied Syrian Golan, including prisoners and detainees, and to ensure their adequate access to mental, physical and environmental health services. The Health Assembly further requested the Director-General to report on ways and means to provide these populations with health-related technical assistance. WHO has been coordinating with relevant authorities to conduct a field mission to the occupied Syrian Golan; however, at the time of reporting, multiple factors have prevented the deployment of a multidisciplinary fact-finding mission.

5. As previously reported, comprehensive disaggregated health data on the Syrian populations in the occupied Syrian Golan remain limited, hindering a full assessment of the availability and coverage of health services. WHO continues to coordinate with relevant authorities and explore possibilities for a field mission by a multidisciplinary team of experts. In the meantime, the Director-General is not yet able to provide a detailed report on the prevailing health conditions in the occupied Syrian Golan.

³ [Estimating trauma rehabilitation needs in Gaza: September 2025 update](#). Geneva: World Health Organization; 2025 (accessed 27 March 2026).

Recommendations by the Director-General for improving health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem

6. Reference is made to the report in document A79/12, which contains relevant recommendations in that regard.

Action by the Health Assembly

7. The Health Assembly is invited to note the report. It is further invited to provide guidance on the following question.

- What actions can Member States take to support WHO and partners in delivering humanitarian assistance aimed at restoring essential health services at all levels of care, ensuring sustained access to life-saving health interventions within the protected health system and enabling the feasibility and support of a WHO field assessment mission to the occupied Syrian Golan to report on the health conditions of the Syrian populations, including prisoners and detainees, and to ensure their access to adequate mental, physical and environmental health services, as well as health-related technical assistance?
