



Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza

Situation Report #11

December 5, 2024

Since the onset of the crisis, Project HOPE has been on the ground in Gaza delivering lifesaving medical assistance, nutritional support, and essential supplies to those most in need. Despite intense violence and supply shortages, Project HOPE remains unwavering in its commitment to meet urgent health needs and support communities made vulnerable by the depths of war.

Situation Update

As the conflict grinds past a year, the humanitarian catastrophe continues. Recent reports reveal that over 44,000 Palestinians in Gaza have been killed, more than 104,000 injured, and a staggering 1.9 million Palestinians — 86% of Gaza's pre-war population — have been displaced, many times. Critical infrastructure has been obliterated and entire regions, such as North Gaza, are now ghost towns.

Humanitarian aid, restricted by ongoing violence and access limitations, continues to grow in importance as health needs intensify. Displaced families face dehydration, hunger, and illness as they contend with severe shortages of food, water, and basic supplies. Hospitals are overwhelmed, operating with disrupted access to electricity, limited capacity, and relying on sporadic deliveries of essential supplies. In addition, damaged water and sanitation systems heighten the risk of waterborne diseases.

Key Updates

- Since December 2023, Project HOPE has provided **over 61,000 primary health consultations** at static clinics in Deir al Balah, Rafah, and Khan Younis (Rafah clinics moved to Khan Younis in May).
- Our team has reached **more than 3,000 pregnant women** with sexual and reproductive health services and now supports a **team of midwives in North Gaza**.
- The team has **screened over 11,000 people for malnutrition**, including 7,120 children and 2,650 pregnant women.
- Project HOPE is directly providing psychosocial support, stress management, and child protection services and has previously partnered with local organizations to reach **28,095 people, including over 7,700 children**, with psychosocial support
- Project HOPE's **water trucks** have recently been dispatched to Khan Younis and Deir al Balah to improve sanitation conditions for displaced communities.



Rozan Abu Lebdeh, a Project HOPE social worker, visits a camp for internally displaced people in Gaza to provide information sessions to the community. Project HOPE's team educated residents on public health awareness, water management, waste disposal, sanitation, stress management, polio vaccination awareness, and safety reporting. Photo by Project HOPE staff, 2024.

“Our team is here to make sure no one is left behind, no matter the challenges. We owe it to the people of Gaza to keep pushing forward.”

-Moses Kondowe, Project HOPE's Gaza Team Lead

The Famine Review Committee has recently issued a dire warning that famine thresholds may already have been breached, which has devastating implications for the future health needs of the entire population. Recent estimates show 1.84 million people facing acute food insecurity, with nearly 133,000 enduring catastrophic conditions (IPC Phase 5). Acute malnutrition has skyrocketed to ten times pre-war levels and **the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in Gaza has surged by an alarming 283% since October 2023**, making food access increasingly unattainable and further deepening the population's reliance on humanitarian aid.

The impact of this crisis on the mental health of women and children is also deeply concerning, as they face compounding vulnerabilities — malnutrition, the increased threat of gender-based violence (GBV), the spread of infectious diseases, the constant interruption of daily routines, and the inability to maintain any sense of safety and security. These realities increase the importance of protection efforts, community outreach, and integrating mental health care into primary health care services.

Project HOPE's Response in the occupied Palestinian Territories

Project HOPE's operations in Gaza provide an array of essential health, nutrition, psychosocial, and WASH services to address urgent needs across multiple locations. With 10 clinics open and an additional four being planned, Project HOPE anticipates that we will reach more than 300,000 participants over the next 10 months with a range of support, including health services, the provision of water and sanitation facilities, mental health support, community outreach, and protection activities.

In clinic settings, Project HOPE provides primary health services that include general consultations, sexual and reproductive (SRH) care, child health support, nutrition screenings, wound care, chronic disease management, vaccinations, health education, respiratory illness consultations, and workshops on disease prevention and hygiene. **In a four-day period in November, Project HOPE staff provided more than 6,000 consultations, reflecting a 10% increase from the prior week.** With worsening

malnutrition, respiratory infections, and continued displacement due to airstrikes, we anticipate that once we open all of the planned clinics, we will be conducting more than 15,000 weekly consultations for displaced populations.

Community and clinic-based psychosocial support (PSS) services are being scaled up, with a focus on GBV, child protection, and stress management. Our team continues to hire both national and international staff and integrate services into our current and planned clinics. Protection officers, social workers, and other staff are providing PSS services focused on trauma care, stress management, and mental health awareness.



Riham Abu Shammala, Project HOPE's psychosocial support officer, provides psychological consultations to patients in Khan Younis, Gaza. Photo by Project HOPE staff, 2024.

Health promotion activities have been extended into community camps, where midwives and health teams continue to conduct workshops on disease prevention, hygiene, and mental health. Through community engagement, the team has raised awareness of hygiene practices and reached community members with social and behavior change efforts targeted at specific age groups, providing critical education on topics like GBV, breastfeeding, and child protection. Additionally, health outreach with nutrition screenings have revealed rising malnutrition, with cases of Moderate and Severe Acute Malnutrition (MAM/SAM) identified and managed through follow up.

Project HOPE's WASH initiatives provide water trucking to shelters and clinics, as well as infrastructure assessments for reliable distribution. Operations serve two locations in Khan Younis (Al Fajr Shelter and Subhair Clinic) and two locations in Deir Al Balah (Tawba and Al Salam Camps). Using 15,000-liter trucks, Project HOPE maintains a twice-weekly delivery schedule, coordinating with local leaders and WASH Clusters to ensure consistent access to clean water. The organization stands ready to adapt its delivery operations for winter weather and urgent needs.

Project HOPE's Emergency Medical Teams, in partnership with the Jordanian Health Aid Society-International, have been a lifeline for Al Aqsa Hospital. Over 11 months, these teams have delivered critical surge support, addressing an overwhelming demand for trauma and acute care services. Their unwavering commitment has resulted in over 11,000 lifesaving consultations and more than 3,000 surgeries.

“They don’t eat healthy food and you can’t afford to buy food because it is very expensive. If I do, it is not enough for the whole family, imagine having one apple that you divide to four children. All these conditions will lead to weak immunity and they should have vaccination to be protected.”

- A parent at a polio vaccination campaign at Project HOPE's clinic in Deir al Balah

Amidst relentless challenges in Gaza, Project HOPE's midwives deliver essential maternal health care across the North and South regions of the Gaza Strip. In North Gaza, where facilities are scarce and movement restricted, four midwives stationed in high-risk "red zones" provide critical community support and assist at the SAHABA Maternity Hospital, one of the few remaining maternity centers. Despite staff shortages due to displacement, they manage emergency deliveries and ensure care continuity through tireless night shifts. **In South Gaza, over seven midwives operate in high-risk areas, offering comprehensive maternal care, including antenatal and postnatal services, family planning, and malnutrition screening.** They also distribute high-energy biscuits and monitor high-risk pregnancies in camps, ensuring timely referrals and vital care despite immense obstacles.



Project HOPE team members deliver 10,000 liters of safe drinking water for internally displaced people living in Al-Salam and Tawbah, near Project HOPE's clinics in Deir al Balah. Some 25,000 IDPs are seeking shelter in the area and face critical shortages of food, clean water, electricity, services, fuel, and medical care. Photo by Project HOPE staff, 2024.

The team in Gaza coordinates with local and international clusters to align services with community and emergency needs. We are also participating in capacity building and strengthening activities to further support local teams in the implementation of SRH protocols and the improvement of logistics, procurement, and human resources efforts to strengthen operational capacity for continued, impactful service delivery.

Project HOPE's unwavering commitment to serving the people of Gaza is a testament to the power of coordinated, community-centered humanitarian action, even in the most limiting of circumstances. Through our extensive health, WASH, nutrition, and psychosocial programs, the organization is addressing urgent needs while building resilience in one of the world's most challenging humanitarian contexts.