

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF):

Israel Is Choking Gaza and Dismantling the Conditions Necessary for Survival

The Genocide Continues

43,000 People Are Living with Life-Changing Injuries

- MSF teams have treated more than 200,000 cases of trauma and injuries resulting from direct physical violence.
- Families are being forced to live in severely overcrowded conditions unfit for human habitation.
- Ointments used to treat scabies have been blocked or restricted from entering Gaza by the Israeli authorities.
- More than 80% of buildings and structures across the Gaza Strip have been damaged or destroyed, making meaningful recovery impossible for many years to come.
- An estimated 18,500 patients require specialized medical treatment outside Gaza but are unable to leave the Strip.
- More than 900 patients and injured people have died while awaiting medical evacuation for treatment abroad.
- The UN-led humanitarian aid distribution system was dismantled and replaced by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) in areas under Israeli control.
- Approximately 43,000 people are living with life-changing injuries.
- More than 50,000 people require long-term medical rehabilitation.
- Approximately 6,000 limb amputations have been recorded, including 1,500 involving children, amid a severe and persistent shortage of rehabilitation services, equipment and prosthetic limbs.

Amand Bazerolle, MSF Emergency Response Coordinator – Gaza/Palestine:

“Recovering from the harm inflicted on people over the past three years, and over the preceding decades, will take generations.”

“The devastating consequences of the Israeli genocide continue to unfold every day.”

“Destruction, displacement and deprivation have become an entrenched reality imposed by Israel amid complete impunity.”

“Governments must act immediately to stop the killing and destruction, prevent ethnic cleansing, and end the stripping away of Palestinians’ means and conditions of survival.”

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has warned that Israel is progressively **choking the Gaza Strip and continuing the genocide**, as the space available for Palestinians to live continues to shrink while the basic conditions and means necessary for their survival are being systematically destroyed through ongoing violence, the deliberate restriction of essential supplies, and the continued destruction of healthcare services and vital infrastructure.

The “Yellow Line”: A Mechanism of Encirclement and Ethnic Cleansing

Over the past year, the physical blockade and confinement of Gaza’s population have become increasingly entrenched with Israel’s establishment of what has become known as the **“Yellow Line.”**

Initially presented as a temporary military withdrawal line for the first phase and as a central element in maintaining the so-called “ceasefire,” the line is now reinforced by military positions, checkpoints, earthen barriers and ongoing demolitions.

It has continued to move westward, forcing Palestinians into an increasingly restricted area.

Israeli forces currently control approximately **65% of the Gaza Strip**, using the line as a clearly defined boundary around the territory under their control.

As the “Yellow Line” continues to shift, the direct threat to Palestinians living nearby is increasing, particularly because the line is neither clearly demarcated on the ground nor fixed.

Civilians risk being directly fired upon by Israeli forces simply for approaching the line. MSF medical teams continue to treat people with gunshot wounds sustained in its vicinity.

The line’s expansion has also disrupted access to vital humanitarian assistance. MSF teams have been forced to suspend water-trucking operations during incidents of gunfire near communities located close to the line.

Amand Bazerolle, MSF Emergency Response Coordinator – Gaza/Palestine:

“The Yellow Line cannot be treated simply as a line drawn on a map. It has become a mechanism of encirclement, confinement and ethnic cleansing, separating communities from infrastructure, healthcare facilities, water and the basic necessities required for survival.”

Continued Violence and the Exhaustion of Gaza's Healthcare System

Violence is not confined to areas surrounding the Yellow Line.

In **June and July alone**, despite the so-called “ceasefire,” MSF teams treated more than **1,200 cases of injuries resulting from severe violence** across Gaza, including blast injuries, burns, gunshot wounds and injuries resulting from physical assault.

Over the past three years, MSF teams have treated more than **200,000 cases of trauma and injuries caused by direct physical violence**, while the Israeli military offensive has killed more than **74,000 people**, including more than **20,000 children**.

Overcrowding, Disease Outbreaks and the Water Crisis

As Palestinians are forced into increasingly restricted geographical areas, families are being pushed into severely overcrowded conditions that are unfit for human habitation.

They lack adequate access to clean water, sanitation systems, shelter and healthcare, contributing to widespread outbreaks of disease.

- MSF treated more than **11,000 cases of skin diseases, including scabies, in 2026 alone**.
- More than **1,500 cases of chickenpox** were recorded during June and July.
- MSF distributed approximately **2.1 million litres of drinking water per day during August**, but the level of need vastly exceeds what can be provided under the restrictions imposed by Israel.

Dr Murad Asaliya, MSF Medical Activities Manager in Gaza:

“Most people have access to less than six litres of water per day for domestic use, while basic hygiene supplies such as soap and cleaning products are severely limited.”

“We are treating cases of gastroenteritis, acute respiratory infections, hepatitis, bacterial skin infections, scabies and lice.”

“At the same time, we face acute shortages of medical supplies. Even ointments used to treat scabies have been blocked or restricted from entering Gaza by the Israeli authorities.”

Collapse of Healthcare and the Expansion of the Crisis into the West Bank

Over the past three years, access to medical treatment has deteriorated dramatically, with hospitals running out of essential supplies and patients unable to obtain necessary medicines.

Restrictions on the entry of **fuel, engine oil and spare parts** have also severely disrupted the operation of electricity generators, ambulances, water pumps and water trucks.

More than **80% of buildings and structures across the Gaza Strip have been damaged or destroyed**, preventing any meaningful recovery for many years to come and leaving lasting physical and psychological consequences.

The crisis is not limited to Gaza.

Since 2023, the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem have witnessed a sharp escalation in **violent settler attacks, military operations, home raids, destruction of agricultural land and displacement camps, settlement expansion, home demolitions and movement restrictions**, particularly during 2026.

These developments are contributing to the further fragmentation of the occupied Palestinian territory.

Amand Bazerolle, MSF Emergency Response Coordinator – Gaza/Palestine:

“Recovering from the harm inflicted on people over the past three years, and over the preceding decades, will take generations, while the devastating consequences of the Israeli genocide continue to unfold every day.”

“Destruction, displacement and deprivation have become an entrenched reality imposed by Israel amid complete impunity.”

“Governments must act immediately to stop the killing and destruction, prevent ethnic cleansing, and end the stripping away of Palestinians’ means and conditions of survival.”

Gaza: Three Years of Destruction of the Conditions Necessary for Life

Casualties

According to the **Gaza Ministry of Health**, more than **73,000 Palestinians** have been killed and more than **173,000 injured** since 7 October 2023.

Healthcare Workers and Hospitals

Approximately **2,300 healthcare and humanitarian workers** have been killed, including **15 MSF staff members**.

According to the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, **94% of Gaza's hospitals** have been damaged or destroyed.

Only **19 of Gaza's 36 hospitals** remain operational, many of them functioning only partially and under extremely limited conditions.

Obstructed Medical Evacuations

The **World Health Organization** estimates that **18,500 patients** require specialized medical treatment outside the Gaza Strip, but they remain unable to leave.

More than **900 patients and injured people** have died while waiting for medical evacuation for treatment abroad.

Infrastructure and Water

Approximately **82% of buildings and structures in Gaza** have been damaged, with two-thirds completely destroyed, according to **UNRWA**.

Nearly **90% of Gaza's water and sanitation infrastructure** has been damaged or destroyed, including desalination facilities, wells and water supply networks.

Famine and Malnutrition

The **Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)** formally declared famine in Gaza on **22 August 2025**.

Between January 2024 and March 2026, MSF teams admitted approximately **4,950 children under the age of 15 suffering from acute malnutrition, 98% of whom were under the age of five.**

A further **3,482 pregnant and breastfeeding women** were enrolled in outpatient nutrition programmes.

MSF medical data also recorded significant increases in **premature births, neonatal deaths and miscarriages**, associated with maternal malnutrition during pregnancy.

Dismantling and Replacement of the UN-Led Humanitarian Aid System

Israeli authorities dismantled the **United Nations-led humanitarian aid distribution system** and replaced it with the **Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF)** in areas under Israeli military control, where security was managed by private American security contractors.

MSF medical facilities located near GHF distribution sites received **1,380 injured people and 28 bodies between 7 June and 24 July 2025.**

Among them, **174 people had sustained gunshot wounds while attempting to obtain food.**

Division of the Gaza Strip and the Yellow and Orange Lines

Approximately **90% of Gaza's population has been displaced multiple times.**

The Israeli military exercises full military control over approximately **58.9% of the Gaza Strip.**

This figure rises to approximately **64.9% when the undefined buffer zone known as the "Orange Line" is included.**

Restrictions on Humanitarian Organisations and Deregistration

Israel revoked **Médecins Sans Frontières’ registration and authorization to operate on 1 January 2026.**

International staff were prevented from entering Gaza or bringing in supplies and were required to leave the field by the end of February.

Israeli authorities also ordered **37 humanitarian organisations, including MSF, to cease their activities in Gaza and the West Bank by 31 March 2026.**

MSF currently continues to provide services through approximately **1,500 Palestinian staff members**, with international teams providing remote support from Amman.

Permanent Disabilities and Amputations

The destructive war has left approximately **43,000 people with life-changing injuries**, while more than **50,000 people require long-term medical rehabilitation.**

The **Gaza Ministry of Health** has documented approximately **6,000 limb amputations**, including **1,500 involving children**, amid a severe and persistent shortage of rehabilitation services, equipment and prosthetic limbs.

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