



Situation Report October 25, 2023

Humanitarian Situation Brief

The ongoing escalation in Gaza is resulting in thousands of casualties, as of October 24, 3 PM the number of killed is 5,700 Palestinians of which 2,360 are children and 1,292 are women. The number of injured is 16,000.

About 1.4 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) are estimated in Gaza. six hospitals were hit by the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) and were partially or severely damaged, 69 attacks on health facilities, 34% of the hospitals are not functioning and 65% of primary healthcare centers are closed. 24 hospitals were requested to evacuate by the IDF¹. The Hospitals are operating at 150% or more of their capacities (ICUs, corridors, floors, etc.). The Hospitals are on the brink of collapse (shortages of medications, equipment, staff, energy sources, etc.). The targeting and destruction of hospitals and health facilities have resulted in the killing of thousands of people and depriving the wounded of essential life-saving medical interventions.

Situation at Ahli Hospital

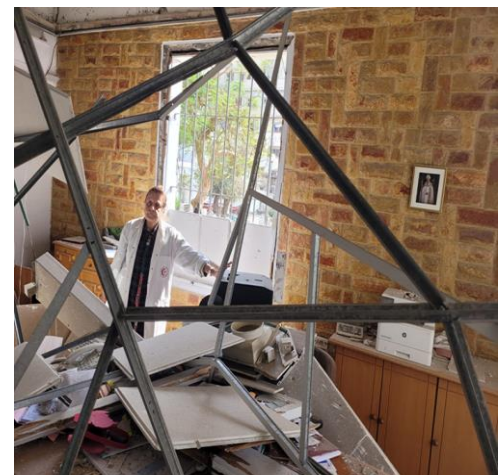
Since the beginning of the crisis, Al-Ahli staff have maintained an around-the-clock presence at the hospital, providing urgent medical care for those physically injured, particularly, children who have been traumatized by the violence. In addition, they have received elective cases referred by other hospitals that are overwhelmed with thousands of injured patients. The Burn Care unit has received hundreds of children with severe burns.

On the evening of 14th October, Ahli Hospital's Diagnostic Cancer Treatment Center was hit by Israeli rocket fire. The strike severely damaged two upper floors, including the Ultrasound and Mammography wards. On the evening of 17th October, another direct airstrike hit the Hospital where hundreds were killed and injured, including children, and women. That was the deadliest incident in Gaza since hostilities escalated. In the wake of this incident, the UN Secretary-General called for "an immediate humanitarian ceasefire."

The two air strikes that hit the hospital caused severe damage to the hospital's ambulance, medical equipment, and diagnostic machines (the Ultrasound, Mammography, ventilation system, an operating theatre table, and an anesthesia machine). In addition, there was damage to the infrastructure of some of the hospital departments including the diagnostic center, the ventilation system, the ultrasound room, the Mammography room, the administration and management offices, the hospital entrance and courtyard, the hospital parking, etc.). Moreover, four of the hospital staff who were wounded needed operational surgeries, and two of our staff had their houses demolished.



Damage to the Ultrasound Room (October 14, 2023)



*Suhaila Tarazi, Hospital Director
Administration Room (October 24, 2023)*

¹ MOH Report on the effects of the Israeli aggression in Palestine, October 24 at 3 PM



Current Response at Ahli Arab Hospital (AAH)



AAH staff performing a surgical operation (October 23, 2023)



AAH staff preparing for operation (October 23, 2023)

Despite the challenges and damages, the hospital staff continues to provide urgent medical care for those physically injured and traumatized. Currently, the Surgical team deals mostly with injuries and trauma including abdominal, bone, chest, and soft tissue injuries. The Hospital continues to receive elective cases referred by other hospitals that are overwhelmed with thousands of injured patients. The Burn Care unit at Ahli is receiving hundreds of people, mainly children with severe burns resulting from the war. Ahli Hospital is receiving hundreds of people, particularly children, at the physical rehabilitation department and expects to receive thousands more within the coming weeks resulting from severe wounds and broken bones in children. Moreover, AAH receives new cases of (mostly children affected by inadequate hygiene, partly because of large amounts of refuse not collected, lack of potable drinking water, and food shortages. As a result of these things, children are suffering chest infections, diarrhea, rashes, and scabies. These admissions have averaged 150 cases per day. Ahli Hospital has also opened its doors to the family members of the wounded who are desperate because they have no other place to go. The Hospital has become their refuge of last resort. Care is being provided to these family members (food, lodging, psychosocial, etc.)

Update on the needs

Over the past 3 weeks, the hospital provided treatment and medical interventions to thousands of wounded where most of the medicines, medical supplies, fuel, etc. were heavily consumed. Fortunately, the hospital is among the few that runs partially on solar energy which has enabled the hospital to survive the shortages of fuel. Moreover, thousands need psychosocial support, new medical equipment and devices needed to replace the damaged, rehabilitation care, prolonged treatment for wounded, Hygiene kits, Food and drinking water for patients, staff, and their families. Additional staff is needed for the round-the-clock shifts, Renovation of the severely damaged departments and rooms, and a new ambulance to replace the damaged one.