

Report No: 2/2024

Humanitarian Response Report (February 14 -16, 2024 – 24:00)

In the wake of the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip starting October 2023, and the escalation of attacks in the West Bank, the Palestine Red Crescent Society has increased its preparedness to address the humanitarian, relief, and medical needs of those affected by the Israeli attacks in the occupied Palestinian territory. This report provides an overview of the current situation in the occupied territory and the significant humanitarian interventions undertaken by PRCS' staff and volunteers across the governorates.

Southern Provinces - Gaza Strip:

Overview of the PRCS Branches during the reporting period:

North Gaza and Gaza Governorate:

- Gaza Branch and its Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Center: The facilities of the Gaza branch were entirely damaged by the intense bombardment in the Tal al-Hawa region of Gaza City. Consequently, PRCS ceased its service provision INCLUDING ITS EMS services as of 14/11/2023, compelling the medical and administrative staff to evacuate the area.
- PRCS Al-Quds Hospital: Suffered substantial damage from the Israeli shelling surrounding it and the direct strikes on various parts of facilities and sections. Following a siege lasting over 14 days, operations were halted, leading to the displacement of its staff, patients, and approximately 14,000 persons southward on 14/11/2023. To date, the hospital remains non-operational. It had attended to (1,169) injuries from October 2023 until 11/11/2023.
- North Gaza Branch and its EMS Center: Endured significant destruction due to relentless bombing by Israeli forces, rendering the provision of EMS services unfeasible. The emergency response teams were thus relocated to a "safer" location in the center of Jabalia refugee camp, away from the intense bombings. An UNRWA clinic was adapted as a temporary base for providing EMS services in the North Gaza governorate.

Central District:

- PRCS Branch and EMS Center: EMS and relief staff are operational 24/7 to respond to the humanitarian needs of both residents and displaced individuals within the governorate. The branch's facility in Deir al-Balah currently accommodates approximately 300 displaced people from the North Gaza region. The medical team has resumed its operation in Deir Al Balah clinic on 15\11\2023 to receive patients and injured residents and IDPs.

Khan Younis Governorate:

- PRCS Branch and its Service Centers: Since the onset of January, the headquarters and various PRCS service centers in Khan Younis have been subject to repeated

attacks by the Israeli occupation forces. These attacks have led to casualties among the displaced seeking a safe refuge at the facility, with the numbers exceeding 7,000 individuals. Not only has the facility sustained significant damages due to the bombings, but also the Israeli occupation forces have enforced a stringent blockade around the premises, severely restricting the movement of PRCS staff and hindering their capacity to execute their humanitarian mandate within the governorate. The continuous and direct attacks necessitated the evacuation of displaced individuals through a humanitarian corridor. This was devised to safeguard their lives, particularly after the tragic loss of (27) individuals during the siege due to Israeli targeting. Faced with logistical challenges in transporting the deceased civilian martyrs, the staff were forced to bury them within the grounds of Al-Amal Hospital.

- Al-Amal Hospital: it has repeatedly been the target of military attacks by the Israeli occupation forces and the latest incident was on 16/2/2024, which led to significant damage to two administrative rooms and the four-ceiling and the elevator of the hospital. Former attacks led to significant damages to its operating theaters, nurses' facilities, and patient wards. The hospital faced a critical shortage of medical and logistical supplies, exacerbated by a fuel deficit that necessitated the adoption of a conservation-focused electricity consumption plan. This situation was especially dire given the critical health conditions of the (149) patients in need of uninterrupted care.

In the aftermath of a forced evacuation, the hospital staff continue in their efforts to provide care to the remaining patients and injured individuals within the facility. In the late afternoon on 9/2/2024, the hospital was raided by military forces. During this attack, (9) members of the medical and volunteer staff, as well as nine injured individuals and their attendants were detained. The military forces also committed vandalised the hospital infrastructure, including medical and logistical equipment, VHF communication devices, and laptops. Furthermore, they also looted funds from the hospital's safe and personal belongings of patients. Ambulance vehicles were deliberately vandalized, and their keys confiscated, severely hindering the medical team's capacity for future emergency responses. The blockade of PRCS headquarters by the military has persisted for (25) consecutive days, accompanied by continuous gunfire, further complicating the humanitarian situation on the ground.

Rafah Governorate:

PRCS Branch and EMS Center: In response to the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Rafah, where the displaced population exceeds 1.3 million, PRCS staff are dedicated to operating continuously to mitigate their hardships and respond to their humanitarian needs. Beyond offering emergency medical and EMS services, as well as relief support throughout the governorate, PRCS has set up AlQuds field hospital but still it is not operational because medical equipment needed for its operation were not allowed into Gaza Strip by Israeli occupation. Additionally, PRCS is commissioned with the critical task of receiving, processing, and distributing aid consignments that arrive to the Gaza Strip through the Rafah border crossing, ensuring the efficient allocation of resources to PRCS centers and affiliated parties.

PRCS Humanitarian interventions in the Gaza Strip from 7/10/2023 to 16/2/2024:

(Due to the communication blackouts and operational challenges, timely updates on information and figures may be impeded.

- Throughout the period extending from 7/10/2023 to 16/2/2024, PRCS staff have responded to a total of (16,667) injuries and have recorded (5,549) fatalities.
- The Jabalia camp's advanced medical post in North Gaza remains operational, responding to (1,588) cases and recording (543) persons killed since October 2023.
- The medical staff at Al-Amal Hospital persist in delivering healthcare services to patients, whose evacuation was hindered by the critical nature of their health conditions. This effort continues in the face of a dire shortage of medical supplies and an ongoing oxygen scarcity, necessitating procurement from other hospitals via coordination through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to facilitate PRCS team's movement from the besieged hospital.
- In the Al-Mawasi clinic, medical teams tirelessly provide services to a growing number of displaced individuals and local residents isolated in the Al-Mawasi region, west of Khan Younis. These areas have become inaccessible to hospitals due to extensive bombing and infrastructural disruptions. The teams have successfully provided primary care, medical evaluations, and essential medications to (7,456) cases since October 2023.
- The advanced medical post in Al-Mawasi area, west of Khan Younis governorate, continues to offer support for minor to moderate injuries caused by the Israel bombings. The teams have provided medical services to (1900) cases between 20\1\2024 to 13\2\2024.
- In Deir Al Balah clinic, medical teams tirelessly provide services to a growing number of IDPs and residents in the area. Between 15\11\2023 to 13\2\2024, medical services were provided to (13389) cases.
- In Al Attar medical point (between Khan Younis & Rafah governorates), primary health care services were provided to (2779) cases between 10\1\2024 to 13\2\2024.
- In the park medical point (in Rafah governorate), primary health care services were provided to (6944) cases between 10\1\2024 to 13\2\2024.
- PRCS is in the process of setting up more medical point to respond to medical needs of the growing number of IDPs in Khan Younis & Rafah governorates.

- PRCS relief teams have established (13) Internally displaced persons (IDPs) camps, now sheltering (923) families, equivalent to roughly (7,408) individuals. Each family is allocated one tent, with the IDPs camps strategically located across the regions.

IDPs Camps Overview and Family Accommodation Summary:

| | IDPs camps | LOCATION | OCCUPANCY |
|-----|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | Egyptian Camp (Initial Phase) | Al-Mawasi, Khan Younis | 300 families |
| 2. | Al-Quds Camp | Al-Mawasi, Rafah | 44 families |
| 3. | PRCS Camp 1 | Al-Mawasi, Rafah | 50 families |
| 4. | PRCS Camp 2 | Al-Mawasi, Rafah | 50 families |
| 5. | PRCS Camp 3 | Deir al-Balah | 72 families |
| 6. | PRCS Camp 4 | Deir al-Balah | 50 families |
| 7. | PRCS Camp 5 | Al-Mawasi, Khan Younis | 70 families |
| 8. | PRCS Camp 6 | Al-Mawasi, Khan Younis | 100 families |
| 9. | PRCS Camp 7 | Al-Mawasi, Khan Younis | 30 families |
| 10. | PRCS Camp 8 | Al-Mawasi, Khan Younis | 20 families |
| 11. | PRCS Camp 9 | Al-Mawasi, Khan Younis | 25 families |
| 12. | IDPS Camp from Al Amal | Al-Mawasi, Khan Younis | 60 families |
| 13. | Staff & medical teams Camp | Al-Mawasi, Khan Younis | 52 families |
| | TOTAL | - | 923 FAMILIES |
| 14. | Al-Amal Camp | Currently under construction | - |

- PRCS's teams have distributed tents to families positioned outside the designated PRCS camp, the total number is (3,891) tents from October 2023 to date.
- PRCS has been actively engaged in providing essential emergency relief assistance, which includes a comprehensive array of supplies such as food parcels, relief bundles, blankets, mattresses, drinking water, sanitation products, kitchenware, and other necessities. As of October 2023, up until the current reporting period, the assistance has reached an estimated (94,735) families, consisting of (521,043) individuals, across the Gaza Strip including PRCS's camps, headquarters, and UNRWA-affiliated shelters.
- PRCS staff & volunteers are dedicated to the ongoing delivery of community health services, health awareness activities and psycho social support services. These services are being offered across the displacement camps established by PRCS, at their medical posts, as well as in shelters managed by UNRWA. The total number of individuals benefiting from these services, from October 2023 to date, is approximately (164267).

Northern Governorates - West Bank:

PRCS's Humanitarian Interventions in the West Bank, Including East Jerusalem (14-16/2/2024):

- Throughout this period, PRCS responded to a total of (22) injuries distributed as follows:
 - ✚ 18 injuries – live bullet
 - ✚ 1 injury: shrapnel
 - ✚ 2 injuries: tear gas
 - ✚ 1 panic

From 7/10/2023 to 16/2/2024, PRCS have responded to a total of (3986) injuries and recorded (134) fatalities.

- PRCS is persistently engaged in the distribution of food parcels, aiming to alleviate the economic hardships faced by families due to the prevailing circumstances across the West Bank's governorates, including cities, villages, and refugee camps. This distribution has reached (7140) families, comprising (42840) individuals, who were selected based on established eligibility criteria and in collaboration with local authorities in the designated areas.

Violations against PRCS medical mission in the oPt:

PRCS staff and volunteers routinely encounter substantial risks and targeted aggressions during the missions conducted within PRCS's humanitarian mandate. These incidents not only jeopardize their safety and life but also inflict considerable damage on the PRCS's infrastructure, including its centers, buildings, and ambulance fleet. Such actions severely impede the effective delivery of critical emergency and aid services to affected. The deliberate targeting of PRCS's medical mission represents a grave infringement of international law, notably violating the Geneva Conventions. These conventions explicitly mandate the protection, respect, and facilitation of medical missions, encompassing personnel, vehicles, facilities, and hospitals adorned with the internationally recognized and safeguarded Red Crescent emblem.

In Gaza Strip:

- PRCS has lost (14) of its staff & volunteers in line of duty since October 2023 to date.
- Currently, (12) of PRCS's staff members are still detained, after the release of two doctors on 16\2\2024. These two doctors were detained with others during the raid into Al Amal hospital on 9/2/2024. All PRCS members were arrested in the course of conducting their mandated humanitarian duties.

Below is a summary of the violations during the period from October 2023 to February 16, 2024:

| Martyrs | Injuries | Facilities | Out of service vehicles | damaged vehicles | Total # of violations recorded |
|---------|----------|------------|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| 14 | 30 | 53 | 17 | 24 | 76 |

In the West Bank:

- PRCS personals and ambulances frequently face attacks from the Israeli occupation forces or settlers across various regions of the West Bank. These incidents mount to violations that compromise the safety and well-being of both the medical staff and the individuals requiring urgent medical attention, posing significant risks to their lives in most cases.

Below is a summary outlining the number of reported violations from October 2023 to February 16, 2024).

| So far, PRCS has documented a total of 180 incidents of violations, detailed as follows: | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Type of violation | No. of incidents |
| Delay of Access | 89 |
| Denial of Access | 73 |
| Violations against Medical staff | 93 |
| Violations against Ambulance Vehicles | 75 |
| Violations against Patients and the Injured within Ambulance | 93 |
| Violations against Buildings and Facilities | 1 |
| Total | 424 |

Emergency Appeal & Relief Aid for Gaza Strip:

- To respond to the increasing humanitarian needs arising from the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip, the PRCS launched its second revised emergency appeal on 12/12/2023. The appeal sought \$ 298,736,550 in funds from partners and supporters within the international Movement of the RCRC, as well as external entities. As of now, contributions from a variety of national societies, international organizations, and the private sector have fulfilled 13.4% of the requested funds.
- PRCS was mandated to receive, sort and distribute all relief aid consignments entering Gaza Strip through the Rafah border crossing. This operation is conducted in coordination with the Egyptian Red Crescent, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), and the Gaza Strip's Ministry of Social Affairs.

- During the reporting period, (32) aid trucks were received through the Rafah crossing border. The PRCS's share was (22) with the remaining going to UNRWA and other organizations.
- During the reporting period, (319) aid trucks were received through the Kerem Shalom commercial crossing. The PRCS's share was (54) with the remaining going to UNRWA and other organizations.
- These consignments are distributed by PRCS to specified agencies, primarily including UNRWA and the Ministry of Social Affair and others.
- Moreover, PRCS has received 95 ambulance vehicles through generous donations from Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Egyptian Red Crescent, and the Turkish Red Crescent. These vehicles were allocated according to an established mechanism in collaboration with relevant parties.

PRCS evaluations reveal that the current allowance of truck entries into the Gaza Strip is insufficient to cover the extensive humanitarian and relief requirements of those affected. Based on analyses by our teams, the Gaza Strip necessitates the following:

1. Food parcels: 406 trucks required weekly.
2. Hygiene kits: 406 trucks required bi-weekly.
3. Dignity kits: 650 trucks required monthly.
4. Potable water: 1,279 trucks required daily.

For inquiries, please send emails to opsroom@palestinercs.org.

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