

# RED CROSS FIELD HOSPITAL

RAFAH, GAZA STRIP

9 MAY – 9 JULY 2024



ICRC



**The capacity of healthcare responders in Gaza continues to be stretched beyond anything seen before October 2023. What is left to meet the medical needs are referral systems between primary health care facilities, medical points, field hospitals, and partially functioning hospitals.**

**The Red Cross Field Hospital remains operational in the western side of Rafah, southern Gaza. The impact of the ongoing armed conflict is felt at the field hospital in increasing rates of consultations, surgeries, deliveries, and admissions.**

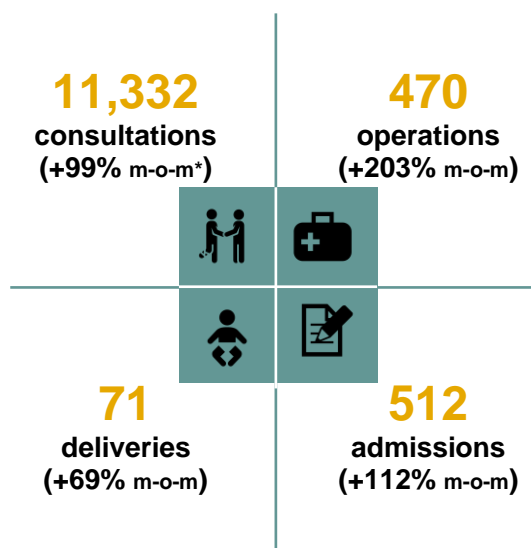
In the first month, the hospital responded to two **mass casualty incidents**; in the last week of June alone, three. The **occupancy rate** of the field hospital fluctuates between 50% and 80% on a daily basis and may peak to 95% (leaving only 3 maternity beds available) on days with **mass influxes of patients**. This happened on 3 July when – with the help of the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) – the ICRC transferred 23 patients from the European Gaza Hospital (EGH) to the field hospital after it was [unable to continue functioning](#) since many of their staff evacuated after evacuation orders were issued for large areas in southernmost Rafah and Khan Younis.

Since the opening of the hospital on 9 May, more than 80% of the surgeries performed have been categorized as war-wounded surgery – that is, surgical interventions for wounds resulting from direct impact of the armed

conflict. The main types of surgeries can be broken down to: removal of dead or infected tissue (48%), general surgical interventions (36%), orthopaedic surgeries (10%), and others (7%).

Despite the efforts of the teams, the past month has seen 70 patients succumb to their wounds – some being declared deceased before or upon arrival, and some when undergoing treatment.

The field hospital operates with around 230 staff (200 Palestinian staff and 30 expatriate staff), of which 50 are clinical staff and 180 are non-clinical staff. A number of PRCS volunteers joined the ICRC and are supporting the daily operations of the hospital.



\* month-on-month i.e. percentage change compared to the figures published in the first summary report (covering 9 May – 9 June 2024)

## Challenges

[21 June](#) – The ICRC office – which is surrounded by hundreds of displaced civilians living in tents – was damaged by nearby shelling in Gaza. The ICRC called for parties to the armed conflict to take all feasible precautions to avoid harm to civilians and damage to civilian objects, including humanitarian facilities. The Red Cross Field Hospital is located near the ICRC office.

## Media coverage

The coverage of the field hospital remains regular on public communication channels of all participating National Societies. The following is a non-exhaustive snapshot.

**News releases** – by Norwegian Red Cross ([22 June](#), [2 July](#))



**Social media** – posts by Canadian Minister of International Development ([22 June](#)), Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs ([Mission](#), [HQ](#), [Press](#)), and Australian Red Cross ([23 June](#)).

## Op-Eds & Articles

- Swiss Red Cross delegate ([7 July](#))
- Finnish Red Cross surgeon ([6 June](#))



- Australian Red Cross WaSH delegate ([16 June](#))



“*The horrific injuries we see are similar to those which have been seen across the entire Gaza Strip since October. Some can physically recover; some will live without a limb. But the mental toll, particularly for children, is so heavy it will remain for years to come.*”

– Dr Sandy Inglis, Senior Medical Officer

### A Red Cross and Red Crescent response

The unprecedented level of medical needs resulting from the ongoing armed conflict in the Gaza Strip continues to put enormous pressure on a collapsed healthcare system that is now characterized by pockets of partially functional medical response units. The level of devastation has triggered a joint collaboration between members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, with each of the following members supporting this field hospital.

**1. Medical staff** from the Australian Red Cross, the British Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross, the Danish Red Cross, the Finnish Red Cross, the German Red Cross, the Hong Kong Red Cross (branch of the Red Cross Society of China), the Icelandic Red Cross, the Norwegian Red Cross, and the Swiss Red Cross.

#### 2. Equipment

- Reverse osmosis water purification systems from the Austrian Red Cross, the Danish Red Cross, and the Norwegian Red Cross.
- Surgical equipment, medical consumables, disinfection equipment and supplies, and pharmaceuticals from the Canadian Red Cross.
- Accommodations for staff sleeping quarters from the Danish Red Cross.
- X-ray equipment, water tanks, and sinks from the Finnish Red Cross.
- Nursing equipment, laboratory equipment, staff accommodation materials, an electricity toolkit, water tanks, and sinks from the German Red Cross.
- A nursing physiotherapy and an operating theater/anesthesia module from the Japanese Red Cross.
- Medical equipment, office equipment, tents, lighting, latrine kits, kitchen kits, and pharmaceutical drugs from the Norwegian Red Cross.

**3. Operations.** The Palestine Red Crescent Society continuously supports the transportation of the sick and the wounded to the field hospital – including referrals to other hospitals.