

Occupied Palestinian Territory : Health Systems Profile

Key health system indicators

Health status

Life expectancy at birth in years	total	73
Adult mortality rate (probability of dying between 15 and 60 years) per 1000 population	males	1
	females	1
	total	1

Communicable diseases

Tuberculosis notification rate per 100 000	1
Incidence rate of malaria per 1000 population	...
Estimated number of people living with HIV	...

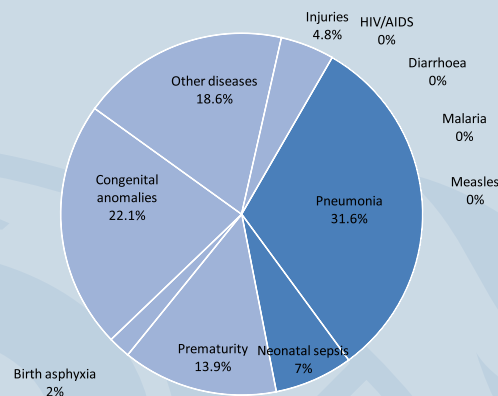
Behavioural risk factors

2008 estimated prevalence (%)	males	females	total
Current daily tobacco smoking	36	2	19
Physical inactivity	64	87	75

Metabolic risk factors

2008 estimated prevalence (%)	males	females	total
Raised blood pressure	36.0	35.6	35.8
Raised blood glucose	9.5	7.6	8.5
Overweight	55.2	60.7	57.8
Obesity	23.3	30.8	26.8
Raised cholesterol	35.8	37.3	36.5

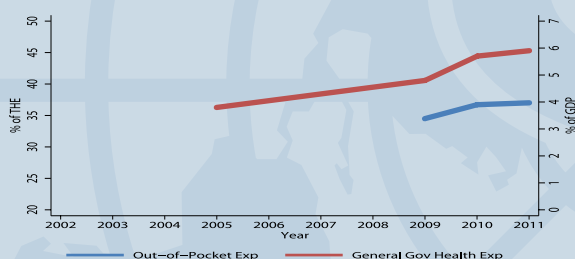
Distribution of causes of death among children aged <5 years (%)



Communicable diseases are estimated to account for 38.6% of all deaths among children aged <5 years

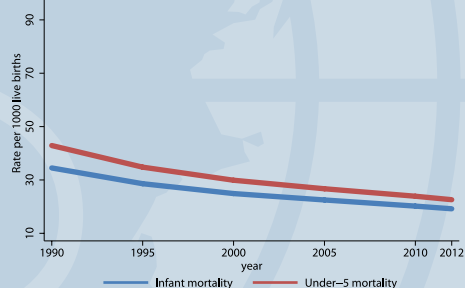
Expenditure and mortality trends

Health finance



The general government expenditure on health as % of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
The out-of-pocket expenditure as % of Total Health Expenditure (THE)

Infant and under 5 mortality rates per 1000 live births



Health system: governance

Existence of a national health strategy/strategic plan and time frame	Yes (2011-2013)
Annual publication/dissemination of ministry of performance report	Yes
High level multisectoral advisory council for health available	Yes

Health system: information

Functioning civil registration and vital statistics

Percentage of births registered	93
Percentage of causes of death recorded	59.8
Year most recent use of ICD in mortality classification reported	2012
Year most recent annual health statistics report published	2012

Health system: health workforce

Health workforce per 10 000 population (2011)

Physicians	20.2
Nurses/midwives	19.7
Dentists	6.1
Pharmacists	11.5

Health professions education institutions

Medical	3
Nursing	20

Percentage of doctors working in rural settings

Percentage of doctors working in rural settings	...
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Health system: service provision

Infrastructure

Primary health care facilities per 10 000 population	1.8
Hospital beds per 10 000 population	13

Service delivery

Access to local health services (%)	100
Contraceptive prevalence (%)	53
Antenatal care visits (4+ visits) (%)	42.8
Measles immunization coverage among 1-year-olds (%)	99
Smear-positive tuberculosis treatment success (%)	82
Number of tobacco (m)POWER measures implemented at the highest level of achievement	...

Health system: finance

National health accounts conducted (number of rounds; last reference year(s))	2011
General government expenditure on health as % of GDP (2011)	5.4
Out-of-pocket expenditure as % of total health expenditure (2011)	37
General government expenditure on health as % of total government expenditure (2011)	10.0

Health system: technology

Existence and year of last update of published essential medicines list (EML)	Yes (2012)
Existence of a functional national regulatory authority (NRA)	Yes (medicines)
Number of MRI/CT scanners (in public facilities) per million population	11451

Health System Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Challenges, and Priorities

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High level of coverage and commitment to universal health coverage • Well qualified staff with good retention within Ministry of Health • Well established primary care and referral care with high coverage through a network of governmental, nongovernmental and private providers • Well developed health infrastructure, wide availability of technology and regularly updated national essential medicines list • National health information strategy in place with well established routine health information system, including surveillance, at all service levels • National health accounts system well established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Health is both regulator and provider of services, but with weak regulatory function • Donor-dependent health system lacks financial sustainability and with inadequate focus on sound financial management • High and increasing out-of-pocket expenditure for health • Inadequate development of management capacity among mid-level managers and lack of succession planning for key leadership positions • Uneven distribution of staff between primary and higher service levels, and among geographic areas • Insufficient use of data for decision-making • Ongoing and frequent shortages of medical products and essential supplies • Lack of preventive maintenance for infrastructure and equipment
Opportunities	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High level of commitment of development partners to align external assistance to national health plan • Establishment of a National Institute of Public Health to strengthen information management and evidence-based decision-making • Review the feasibility of a health insurance to create a sustainable health financing system • Rationalize policy on referral abroad based on need to ensure efficient use of resources • Translate policy level initiatives that promote rational use of medicines, quality standards in health care, family practice and human resource development into actionable programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Split in Palestinian Authority between West Bank and Gaza leading to lack of coordination • Disproportionate expenditure on high-cost curative care with high number of referrals from Ministry of Health to other providers within and outside Palestine • Primary care service delivery model not yet configured to the changed epidemiological burden of noncommunicable diseases and mental health • Inadequate multisectoral involvement to address determinants of health and noncommunicable diseases • Low staff motivation, inadequate oversight and lack of accountability culture undermining quality of care • Substantial investment in infrastructure and system support needed for expansion of electronic patient-based information system • Lack of standardization of equipment specifications, resulting in operational and maintenance difficulties
Priorities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a clear vision, strategy and roadmap for reaching universal health coverage by the year 2020 • Develop multisectoral mechanisms at all levels to address determinants of health, particularly noncommunicable diseases • Develop clear guidelines and standard operating practices that promote cost containment mechanisms and enhance efficiency • Ensure rational distribution, development and use of health professionals within the Ministry of Health • Establish and enforce of national quality standards for government, nongovernmental and private health care providers • Adapt a primary care system on the family medicine model and train family physicians 	

Jointly developed by:

Department of Health Systems Development (HSD) and
Department of Information, Evidence and Research (IER)