World Health Organization
Eastern Mediterranean Region

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Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean
Seventy-third session
Pre-session virtual event
28 September–1 October 2026

September/October 2026

A dialogue on early recovery and reconstruction of the health system in the Gaza Strip

Date: Wednesday, 30 September 2026
Time: 11:00–12:00 (Cairo time)
Duration: 60 minutes
Modality: Virtual (Zoom calendar invite to be sent by email)

Objectives

On 30 September 2026, a virtual event on a dialogue on early recovery and reconstruction of the health system in the Gaza Strip will be held during the virtual week preceding the 73rd session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean.

The objectives of the event are to:

- present the health-related findings of the final (April 2026) Gaza Strip Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA) as the shared evidence base for recovery planning and resource mobilization;
- discuss the Palestinian Ministry of Health's Health Recovery and Reconstruction Plan and the support needed from the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), other United Nations agencies, health sector partners and Member States; and
- discuss health sector priorities, consistent with the regional health systems recovery framework (EM/RC72/7 and EM/RC72/R.3), covering key recovery actions for the next 18 months and preparation for advanced recovery.

Background

The ceasefire of 9 October 2025 and the subsequent adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 2803 (2025) endorsing the Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Strip Conflict[1] have opened a fragile window for the transition from emergency response to health system recovery and reconstruction in the Gaza Strip. The scale of the task is unprecedented, while ongoing security and access constraints inhibit progress. The entire population of the Gaza Strip is experiencing significant, direct and long-term impacts on their physical health, economic stability and psychosocial well-being.[2] In the health sector, fewer than half of hospitals and less than 38% of primary health care centres remain partially functional.[2] At least 41 844 people are living with conflict-related, life-changing injuries requiring long-term rehabilitation, around 25% of whom are children.[2]

The final Gaza Strip RDNA, issued jointly by the European Union, the United Nations and the World Bank in April 2026, estimates total physical damage at US$ 35.2 billion, total economic losses at US$ 22.7 billion and total recovery and reconstruction needs of approximately US$ 71.4 billion over the next decade.[2] The health sector accounts for the largest share of economic losses (US$ 6.8 billion, 30% of the total) and requires

[1] The United Nations Security Council resolution 2803 (2025) was adopted on 17 November 2025, endorsing the Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Strip Conflict and welcoming the establishment of the Board of Peace.
[2] See the Gaza Strip Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment, April 2026.

an estimated US$ 10 billion for recovery and reconstruction. Immediate needs for recovery and reconstruction in the health sector in the first 18 months are estimated at US$ 2.6 billion, escalating to US$ 4.3 billion in the medium-term of 3–5 years, making it the sector with the steepest long-term financing curve.

WHO's operational plan sets out immediate priorities for maintaining and expanding life-saving essential services, restoring referral and medical evacuation pathways, and initiating early recovery, including support for a strategic framework to rebuild a rationalized, needs-based and resilient health facility network.[3] For 2026, fully funding WHO's operational plan – set out in its Health Emergency Appeal 2026 for the occupied Palestinian territory – is estimated to cost US$ 333.2 million.[4] It places particular emphasis on scaling up support for the rehabilitation and early recovery of the health sector in the Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian health sector has developed its Implementation Program for the Health Recovery and Reconstruction Plan for the Gaza Strip, aligned with the Arab Plan for Recovery, Reconstruction and Development in Gaza and the Palestinian National Recovery Implementation Program, and consistent with World Health Assembly resolution WHA78.[4, 5] At the regional level, technical paper EM/RC72/7 and resolution EM/RC72/R.3 (2025) provide an endorsed operational framework for health systems recovery in fragile and conflict-affected situations, structured around six steps – recovery readiness, recovery assessment, recovery planning, resource mobilization, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation – and anchored in the humanitarian–development–peace nexus. In Palestine, preparatory actions taken since the onset of the crisis – including the establishment of a three-level recovery working group, dedicated recovery capacity in the WHO country office with direct and dedicated Regional Office support, strengthened health information systems and compiled baseline data – enabled the health sector to contribute effectively to the interim RDNA and national recovery instruments.[6,7]

Expected outcomes

- A common understanding among participants of the RDNA health-sector findings and the sequencing of immediate and medium- to long-term recovery needs.
- Identification of priorities for technical and operational support to the Palestinian Ministry of Health and expected support from WHO and other United Nations agencies and partners in the short- to medium-term, framed by the six-step regional health systems recovery framework: readiness, assessment, planning, resource mobilization, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

Related documents

- Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem. WHA78.4 (2025).
- Health systems recovery in fragile and conflict-affected situations in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. EM/RC72/7 (2025).
- Health systems recovery in fragile and conflict-affected situations in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. EM/RC72/R.3 (2025).

[3] See the 60-day ceasefire plan for Gaza, October 2025.
[4] WHO's operational response plan for 2026 is aligned with the WHO Health Emergency Appeal 2026 for the occupied Palestinian territory and the United Nations Flash Appeal 2026.
[5] The Palestinian Ministry of Health has submitted a proposed agenda item on Supporting the Implementation Program for the Health Recovery and Reconstruction Plan for the Gaza Strip – Palestine (unpublished internal submission; document on file with the organizers).
[6] See the Gaza and West Bank Interim Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment, February 2025.
[7] See the WHO operational response and early recovery plan for the occupied Palestinian territory: 2025.