MEDICAL EVACUATION OF PATIENTS FROM GAZA

Oct 2023 - 30 Sep 2026

World Health Organization
occupied Palestinian territory

13 768 Patients evacuated including **6408** children

17 009 Companions

Oct 23 - 12 Oct 25

- **1166** via Kerem Shalom Crossing
- **9216** via Rafah Crossing



2806 (27%) **Patients** evacuated with WHO support

including

1342 Children

11 363 **Companions**

including

4588 with WHO support

13 Oct 25 - 30 Sep 26

Ceasefire

- **776** via Kerem Shalom Crossing
- **2610** via Rafah Crossing



3385 (~100%) **Patients** evacuated with WHO support

including

1004 Children

5646 **Companions**

including

5646 with WHO support

Thousands of patients urgently need medical treatment that is not available in Gaza.

Key events



Top five medical needs of patients evacuated

Since 7 May 2024

1719	1529	762	486	418
Trauma	Oncology	Cardiovascular diseases	Ophthalmology	Congenital anomalies

Top ten referral destinations

Since October 2023

8940	Egypt	**640**	EU countries	**73**	Tunisia
1518	United Arab Emirates	**456**	Turkey	**56**	Oman
970	Qatar	**136**	Algeria		
790	Jordan	**100**	Uzbekistan		

Severely ill or injured patients needing lifesaving, specialized care unavailable in Gaza need medical evacuation. The World Health Organization (WHO), is not involved in the selection or prioritization of patients approved to exit Gaza for medical evacuation, this responsibility rests with the Ministry of Health (MOH). The process is supported by WHO in coordination with various stakeholders and health partners. WHO's role is focused on ensuring the safe, dignified, and orderly transfer of patients from Gaza to the crossings.

Process for patients (irrespective of referral country):

A medical doctor or specialist in Gaza examines the patient and if needed, issues a referral form for treatment abroad.

The patient submits the medical referral form through the patient services desk at the treating public hospital.

The hospital sends the referral form to the Referral Committee.

The Referral Committee reviews the case and decides the priority and urgency.

Pathway for patient evacuation for medical treatment outside Gaza via Kerem Shalom Crossing:

Once a commitment to support medical evacuation is received from the host country, the Referral Committee provides a list of patients and their companion(s) to the host country.

The host country selects patients. WHO then contacts the patients to update their records and gather any documentation needed by the host country for the medical evacuation process.

The list of patients and companions approved by the host country is submitted to the Israeli authorities for clearance.

WHO prepares all the logistics and other clearances required for the medical evacuation, including reviewing the fit-to-travel status of patients and companions, as well as any medical needs.

WHO assembles the approved patients and companions, conducts final medical and document checks at the medical evacuation departure hub in Gaza, and the convoy proceeds to Kerem Shalom Crossing.

Patients and companions cross into Israel, with WHO supporting onward travel to Ramon Airport or King Hussein Crossing.

Pathway for patient evacuation for medical treatment outside Gaza via Rafah Crossing:

The Referral Committee shares a list of patients and their companions, prioritized for medical evacuation, with Egypt and Israel for clearance.

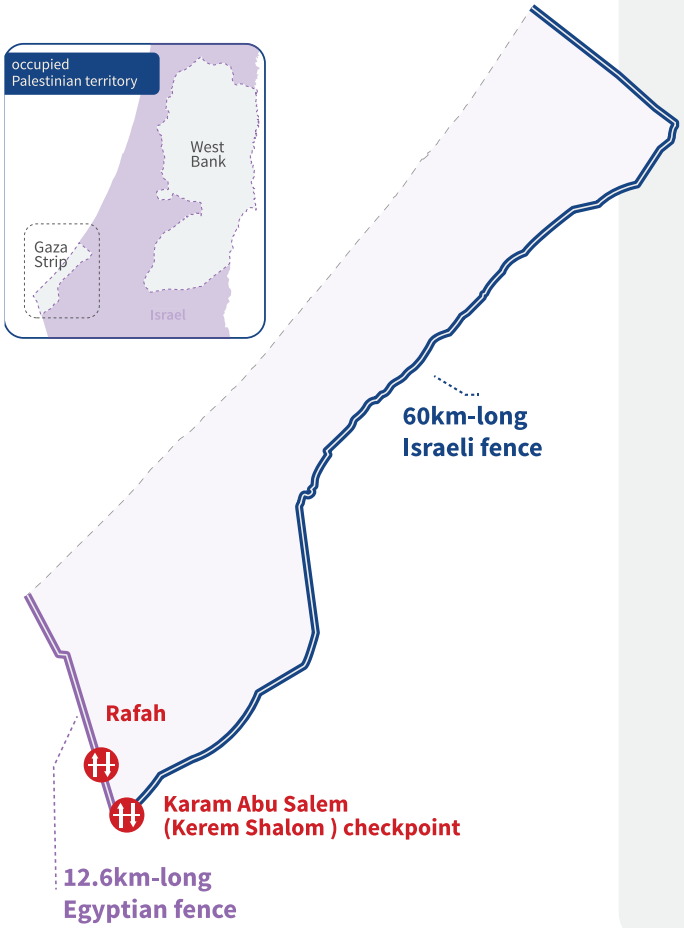
Once clearance is granted, the Referral Committee prepares the final list of patients and companions for medical evacuation to Egypt, based on the urgency of medical needs and the number of ambulances and buses available in the convoy that can accommodate patients.

The list is shared with WHO, which contacts patients to update their files and gather documentation for the medical evacuation process. The final list is also shared again with the Egyptian and Israeli authorities for clearance.

WHO prepares all the logistics and other clearances required for the medical evacuation, including reviewing the fit-to-travel status of patients and companions, as well as any medical needs.

WHO assembles the approved patients and companions, conducts final medical and document checks at the medical evacuation departure hub in Gaza, and the convoy proceeds to the Rafah Crossing.

Patients and companions are received at the Rafah Crossing by the Palestinian Authority, which assists with document checks, along with EUBAM, for crossing into Egypt.



Key asks:

- Allow entry of medical equipment for ambulances and other devices (e.g., portable ventilators with power supply) that are not currently available in Gaza to ensure safe transfer of complicated cases during medical evacuations.
- Improve conditions for medical evacuation at the Rafah Crossing, including the availability of shade, handwashing points, and a paved ambulance transfer corridor. At Kerem Shalom, improve patient safety through the presence of medical personnel during the entire patient transfer process.
- Allow entry of additional ambulances, armoured vehicles, buses, and spare parts into Gaza.
- Ensure the rehabilitation and rebuilding of Gaza's health system to reduce reliance on medical evacuations. This includes the entry of increased volumes of medical supplies, the rehabilitation of damaged health facilities, and the expansion of essential services.
- Reopen patient referral to health facilities in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.
- Increased Member States' acceptance of patients from Gaza for treatment in the interim.
- Ensure patients can return to Gaza after completing treatment.

ⓘ Before October 2023 between 50-100 patients were exiting Gaza daily for medical treatment.

WHO is grateful for the support of