

orders from the IDF to evacuate all staff and patients. The Director has refused and everyone remains in the hospital. El Wafa is located in eastern Gaza's El Sheja'ia neighbourhood.

Windows at the Dorah and Gaza Paediatrics hospitals have not been repaired and are covered with plastic sheeting.

Electricity failure and fuel supply

All Gaza City hospitals have been without electricity since 3 January - 72 consecutive hours - and have been depending on back-up generators. UNRWA and ICRC are working to supply more fuel to keep generators running. Hospitals warn that the generators are close to collapse and they have four more days of fuel, even with services limited to the mere essentials. At the Shifa hospital alone, collapse would have immediate consequences for 70 intensive care unit patients including 30 in the neonatal care. Twelve operating rooms would also be immediately affected, in addition to shutting down the oxygen extractors, refrigerators for blood units and machines for emergency laboratory services. Also, all hospitals would be without heating and lighting.

Health personnel

An ICRC team of emergency surgeons entered the Gaza Strip through the Erez Crossing on 5 January and brought 1000 units of tetanus oxide.

Insecurity, damage to roads and bridges, and fragmentation of the Gaza Strip into zones by the IDF are preventing staff from reaching health facilities. Movement is progressively difficult and dangerous. Movement from one zone to another for health personnel requires coordination with the IDF, which is being dealt with by the ICRC. Staff are working 24-hour shifts to try meet needs, instead of the regular eight-hour shifts. This accumulative situation is placing great strain on health personnel.

Bed capacity and occupancy rate

While stabilized patients are being discharged as soon as possible to free up space in the hospitals, Intensive Care Units (ICUs) throughout the Gaza Strip are overloaded and there is still an urgent need to evacuate patients.

Primary health care centres

Four UNRWA health centres (Maen, Shouka, Zaitoun, Naser) have been closed due to military operations. Its remaining 14 centres are open for emergency services.

The UHCC was due to re-open its primary health care centre on 5 January to support growing health care needs but the destruction of the mobile clinics on 4 January and concurrent damage to the building has prevented its reopening.

REFERRALS AND EVACUATIONS OUTSIDE GAZA

Seventeen patients were scheduled to be evacuated through the Rafah crossing for referral to hospitals in Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Libya, bringing the total of patients evacuated through Rafah to 122 since 27 December.

One patient was evacuated through Erez crossing on 5 January and 12 patients have submitted requests to be refereed through Erez by the Palestinian Liaison Officer. The Referral Abroad Department RAD has been closed since 27 December, but the Palestinian Liaison Officer resumed working from home on 5 January.

MEDICAL SUPPLIES

WHO is facilitating the entry of four trucks through Karem Shalom. Only two were allowed in on 5 January and the other two were delayed until 6 January.

COORDINATION

On 5 January, the Palestinian MoH in Ramallah began activities at its emergency operations room in collaboration with WHO to respond to the health situation. The operations room will provide assessments of requirements (pharmaceuticals, consumables, equipments and spare parts), follow up on the response of international community and address referrals of injured and other patients.

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