



ICRC

RED CROSS FIELD HOSPITAL

RAFAH, GAZA STRIP

9 MAY 2024 – 12 APRIL 2025



ONE-YEAR ON... (PUBLIC)

In May 2024, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), 14 Red Cross Societies, and the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) collaborated to [establish](#) the Red Cross Field Hospital to address the overwhelming medical needs as a result of the ongoing armed conflict. What started as a temporary medical support response activity turned into a year-long effort. Throughout the year, the teams worked tirelessly saving many patients; sadly, many others have been lost.

“None of us expected the human suffering – and therefore the need of a field hospital – to be this immense or to last this long; but as long as there are victims of war, we remain fully committed to continue caring for the sick and wounded.” – Julien Chassany, ICRC head of programmes for Israel and the Occupied Territories

The hospital was directly impacted by military operations carried out across the Gaza Strip, from active operations in Rafah in April 2024 during the construction phase of the hospital, recurrent escalations throughout the year, and, ultimately, the resumption of hostilities on 18 March 2025.

A RESUMPTION OF HOSTILITIES (PUBLIC)

The [resumption of hostilities](#) has reportedly led to [over a thousand people killed](#) across the Gaza Strip¹. Multiple successive evacuation orders generated fear and confusion around the locations and facilities included. Evacuation zones are now in close proximity to the southern wall of the Field Hospital, effectively making it a frontline hospital, and one of the few remaining fully functioning field hospitals in Rafah. However, no injured people from the south have been able to reach the Field Hospital because civilian movements within evacuation zones are extremely dangerous. All the patients in recent weeks have come from points of origin north of the Field Hospital.

TRAGEDY IN THE RED CROSS/RED CRESCENT FAMILY (PUBLIC)

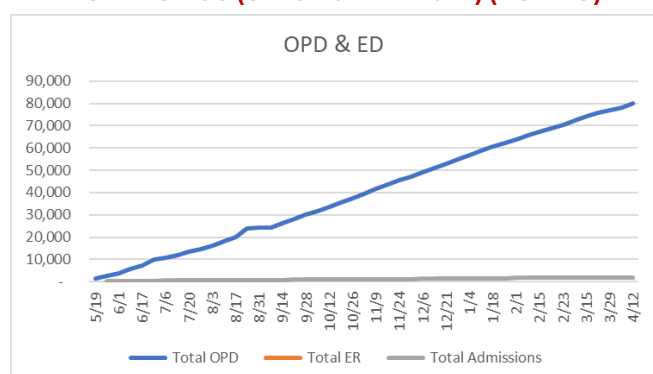
On the night of 23 March 2025, [eight medics from the Palestine Red Crescent Society \(PRCS\) were killed](#) while trying to reach injured people that had called for an ambulance. Another [medic](#) whose whereabouts were unknown for several days was later confirmed to have been detained. On [29 April](#), after 37 days in detention, he was finally released. International humanitarian law is clear: it affords special protection to medical facilities and personnel, who must be respected and protected in all circumstances. All

¹ as of 17 April

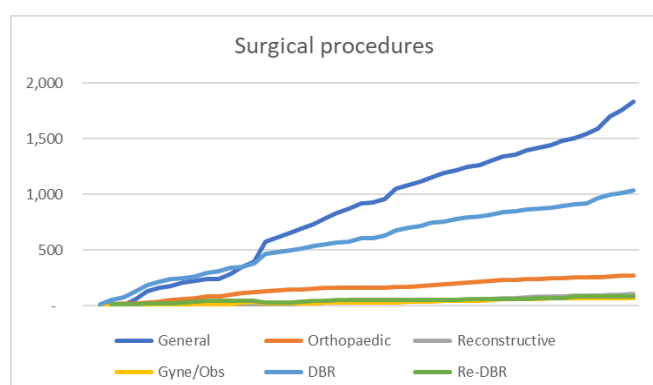
parties must ensure that hospitals and medical facilities can remain sanctuaries to preserve human life.

'Some of these medics have regularly volunteered at the Red Cross Field Hospital throughout the year. We worked together, laughed together, saved lives together, and mourned together for the ones we couldn't save. So, when we say, "their loss is ours", we mean it in every sense of the word.' – **Sally Khalid Abu Borhum**, psychologist at the Red Cross Field Hospital

MAIN STATISTICS (SINCE 9 MAY 2024) (PUBLIC)



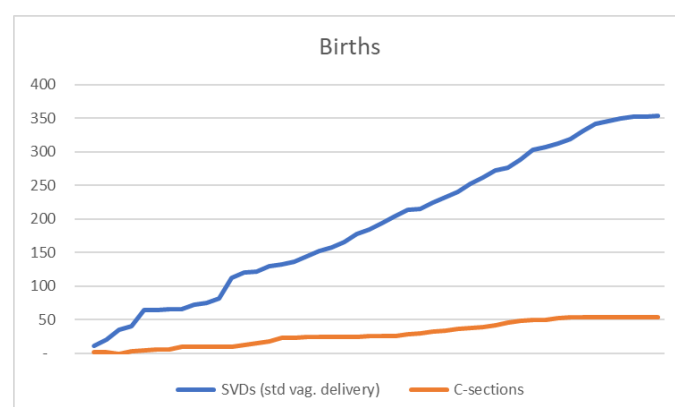
80,241 consultations (+11%)². The Field Hospital's working days are Sunday to Thursday, but the Emergency Department remains open 24/7 and on weekends and serves as an *ad hoc* Outpatient department. Throughout the past year, the 60 beds of the Field Hospital have seen 2,000 patients admitted/discharged. A full breakdown of age range and gender can be found in the [patient demographics](#) section.



3,404 surgical procedures (+17%). Immediately after the [resumption of hostilities](#) on 18 March, the hospital saw a 50% increase in the number of surgical procedures while the number of admitted patients

² The figures are cumulative, but for reference a percentage growth is calculated based on the previous month's figures.

dropped by approximately 10%. The week of 13-19 April saw the highest number of Outpatient & Emergency Department consultations since the establishment of the Field Hospital, with 2,396 patients visiting or brought to the hospital. Since the opening of the Field Hospital, these surgical procedures include general surgical interventions (54%), removal of dead or infected skin or tissue (33%), orthopaedic (8%), and others (5%).



408 deliveries (+3%). Over 13% of births have had to be done via caesarean section (54 c-sections; 354 standard vaginal deliveries).

6,143 physiotherapy sessions (+8%). Phase one of the ceasefire (19 January–2 March) and the period before the full resumption of hostilities (18 March) afforded some people in Gaza a period of respite, allowing time to start processing their experiences since October 2023. The period of relative calm also allowed the Field Hospital to establish an Amputation Stump Revision programme in collaboration with other health-care providers³. This programme is part of the medium- to long-term health care that is needed for victims of war; health-care responses always outlast the period of active conflict. This is especially relevant for children whose bones continue to grow until their bodies are fully developed. The resumption of hostilities meant that medium-to-long-term planning of medical responses are put on hold, as hospitals and health-care facilities are forced to revert to emergency response.

1,549 MHPSS sessions⁴. Since May 2024, patients have received individual sessions to help them cope with the stress of the conflict. Group sessions have been provided to patients and/or caretakers to address specific mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) needs. Moreover, family sessions

³ See previous report for details

⁴ The reporting period for this is May 2024 to March 2025

have been provided to some patients and their caretakers to help caretakers manage their stress and guide them on how to better support the patients.

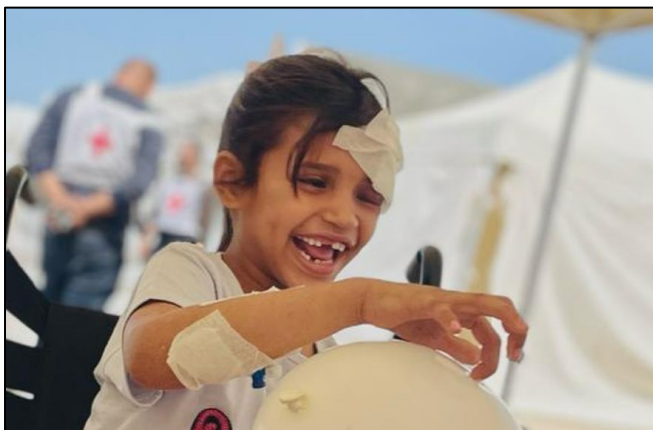
A survey conducted between 11–13 March 2025 revealed that 88% of respondents have lost home or family members and that 70% want emotional support but only 50% have access to psychological support. When asked about their emotional state in the two weeks prior to the survey: 66% suffer from persistent worry; 62% have distressing war-related memories; 58% notice a loss of interest in daily activities; 34% feel hopeless; 28% feel worthless; and 24% have had suicidal thoughts. Among those who have children, 50% of the parents noticed psychological symptoms in their children after October 2023.

58,282 deliveries of anaesthesia (36,605 general anaesthesia, 12,906 regional anaesthesia, and 9,311 local anaesthesia). These are done for a variety of medical interventions in the Field Hospital, including sedation for short procedures, pain relief for change of dressings, and general anaesthesia for surgeries that require intubation.

PATIENT DEMOGRAPHICS (PUBLIC)

Of the **80,241 patients** seen in the outpatient department and the emergency department:

- 54% are male; 46% are female
- 37% are children under 18 years of age:
 - o 12% are under 5 years of age
 - o 17% are in the 5-14 years age range
 - o 8% are in the 15-17 years age range



A patient (Juwan) | **Credit:** Ghaydaa Abu Samaan, ICRC | [Download](#) stills & accompanying text

These numbers are consistent with other health-care facilities and field hospitals, such as the [UK-Med field](#)

⁵ Donated by the Austrian and Danish Red Cross Societies.

[hospital](#), also located in Rafah, who reported that approximately 40% patients are under 18 years of age.

RESOURCES, CHALLENGES AND CONCERNS (INTERNAL)

The Field Hospital was not designed to go through **multiple seasonal changes**. Seasonal changes generate additional wear-and-tear of the fabric of the Field Hospital. Nevertheless, the workshop and technical team continue to patch breaks and leakages as they appear, ensuring the continuity of the facility.

The **reverse osmosis** water purification systems⁵ have been the silent lifeline of the Field Hospital. Since it opened, the Field Hospital has produced over 2,200 tonnes of drinking water to meet the needs of the patients, their caretakers, and the staff. When the needs are dire and resources unavailable at the other premises of the Red Cross teams in Rafah, drinking water is also transported there.

Scabies continues to present a serious issue amongst patients⁶, accounting for over 30% of the outpatient cases in the past few weeks. More frequent deep cleanings are scheduled to mitigate the risks of infections.

As summer approaches, an increase in **houseflies** has been observed. Mosquito nets have been installed to prevent infections, prioritizing admitted patients that have to keep their wounds open post-operation.

On 24 March 2024, an ICRC premises 150 metres away from the Field Hospital was [struck](#) during the ongoing armed conflict. Later, on 16 April, yet [another ICRC office](#) was struck.



View from the Field Hospital of the ICRC premises struck on 24 March 2025 | **Credit:** ICRC | [Download](#) picture

⁶ Presumed to result from the increase of released detainees from Israeli places of detention

As a result, the Field Hospital delegates' residence compound was rearranged to include a **makeshift warehouse**. The ICRC Logistics Base – located approximately 600 metres south of the Field Hospital – has been vacated since it falls within the evacuation zone issued by the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) – making access difficult for rapid dispatching of stored items and equipment. Temporary solutions have been found to store items without impacting the operations of FH.

QUOTES (PUBLIC)

“Providing medical care in Gaza is already difficult, but when medics and emergency responders are killed, it becomes extremely complicated. A hospital cannot operate in isolation. Ambulances must reach the wounded, and patients need safe passage to other facilities. Civilians depend on these services in their most difficult hours. Medical personnel must be allowed to do their work. Lives depend on it.” – [Grace Osumo, Hospital Programme Manager at the Red Cross Field Hospital](#).

“Every medic killed in Gaza is a lifeline lost for civilians who cannot afford to lose more. We are pained and angered by the killing of medics from the Palestine Red Crescent Society, many of whom we worked with at the Red Cross Field Hospital and other hospitals in Gaza, along with other first responders from the Civil Defence. Every day brings a new reminder of their killing. We are deeply troubled by the horrific scenes depicting the circumstances of their deaths. Their killing is a stark reminder of how dangerous Gaza is for civilians, and for humanitarian workers who risk everything to save lives. This incident must mark a turning point. Humanitarian and medical personnel are protected under IHL. They must be respected in all circumstances, and they must be allowed to work in safety – unhindered and unharmed.” – [Adrian Zimmermann, ICRC head of sub-delegation in Gaza](#).

OTHER ASSETS (PUBLIC)



[Map](#) of the Field Hospital



A patient (Malik) | **Credit:** Ghaydaa Abu Samaan, ICRC (for WhatsApp pictures), Hisham Mhanna, ICRC (for all others) | [Download](#) stills & accompanying text



A patient (Yazan) | **Credit:** Hisham Mhanna, ICRC | [Download](#) stills & accompanying text

All other assets can be found [here](#).

FOR DEPLOYING DELEGATES (INTERNAL)

Please see the section for compiled [interview tips](#) and suggestions.

ABOUT THE RED CROSS FIELD HOSPITAL (PUBLIC)

The Red Cross Field Hospital is implemented in coordination with the Palestine Red Crescent Society and supported by Red Cross Societies of Australia, Austria, Canada, China (Hong Kong branch), Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.