

Serving the most vulnerable Palestinians since 1979

THE PALESTINIAN MEDICAL RELIEF SOCIETY





THE CURRENT CONTEXT

As of the 8th of January, it is believed at least 30,000 people have been killed in Gaza (including numbers under rubble) and in the West Bank 376 fatalities, all since the 7th of October.

Attacks on healthcare, continue to escalate at disturbing rates both in Gaza Strip and the West Bank, with a total of 294 attacks on healthcare in Gaza since the 7th of October. In the West Bank, there have been 276 attacks on healthcare since the 7th (both figures from WHO's latest report 30th Dec).

Given the ongoing pressures on the hospital system and the entire healthcare infrastructure in Gaza, Primary Healthcare Services have become even more vital to supporting the healthcare of Palestinians. Additionally, with increased restrictions to movement and attacks in the West Bank, our PHC services are needed more than ever.

In Gaza, there are only 3 field hospitals that are functioning, only as field hospitals. The remainder of hospitals in Gaza are no longer fully functioning, with most being completely incapacitated or at 200% capacity.

In the West Bank, since the 7th, 24 facilities and 205 ambulances have been impacted since the 7th of October, with attacks, obstruction, harassment and illegal arrests of staff continuing.

The last quarter has certainly been the most harrowing and challenging time of our careers and lives. We remain committed to ensuring Palestinians have access to healthcare, despite the ongoing escalation of violence and mounting challenges.

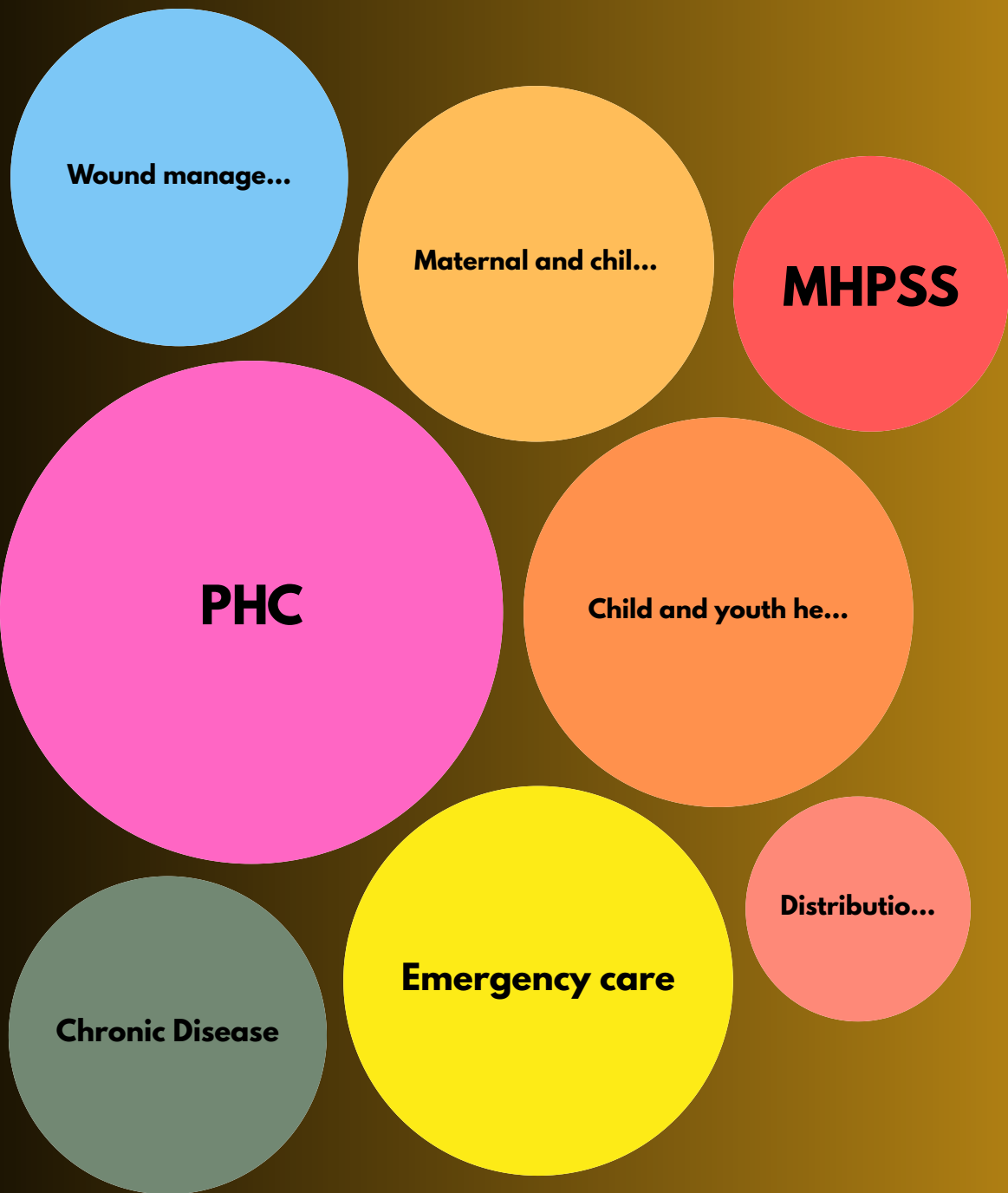
**CONTINUOUS ATTACKS ON HEALTHCARE BELOW: 1. AMBULANCE ATTACK
KILLING 4 PARAMEDICS 2.AL AHLI HOSPITAL AFTER IT WAS BOMBED**



IN GAZA: 1. OUR TEAM SETTING UP A MAKESHIFT CLINIC 2. OUR TEAMS OFFERING MHPSS SUPPORT IN RAFAH.



Overview of our service range in Gaza and West Bank





PMRS OUTREACH TEAMS IN GAZA PROVIDE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR MENTAL HEALTH FOR CHILDREN AT UNRWA SHELTERS

PMRS TEAMS

PMRS has continued to offer essential services across the oPt. These comprehensive PHC services include care for chronic and non communicable diseases, L2 PHC services, MHPSS, SRHR, including GBV support work. In Gaza, we have increased our on the ground teams to 30 in total. They continue to work across the Gaza Strip, in the UNRWA shelters, public shelters and host community housing etc. Primary health services in Gaza are extremely pressurized with the overflow from secondary and tertiary healthcare services who have collapsed or straining.

PMRS WORK

In Gaza our teams are now predominantly mobile, adapting their work pattern on a needs basis depending on the context of that day, due to the extreme nature of the emergency. Across the West Bank, including EJ, our teams continue to work via mobile clinics and outreach, in addition to connecting to our PHC clinics.

All of our teams across Palestine are continuing to provide comprehensive healthcare. Our teams in Gaza reached a total of 363,000 beneficiaries, although this number is likely to be higher, due to the reporting constraints in Gaza, In the West Bank our teams reached a total of 44,593 during this reporting period. A breakdown of beneficiaries by services type is included below.





PMRS OUTREACH TEAMS IN GAZA PROVIDE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR MENTAL HEALTH FOR CHILDREN AT UNRWA SHELTERS

COORDINATION

PMRS in Gaza has continued to work in coordination with the health cluster and other key stakeholders on the ground. Our key coordination partners include WHO, OCHA, UNRWA, and MoH in Gaza. We work to enhance the systems in place to ensure we are filling gaps and not duplicating work, or delaying the process of triage and referrals. We have worked in this way, focusing on collective impact for the last 45 years, and continue to do so amidst this unprecedented crisis.

In the West Bank, again PMRS continues to work as part of the wider coordination ecosystem, connecting to all the relevant clusters including health and nutrition, the PNGO network, and the MoH, MoSA, MoE, and MoHE.

Due to our 45 years on the ground, we have established a strong rapport with our communities and we continue to ensure we are also coordinating with them, as they are our end beneficiaries.

PMRS works as a backbone organisation connecting stakeholders and services, whilst working in collaboration with all stakeholders on the ground.

CHALLENGES

The final part of 2023 proved to be the most challenging period in our entire history, both in the West Bank and in Gaza, due to the overall increase in violence and aggression against Palestinians. Due to the increase in attacks across Palestine, there is a greater need and therefore pressure on the healthcare infrastructure. Additionally, we have faced numerous challenges that have been unprecedented in the scale and intractability of those challenges. Below are some of our most pressing challenges to date.

FUNDING

Due to funding, we were not able to run as many clinics as we usually do. Almost 6 mobile clinics were not able to function the whole year due to funding constraints.

SIEGE

Due to the ongoing siege on Gaza, which has worsened since the aggression started on the 7th of October, preventing access to food, water, medications, fuel and other basic items.

PROTECTION

During this period it became increasingly difficult to ensure the safety of our teams in Gaza and WB due to the increase in violence and restrictions against healthcare workers.

COMMUNICATION

Communication and reporting have been drastically impeded in Gaza due to the ongoing aggression and blockade.

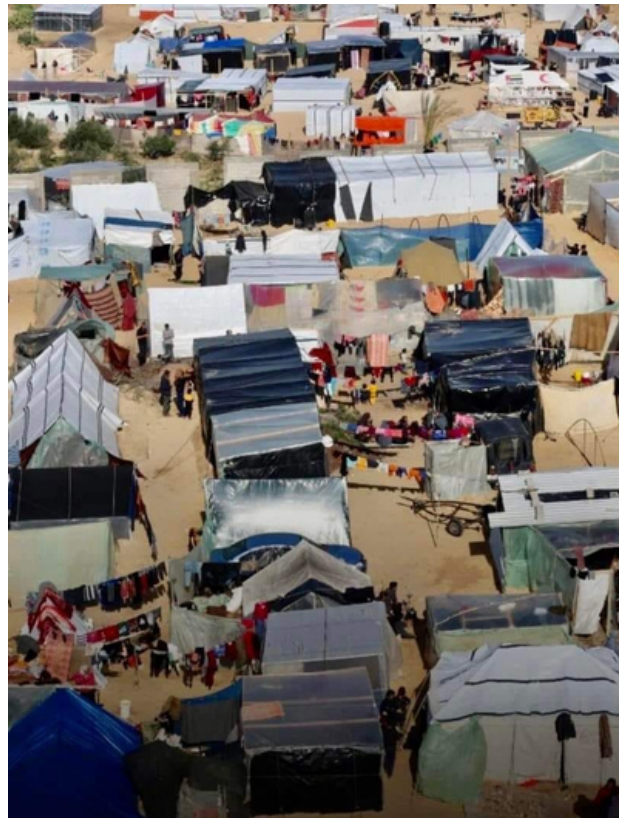


Services in Gaza

THE PALESTINIAN MEDICAL RELIEF SOCIETY

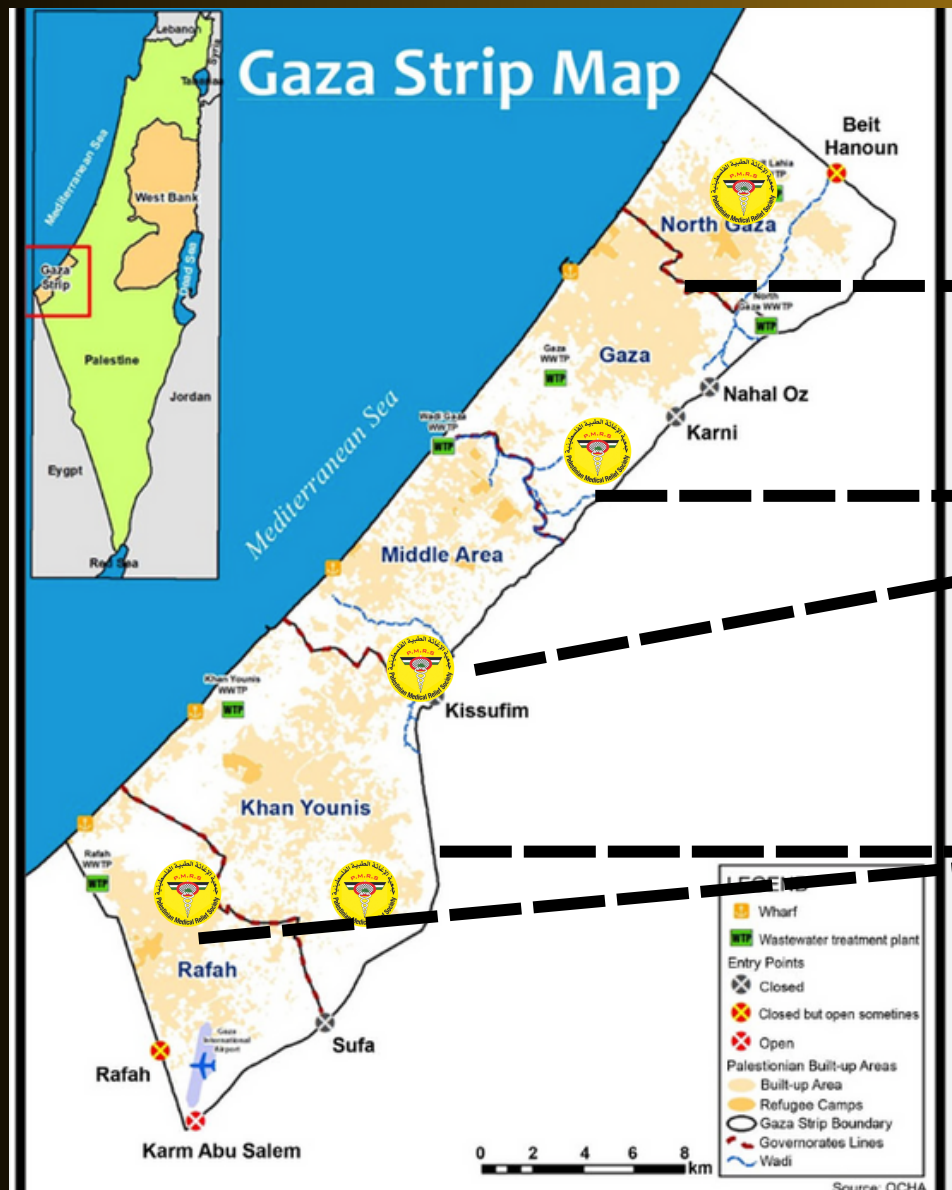


MULTIPLE VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAWS; CONTINUOUS ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS, FORCED DISPLACEMENT, EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE, COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT



Distribution of teams in Gaza

THE PALESTINIAN MEDICAL RELIEF SOCIETY



6

6

16



PMRS IS SAD TO REPORT THAT 7 OF OUR FACILITIES WERE DESTROYED AND 9
UNABLE TO FUNCTION



PMRS TEAM IN GAZA 1. AT SITE OF DESTROYED REHABILITATION CENTER WHICH WAS UNRECOGNIZABLE AND 2. INJURED STAFF





PMRS OUTREACH TEAMS IN GAZA PROVIDE MUCH NEEDED MEDICATIONS TO THOSE WITH CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND RECENT INJURIES - SUPPLIES ARE DANGEROUSLY LOW

PHC SERVICES IN GAZA

As noted previously the mode in which our teams are having to operate shifts based on the context. This includes the locations because most of our teams from northern and central Gaza were forcibly displaced, in addition to much of the population, 1.93m (WHO), the need is now greater in the southern parts and therefore, we scaled our teams up in the southern areas.

SRHR and MHPSS due to the emergency have often been overlooked, despite the ongoing need that is growing daily. Therefore the fact that our teams are treating thousands of people specifically in these areas is a great success despite the challenges they face personally and professionally. Encouragingly most of the MHPSS consultations have been for those aged 18 years and under, with 46893 females and 33957 males. Overall MHPSS constituted 35% of total services. Further, our SRHR services constituted 17% and included much-needed GBV support.

ONGOING CONCERNS

Despite our team's ability to continue working amidst the worst brutality and conditions they have ever experienced, given the escalation in violence and the deterioration of the humanitarian crisis, PMRS remains extremely concerned for our teams and the population of Gaza. Without a ceasefire, the provision of healthcare is increasingly difficult. Healthcare workers continue to be a targets, including hospitals, ambulances, and clinics. There is a great need for humanitarian aid to enter Gaza, and we still do not know the full extent of the damage or needs. There will be a great need for medical support for the foreseeable future.



PMRS PROVIDES ESSENTIAL GBV SUPPORT AND EDUCATION IN GAZA



WE HAVE CONTINUED TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR OUR COMMUNITIES VIA OUR HOTLINE SUPPORTING WOMEN WITH GBV CONCERNS.



OUR HOTLINE CONTINUES DESPITE COMMUNICATION CHALLENGES

PMRS HAS BEEN RUNNING OUR SHEBAK SHEBAB HOTLINE IN COLLABORATION WITH UNFPA PALESTINE, FOCUSING ON SUPPORTING THOSE IN GAZA.



THIS HOTLINE OFFERS SUPPORT FOR HEALTH QUESTIONS, MENTAL HEALTH, AND SUPPORT FOR YOUTH. PREGNANT AND POSTPARTUM WOMEN. THE MOST ASKED QUESTION FROM GAZA WAS "HOW DO I KEEP MY CHILDREN SAFE?".



FROM THE 7TH TO THE 20TH OF OCTOBER OUR TEAMS HAVE RECEIVED A TOTAL OF OVER 4000 CALLS AND BEEN ABLE TO HELP WITH OVER 1000 CASES. OUR HOTLINE OFFERS A REMOTE SAFE SPACE, WHERE EVERYONE AND ANY CALL IS WELCOME.



OUR TEAM CONSISTS OF:

2 DRS- 1 IN GAZA AND 1 IN THE WEST BANK.
3 PSYCHOSOCIAL WORKERS IN THE WEST BANK AND
2 COORDINATORS 1 IN GAZA AND 1 IN THE WEST BANK.





GBV AND SRHR ACTIVITIES

Our team's continued activities focused on supporting women in Gaza. Many sessions for GBV awareness raising and support were conducted. This includes one-on-one and group sessions with women in the shelters and at home.

Furthermore, the teams have distributed thousands of essential item kits including medications and safe birthing kits, hygiene and dignity kits, essential items for babies, clothing, and blankets for families, and food hampers when possible.

The teams also worked closely with medical teams to ensure medications for those with chronic or critical conditions were distributed in the centers as well as via the outreach team.



MULTIPLE VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAWS; CONTINUOUS ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS, FORCED DISPLACEMENT, EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE, COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT



PMRS TEAMS CONTINUE MHPPTS AND SRHR CARE IN GAZA



1 PALESTINIAN CHILD IS KILLED EVERY 8 MINUTES IN GAZA

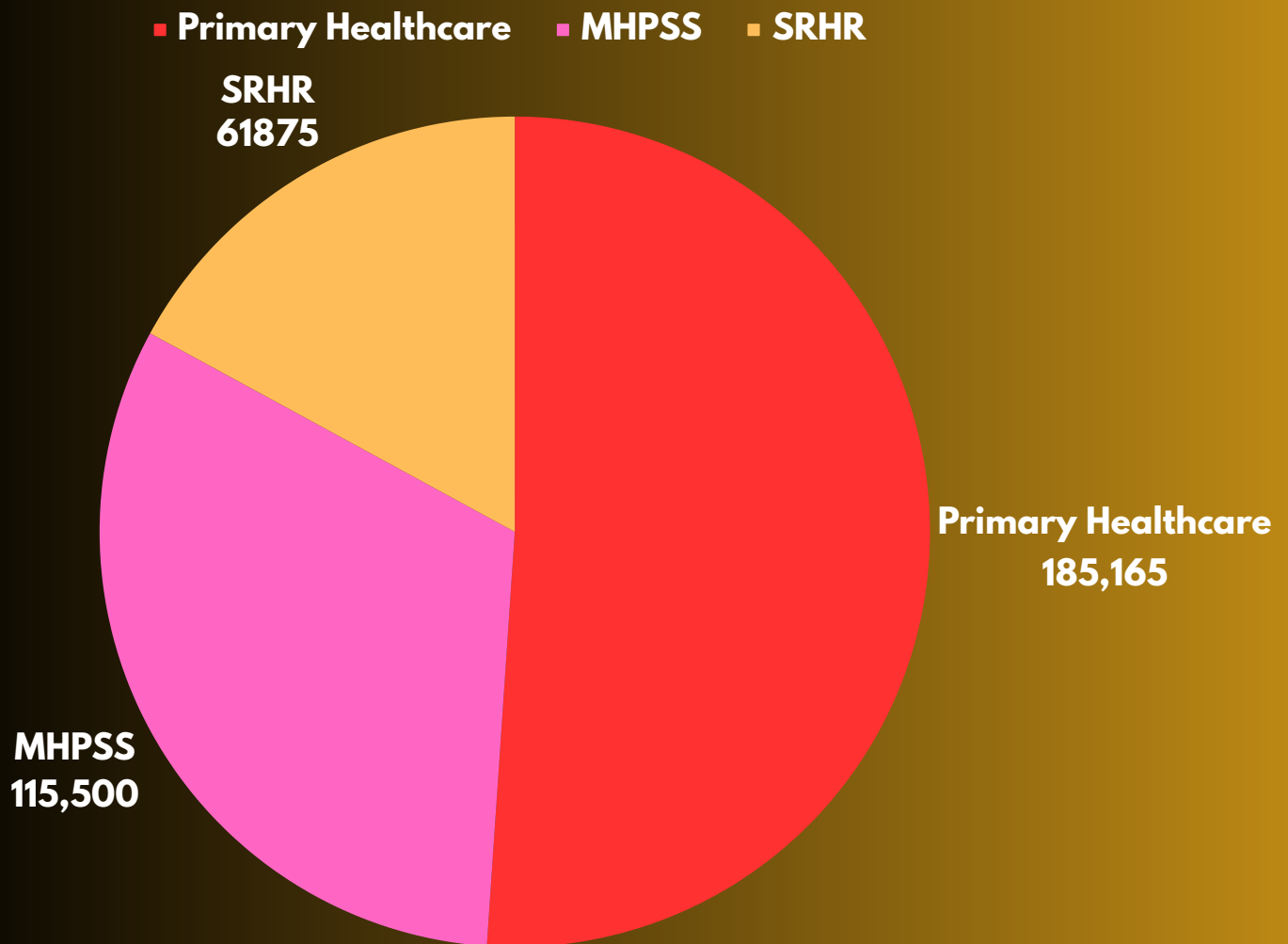


**THE WAR ON CHILDREN. 1 MILLION CHILDREN IN GAZA,
ONE OF THE MOST DENSELY POPULATED AREAS ON
EARTH.**

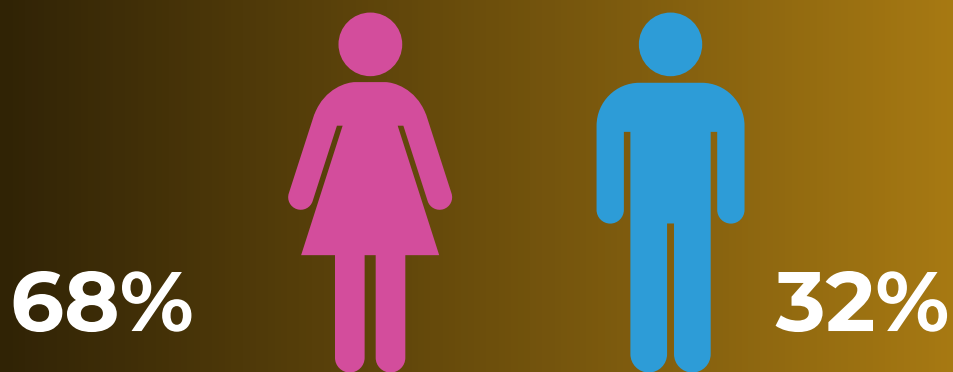
**OVER 10,000 CHILDREN KILLED, THOUSANDS INJURED-
1000 WITH AMPUTATIONS AND 22,000 ORPHANED.**



Mobile PHC Services in Gaza



Gender Split Across Services in Gaza



Services in West Bank

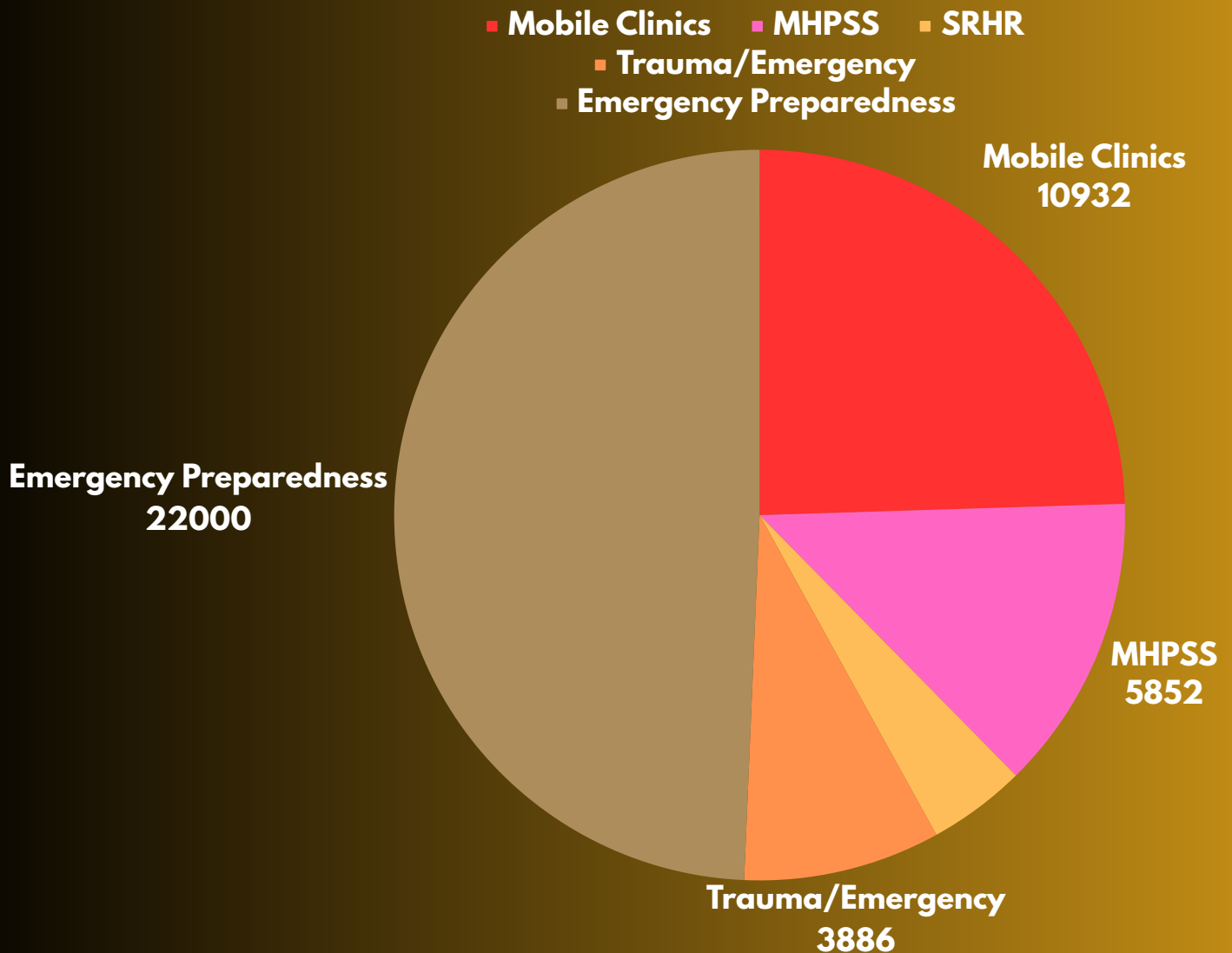
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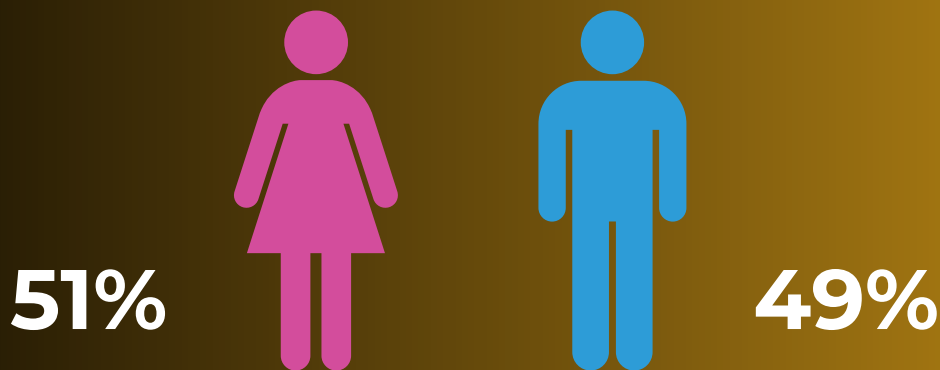
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PMRS PHC Services-WB 10 Oct to Dec 2023



Gender Split Across Services in WB





PMRS OUTREACH TEAMS IN GAZA PROVIDE MUCH NEEDED MEDICATIONS TO THOSE WITH CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND RECENT INJURIES - SUPPLIES ARE DANGEROUSLY LOW

PMRS MOBILE CLINICS

Our teams reached a total of 10,932 offering L2 PHC services via 12 mobile clinics and additional Comprehensive PHC services, including referral of GBV cases, MHPSS complex cases, education, and information on nutrition. Further, the teams were able to offer training for healthcare workers. The mobile teams also trained a total of 250 people in first aid and emergency response. Our predominant age group for the mobile clinics were 18-65 year old.. With youth and elderly representing 26 and 16% respectively.

SRHR/MHPSS

From a MHPSS Perspective the teams were able to provide counselling and support for MHPSS cases. We continue to work on strengthening the referral system and raise awareness to reduce stigma. Importantly we provided training to 108 commm km unity workers, further working to strengthen the healthcare ecosystem from a MHPSS perspective.

SRHR continued to be an important focal point, with teams providing essential medical and nutritional advice and support to pregnant and lactating women, children and youth. The teams continued to raise awareness on GBV and SRMCHN, including screening, and implementing social behaviour change initiatives.

training and provision of supplies for GBV survivor care and clinical treatment was also provided. Overall 625 staff miners were trained specifically on SRHR and GBV. This



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EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES

Activities are undertaken to prepare and support communities during times of emergency and crisis via awareness-raising and education campaigns. These activities include handing out information to beneficiaries in the form of flyers, and social media campaigns, including live interviews and information sessions, in addition to regular radio sessions.



Flyers

Education and awareness raising via flyers and educational materials.



Radio and social media lives

Several radio slots and lives were completed to offer information and education to communities.



Beneficiaries

22,000

Via these activities, we have managed to reach and impact 22,000 direct beneficiaries. Of particular importance are our live and radio information sessions, given the increase in restricted Areas, this is a key way, our teams are still able to support and inform our communities with information on health, how to take care of their help and ways to manage during emergencies.



Thank you to our supporters

THE PALESTINIAN MEDICAL RELIEF SOCIETY

PMRS Would like to thank their donors and supporters for their ongoing, unwavering support, during what has been one of the most harrowing and difficult periods in our professional and personal lives.

Thank you for supporting PMRS to continue to strive to ensure every Palestinian has the right. to access quality healthcare, across Palestine.

**In no particular order, a special thank you to:
OCHA, WHO, Oxfam, Grassroots, CARE
International, Medico International, Christian Aid,
United Palestine Appeal, UNFPA, PCPM, MADRE,
SPF, INARA, TDH, IM, JVC, PGS, and Kifaia.**



SOCIAL MEDIA/COMMUNICATION

PMRS can be found on social media as a means of communication with the wider communities. Furthermore, as noted, we have a hotline available to support people over the phone with MHPSS, SRHR, GBV, and any other health concerns.



Find us via
@paletinemedicalreliefsoc



Find us via
**Palestinian Medical Relief
Society**



Hotline #
1800900700



We receive messages via
social media and email
from beneficiaries.

