



*Position paper by MSF¹ for Round Table discussion in de Tweede Kamer
The need for medical evacuations from Gaza - September 2026*

The need for medical evacuations from Gaza continues to increase

EU States have received 1 per cent of all patients medically evacuated from Gaza since the beginning of 2026. MSF calls on EU and other states with the medical capacity to **significantly increase the number of patients they receive for specialised care.** Specialised medical treatment, such as oncology, neurosurgery, and advanced trauma care are not available in Gaza. The result of European countries taking so few patients greatly reduces the chances of timely care for many patients in desperate medical need. **Without timely care, many of these patients will not survive.**

MSF calls on the Israeli authorities to ensure medical evacuations for all Palestinians in need, including the resumption of treatment for those who were treated in the West Bank or Israel before October 2023, while ensuring patients and caregivers a safe, voluntary and dignified return to Gaza if they wish to. At the same time, **full humanitarian access must be granted** to allow life-saving aid to reach those who need it most.

MSF calls on all governments to use **all available political, economic, and legal measures to pressure Israel to uphold its obligations under international law,** to stop the continuing genocide, and on the international community to urgently support the restoration of Gaza's health system.

Situation in Gaza – No ceasefire, genocide continues

The healthcare system has been devastated: no hospital in the Gaza Strip is fully operational, and only 17 out of 37 hospitals remain partially functional. Hospital capacity has fallen to **fewer than 2,000 beds for a population of more than 2.1 million people.**

More than 1,700 healthcare workers have been killed since 7 October 2023, including 15 MSF colleagues. A further **446 were arrested, of whom at least 123 remained in detention** as of April 2026.²

Since January 2026, the Israeli authorities have **blocked MSF from entering supplies into Palestine, as well as international staff, because of deregistration of MSF as well as several other NGOs** to work in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. **Stocks of medication, medical equipment, and engine oil — essential to keep hospital generators, ambulances, water pumps and water trucks running — are critically depleted.** Prices on the depleted local market are skyrocketing, engine oil prices have increased more than 20 times in six months, going from US\$ 52,- per litre in January, to over US\$ 1340,-

¹ MSF is a medical humanitarian organisation, which does not receive institutional funding. MSF provides healthcare and clean water in Gaza, through 1500 staff members. MSF runs a Reconstructive Surgery Program Hospital in Amman, which has treated 65 Gazan paediatric patients for specialized surgery and arranged housing for the companions, since October 2023.

² Home - Healthcare Workers Watch

per litre in July 2026. **No engine oil, no medication, and no replacement spare parts means no healthcare services.**

Palestinians in Gaza continue to face daily violence. MSF teams continue to treat patients suffering from blast injuries, fragment wounds, and blunt trauma caused by explosions and gunshot wounds. As of 14 September, according to the Gaza Ministry of Health, at least 1,372 Palestinians have been killed and 4,659 injured since the so-called “cease fire” 10 October 2025. Total deaths since October 7th 2023 reached 73,462 as of September 1st. A staggering **94% of residents need shelter, and 90% of the population faces water insecurity.**

The “yellow line,” continues to shift westward, leaving almost **two million Palestinians confined to around 30 per cent of Gaza**, a line neither clearly marked nor fixed, exposing civilians to violence and creating uncertainty for humanitarians operating in the Strip.

Medical evacuation needs continue to increase because of conflict-related injuries, interruptions to the treatment of chronic diseases and severe conditions (particularly cancer), and the ongoing hostilities. The deterioration of living conditions—including forced displacement, lack of shelter, and limited access to water, food, and sanitation—has further **worsened the health of the population and increased medical needs.** Thousands of patients requiring specialized care (including trauma, cancer, chronic diseases, burns, and other conditions) cannot be treated locally.

Gaza’s destruction is so extensive that, even under the current “ceasefire”, **access to healthcare remains severely restricted.** While this period was meant to create the conditions for the rehabilitation of the healthcare system, the reality looks different: **hospitals are severely damaged, medical supplies are limited, and specialized services such as oncology, reconstructive surgery, and advanced trauma care are still largely unavailable.**

The international community should do much more to stop structural violence, protect civilians and civilian infrastructure, ensure full humanitarian access, and rebuild the healthcare system. It is a highly needed and good step that the Netherlands decided to financially support medical evacuations to Jordan and Egypt, and support the healthcare system in Gaza. MSF urges the Dutch government to continue this effort and **step up its engagement** to stop the unceasing harm and violence.

MSF calls on the Dutch government to:

- **Acknowledge the failure of the existing ceasefire**, and the continuing structural violence and genocide in Gaza through daily violence, repeated displacement, severe restrictions on humanitarian access, the destruction of infrastructure, attacks on hospitals, and movement restrictions.
- Push to end the siege and **allow unfettered access of humanitarian aid**, including medical supplies, into Gaza.
- Commit to **significantly increasing the number of medical patients evacuated from Gaza to the Netherlands**, particularly those requiring specialized care unavailable in Gaza and difficult to access in Egypt or Jordan, including oncology, burns care, reconstructive surgery, complex trauma, paediatrics, and rehabilitation.
- Take steps in favor of **independent international criminal investigations into the attacks against health care** in Gaza and to the **release of all health workers arbitrarily detained by Israel**, including dr Abu Saffiya and dr Mohammed Obeid, our MSF colleague.