



ICRC

RED CROSS FIELD HOSPITAL

RAFAH, GAZA STRIP

9 MAY – 10 AUGUST 2024



The health-care system has all but collapsed. One of the only reminders of a system is the referrals mechanism between the remaining primary health-care facilities, medical points, field hospitals, and partially functioning hospitals. The Red Cross Field Hospital remains operational in the western side of Rafah, southern Gaza.

General situation – Over the last month, the evacuation orders issued by the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) have significantly contributed to the growing displacement of people in Gaza, adding a layer of pressure to the remaining medical facilities. The field hospital coordinates with Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis to mutually prepare for emergencies.

Patients – Of the over 6,000 people treated between mid-July to early August, female patients make up 52% of all patients; and children (patients under 15 years of age) make up 36%. The outpatient department is seeing an increase in the average number of patients per day – from 200 to 300 patients.

Medical response – The cumulative (from 9 May) 686 surgeries can be broken down to the following main interventions: removal of dead or infected tissue (approx. 40%), general surgical interventions (approx. 30%), and others (30%).

Challenges – Shortage of consumables and equipment continue to force the medical teams to conserve available resources (e.g., sterile gauzes) or resort to in-house production (e.g., crutches and walkers for physical rehabilitation sessions).

Main figures

18,584
consultations
(+64% m-o-m*)

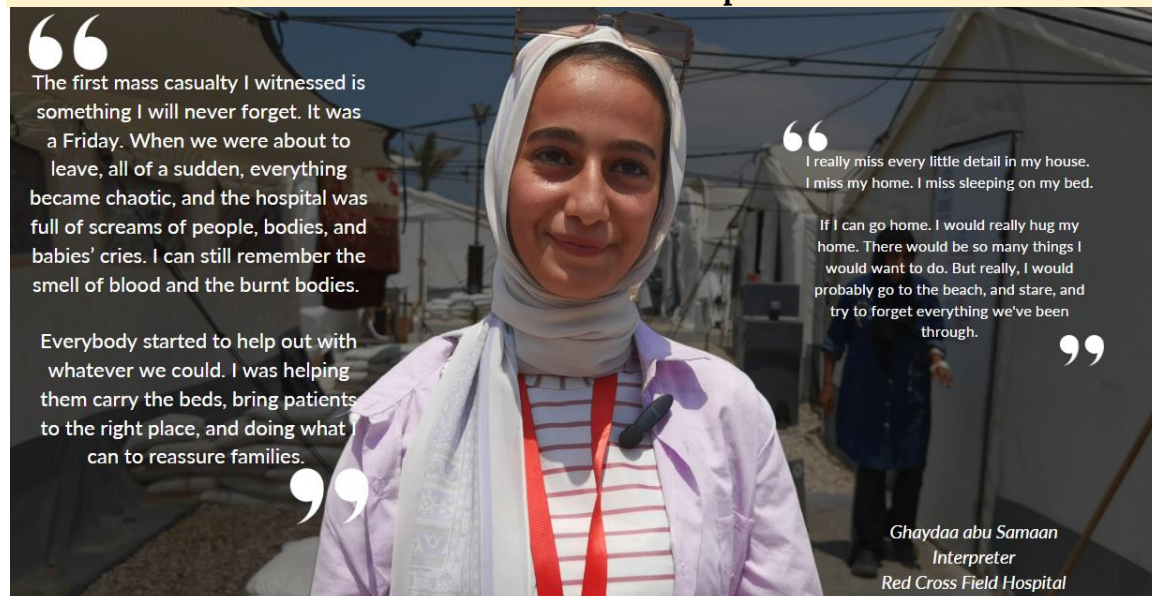
95
deliveries
(+34% m-o-m)

796
operations
(+69% m-o-m)

645
admissions
(+26% m-o-m)

The data above is cumulative from 9 May to 13 August 2024; the percentage change is calculated based on last month's figures i.e. 11,332 consultations, 470 operations, 71 deliveries, and 512 admissions. For details, please see the previous report.

Features– Testimonies from the Red Cross Field Hospital staff



“The first mass casualty I witnessed is something I will never forget. It was a Friday. When we were about to leave, all of a sudden, everything became chaotic, and the hospital was full of screams of people, bodies, and babies’ cries. I can still remember the smell of blood and the burnt bodies.

Everybody started to help out with whatever we could. I was helping them carry the beds, bring patients to the right place, and doing what I can to reassure families.”

“I really miss every little detail in my house. I miss my home. I miss sleeping on my bed.

If I can go home. I would really hug my home. There would be so many things I would want to do. But really, I would probably go to the beach, and stare, and try to forget everything we’ve been through.”

Ghaydaa abu Samaan
Interpreter
Red Cross Field Hospital

Ghaydaa is originally from Gaza City. She recently joined the ICRC as an interpreter for the Red Cross Field Hospital in May 2024. This interview was conducted on 24 July 2024. The screenshot was captured when she was asked, “what’s the first thing you’ll do if and when you can go back home?”

Mustafa currently lives in Khan Younis with his four children. On 8 October 2023, he started volunteering for the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS), providing psychological first aid to the wounded and their families. He is currently part of the PRCS team that is stationed at the field hospital, where he continues to provide psychological first aid as well as guide patients to the right place in the hospital.



“I work as a psychologist at the Red Cross Field Hospital in Rafah. We also refer the patients to where they need to go within the hospital.

Sometimes, we also help with transporting patients between this field hospital and others, such as the British hospital and the Nasser Medical Complex.”

Mustafa Fawzi al-Attal
Psychological First Aid
Palestine Red Crescent Society

“Houses are manifestations of our dreams, memories, and hard work. Every corner of the house has a memory.

Even though my house is damaged and uninhabitable, I want to stay here in my hometown. I will rebuild my home and bring back the dreams and memories.”

Digital ‘interactive’ map of the field hospital. Download the file [here](#).

