

RED CROSS FIELD HOSPITAL

RAFAH, GAZA STRIP

12 OCTOBER 2025 – 8 NOVEMBER 2025



Medical care and ongoing trends

The Red Cross Field Hospital (RCFH) continued to manage a high volume of patients during the reporting period. The outpatient department (OPD) saw between 450 and 550 visits daily, including over 150 dressing changes. The emergency department (ED) treated an average of 140–150 patients per day, with numbers increasing on weekends when the OPD is closed. Bed occupancy rates fluctuated around 120 per cent of the hospital's 60 available beds, requiring staff to adapt to space constraints.

The surgical team maintained a significant workload, focusing on complex procedures, such as colostomy reversals and reconstructive surgeries. However, the malnourished condition of many patients continues to delay wound healing and increases the risk of infections. The ED also saw a shift in patient demographics, with fewer weapon-wounded cases and a growing number of internal medicine and paediatric patients.

Paediatric and maternal health remained a priority. Children under 18 accounted for a significant portion of OPD and ED visits, with respiratory infections, diarrheal diseases, and skin conditions being the most common

issues. The maternity ward experienced an increase in deliveries, requiring a reorganization of space to accommodate the demand for female and paediatric beds.

To improve service delivery, the hospital introduced several operational enhancements. The reorganization of OPD and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services reduced crowding and improved patient privacy. New medical equipment, such as emergency trolleys and oxygen concentrators, was installed, and staff received training on advanced medical techniques, including but not limited to ultrasound-guided nerve blocks.

Patient demographics

Overall demographics remained stable, with children under the age of 18 making up 35 per cent of all patients and children under 14 years old making up 27 per cent, and 43 per cent of all patients being female. During the reporting period, paediatric patients were particularly affected by winter-related illnesses, and an increase in the number of female patients was observed.

Surgeries

Since the opening, thousands of surgical procedures have been performed at the RCFH, including general surgical interventions (approx. 64 per cent), debridement of infected wounds (approx. 25 per cent), and orthopaedic (5 per cent).

Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)

The RCFH provided more than 2000 psychological support sessions for individuals (i.e., patients and caregivers), as well as hundreds of awareness raising and psychological support sessions for groups (i.e. Ministry of Health staff, groups of patients or caretakers).

Requests for psychological first aid for children and group debriefings for staff continued to increase, highlighting the ongoing mental health challenges faced by both the community and healthcare workers. To help address these challenges, the MHPSS delegate/psychiatrist facilitated regular supervision and self-care sessions for the RCFH team. The team also provided support to patients in the maternity ward and paediatric unit, where the demand for mental health interventions has been particularly high.

Challenges

The RCFH continues to face several operational challenges. The large patient influx and limited space strained staff and infrastructure, particularly in the maternity ward, where increased deliveries complicated infection prevention and control.

Shortages of essential medications, including antibiotics and pediatric syrups pose limitations to extended antibiotic cycles and pain management for chronic conditions. Despite slight stock improvements, the RCFH continues to coordinate with external partners for critical supplies.

Malnutrition among patients continues to delay wound healing and increases surgical complications. Overcrowding in shelters during winter worsened health issues, particularly among children, with a rise in respiratory infections and other illnesses.

Intermittent disruptions in diagnostics due to limited technical maintenance affected key equipment, such as

X-ray and laboratory tools, emphasizing the need for reliable logistical and technical support.

Pictures of food distribution



Date: 11 Nov 2025 | Credit: ICRC [Link](#)