

January – June 2026

 Israel and the Occupied Territories

Facts and Figures

Almost three years have passed since the violence of 7 October 2023 and resulting armed conflict between Israel and Hamas along with other armed groups in Gaza. Tens of thousands of people have been killed, and the lives for hundreds of thousands of families shattered.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has continuously adjusted its response to address emerging needs in Gaza and Israel. It also increased its response in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, to address the humanitarian consequences of a sharp rise in violence, which is exacerbating people's ability to cope with the impact of longstanding occupation policies and practices.

The ICRC works in close coordination with its partners in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in particular the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and Magen David Adom in Israel (MDA), as well as with local service-providers, communities, and other partners on the ground.

This document is a summary of the ICRC's response in the first six months of 2026, including programmes addressing ongoing and emerging needs throughout Israel and the occupied territories. Since operations and activities are ongoing, all figures should be treated as indicative until confirmed at the end of each year.

Protection

The civilian population in Gaza continues to face severe challenges, trapped in a shrinking space amidst ongoing hostilities and limited humanitarian access. Despite the October 2025 ceasefire, violence persists at a lower intensity, leading to deaths, injuries and forced displacements.

In the West Bank, settlement expansion and settler violence continues to severely affect Palestinian civilians. Movement restrictions and property destruction have further disrupted access to health care, education and livelihoods.

In Israel, civilians endured the consequences of regional hostilities for several weeks during the first half of 2026.

Throughout the first half of 2026, the ICRC has submitted interventions to the various parties to these conflicts as part of its confidential and bilateral engagement, with the aim of ensuring faithful application of international humanitarian law and reducing civilian suffering.

Detention

The ICRC's access to places of detention under Israeli authorities remained suspended as of the end of June 2026. The ICRC continues to engage with relevant Israeli authorities with the aim of resuming detention activities including notifications of those detained and resumption of visits to meet detainees. Visits to places of detention in Gaza resumed, enabling the ICRC to engage on family links for detainees and best practices such as creating proper prison registries.

The ICRC supports released detainees, particularly in Gaza, where 386 individuals were provided with post-release family links services and emergency assistance. Referral systems for released detainees were strengthened.

Forensics and dignified management of the dead

Forensics activities in Gaza focus on capacity building, infrastructure rehabilitation and documentation to address the issue of the missing. Training sessions for forensic practitioners, including advanced courses in forensic odontology and anthropology, were conducted to enhance identification methods and improve practices. We also worked with local forensics actors to improve workflows and data management.

To enable various local actors to appropriately carry out forensic work in the field, the ICRC provided critical materials and equipment including hygiene supplies, body bags, personal protective equipment (PPE) and documentation tools to forensic departments and other stakeholders.

The ICRC enabled recovery of the deceased from beneath rubble and destroyed buildings in Gaza by local actors through the rental of heavy machinery. Training was also provided for over 100 staff and volunteers to improve search, recovery and documentation practices.

Beyond supplies and support, we completed renovations at the morgue of Al Shifa Hospital and rehabilitation of the Deir al-Balah Cemetery.

Protection of family links (PFL)

The ICRC continues to address challenges in restoring and maintaining family links in Gaza and the West Bank. Efforts to support families of the missing have included meetings with local stakeholders in Gaza to establish a coordination mechanism and strengthen authorities' capacity to determine the fate of missing persons. The ICRC has also supported families through mapping services and referral pathways and is working improve services for families of the missing.

The ICRC facilitated three "third country national" repatriation operations enabling the departure of 62 individuals from Gaza, as well as supporting reunification of several families with their loved ones in Gaza.

Key figures for our protection activities

386
detainees
supported

After they were unilaterally released to Gaza we provided protection of family links services and emergency assistance.

11
visits to places
of detention

The ICRC carried out 11 detention visits in total; eight to places of detention in the West Bank, and three to places of detention in the Gaza Strip.

130
deceased

Remains of over 130 deceased individuals transferred with ICRC facilitation as a neutral intermediary.

100
practitioners

Over 100 forensic practitioners trained in search, recovery and forensic documentation, including 32 in advanced forensic odontology.

440
body bags

440 body bags, 400 body tags, and 800 cable ties provided to support management of human remains.

62
individuals
supported

62 individuals transferred to crossing points to receive consular services outside of Gaza.

16,900
contacts by
family members

Over 16,900 contacts with field officers by family members seeking information on loved ones were recorded, including calls transferred to the protecting family links team by the community contact centre.

1,200
new cases

Over 1,200 new cases of missing persons documented.

1,200
cases closed

Over 1,200 existing cases of missing persons were closed during the first six months of 2026.

Health

Primary health care

The ICRC is currently supporting five primary health care centres (PHCs) in Gaza, collectively covering a population of 794,500 people. These ICRC-supported PHCs have provided over 710,000 consultations in the first half of 2026. Patients present with common health issues including upper respiratory tract infections, skin infections, high blood pressure and type 2 diabetes.

The ICRC also supported the prevention and treatment of malnutrition in vulnerable populations, including children under five and pregnant/lactating women. As of June 2026, over 18,300 children and 14,600 pregnant and lactating women were screened for malnutrition. The ICRC cooperated with local actors and international partners present in Gaza to provide specialized training on community-based management of acute malnutrition, and infant and young child feeding to 32 medical staff from the five supported PHCs.

Wounded and sick

The health care system in Gaza continues to face immense challenges, particularly as many international NGOs have scaled back their operations in the wake of new registration requirements. As of early 2026, only 19 of the 34 pre-October 2023 hospitals in Gaza were partially functional, with just three of eight surgical hospitals operational. Supplies of critical “dual-use items” such as biomedical equipment and fuel remain restricted, leaving hospitals struggling to provide quality care.

The ICRC has provided essential support, including donations of medical supplies, equipment, and training, to strengthen healthcare delivery across Gaza. Between January and the end of June 2026, 140 donations were made to 24 facilities, including hospitals and primary health care centres.

Emergency departments at Al Amal and Al Shifa Hospitals have seen a significant increase in consultations, with 21,500 and 82,400 emergency department visits respectively from those seeking medical care the first half of the year.

The ICRC has also supported the development of infection prevention and control (IPC) measures, including training and the provision of hygiene materials. Capacity-building efforts have been a key focus, with 222 healthcare workers trained on ICRC standards with further training and improvements planned for later this year.

Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)

During 2026, the MHPSS team is focusing on improving clinical quality, standardizing care pathways and optimizing data monitoring tools. A structured referral system has been established to connect cases to specialized providers like Juzoor and IMC. Collaboration with

The MHPSS team resumed technical supervision at the Red Cross Field Hospital in Rafah, seeking to improve quality of psychosocial support provided. Awareness-raising activities including for children and families continued throughout the first six months of the year.

At the ALPC, 340 direct counselling sessions were provided to 59 people, while 14 supervision sessions were conducted for Ministry of Health (MoH) psychologists.

The “Help the Helpers” programme was launched to support medical staff at PHCs and MHPSS practitioners, with 36 health staff participating in the first cycle of six sessions. Awareness-raising efforts and capacity-building initiatives for staff are ongoing to ensure sustainable and effective mental health care.

Red Cross Field Hospital

The Red Cross Field Hospital (RCFH) in Gaza maintained full operational capacity during the first half of 2026, adapting to evolving needs. Six mass casualty incidents (MCIs) were managed during this period. Despite challenges such as stray bullet incidents and limited resources, the RCFH continued to deliver high-quality care, including elective surgeries and maternal and paediatric services. The RCFH provides critical outpatient and emergency services, with 22,300 emergency consultations and 52,400 outpatient consultations delivered in the first half of 2026. Specialized services include physiotherapy, orthopaedic, and surgical clinics, as well as a stump revision program. The hospital also conducts blood donation drives to ensure a sufficient supply of blood for emergency surgeries.

Collaboration with partners like the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and the local MoH has enabled faster patient transfers and strengthened emergency preparedness.

The overhaul of the field hospital in May saw installation of new equipment, addressed critical infrastructure needs and enabled improved service delivery. Facility upgrades included the completion of a new maternity and paediatric unit and a new emergency department with stray bullet protection. Safety and security have remained a priority, with the RCFH team implementing measures such as increasing the height of perimeter walls, installing bullet protection over several other structures on site, and creation of safe areas for patients and staff.

Capacity-building initiatives included training over 350 health care workers on ICRC standards, implementing logbooks for new staff, and conducting regular quality control and infection prevention rounds. The hospital also introduced a complaint mechanism; satisfaction surveys have indicated a 98 per cent patient satisfaction rate.

Physical rehabilitation programme

The physical rehabilitation programme (PRP) in Gaza has continued to ensure access to essential rehabilitation services despite the challenges posed by the ongoing conflict and operational constraints. The ALPC remains a key partner for the ICRC, with our efforts focused on scaling up its capacity and improving patient flow through structural modifications. Collaboration with Juzoor was initiated to expand community-based support for patients facing barriers to accessing care at the ALPC. The ICRC also operationalized the PRCS prosthetics and orthotics (P&O) workshop in Khan Younis and expanded decentralized service delivery through facilities like the Palestinian Avenir Child Foundation (PACF) in Deir Al-Balah. Coordination with the MoH has ensured the registration and clinical assessment of conflict-related injuries, including amputations and spinal cord injuries.

Rehabilitation services saw a significant increase in demand and delivery during the first half of 2026. ALPC and other ICRC-supported facilities provided 11,100 physiotherapy sessions, reflecting the growing need for care among individuals with amputations and other injuries. The stump revision programme – launched in coordination with the RCFH in Rafah – assessed over 200 cases. The programme also supported 80 children previously treated for clubfoot and provided ongoing care for displaced and populations in areas that are challenging to reach.

Over 800 individuals received prosthetic and orthotic devices, while over 1,100 individuals were provided with wheelchairs or mobility aids, with services further bolstered by the PRCS workshops. Patient satisfaction remains high, with 95 per cent of beneficiaries expressing satisfaction with the services received.

Capacity-building initiatives included a one-month theoretical training programme for PRCS P&O staff, followed by a two-month on-the-job training programme to strengthen production capacity.

Key figures for our health programme

794,500
individuals
served

794,500 individuals served by five ICRC-supported primary health care centres.

710,000
consultations
conducted

During the first six months of 2026, over 710,000 consultations were conducted in five ICRC-supported primary health care centres in the Gaza Strip.

103,900
consultations

82,400 and 21,500 emergency department consultations conducted at Al Shifa and Al Amal Hospitals respectively (supported by ICRC).

222
trained

At Al Shifa and Al Amal Hospitals, 222 health care workers were trained on ICRC standards.

140
donations

140 donations of medical supplies and equipment were made to 24 health facilities in Gaza.

3,600
sessions

3,600 MHPSS sessions in the first half of 2026.

241
sessions

241 MHPSS awareness-raising sessions held, with 4,200 participants in total.

340
sessions

340 direct counselling sessions provided to 59 individuals at the ALPC.

52,400
consultations

At the Red Cross Field Hospital, 52,400 outpatient consultations and 22,300 emergency consultations were conducted.

350
units of blood

Through seven blood donation drives, over 350 units of blood were collected.

75
stump revisions

Over 200 patients referred to the stump revision programme, with 75 surgeries performed and 11 new prostheses fitted.

1,500
people

1,500 persons with disabilities received rehabilitation services at ICRC-supported facilities.

800
prosthetics

Over 800 individuals received prosthetic and orthotic devices; 1,100 received wheelchairs or mobility aids.

11,100
sessions

Over 11,100 physiotherapy sessions were provided in ICRC-supported facilities.

Economic security

In Gaza and the West Bank, the ICRC's economic security (EcoSec) programme has focused on addressing the severe challenges caused by ongoing conflict and violence, market collapse and aid dependency. In Gaza, cash-for-work initiatives supported solid waste management, community kitchens and communal ovens, benefitting thousands of residents. Multipurpose cash assistance was provided to individuals with disabilities, displaced families and victims of house demolitions to help them meet their basic needs. In the West Bank, similar cash assistance supported displaced families. Efforts were made to enhance food security through kitchen gardens, seed multiplication projects and bio-traps to combat fruit fly infestations, benefitting farming households in both Gaza and the West Bank.

Food consumption and nutrition supports were critical components of ICRC's EcoSec programme. Common kitchens in Gaza provided hundreds of thousands of hot meals to displaced families, while communal ovens baked millions of loaves of bread for thousands of households. A cash-for-nutrition project targeted malnourished pregnant and lactating women, as well as children under five to improve dietary diversity. Additionally, essential household items including mattresses, blankets and hygiene kits, were distributed to displaced and vulnerable families in Gaza. A new emergency shelter design was introduced to provide dignified living spaces for families whose homes were destroyed or utterly unliveable.

Livelihood support and capacity-building were also prioritized. Vocational training programmes targeted Bedouin youth in the West Bank to enhance employment opportunities, with students completing training and starting internships. In Gaza, the Qarara Seed Bank received funding to establish a seed testing and demonstration site, and beneficiaries of the kitchen garden project contributed locally harvested seeds to the bank. These initiatives aimed to promote self-reliance and strengthen community resilience in the face of ongoing economic and social challenges.

Key figures for our economic security programme

245,000
people
supported

Over 245,000 people benefitted from the ICRC EcoSec programme in Gaza and the West Bank in the first half 2026.

398,600
hot meals
provided

Over 398,600 hot meals were provided to over 1,400 families through four community kitchens in Gaza.

28,200
households

28,200 households in Gaza received essential household items in Q1 with a further 1,000 receiving full kits in Q2.

1,300
people

Over 1,300 malnourished pregnant or lactating women, and children under five received cash assistance for nutrition.

9.17 million
loaves of bread

Over 9.17 million loaves of bread baked by 179 communal ovens, benefitting over 44,000 people.

Water and habitat

To address critical challenges in Gaza and the West Bank, the ICRC's water and habitat (WatHab) programme focuses on improving access to essential services such as potable water, wastewater treatment, and health care infrastructure.

In Gaza, restrictions on so-called "dual-use" items has constrained much needed repairs and maintenance. Efforts to improve water supply and sanitation in Gaza focused on repairing critical infrastructure, such as boreholes, pumping stations and water distribution networks. However, access to safe water remains a challenge due to restrictions on Mekorot water lines and the non-operational state of four out of five wastewater treatment plants. The ICRC supported the Coastal Municipal Water Utility (CMWU) with maintenance, repairs and the rehabilitation of essential infrastructure, including a desalination plant serving 30,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs). We collaborated with other humanitarian actors on the rehabilitation of the Sheikh Ejleen wastewater treatment plant and supported repairs to water and wastewater networks across Gaza. In addition, we worked on improving health facilities by maintaining generators and completing small-scale infrastructure rehabilitations in hospitals like Al Amal and Al Shifa.

In the West Bank, the ICRC supported vulnerable communities by providing materials for water infrastructure projects and drafting a comprehensive water system analysis to address service gaps caused by settler violence and movement restrictions.

Despite the challenges, over 806,000 people in Gaza and the West Bank have been reached through the ICRC's WatHab programme, improving water, sanitation and health services for vulnerable communities.

Key figures for our water and habitat programme

806,000
people

Over 806,000 people reached in Gaza and the West Bank by the ICRC's water and habitat projects.

30,000
IDPs served

30,000 IDPs served by the Manshiya Desalination Plant in Gaza.

4
hospitals

ICRC provided infrastructure improvements and maintenance support to four hospitals in the Gaza Strip.

Weapon contamination

The weapon contamination programme has made significant progress in reducing risks to civilians and staff in contaminated areas through risk awareness and safer behaviour (RASB) sessions delivered by PRCS. In the first half of 2026, an estimated 200,000 people were reached through these RASB sessions, which have been instrumental in raising awareness and reducing casualties. Community-based RASB sessions were complemented by media campaigns, including radio broadcasts and social media outreach, to further amplify safety messaging.

Capacity-building efforts have focused on strengthening the capabilities of local actors including first responders to operate safely in contaminated environments by enhancing their knowledge, skills and experience in managing weapon contamination. Training and governance with PRCS progressed well, with 95 PRCS staff consistently supporting RASB activities.

The ICRC also supported local actors in developing safe practices for unexploded ordnance (UXO) storage and disposal.

Key figures for our weapon contamination programme

95
staff /
volunteers

Over 95 PRCS staff/volunteers involved in RASB activities.

200,000
people
reached

Over 200,000 people were reached through over 4,900 risk awareness and safer behaviour sessions in Gaza.



The Red Cross Field Hospital in Rafah, southern Gaza, has been supporting people in need of medical care since it was established in May 2024. Earlier this year, the hospital was overhauled in order to be able to continue supporting health care needs of vulnerable people.

Photo: K.N. Chittarat / ICRC

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