



Save the Children
إنقاذ الطفل



PALESTINIANS FROM GAZA IN EGYPT: URGENT HUMANITARIAN AND PROTECTION NEEDS OVERVIEW

A situation report on the needs,
response, and funding priorities





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nearly two years into displacement, Palestinian families in Egypt face growing humanitarian needs and diminishing resources.



130,000

Palestinians have fled Gaza to Egypt since October 2023.



93%

cannot meet basic needs such as food, rent, and healthcare.



90%

have no savings,



75%

of households have no income



60%

are in debt



Unmet Needs Remain Critical

More than **40,500 individuals** remain on waiting lists across sectors, including:



4,094 individuals

Awaiting access to healthcare services.



2,800 children

Awaiting MHPSS and learning support.



8,005 families

Awaiting financial assistance



A Critical Funding Cliff in 2027

Without new donor investment, key components of the response are at risk:



Health programming is expected to end in October 2026.



Most funding for education, MHPSS, child protection, operational functions, and frontline staff end in June 2026.



Limited funding will allow only partial education, MHPSS, and staffing activities to continue until June 2027.



No funding is currently available for Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) and Protection in 2027, despite cash assistance being the most requested form of support by Palestinian families.



Urgent Funding Priorities

Additional humanitarian funding is urgently required to:

- ▶ Sustain specialized healthcare services, including surgery, oncology, chronic disease management, rehabilitation, assistive devices, and maternal care.
- ▶ Continue Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) for families struggling to afford rent, food, medicines, and other essential needs.
- ▶ Expand Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), trauma-informed case management, and safe spaces for children and caregivers.
- ▶ Maintain education, childcare, and learning opportunities for displaced children.

DISPLACED PALESTINIANS IN EGYPT AND RAFAH CROSSING UPDATES



Displacement Scale: Approximately 130,000 Palestinians from Gaza have fled to Egypt since 7 October 2023 seeking medical treatment, safety, and protection.



Geographic Distribution (Based on SCI Hotline Calls):

- Greater Cairo Area (72.54%): Concentrated across Cairo (46.16%), Giza (15.75%), and Qalyubiyya (10.63%), highlighting that most families are residing in the capital region rather than border areas.
- Other Governorates: Smaller proportions are in North Sinai (8.71%), Sharqia (5.68%), and Suez (5.67%).



Legal & Protection Challenges: Displaced Palestinians remain in legal limbo without recognized refugee status, facing severe barriers to services and heightened protection risks due to the lack of UNHCR and UNRWA mandates in Egypt.



- Rafah Crossing Operations:
 - Reopening: The crossing reopened on February 2, 2026, after remaining closed since May 2024.
 - Medical Evacuation Capacity: Daily capacity increased from ~50 evacuees initially to an estimated 150–200 individuals by April 2026, currently restricted to wounded and critically ill patients.
 - Paid-Crossing Category: A limited number of non-medical evacuees cleared in 2024 have been allowed to cross against payment (\$5,000 per adult / \$2,000 per child).



GAZA MEDICAL EVACUATION CRISIS (SOURCE: WHO)



20,000

patients inside Gaza are currently awaiting urgent, specialized, or complex medical care.



1,000

individuals have died while waiting for medical evacuation.

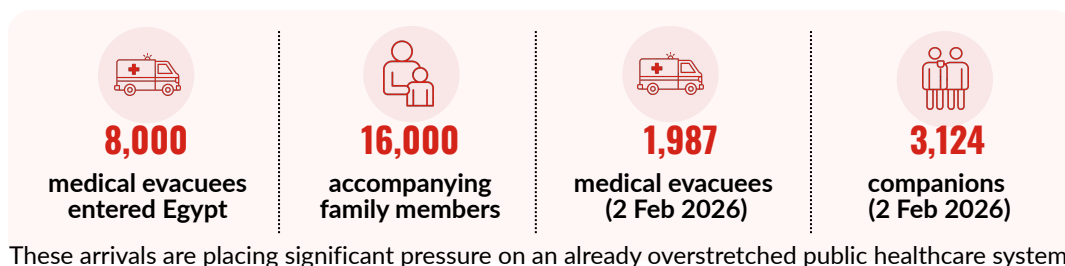
Despite the reopening of the crossing, the number of patients in need is expected to rise due to the overwhelming scale of unmet medical needs.



Since the reopening of the Rafah Border Crossing, between 1,000 and 1,400 individuals scheduled to cross from Egypt have reportedly faced severe protection concerns during the transfer process:

- Individuals were forced to wait more than 11 hours, including overnight stays on the Egyptian side, and underwent multiple layers of security screening.
- Those crossing were permitted to carry clothing only, while all other personal belongings were reportedly confiscated.
- Several individuals were blindfolded and handcuffed for prolonged periods, while interrogations reportedly lasted up to five hours by Israeli authorities.
- Women reported incidents of physical assault; others reported water being sprayed on them while restrained.
- Cases of verbal abuse and intimidation were likewise reported.

HEALTH: GROWING HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY AND A SYSTEM UNDER SEVERE STRAIN



▶ Treatment Delays & System Strain:

- **Delays in Specialized Care:** Evacuees face long waiting periods (weeks to months) for specialized care due to shortages in hospital capacity, equipment, and specialized personnel.
- **Lack of Transitional Care:** Extended hospital stays are common due to the absence of step-down, rehabilitation, or transitional care facilities.

▶ Amputees & Limb-Salvage Challenges:

- **Scale of Injuries:** Over 6,000 new amputees have resulted from the conflict in Gaza, including a high number of children (at peak conflict, ~10 children per day lost one or both legs).

In Egypt....

- **Resource-Intensive Pathways:** Many cases require long-term, complex, and costly care exceeding the routine capacity of the Ministry of Health.
- **Clinical Outcomes:** Amputations have sometimes been necessary due to limitations in advanced surgical tech, rehabilitation, and specialized teams required for complex limb-salvage procedures.

▶ Conditions for Accompanying Families:

- **Host Accommodation:** Family members are often confined for prolonged periods in temporary government housing with limited financial, social, and psychosocial support.

RESPONSE IN EGYPT

	150	Ambulances
	+300	Hospitals
	13,000	Inpatient Beds
	1,800	ICU Beds
	38,000	Physicians
	25,000	Nurses

As of March 15, 2025, the Government of Egypt had invested approximately

USD 578.5 MILLION

- 90,850 medical interventions
- 27,025 child vaccinations
- 5,060 surgical procedures
- 15,000 renal dialysis sessions

The exceptionally high average treatment costs and average length of stay of **180 days** reflect the complexity of the cases being treated and continue to place considerable pressure on the health system.

CRITICAL UNMET NEEDS

Despite these efforts, access to secondary and tertiary healthcare remains one of the most critical unmet needs for Palestinian medical evacuees and conflict-affected Palestinians in Egypt.

DEMAND FOR SPECIALIZED SERVICES CONTINUES TO EXCEED AVAILABLE HUMANITARIAN RESOURCES



Cancer Treatment



Cardiac Care



Orthopedic Surgery



Dialysis



Advanced Diagnostics



Rehabilitation & Complex Surgeries

The pressure has intensified following the resumption of medical evacuations through Rafah, while thousands of Palestinians who arrived earlier in the conflict continue to require long-term care for chronic illnesses, war-related injuries, disabilities, and post-operative rehabilitation.

SYSTEM UNDER CONTINUOUS PRESSURE



Ongoing costs of consultations, diagnostics, surgeries, medications, rehabilitation, and transportation continue to outpace available resources.

Egypt's public health system is simultaneously supporting an estimated 100,000 Palestinians, 120,000 Syrians, more than 1.5 million Sudanese refugees, and existing Egyptian patient caseloads, further constraining service availability.

THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM FACES MULTIPLE BOTTLENECKS

- Specialized services are concentrated in a limited number of hospitals, primarily in Cairo and Alexandria.
- Patients are accommodated across different governorates, increasing transportation needs and delaying access to care.
- Administrative procedures and referral coordination requirements slow patient transfers and treatment pathways.
- Hospitals in Cairo, Damietta, and North Sinai continue to manage large numbers of trauma cases, burn victims, and dialysis patients, often requiring prolonged hospitalization due to the absence of step-down and rehabilitation facilities.

 As a result, unmet medical needs continue to grow.

SCI RESPONSE

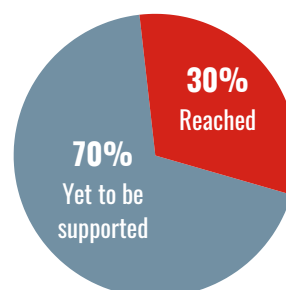
Since the onset of the crisis, Save the Children has delivered a total of **6,082** services to **2,679** beneficiaries, including **2,162** consultations, **1,233** investigations, **938** chronic medication services, **673** one-time medication services, **411** ER stabilization services, **344** surgeries, **163** physiotherapy sessions, **85** delivery/pregnancy services, and **65** assistive devices — representing only **30%** of the needs identified through its hotline.

Hand in
Hand

EHA
MOHP
ERC
Ambulance
authority



HEALTH



Primary, Secondary and Tertiary
Health Care

SCI WAITING LISTS AND UNMET MEDICAL NEEDS



Health is the second most requested assistance category after multi-purpose cash assistance with 6,734 health-related requests during 2025 and Limited humanitarian funding remains the primary barrier to expanding access to care.



While life-saving cases are supported whenever possible, many patients requiring treatment for chronic diseases, disabilities, rehabilitation, specialized surgeries, and ongoing medical follow-up remain unable to access care due to funding constraints. Children account for a significant proportion of cases, particularly those requiring treatment for congenital heart conditions, cerebral palsy, developmental disorders, disabilities, and other complex pediatric conditions.

CURRENT 2026 SCI WAITING LIST IN DETAIL

Type of Service	Age Group		ME		Gender		Grand Total
	Adult	Child	No	Yes	Female	Male	
Consultation / Investigation	556	249	403	402	485	320	805
Assistive Devices	97	71	110	58	95	73	168
Lab	143	33	102	74	126	50	176
Medications	632	103	432	303	429	306	735
Oncology	108	4	16	96	71	41	112
Physiotherapy	143	47	95	95	120	70	190
Pregnancy	33	2	26	9	35	-	35
Prosthetic Limb	34	10	4	40	10	34	44
Radiology	110	33	72	71	94	49	143
Renal Dialysis	7	1	1	7	3	5	8
Surgery	234	64	114	184	133	165	298
Grand Total	2,097	617	1,375	1,339	1,601	1,113	2,714
Waiting For Assessment							1,380
Total Current Waiting List							4,094

A PROLONGED HUMANITARIAN CRISIS: CASH ASSISTANCE AS THE FOUNDATION OF HOUSEHOLD SURVIVAL



THE NEED

Cash assistance remains the single most requested form of support.



8,005 cash requests from Palestinian households during the first half of 2026.



22,584 cash-related requests during 2025, representing 88.8% of all hotline interactions.



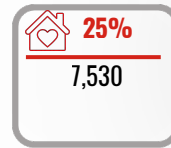
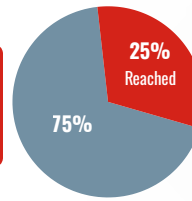
WHAT FAMILIES ARE SAYING

Families consistently describe cash assistance not as an additional form of support, but as a critical survival mechanism that enables them to meet their most urgent and immediate needs.

Households report using multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) to cover:

- ▶ Rent payments and accumulated arrears (4,438 housing-related requests recorded during 2025, 1,319 housing requests recorded during the first half of 2026)
- ▶ Education fees and transportation
- ▶ Infant formula and diapers
- ▶ Food and daily living expenses
- ▶ Debt repayment arising from displacement and loss of income
- ▶ Medical treatment and medications

CASH PROGRAMMING (CVA)



Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)



Many households report having no source of income after displacement. Female-headed households, widows, caregivers of children with disabilities, and families whose breadwinners remain trapped in Gaza face the highest levels of vulnerability.

Multi-purpose cash assistance remains the most effective intervention to address overlapping vulnerabilities across multiple sectors simultaneously.

Save the Children's assessments among displaced Palestinian families reveal the depth and persistence of the crisis. Initial financial support from relatives abroad has largely diminished after nearly two years of displacement. At the same time, the lack of legal residency excludes Palestinians in Egypt from public education, healthcare, and formal employment, pushing families deeper into poverty and increasing protection risks for thousands of children and their caregivers.



Between January and July 2026, the SCI Gaza Response Hotline received 9,093 interactions from 5,018 unique Palestinian households, representing families with an average size of 4 to 5 members and including 8,983 children. More than 40% of households were headed by single mothers, while thousands of families reported separation from breadwinners as a direct consequence of the conflict.



The longer-term trend demonstrates sustained and deepening vulnerability. In 2025 alone, the Gaza Response Hotline received 25,427 interactions from 13,174 unique callers, including more than 12,000 repeat contacts, highlighting ongoing unmet needs and prolonged dependence on humanitarian assistance.



Medical evacuees are typically accompanied by family members, many of whom arrive in Egypt with no financial resources or support networks. Families consistently report living under the constant threat of eviction due to loss of income, depleted savings, and escalating debt. Overcrowding has become increasingly common, with large and multiple families sharing small apartments to reduce living costs. Households caring for older persons, persons with disabilities, and chronically ill family members face particular challenges in maintaining stable and dignified accommodation.



Daily conversations with families are dominated by reports of death, destruction, and loss, as they continuously follow developments in Gaza and maintain contact with relatives through WhatsApp and other communication channels. This constant exposure to distressing news and uncertainty is deepening the psychological burden on children and caregivers alike.



Housing insecurity is also generating secondary protection risks, particularly for women and children living in overcrowded, shared, or unstable accommodation arrangements.

Rental support and housing stabilization programmes are therefore critical to preventing homelessness, reducing protection risks, and safeguarding family wellbeing.



At the same time, food insecurity and malnutrition are increasing, with many households relying on informal donations, negative coping mechanisms, and reduced food consumption patterns that undermine children's health, nutrition, and protection outcomes.

EDUCATION: PROTECTING A GENERATION AT RISK



Displacement, financial hardship, and uncertainty about the future continue to place Palestinian children's education at significant risk. Many families who fled Gaza view education as their strongest pathway to stability and recovery, yet maintaining access to learning has become increasingly difficult. Barriers related to legal status, limited integration into the Egyptian education system, and the costs associated with schooling have left many children and young people vulnerable to interrupted education and permanent dropout.

The scale of need remains substantial. During 2025, 3,654 education-related requests were recorded, while a further 517 requests were reported between January and July 2026, highlighting the continued demand for educational support. Adolescents are particularly vulnerable, facing increased risks of school dropout, social isolation, and child labor as families struggle to meet basic needs.



OUR RESPONSE

In response, Save the Children is supporting access to alternative and remedial education through:

- ▶ Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs)
- ▶ Locally led initiatives
- ▶ Catch-up classes
- ▶ Digital learning support
- ▶ Early childhood development programming

Families consistently report difficulties covering the costs of



School and examination fees



Transportation



Educational materials



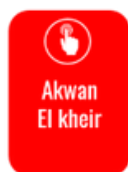
Internet connectivity



Digital learning tools



EDUCATION



Akwan
El kheir



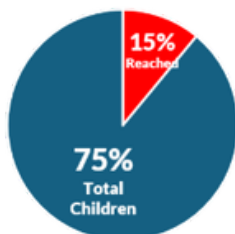
El Ghad



Pyramids
of Hope



Life
Makers



15%

2,600

children Throuh
CFSs

SCI response add value



An important added value of this response is that many of the teachers and facilitators engaged in these activities are themselves Palestinians, including medical evacuees and individuals directly affected by the crisis.



By providing opportunities for them to serve as volunteers and educators, Save the Children not only expands access to learning for children but also creates a cycle of mutual support, dignity, and healing within the community.



This approach enables displaced Palestinians to contribute their skills and experience while supporting children who share similar experiences of displacement, loss, and uncertainty, strengthening community resilience and social cohesion.

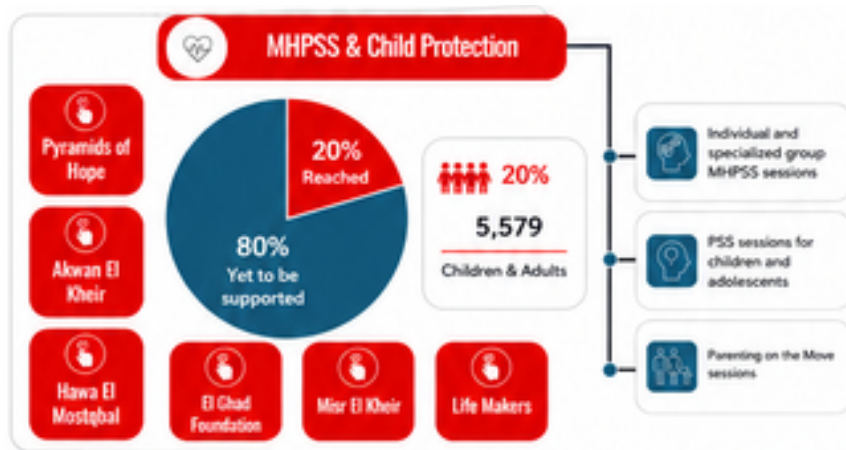
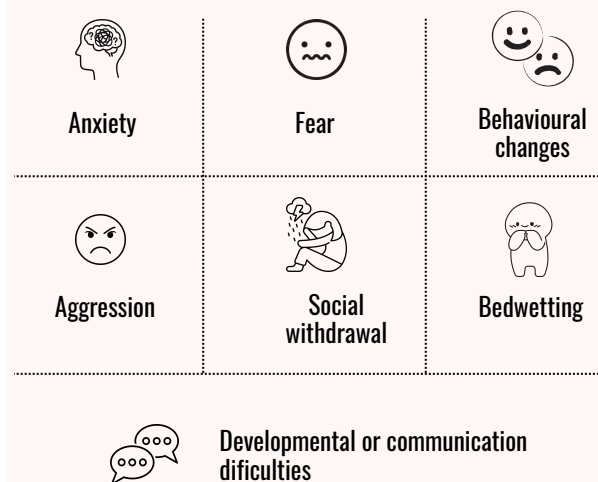
Additional investment in educational continuity is therefore critical to prevent school and university dropouts, protect children's future opportunities, and help preserve the skills and human capital needed for future recovery and reconstruction. As economic pressures intensify, many families are increasingly forced to make difficult choices between education and other essential needs such as food, rent, and healthcare.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Between January and July 2026, the SCI Gaza Response Hotline received **205 requests for MHPSS support**, while **1,423 requests for psychosocial support were recorded during 2025**, reflecting sustained and growing demand for specialized support services.

Save the Children is responding to these needs through the provision of MHPSS services within Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs), where children can access structured activities, emotional support, and opportunities to regain a sense of normalcy and safety. Evidence-based interventions such as HEART and TeamUp have proven particularly effective in supporting children's emotional wellbeing while also strengthening caregivers' ability to cope with ongoing stress and uncertainty.

CHILDREN COMMONLY EXPERIENCE:



Despite these efforts, Save the Children has been able to address only 20% of the MHPSS and psychosocial support requests received through the hotline, largely due to funding constraints and limited availability of safe spaces. As a result, many vulnerable children and caregivers remain without access to the support they urgently need.

As families continue to face multiple, overlapping crises, family-centred psychosocial support, trauma-informed case management, and expanded safe spaces are urgently needed to help children and caregivers restore resilience, strengthen protective coping mechanisms, and support their overall wellbeing and recovery.

Palestinian children and caregivers displaced to Egypt are facing severe psychological distress as a result of conflict, displacement, family separation, and prolonged uncertainty. Many children have witnessed extreme violence in Gaza, been separated from close family members, or live with constant concern for loved ones who remain in the conflict zone.

Children commonly experience anxiety, fear, behavioural changes, aggression, social withdrawal, bedwetting, and developmental or communication difficulties. Caregivers report trauma related to conflict and displacement, anxiety, depression, caregiver exhaustion, grief, and social isolation, with some severe cases involving suicidal ideation.

The cumulative effects of trauma, loss, and displacement are placing enormous strain on families, undermining children's wellbeing and increasing the need for sustained mental health, psychosocial, and protection support.



Save the Children

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Without urgent support, thousands of Palestinian children and families risk losing access to the essential services they rely on to survive, recover, and rebuild their lives in displacement.



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