



Gaza: Austere Medicine in a Conflict Area

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Introduction

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Disclaimer

- ▶ Largely anecdotal (patient care scenarios)
- ▶ Experience – Limited
- ▶ Environmental – Unique
- ▶ Graphic Pictures/ Videos

Brief Overview – Israel/ Palestine/ Hamas

- ▶ October 2023 – Hamas attacked Israeli civilians; took hostages
- ▶ Israel responded by closing off the borders and systematically attacking areas in Gaza, moving the citizens from the north to the south, bombing all infrastructure and buildings in the major cities
- ▶ 1.4 million civilian refugees forced to move to Rafah; 1.7 million refugees displaced
- ▶ Israeli blocking of aid/ lockdown of borders



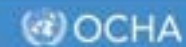
Israel Blocking Humanitarian Aid

- ▶ Sanitary pads due to nail clippers in hygiene kits
- ▶ Sleeping bags due to having zippers
- ▶ Tents due to having poles
- ▶ Food
- ▶ Volunteers (limiting to only 25 total allowed every week)
- ▶ Water purification tablets/filters
- ▶ Medications

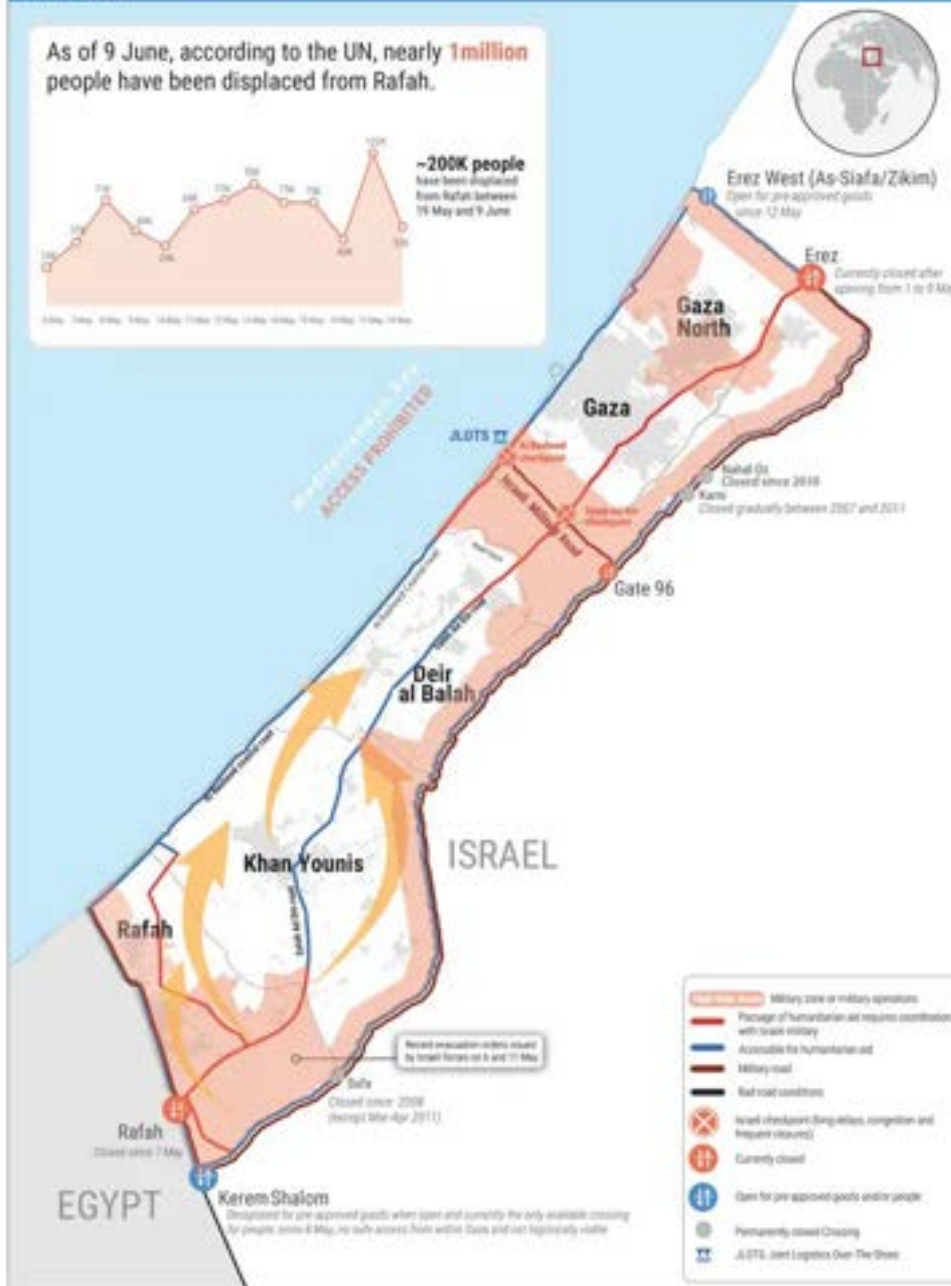


GAZA STRIP: Internal Displacement from Rafah Governorate

9 June 2024



As of 9 June, according to the UN, nearly **1million** people have been displaced from Rafah.





Innocent People Caught in the Middle



Cadus – German Humanitarian Organization

Non-profit, independent,
international emergency response
organization from Berlin.

Currently active in Ukraine and Gaza,
but have operated in Northeast Syria,
Iraq, Greece, and Bosnia.

Gaza – Trauma Stabilization Points
(TSPs), Medevac, Local Hospital
Support



PALESTINIANS

42,010+

Reported killed

MoH Gaza, in addition to 721 in the West Bank (OCHA) and ~1,000 in Israel, including people involved in the 7 October attack (Israeli authorities)

~97,720

Reported injured

MoH Gaza

ISRAELIS

1,200+

Reported killed

The estimate, which includes foreign nationals, has been changed by the Israeli sources.

~5,432

Reported injured

Israeli authorities, including foreign nationals

DAMAGE AND IDPS

70,000+

Housing units destroyed in Gaza

MoPWH

1.9 million

Displaced in Gaza

UN estimation

* Palestinian deaths are only officially reported if a dead body is brought to authorities. This number does not include all of the people who's bodies are still crushed in the rubble or blown up.

Cadus - Patient Demographics

Age Group	Female	Male	Total
< 5	31	55	86
5 - 17	82	145	227
18 - 49	124	455	579
50 - 59	21	37	58
> 60	29	39	68
Grand total	287	731	1,018

Trauma Stabilization Point

Two main functions:

1. Triage, treatment and discharge of minor patients
2. Triage, stabilization and referral of critical patients with life-threatening or limb-threatening injuries

Both of these functions can substantially decrease the burden on referral hospitals.

Medical Team

2 doctors

2 nurses

2 paramedics

1 security/ comms

1 team lead





TSP Near Khan Yunis – Soccer Field



Trauma Stabilization Point -
Partnership with Cadus and
Palestinian Red Crescent (PRCS)



Trauma Stabilization Point – 2 patient care tents
Cadus Tent – mostly trauma patients
PRCS Tent – mostly medical complaints/ wound care

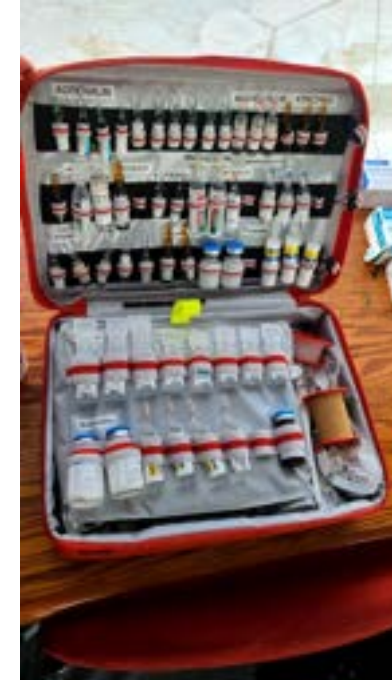
Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) – Red Cross Chapter in Gaza

- ▶ Most of the doctors and nurses were volunteers who were displaced refugees
- ▶ Many were students or newly graduated from medical school or nursing school with limited prior experience.



Critical Care Capabilities

- ▶ Adults, Pediatrics, Neonates
- ▶ Hamilton Ventilator
- ▶ Critical Care Medications
- ▶ IV Infusion Pumps
- ▶ Zoll Propaq
- ▶ Surgical Kits
- ▶ Various Medical Supplies





Minor Surgeries at the TSP

Conscious sedation



Fractures/ Crush Injuries



Traumatic Injuries (676) & General Medical Problems (465)

Type of Injury		Injury Count ▾	Injury Percentage
1.	Medical problem(s)	465	46%
2.	Penetrating (e.g. gunshot or shrapnel injuries)	204	20%
3.	Blunt trauma (e.g. blast trauma)	146	14%
4.	Laceration(s)	135	13%
5.	Other	89	9%
6.	Fracture(s)	69	7%
7.	Burn(s)	29	3%
8.	Amputation(s)	4	0%



Air Drops





Medevac

Israel targeting
ambulances routinely –
patients unable to get
medevac'ed

We started conducting
medevac missions
staffed only with
humanitarian aid workers
(non-Palestinian)







Overcrowded Hospitals













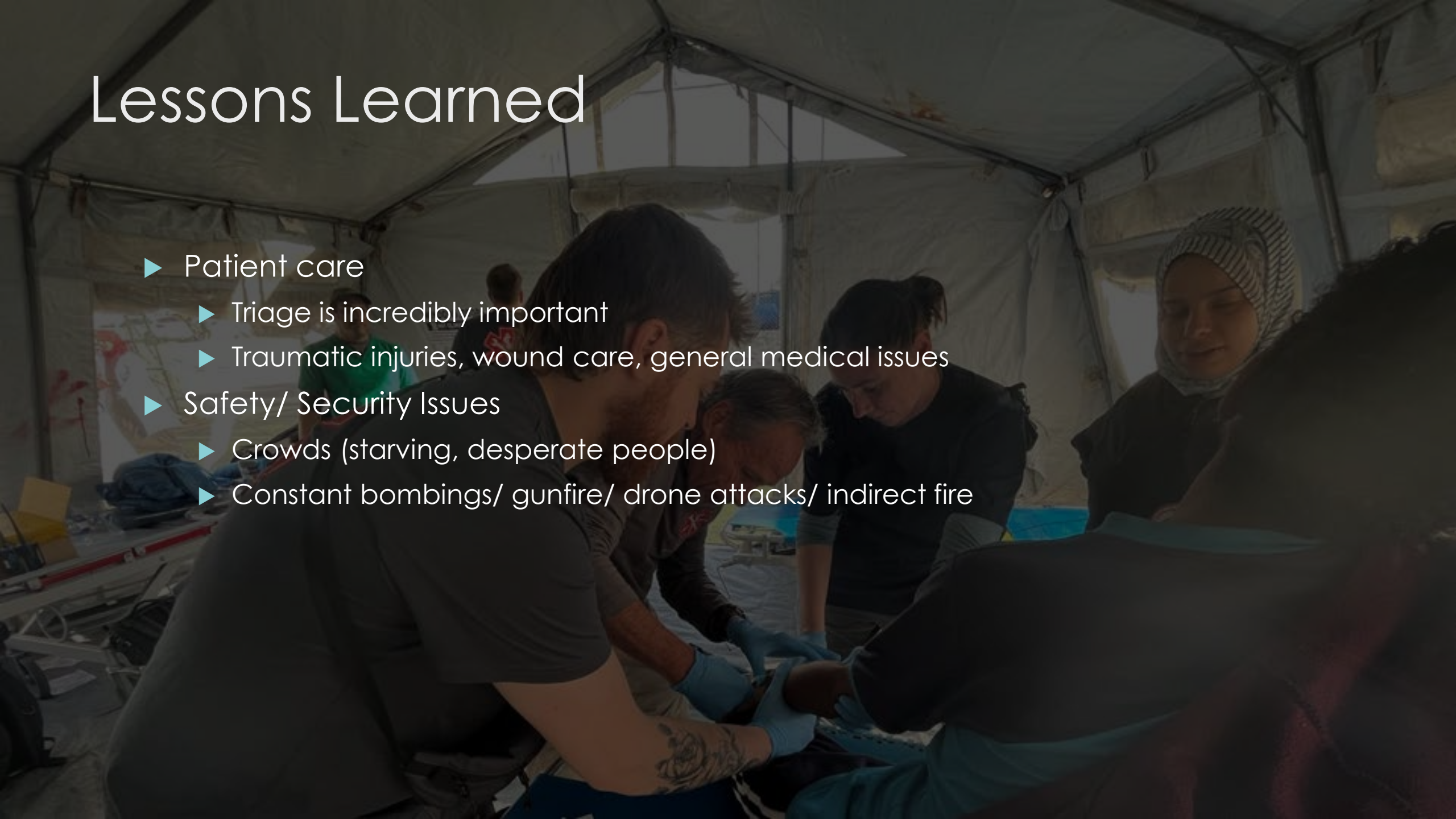






Lessons Learned

- ▶ Patient care
 - ▶ Triage is incredibly important
 - ▶ Traumatic injuries, wound care, general medical issues
- ▶ Safety/ Security Issues
 - ▶ Crowds (starving, desperate people)
 - ▶ Constant bombings/ gunfire/ drone attacks/ indirect fire



Lessons Learned

- ▶ Ethical considerations/ Altered standards of care
 - ▶ Realistic expectations for patients
 - ▶ Limiting care/ resources – can't “waste” supplies
- ▶ Self care
 - ▶ Food, shelter, basic needs
- ▶ Mental health – resiliency
 - ▶ Dealing with so much death
 - ▶ Kids/ families as casualties





Questions/ Comments

References

Cadus (June, 2024) - <https://www.cadus.org/en/>

Save the Children (June, 2024) - <https://www.savethechildren.org/>

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Human Affairs (OCHA),
October, 2024. <https://www.ochaopt.org/>