

HOW THE OCCUPATION OBSTRUCTS THE DEVELOPMENT OF PALESTINIAN HEALTHCARE

RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

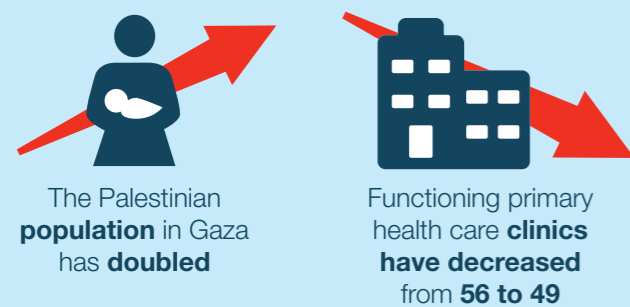
As the occupying power, Israel has an obligation to support the development of the health sector in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. After 50 years, Israel's occupation is stifling the provision of healthcare.

“ States are legally bound under international humanitarian and human rights law to ensure that their policies create an enabling environment for available and accessible health care for all in the shortest possible time. ”

World Health Organization, 2016

HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

According to the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, in Gaza since 2000:



Resulting in:



Area C constitutes the **60% of the West Bank** under full Israeli civil and military control.

Between 2010 and 2014 Israel approved only **1.5%** of Palestinian **building permit** applications.

There are still no permanent Palestinian health facilities in Area C.

Of the **351 Palestinian communities** living in Area C:



By contrast, **illegal settlements** in the West Bank **have modern health clinics** and easy access to hospitals.

MEDICAL SHORTAGES IN GAZA

In May 2017, **34% of essential medicines** and **32% of medical disposables** were at **'zero stock'**, meaning that less than a month's supply was available.

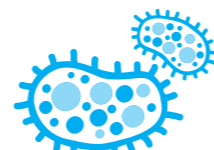
This included:



Cancer medications



Medical disposables needed for operating rooms, emergency departments and intensive care

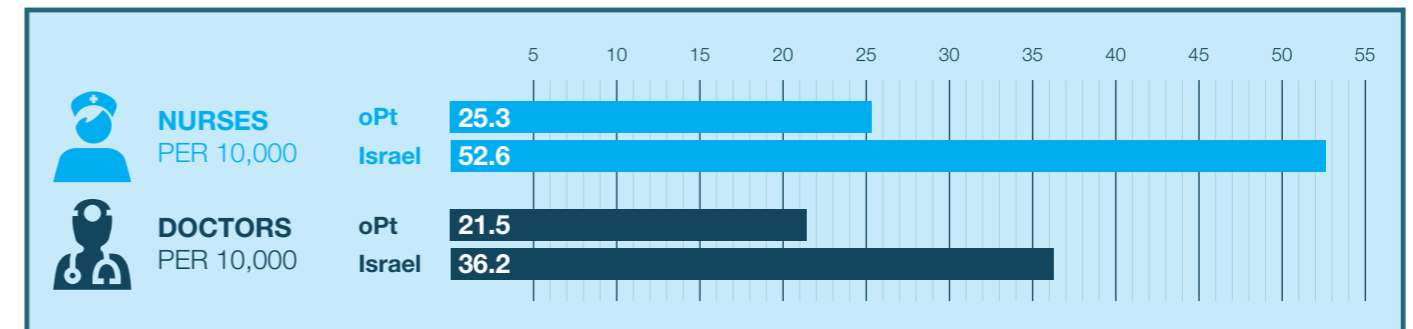


Treatments for immunological diseases

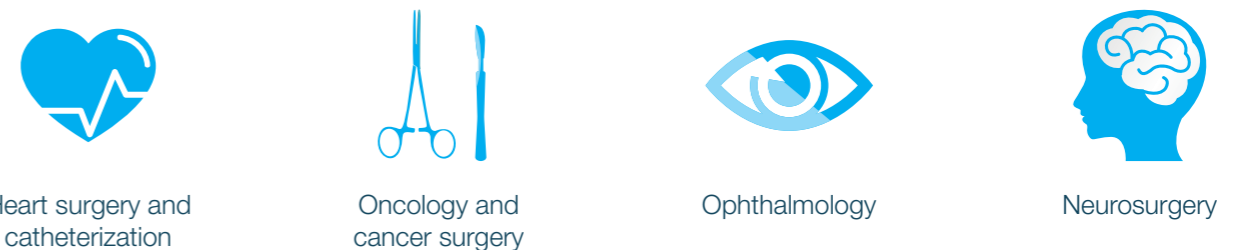
HEALTH WORKFORCE

The **freedom of movement** for health professionals is **restricted by Israel, as well as Jordan and Egypt.**

Between 2015-2016 there was a **28% decrease in permits** issued to Palestinian health workers by Israel to travel through Israeli checkpoints for work or training.



In **Gaza** there are **shortages of doctors and nurses** specialised in:



PRIORITISING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The **shortcomings of the Palestinian health sector** mean that many Palestinian patients must be **referred** either to other areas of the **occupied Palestinian territory** or to **Jordan, Egypt or Israel.**



Medical referrals are the Palestinian Ministry of Health's **second largest expense, at 40% of the budget**, costing **£130 million** for **49,000 patients** in 2015.



MAP'S EXPERIENCE

MAP and IDEALS **trained a local team of surgeons, nurses and physiotherapists** to provide **limb reconstruction treatment** at Al Shifa Hospital, Gaza.

This contributed to a **33% reduction in orthopaedic management referrals** between 2014-2016, potentially **saving the Palestinian Ministry of Health over £1 million.**

States, NGOs and international organisations must invest in sustainable Palestinian-led infrastructure to reduce costs and ensure impartial access to healthcare without the need for permits.