

Technical Report

Rehabilitation of Al Khair Hospital (Phase I)

Submitted to: The Government of Greece

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1. Overview

Since October 2023, the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) has continued to face a protracted humanitarian crisis due to the escalation of violence, restrictions on movement and humanitarian aid, as well as critical shortages of essential services. In Gaza alone, more than 52,000 people have been killed in the past 19 months, with over 119,000 injured, many suffering from life-altering injuries, and nearly 90% of the population displaced.

The ongoing conflict has led to widespread destruction of infrastructure, resulting in limited access to essential services. Many hospitals and primary healthcare (PHC) facilities in the Gaza Strip have sustained damage, with 22 out of 36 hospitals and 75 out of 156 PHC centres remaining only partially operational. Acute shortages of medical supplies, electricity, water, and fuel have worsened the situation. The destruction of hospitals and PHC centres, combined with shortages of medical staff and supplies, has significantly weakened the health system in Gaza. This has left vulnerable populations, particularly women, children, and those with critical injuries and chronic illnesses, without access to care at both PHC and secondary healthcare levels. Particularly, the demand for trauma care has skyrocketed due to the increased violence and injuries.

Rehabilitating damaged and destroyed facilities, as well as addressing the shortage of essential medicines and equipment, are vital for ensuring access to life-saving health services and maintaining the operational status of healthcare facilities. The World Health Organization (WHO) country office in oPt received EUR 200,000 from the Government of Greece to support response efforts in Gaza for a six-month period from December 2024 to May 2025. This funding enabled WHO to provide timely responses in accordance with its [Operational Response and Early Recovery Plan 2025](#) and restore the delivery of life-saving services at Al Khair Hospital.

2. Objective

With funding of EUR 200,000 received from the Government of Greece, the WHO country office in oPt supported the renovation of Al Khair Hospital to operationalize and reactivate service delivery for vulnerable and displaced populations. Located in Khan Younis, Al Khair Hospital is a non-governmental facility providing maternity care, minor surgical procedures, and outpatient department services. During the ongoing war in Gaza, the hospital has played a vital role in responding to casualties and providing essential services. Additionally, due to its close proximity to Rafah, where all hospitals have ceased functioning, it serves as a key referral point for populations displaced from the south. However, due to the escalation of violence, the hospital has sustained significant damage to its infrastructure and equipment, disrupting essential health services for over 900,000 displaced people in the city. Rehabilitating the hospital is crucial to addressing the immense needs and supporting overcrowded hospitals that are catering to much larger catchment areas than usual.

This support aligns with and complements WHO's ongoing efforts to strengthen the health response in Gaza. The primary goal was to support Phase 1 of the rehabilitation of Al Khair Hospital, focusing on structural renovations to restore its functionality and operational capacity. Additionally, funding was allocated for operational support, including the procurement of supplies and equipment to enhance service delivery once it resumes.

3. Results

Thanks to funding from Greece, WHO supported Phase 1 of the rehabilitation of Al Khair Hospital in Gaza, aiming to operationalize and restore critical health services at the facility. During the reporting period, WHO implemented the following activities:

- Following a comprehensive needs assessment conducted in November 2024 by WHO, the Ministry of Health (MoH) and other stakeholders, a rehabilitation plan was developed for Al Khair Hospital. WHO supported Phase 1 of the rehabilitation plan during the six-month reporting period, focusing on restoring critical capital infrastructure, including water, sanitation, power systems, and structural repairs. This was achieved by contracting a company through a tendering process to perform the renovation work. EIFEEL Company was selected for this work after a rigorous selection process.
- The hospital's renovation has progressed steadily, with several major components already completed and others approaching finalization. Photos of the renovation work and progress can be found in Annex 1.
 - Demolition and dismantling work have been fully completed in accordance with the rehabilitation plan, followed by the successful completion of plastering, tiling, and marble work in all designated areas.
 - Aluminum and metal works have also been completed, including installing windows, doors, and structural elements.
 - Carpentry work, including installing both swing and hinged wooden doors, cladding for the X-ray room, and various other timber elements, as well as procuring and installing accessories for wooden doors, particularly the stainless-steel protective sheets, has been completed.
 - Similarly, the painting work, including the completion of interior painting and the covering of walls and ceilings, has been completed.
 - Regarding mechanical work, most systems have been installed, and the assembly of water tanks and downpipe connections has been finalized. Additionally, the installation of air conditioning units has been completed.
 - Paving works at the hospital entrance are ongoing and expected to be finalized by the end of May.
 - Electrical work, including lighting, sockets, and switches, as well as work to connect distribution boards and maintain fire alarm systems, has been completed. However, suitable generators, essential for hospital operations, are currently unavailable in the local market, thereby delaying the procurement and installation process. WHO, along with the contractor, is actively exploring all possible avenues to secure and deliver the required equipment as soon as feasible.
 - Additionally, the provision and installation of sanitary accessories required for the toilets, including soap holders, paper towel dispensers, mirrors, and other necessary items, are ongoing and expected to be finalized by the end of May.

- Once all pending work has been completed in the coming weeks, thorough cleaning operations will be conducted, both inside and outside the facility, in preparation for operational readiness. Similarly, the final testing and commissioning of the facility will commence once the installation of the water tank and the generator is completed.
- In addition, WHO procured medical supplies and equipment to support service delivery at the hospital. For instance, surgical equipment, including several orthopedic drills that are critically needed in Gaza, as well as other medical supplies, were procured to support trauma care and emergency response. However, the delivery of the items to Gaza has been delayed due to the ongoing blockade. WHO is awaiting a permit from the Israeli authorities to proceed with the delivery of the items.

4. Impact

Thanks to funding from the Government of Greece, WHO has been able to support Phase 1 of the rehabilitation of Al Khair Hospital, marking a crucial step toward restoring access to essential healthcare services in Gaza. Although services have not yet resumed, the renovation of the facility lays the groundwork for delivering essential care to thousands of patients, including over 400,000 women, children, and displaced individuals, once it becomes operational. The facility is expected to significantly ease the burden on overstretched hospitals by absorbing patient load and improving service availability.

Additionally, the provision of medical supplies and equipment will enhance Al Khair Hospital's capacity to deliver essential and life-saving services upon reopening. Once services resume, these resources will directly support the delivery of high-quality trauma and critical care for patients in urgent need, thereby strengthening the hospital's ability to respond to ongoing and future health emergencies.

This project has demonstrated that flexible investments even in modest amounts can yield a remarkable impact in Gaza, given the immense needs and the resilience of the health system.

Continued support is crucial to launching Phase 2 of the rehabilitation plan and ensuring the hospital operates at optimal capacity. Sustained investment will facilitate the complete restoration of Al Khair Hospital's services and its function as a crucial healthcare provider for the Gaza population. Therefore, the WHO country office in oPt requests that the Government of Greece continue its vital support for the reactivation of services at Al Khair Hospital, ensuring access to life-saving and essential services for thousands of Palestinians who are in urgent need.

5. Visibility

To highlight the impact of Greece's support in Gaza, WHO has produced a range of visibility materials, including photos and a video documenting the progress of the renovation works. Additionally, a signboard acknowledging Greece's contribution to Phase 1 of the Al Khair Hospital renovation has been installed on-site. The progress photos of the work, the signboard, and videos are provided in Annex 1.

6. Challenges

- The escalation of violence and the ongoing blockade in Gaza delayed the start of renovation works. Security concerns for staff and the volatile environment posed serious risks, causing the contractor to hesitate in mobilizing. On several occasions, project teams faced considerable difficulty in accessing the site due to prevailing security conditions, which temporarily hindered progress.
- Severe shortages of materials and equipment in the local market have necessitated continuous efforts to identify and utilize appropriate alternative solutions to avoid delays. For instance, the lack of suitable power generators in the local market has delayed the procurement and installation process, which will impact the timeline for the operationalization of the Al Khair Hospital.

7. Lessons learned and way forward

- This foundational work has paved the way for the next critical phases. However, additional funding is urgently required to operationalize the remaining phases: establishing a 10-bed SAM stabilization center on the first floor, launching outpatient pediatric services, reactivating a 40-bed pediatric inpatient department, reactivating the maternity department and operating rooms, and implementing a health information system.
- Rehabilitation at Al Khair Hospital is crucial for alleviating the burden on other overcrowded hospitals, expanding coverage for pediatric, maternity, and malnutrition treatments, and ensuring timely access to essential healthcare services for over 400,000 women, children, and displaced individuals. Without immediate donor support, the hospital's full rehabilitation and service delivery capacity cannot be realized, putting thousands of vulnerable lives at risk.

Annex 1: Visibility products

Videos:

No	Link to visibility product
1	https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1810093706257774
2	https://x.com/WHOoPt/status/1927363706502947066

Progress photos of the renovation at Al Khair Hospital:



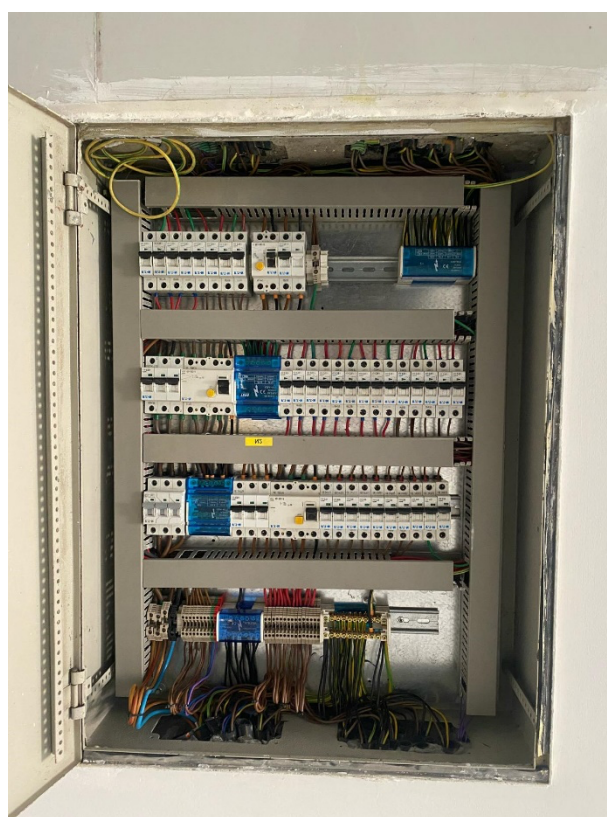




Photo of the signboard installed on Al Khair Hospital:

