

THE FRONTLINE

BRINGING MEDICAL HUMANITARIAN ACTION TO YOU

▶ JULY 2025



GAZA & SUDAN

Conflict, care, and survival on the frontlines

SYRIA & AFGHANISTAN

Years of war, and the struggle to rebuild

IRAN & BEYOND

Medical aid, rising tensions, and what's ahead

A quarterly window into our work, your impact, and the stories that rarely make the headlines.

Welcome back to ***The Frontline***.

Since our first issue, humanitarian needs have continued to grow, and so has our commitment to respond. Every update we share reflects the urgency on the ground and the critical role your support plays in helping us deliver care where it's needed most.

In this edition, we share updates from our teams responding to crises in Sudan, Gaza, Syria, and other areas with urgent medical needs.

And behind all of it, **there's you.**

Your support is not just appreciated; it's essential. It allows us to respond quickly, stay longer, and adapt to each new challenge. It reminds our teams, and the people we care for, that they are not forgotten.

Thank you for standing with us — for your support, your trust, and your continued commitment to this work.



Starvation and Survival: Malnutrition in Gaza

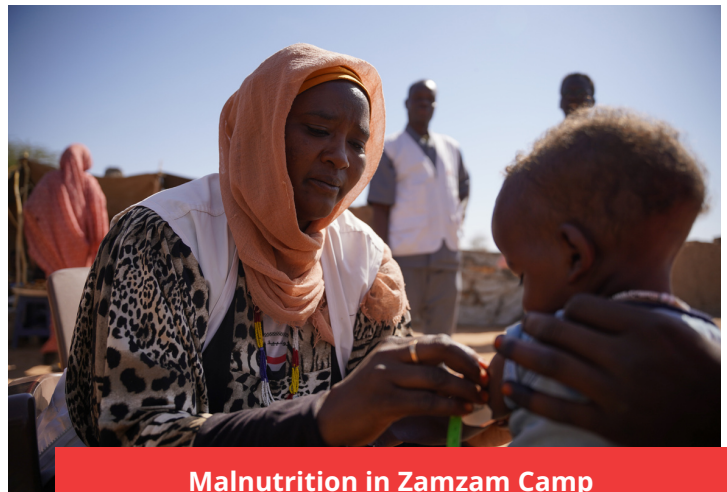
At the MSF clinic in Gaza City, a community health worker speaks to patients about the causes and signs of malnutrition before their check-ups—an essential step in a place where hunger threatens lives every day.

► SUDAN

April 15 Marks Two Years of War in Sudan

As Sudan enters its third year of war, millions of people are caught in what has become the world's largest humanitarian crisis. Since April 15, 2023, the war between the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) has devastated the country: more than **30 million people now need humanitarian aid**, over **13 million have been displaced**, and **70% of health facilities in conflict zones are no longer functioning**.

Both sides have bombed civilian areas, looted medical facilities, and blocked humanitarian access. Famine has been officially declared in multiple locations, and outbreaks of measles, cholera, and diphtheria are spreading rapidly. The health system has collapsed — **but MSF is still there**.



Malnutrition in Zamzam Camp North Darfur

All emergency thresholds for malnutrition have been exceeded in Zamzam camp. Nearly 25% of children are acutely malnourished, including 7% with severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Among children aged 6 months to 2 years, 40% are malnourished — 15% with SAM. The emergency threshold for SAM is just 2%.

MSF's Response in Sudan:

- **1.7 million** medical consultations across hospitals, health facilities, and mobile clinics.
- **67,000+** malnourished children treated
- **35,300+** births assisted, including over **6,400 caesarean sections**
- **205,000+** people reached with mental health group sessions
- **174,000+** malaria cases treated, and **1,900+** measles patients cared for
- Support to **33 health facilities in 10 states**, including trauma care, mobile clinics, maternity care, malnutrition treatment, mental health care, vaccination, and WASH activities

MSF teams are working under extreme conditions, often as the only medical presence in large areas. With the rainy season approaching — threatening to flood roads, sever supply routes, and deepen the hunger gap — the need for humanitarian access and support is more urgent than ever.

The people of Sudan have endured too much, for too long.

“The fighting never feels far away”

— A doctor's testimony from North Darfur



DR. CATHY BRANTHWAITE

MSF Paediatrician

Amid the devastation, Dr. Cathy Branthwaite, shares what it means to provide care in the heart of a relentless war. In North Darfur, where hospitals are damaged and supplies scarce, she and her team faced the unimaginable — and refused to give up.

“It was late in the afternoon when the first patient arrived — a young man with a gunshot wound to the chest. Then came more. Twelve hours later, 38 gunshot victims arrived — men, women, even children. We worked relentlessly. Supplies were rationed. Pain relief was administered. Against the odds, every single one survived.”

“I’d never treated gunshot wounds before. But you learn. You adapt. You don’t give up.”

In Tawila, a town overcrowded with displaced families, MSF helped restore a shattered hospital and bring care to mothers and children.

“One mother arrived on a camel, carrying her premature twins. No incubator, no medical support — just her determination. We fought for them with everything we had. Weeks later, they left healthy and strong.”

It was in that same hospital that Dr. Cathy and her team cared for children suffering from severe malnutrition, many too weak to cry. MSF also opened feeding centres, launched food distributions, and ran emergency screenings to combat the rise in malnutrition.

“When I arrived, our ward was overflowing. After two food distributions, admissions declined. It proved our efforts were working.”

“Sometimes, the scale of suffering feels overwhelming. But then come the small victories. The child who survived. The mother who found hope. MSF’s presence here is more than medical aid — it’s proof that someone still cares”.

▶ PALESTINE

Gaza & the West Bank: Care Amid the Rubble

With heavy hearts, we share that on **3 July**, our former colleague *Abdullah Hammad* was killed by Israeli forces — the **12th MSF team member we've lost in Gaza** since the war began in October 2023.

These are not just names on a list. They are our colleagues, our friends, and our family. We mourn them deeply and carry their memories with us in everything we do.

Premature babies are dying in Gaza — not because they can't be treated, but because there's no power, no incubators, and no medical supplies. At Al Helou hospital, MSF teams are seeing more malnourished, underweight newborns — often placing multiple babies in one incubator, with deadly consequences. What should be a moment of joy has become **a moment of heartbreak**.

Across Gaza, **acute malnutrition is skyrocketing** — especially among pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, and young children. At our clinics in Al-Mawasi and Gaza City, we've recorded the highest number of malnutrition cases we've ever seen. Some mothers weigh **as little as 40kg at six months pregnant**. Many parents are skipping meals or giving away their own treatment supplements just to feed their children.



A Fragile Start in Gaza

At Al Helou hospital, doctors use rolled blankets to create womb-like “nests” that help stabilise premature babies and support their development.

In a place where homes have been flattened, hospitals attacked, and families repeatedly displaced, MSF teams continue to provide urgent care for the wounded, the sick, and the traumatised.

22 children and 11 caregivers from Gaza have been receiving long-term medical and psychological care at MSF's Reconstructive Surgery Hospital in Amman, Jordan. **In early July, 9 more severely injured children** were transferred in collaboration with the Jordanian Ministry of Health. Many are suffering from **severe burns, fractures, and life-altering injuries** caused by Israeli strikes.

In Gaza, over **1,000 MSF staff** continue to provide urgent care in extreme conditions — including surgery, maternity and paediatric care, mental health support, physiotherapy, wound care, and vaccinations.



Since October 2023, MSF has provided:

- **1 million+ outpatient consultations**
- **23,000+ surgeries**
- **13,200+ deliveries**
- **55,800+ mental health consultations**

Food shortage in Gaza

A 5-month-old treated for severe malnutrition at MSF-supported Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis. Her mother, displaced and living in a tent in Nuseirat camp, had initially sought care for gastroenteritis. Gaza, May 2025.

We currently work in:

- **Al Helou and Nasser hospitals**
- **2 field hospitals** in Deir Al Balah
- **4 primary healthcare centers and 3 clinics**

We also support water trucking and desalination, providing **1.4 million litres of clean water daily** for over **200,000 people**.

In the West Bank, MSF teams work in **Hebron, Jenin, Tulkarem, and Nablus** — offering mobile clinics, basic healthcare, and mental health support, especially in violence-hit areas like Masafer Yatta. In June 2025, **94% of new mental health patients** in Hebron sought help after settler attacks.

Our teams also assist displaced Palestinians with hygiene kits, fuel, and clean water — though growing access restrictions make emergency response increasingly difficult.

A Letter from Gaza

— From an MSF psychiatrist on the mental toll of war



Dear supporter,

As a psychiatrist, I am deeply troubled by the humanitarian situation in Gaza, where devastation and destruction, mass displacement and substandard living conditions, along with shortages of food, water and fuel and the cutting of electricity for extended periods, have taken a massive toll on the population.

In Gaza, I have been working across two hospitals, managing a team of 25 mental health staff made up of psychologists, counsellors, social workers and doctors, all Gazans themselves. Many of them have been displaced from their homes and are living in tents. Yet they come to work every day with a smile, motivated to look after their patients and each other.

One of our patients, an eight-year-old girl called Amal, has experienced four different bombings, each one resulting in displacement and the loss of family members. She and her grandmother are the only surviving members of their family. When I first met her, Amal was lying in a hospital bed, very still, barely able to speak and showing no emotional range – this ‘frozen’ response is a very extreme trauma reaction.

The most recent time I saw Amal, she summoned me over by shouting my name across the courtyard of the hospital, then greeted me with a wide smile and thanked me for the good work — telling me she still needed us to do a few things. Her grandmother looked relieved to see her behaving like a ‘normal’ child again.

I have been able to witness how people are living and what they are enduring each day. People are suffering, and I hope to continue to be a part of the mental health response in Gaza in the future.

Thank you so much for your generosity, which I know is particularly appreciated by everyone in my mental health team.

Talwa

► SYRIA

14 Years of War, and Still So Much to Do

After 14 years of conflict and the fall of the Assad regime, Syria's health system remains shattered. Over **7.2 million people** are still displaced inside the country, many living in camps without electricity, heating, or clean water.

Burn injuries from unsafe heating methods are tragically common. In 2024 alone, **MSF's burns hospital in Atmeh** treated over **8,000 burn-related emergencies** — an average of 23 patients a day.

Across **northwest, northeast, and central Syria**, MSF teams continue providing medical care where health systems have collapsed. We support hospitals and clinics in **Idlib, Aleppo, Raqqa, and displacement camps like Al-Hol, while newly expanding to Homs and Daraa.**

As funding cuts force health facilities to shut down, our teams remain one of the few sources of care for thousands.

"I just want life to return to normal — and for our areas to receive services again. We've suffered for 13 years."

— Mohammed, MSF burns patient in Atmeh



Mobile Clinics in Aleppo

In rural Aleppo, MSF mobile clinics offer vital care — from medical consultations and medication to mental health and reproductive health services for returnee communities.



Kunduz Trauma Centre
The logistics team at the MSF
Trauma Centre in Kunduz
Province

▶ AFGHANISTAN

Building recovery, one step at a time

In northern Afghanistan, **MSF's Kunduz Trauma Center** treats over **1,000 patients each month** — many injured in accidents, violence, or daily life in a country scarred by conflict. Patients like Mohammadullah arrive with shattered limbs and uncertain futures.

For those who've lost mobility, even a simple pair of crutches can mean the difference between independence and isolation — yet they're often out of reach. To help, **MSF teams in Kunduz have been hand-building mobility aids using local materials.** Since 2023, they've produced **20–30 devices a week**, all provided **free of charge**.

"It warms my heart when I make something that helps a patient," says Shir Mohammad, MSF's infrastructure supervisor.

What began as a practical solution is now restoring movement, dignity, and hope across the region.

▶ IRAN

Easing tensions, ongoing care

Following the recent Iran-Israel conflict, the situation in **Tehran** has stabilised, and we continue to monitor developments closely.

MSF has worked in Iran since **1990**. In 2023, **116 staff** provided medical care to **Afghan refugees and other vulnerable communities across the country.**

In South Tehran, we run fixed and mobile clinics offering general healthcare, mental health support, midwifery, and treatment for infectious diseases such as **TB, hepatitis, HIV, and syphilis.**

In Mashhad, **Kerman, and Torbat-e Jam**, we support Afghan communities, new arrivals, and people who use drugs through consultations, screenings, and referrals.

As the world's **second-largest refugee host**, Iran faces growing health needs—and MSF remains committed to providing care with dignity and impartiality.

Thank you for reading.

From Gaza to Sudan, Syria, and beyond, the needs remain immense — but so does our commitment. This edition of The Frontline has offered just a glimpse into the work your support makes possible and the lives it continues to impact.

There is still so much to do, and our teams are not slowing down. We'll be back with more stories, updates, and testimonies in the next edition — coming soon.

In the meantime, if you'd like to learn more about our work or find ways to support it, you can visit our website: www.msf-me.org.

And to stay connected with us in real time, follow us on social media for the latest from the field:



www.msf-me.org



<https://www.facebook.com/msf.arabic/>



<https://www.instagram.com/msfarabic/?hl=en>



https://x.com/MSF_UAE