

Doctors across Gaza have described operating on patients without anaesthetic, turning people with chronic conditions away, and treating rotting wounds with limited medical supplies. Dr Mohamed Salha, acting director of northern Gaza's Al-Awda hospital, said people had been transported for treatment there on donkeys and horses. "My family has been away from me for more than three months and I long to embrace them," said Dr Salha in northern Gaza, whose family have sought safety in the south. Aid organisations, including the WHO, say there have been "repeated access restrictions and denials".

Warning: This article contains details some readers may find upsetting

Hospitals stretched Many of Gaza's hospitals are overcrowded and have limited equipment, healthcare workers say. There are reports that some hospitals in southern Gaza are operating at over 300% of their bed capacity. Four field hospitals have been set up in Gaza, with 305 beds combined, according to the WHO. On Sunday, it said the Nasser hospital in southern Gaza was the latest facility to become non-operational, following a raid by Israeli forces. The IDF said on Sunday night it had found weapons at the hospital, as well as medicines with the names and photos of hostages on them, and had apprehended "hundreds of terrorists" hiding there. The World Health Organization (WHO) has described the state of healthcare in Gaza as being "beyond words". It said 23 hospitals in Gaza were not functioning at all as of Sunday – 12 were partially functioning and one minimally. The health agency said air strikes and a lack of supplies have "depleted an already under-resourced system". The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) says Hamas "systematically uses hospitals and medical centres for its terror activities". Staff separated from families

The WHO says there are around 20,000 healthcare workers in Gaza, but that most are not working "as they are struggling to survive and care for their families". Dr al-Akkad said the numbers of staff and volunteers at his hospital had grown, partly because of people displaced from other areas coming to help. But he said it was not enough to cope with the volume of patients and types of injuries they were receiving. Following bombings, he said injured people come to the hospital "looking like kofta" – a dish with ground meat. In a statement to the BBC, it said the IDF "did not 'attack' hospitals, but rather entered specific areas... [to] neutralise Hamas' infrastructure and equipment, and apprehend Hamas terrorists, while acting with great caution". "Hamas continues to put Gaza's most vulnerable citizens in serious danger by cynically using hospitals for terror," it earlier told the BBC. Why are Israel and Hamas fighting ?in Gaza