

# PALLIATIVE CARE; GAZA

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# Global imperative

- “I regard Universal Health Coverage as the single most powerful concept that public health has to offer.”

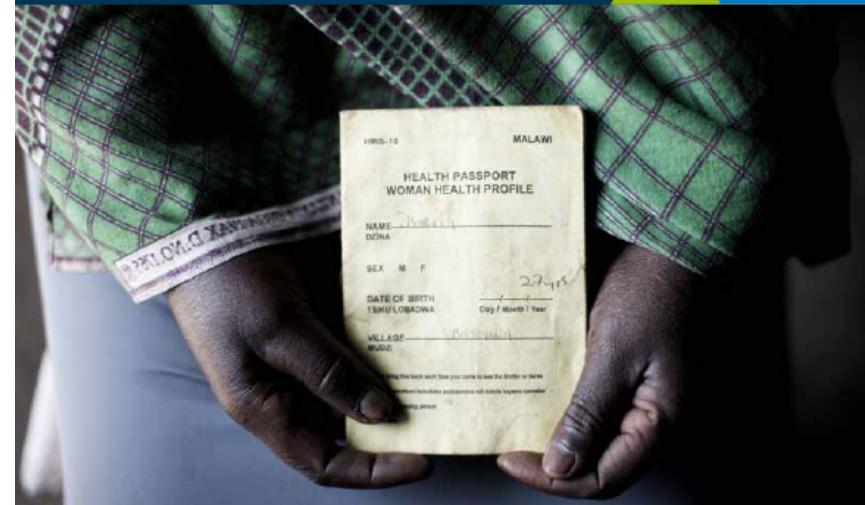


# Global imperative

- Palliative care: essential contribution to global health
- *‘Citizens must empower themselves to work towards equitable access to palliative care as part of the Global Goal for Health’*



## Palliative Care and the Global Goal for Health



Right. Smart. Overdue.



# Global health priorities

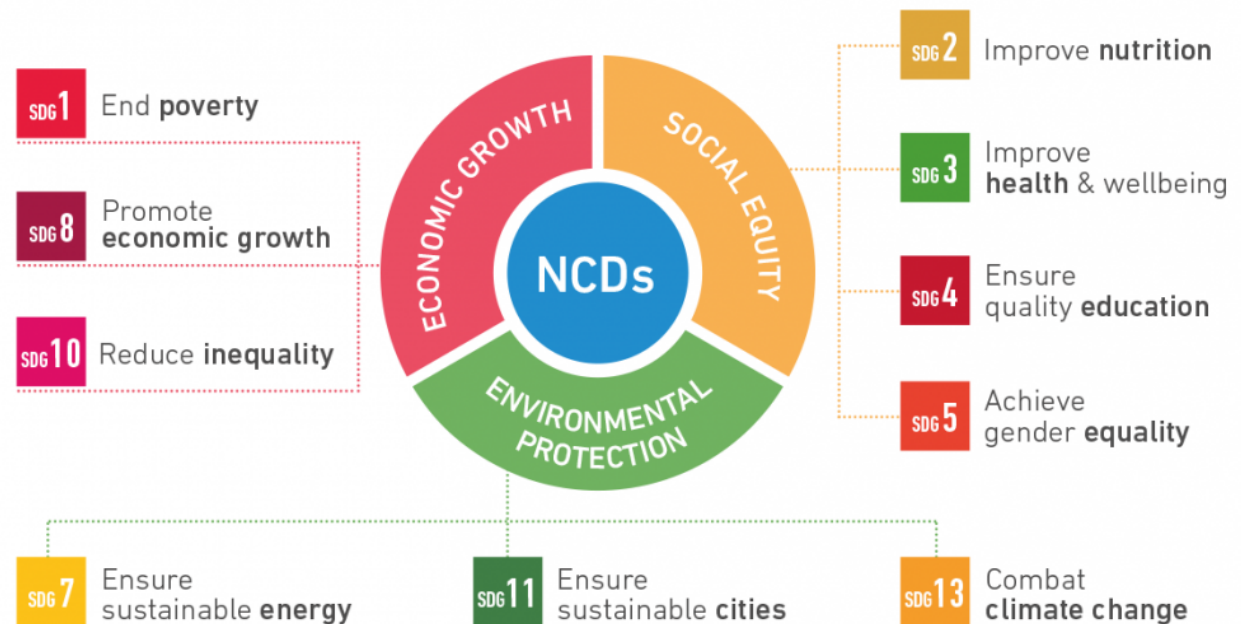
- Chronic disease management

## AGENDA 2030: TIME FOR ACTION ON NCDs

#ActNowforNCDs

### Working across sectors to improve health and NCDs

NCDs are now a universal priority. All governments must urgently take action if they are to meet these 2030 targets. Investing in efforts to reduce the global NCD burden will not only improve health outcomes, it will also accelerate progress on many other SDGs.



# Palliative care in humanitarian settings

## Complex humanitarian emergencies (CHE)

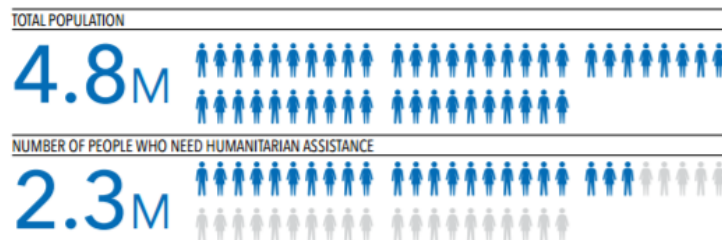
- affecting increasing numbers
  - natural disasters eg earthquake in Nepal
  - epidemics eg Ebola
  - war and conflict eg Syria, Gaza
- *an acute emergency layered over ongoing instability that typically needs large-scale, multi-faceted humanitarian assistance.*





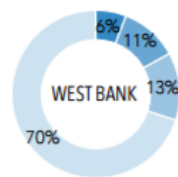
# Gaza; humanitarian needs

- 2.3 m people affected in occupied Palestinian territories
  - protection of civilians
  - forced displacement
  - erosion of resilience
  - access to medicine
  - *Gaza 1.4m out of 1.8m*

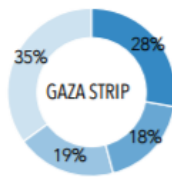


# Gaza; humanitarian needs

- High area of vulnerability
- Chronic issues (almost 70yrs)
- Poor access to basic needs
- Major impact on health
- Growing NCD and mental health issues



■ Severely Food Insecure  
■ Moderately Food Insecure  
■ Marginally Food Secure  
■ Food Secure



■ Severely Food Insecure  
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■ Marginally Food Secure  
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For more information:

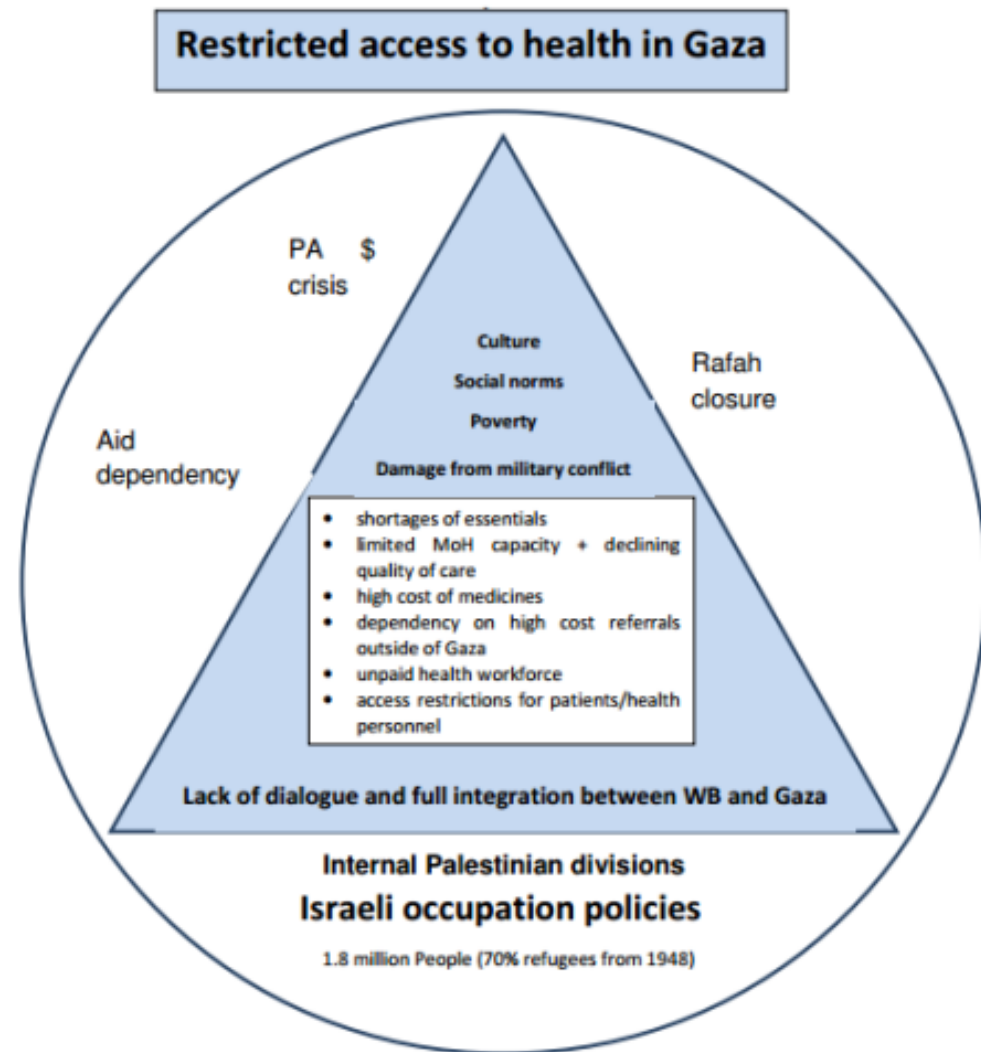
<https://public.tableau.com/profile/publish/Overallvulnerabilityrankingatthecommunitylevel/Dashboard4#1/publish-confirm>



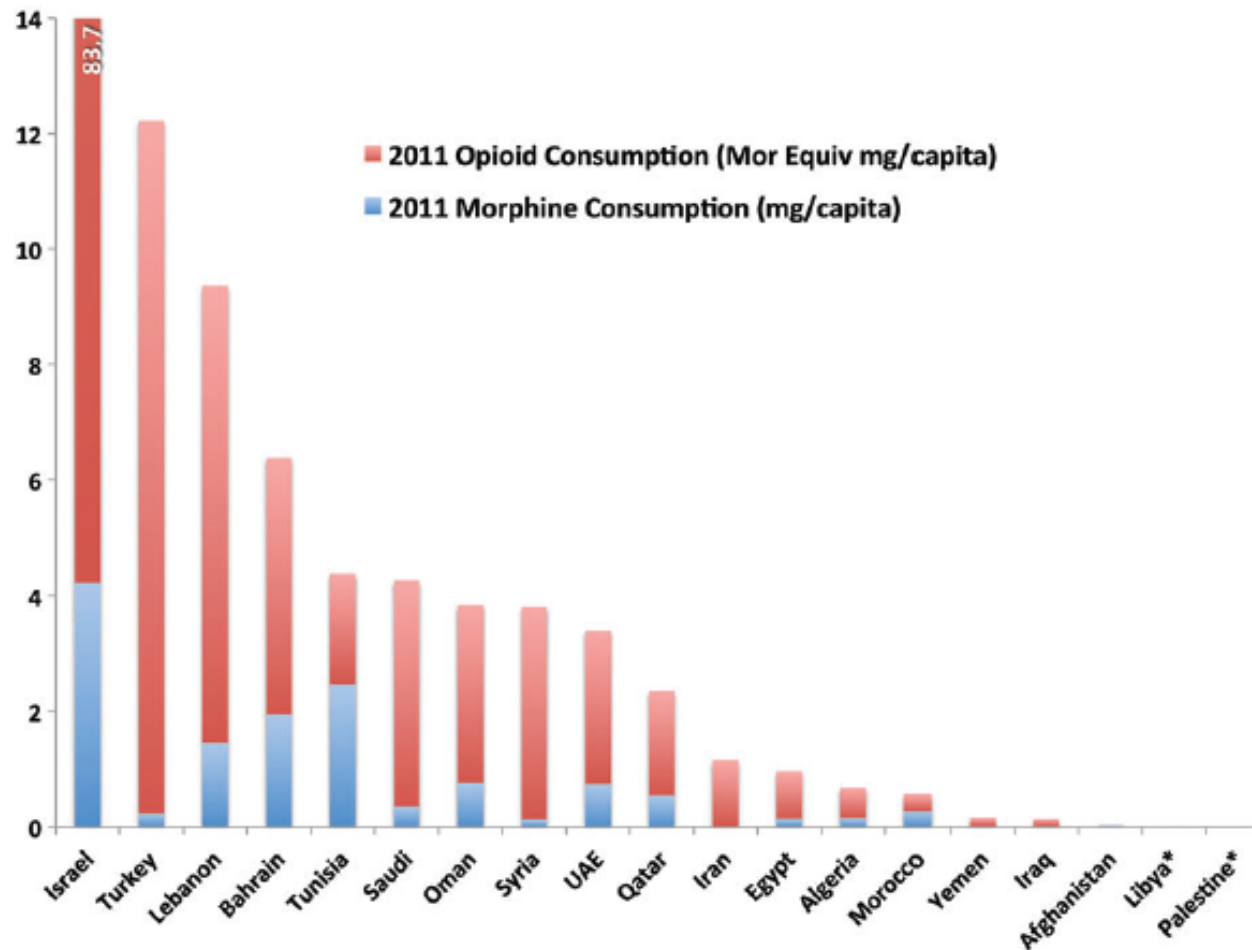
# Gaza

- Context of significant humanitarian needs and ongoing conflict
- Occupied Palestinian territories recognised as 'fragile state' DFID

ANNEX 5: Restricted Access to Health -adapted from WHO 2015(B)

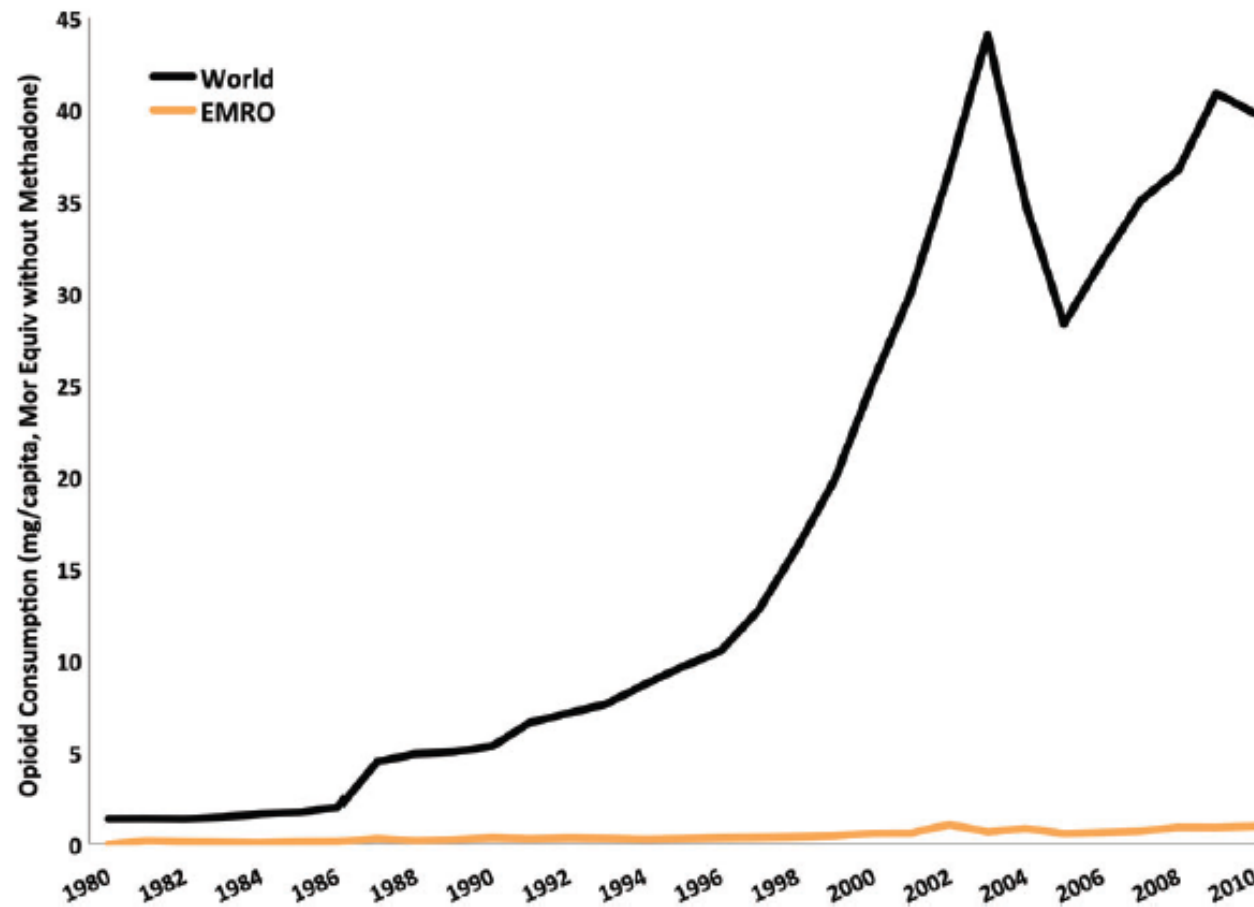


# Morphine Consumption



**Figure 1.** Rank order of opioid consumption<sup>1</sup> (morphine equivalence, mg/capita) for surveyed Middle East countries. Opioids included: fentanyl, hydromorphone, morphine, oxycodone, pethidine. \*Not reported.

# Morphine Consumption



**Figure 2.** Comparison of opioid consumption (mg/capita of morphine equivalence without methadone) for the World versus the Middle East Regional Organization (EMRO) countries from 1980 to 2010.

# Gaza; UNRWA

- 22 health care centres
- services to the vast majority of the over 1.2 million Palestine refugees in Gaza.
- focus on family support including mental health
- interested in developing integrated palliative care



# Gaza; palliative care

- Visit to Gaza
- Hosted by University of Edinburgh and Islamic University of Gaza





# Gaza; palliative care

- *Key issues from scoping exercise 2015*
  - Palliative care **awareness is high** but as yet **no recognised services** developed or integrated
  - **Education and training capacity** is strong and needs to **integrate palliative care** with an emphasis on **accessing** training within Gaza
  - **Access to essential medications** is good with the strong **exception of oral morphine**. It seems the main challenges are lack of a clear regulatory framework that supports access as well as maintaining appropriate control
  - **Health systems strengthening** regarding referral pathways and information sharing is needed with some existing platform such as cancer control forum and data management
- Health care is focused on the facilities and a **home based care model** is not generally well developed.

# Gaza; palliative care

- Training
  - Undergraduate
    - IUG students; palliative care course
  - Postgraduate
    - 6 short courses
    - Distance Learning Diploma in Jordan



# Gaza; palliative care

- Services
  - ?Al Shifa Hospital
  - ?UNRWA



# Transforming health systems

- most effective strategy for implementing a palliative care program is a public health initiative
  - incorporates
    - all levels of the health care system
    - government leadership
    - community
- benefit not only patients and families but also society as a whole

*Omar Shamieh, Abdul-Rahman Jazieh. Palliative Care in the Middle East and North Africa Region; Modification and Implementation of NCCN Guidelines 2010;8:S-41-S-47 J Natl Compr Canc Netw*



# Palliative care in humanitarian settings

- *Palliative care is a humanitarian responsibility;*
- Transforming practise;
- Transforming lives
- Transforming systems and societies
- *‘Our people are in pain; we have no choice but to act.’*

*Al Shifa Hospital, Gaza*

*Dr Sobhi Skaik*

