



July 22, 2018

ICD/3/3/2018

Severe Power Crisis and Dwindling Fuel Supplies of the Gaza Strip Health Sector

July 2018

The Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza Strip reiterates its deep concern of the imminent crisis to be faced by the health sector given the protracted power crisis and depleting of the fuel reserves for the electric generators to keep the MOH hospitals operating. The severe electricity crisis and prolonged blackouts, which currently average between 16 and 20 hours per day, are draining already scarce resources, time and efforts of the public health system in order to secure fuel for running the back-up generators at the Ministry of Health facilities.

In February 2018 with funding from Qatari, Emirati and IDB grants, the health sector has managed to provide the needed fuel to sustain the health care delivery until the middle of August 2018. **In less than a month**, unless the funding is secured, the health sector in Gaza will be put in a dire situation putting patients' lives at risk.

To make it worse, operation of generators and their maintenance impose extra burden on the health system given overuse of these generators, challenges in procuring additional generators and spare parts, which are classified as dual-use items.

The least monthly amount of fuel needed to meet the demand of the MOH 13 hospitals is 450,000 liters.

In the light of the unstable overall situation in Gaza Strip, and funding shortfalls, the Palestinian Ministry of Health calls on all its partners, humanitarian and aid agencies, the wider international community to undertake prompt actions and mobilize efforts towards securing funds for fuel needed to maintain a minimum level of medical care.

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