

HIGHLIGHTS

- A nearly 60 per cent increase in active cases in Gaza; significant decline in the West Bank.
- About 250,000 Palestinians have been vaccinated, (excluding East Jerusalem), with 170,000 receiving both doses.
- Health partners are requesting an additional \$36 million to respond to increased COVID-19 needs.

COVID-19 CASES IN OPT

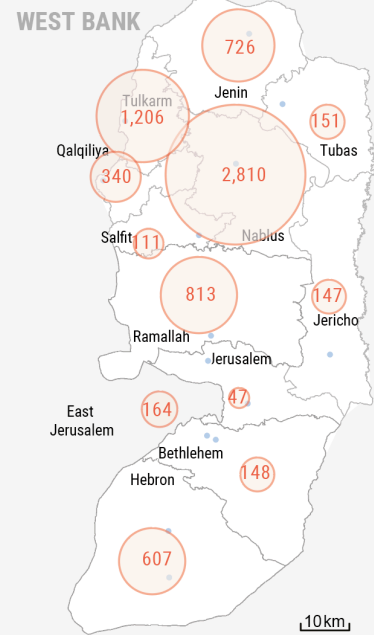
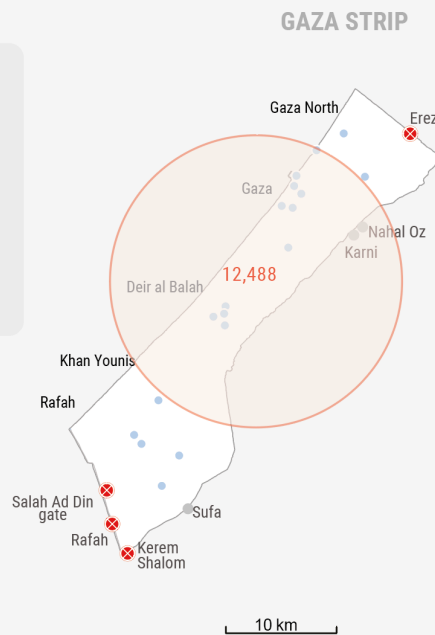
325,967 CONFIRMED CASES

19,758 ACTIVE CASES

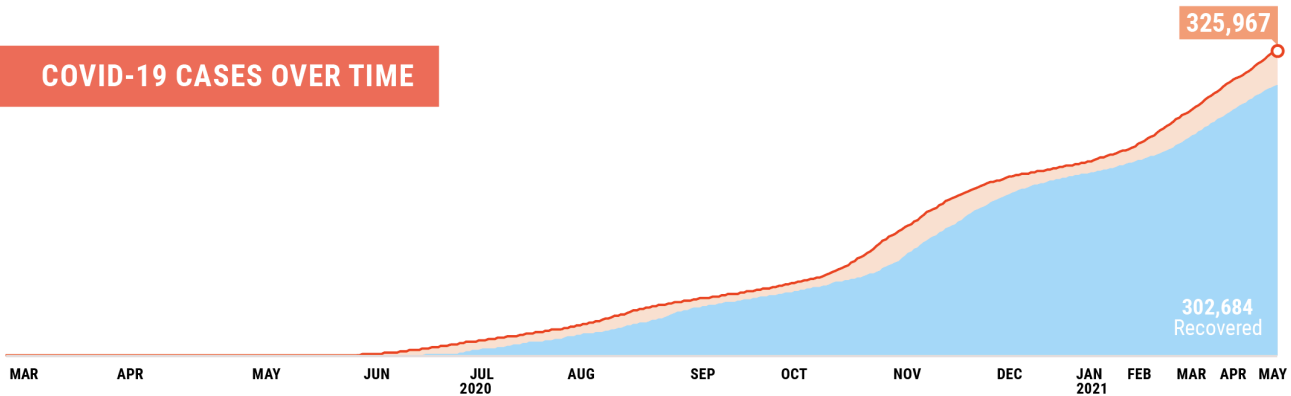
302,684 RECOVERED

3,525 DEATHS

- Active Cases
- Quarantine Centre
- ⊗ Crossing Point
- Closed Crossing Point



COVID-19 CASES OVER TIME



19,758	325,967	3,525	250,000
Active Cases	Cumulative Cases	Fatalities	Palestinians Vaccinated (exc. East Jerusalem)

SITUATION OVERVIEW

April witnessed a 20 per cent increase in active COVID-19 cases in the oPt, with 55,089 additional Palestinians testing positive, and 59,716 people recovering, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health (MoH). The cumulative number of cases is 325,967, with 302,684 people recovered from the virus. The number of patients in intensive care units (ICU) declined from 209 at the end of March to 146, with those requiring mechanical ventilation falling from 68 to 43.

A total of 644 people died during April, compared with 622 in March, bringing to 3,525 the cumulative number of fatalities due to the virus: 2,626 in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and 899 in the Gaza Strip. The Case Fatality Rate (CFR), the proportion of deaths among confirmed cases, remains at 1.1 per cent in the oPt, compared with 0.76 in Israel, but less than 1.24 per cent in Jordan, and 5.86 per cent in Egypt.

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, there was a 58 per cent decrease overall in active cases in April, from 17,112 to 7,270. After a sharp surge in March, active cases in Gaza again increased by 58 per cent overall in April, from 7,917 to 12,488. By the end of the month, Gaza accounted for 63 per cent of all active cases in the oPt, compared with 32 per cent at the end of March. In the West Bank, the Nablus governorate registered 14 per cent of all active cases in the oPt, followed by Tulkarm (six per cent), Ramallah and Al-Bireh (four per cent), and Jenin (four per cent).

Although the daily number of active cases in Gaza was declining by the end of the month, ICU bed occupancy was 60 per cent and over 80 per cent in the West Bank. The more contagious B.1.1.7 variant, first identified in the UK, is driving the vast majority of cases in both the West Bank and Gaza, while the new B1.351 variant, initially detected in South Africa, has also recently been identified in the West Bank. Various levels of restriction continue in the West Bank and especially in Gaza; see below.

The Health Cluster continues to mobilize resources to respond to increased COVID-19 needs, beyond what had been included in the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan. Partners are requesting an additional US\$36,821,796 to cover needs from April to December, focusing on diagnostics, case management, Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) supplies and Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE).

Vaccines

Depending on their residency status and where they work, Palestinians may be vaccinated by either the Palestinian authorities or the Israeli authorities. So far, 253,937 Palestinians have been vaccinated by one of these authorities, 217,441 in the West Bank (beyond East Jerusalem), and 36,496 in Gaza. These include about 110,000 Palestinians working in Israel or in Israeli settlements, who received their second dose from the Israeli authorities on 20 April. These figures represent about five per cent of the total Palestinian population, and eight per cent of those targeted for vaccination, according to the PA MoH. Of these, 172,916 have received a second dose; 147,170 in the West Bank; and 25,746 in Gaza. Updated figures for the number of Palestinians vaccinated in East Jerusalem based on their Israeli residency status is not available.

The Palestinian National COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign began in March, with the arrival of approximately 60,000 vaccines procured through the Gavi COVAX AMC Facility. Through the same mechanism, another 72,000 doses of Oxford-AstraZenica arrived on 19 April; approximately 110,000 Oxford-AstraZenica vaccines are expected imminently and 100,000 Pfizer BioNTech doses by the end of June. Through COVAX, the Palestinian Authority (PA) is eligible to receive donor-funded vaccines for up to 20 per cent of its population and has applied for more doses to cover an additional 40 per cent of the population from its own budget. On 13 April, 48,000 AstraZeneca vaccines arrived from India, the second consignment of a total of two million vaccines purchased by the PA. (See *Vaccine Tracking* chart below).

The Israeli authorities are continuing their vaccination programme, which is also available to Palestinians in East Jerusalem, and ranks first globally for [per capita vaccinations](#), with over fifty-four per cent of the population fully vaccinated. A number of Israeli, Palestinian and international health and human rights organizations, as well as Israeli health officials, have called on the Israeli authorities to ensure that vaccines are equally and fairly provided to Palestinians living under occupation in the West Bank and Gaza. On 25 March, six Israeli and Palestinian human rights organizations submitted a [petition](#) to the High Court demanding that Israel provides vaccines to Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. A reply is expected by 3 May.

Vaccine Tracking

Vaccine Tracking (as of 21-Apr-2021)				
Status	Vaccine	No. of doses	Source	Notes
378,440 doses in total, including 132,100 to Gaza (20,000 doses are still to be delivered: 10,000 of Sinopharm and 10,000 of AZ)	Moderna	2,000	IL	Donation
	Sputnik V	10,000	RU	Donation – 2,000 doses were sent to Gaza
		60,000	UAE	Donation to Gaza only. Last shipment of 40,000 doses arrived 12-Mar-2021
	AZ SK Bio	24,000	COVAX	First shipment (1 of 3) 24,000 doses arrived 16 March 2021: WB-14,400; Gaza – 9,600
	Pfizer	37,440	COVAX	Arrived 17 Mar 2021. The shipment delivered to WB-25,740 and Gaza - 11,700
	Sinopharm	100	China	Donation arrived 29 Mar 2021. delivered to Nablus Cold Store. 10,000 to be delivered to Gaza.
	AZ SII	25,000	PA MoH	Arrived 30 Mar 2021 - PA Bilateral purchase from AZ - Serum Institute of India
	AZ	48,000	PA MoH	Arrived 13 April 2021 – PA bilateral purchase from AZ-R-Pharm (part of 2.0M order): Gaza – 10,000 doses (to be delivered)
	AZ	72,000	COVAX	Arrived 19 April 2021 (2 of 3): WB – 43,200 doses; Gaza – 28,800 doses
In pipeline: COVAX (estimated)	AZ SKBio	Up to 240,000 - 405,000 doses	COVAX	ETA Mar to June 2021 in several batches. 168,000 doses are expected to arrive until May 2021. Third shipment estimated 112,800 doses expected end April 2021: WB – 67,700, Gaza – 45,100 According to COVAX – delays expected
	Pfizer	102,960	COVAX	To be delivered most likely end of Q2, up to 8 weeks after signing the PO
In pipeline: Donation (estimated)	Sinopharm	25,000	Jordan	Bilateral donation from Jordanian private company
	Sputnik V	50,000	RU	Under negotiation
In pipeline: Bilateral Deals (estimated)	AZ-Russia	2,000,000	PA purchase	In progress (48,000 doses delivered 13 April, see above)
	Pfizer	100,000	PA purchase	To be finalized. No additional information
	Sputnik V	100,000	PA purchase	Under negotiation

Vaccinations Tracking (as of 28-Apr-2021)			
	West Bank	Gaza	Total
Vaccinated	217,441	36,496	253,937
Of the vaccinated, number who have received two doses	147,170	25,746	172,916

West Bank

Despite a significant decrease in active cases in April, the healthcare system in the West Bank is still struggling with the high numbers of hospital admissions, an ICU bed occupancy of 83 per cent and 40 patients on ventilators. In the southern West Bank, the number of patients in treatment centres witnessed a significant decline, but the occupancy rate in the Nablus treatment centres, including both private and government facilities, was still between 85 and 95 per cent by the end of the month.

On 3 April, the PA announced that West Bank restrictions will continue until 3 May, with restaurants, shops, cafes, businesses, companies and ministries operating at 30 per cent capacity. On 10 April, the PA announced that for the month of Ramadan, which started on 13 April, shops and restaurants would be allowed to open until 22:00, while the lockdown will continue on Fridays, except for pharmacies and bakeries,

On 11 April, in-person learning resumed for grades 1 to 6 and on 20 April for grades 7 to 11, with vaccination ongoing for teachers.

During the month of Ramadan, the Israeli authorities have allowed entry into East Jerusalem for Friday prayers to all Palestinians aged 55 years and over, if vaccinated and registered on the Israeli MoH database. Those below 55 need a permit, in addition to being fully vaccinated. On the first Friday of Ramadan, 16 April, the Israeli authorities denied entry into East Jerusalem of about 90 per cent of those who had assembled at the Qalandiya, Gilo and Zaytoun checkpoints, reportedly because they did not have a permit or were not fully vaccinated.

East Jerusalem witnessed a significant improvement during April, with just 146 active cases of COVID-19. St. Joseph's, the main COVID-19 hospital, closed its two coronavirus-dedicated units (50-bed capacity) on 19 April 2021, due to the decreased numbers of patients. As of 21 April, there were only six patients in Al Makased and three patients in Augusta Victoria Hospital. By mid-April, approximately 150,000 residents of East Jerusalem had received their first dose, of whom 130,000 had received their second dose.

Citing the lack of building permits, during April, the Israeli authorities demolished or confiscated 23 Palestinian-owned structures in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, displacing 13 people, including nine children, and otherwise affected the livelihoods, or access to services, of over 100 others. Of these, 13 were in Area C, including one structure that had been provided as humanitarian assistance. Ten of the structures, or 43 per cent, were confiscated, a practice that has been on the rise in recent years. Since the start of Ramadan, which has traditionally witnessed a decline in demolitions, a total of three structures were seized, significantly lower than the previous two years: 42 in 2020 and 13 in 2019.

Gaza Strip

In Gaza, 35,882 new COVID-19 cases were recorded in April, with the number of active cases increasing by 58 per cent. The cumulative caseload since the start of the pandemic is 101,470, with 80,000 recovered. 288 people died in April, compared with 28 in March, bringing the overall fatality toll to 899.

In the last week of the month, an average of 2,500 tests were conducted daily, with a positivity rate of 30 per cent. The overall occupancy rate of COVID-19 dedicated hospital beds in Gaza is 57 per cent, with 334 of 627 beds occupied. Currently, 44 of the 77 ICU beds are occupied, with nine patients requiring ventilation. Some 334 people are in isolation in the designated hospitals, 13,276 are in home isolation and 9,363 in home quarantine.

On 6 April, in response to the surge in active cases, the local authorities imposed a prohibition on vehicular movement on Fridays and Saturdays, and from sunset to 06:00 on weekdays. Schools, universities, wedding halls and weekly open markets were closed until further notice, with all in-person learning still suspended. On 20 April, the authorities imposed a total night lockdown from sunset until 05:00, during which all pedestrian and vehicular movement is prohibited and shops are closed. On 27 April, a compulsory quarantine in designated facilities was

imposed on travelers entering Gaza from India and Bangladesh. The authorities also announced that they will take stronger legal measures against violators of home isolation/quarantine, including compulsory quarantine in the Khan Younis Rehabilitation Centre.

For an interactive map of isolation and quarantine facilities in Gaza see the [OCHA website](#).

The Rafah crossing with Egypt remained open, with 5,137 entries and 5,261 exits recorded during the month. The entry of goods continued from Israel through the Israeli Kerem Shalom Crossing with, as it did via the Rafah Crossing with Egypt. On a daily average, since the beginning of 2021, about 80 Palestinians have entered Gaza through the Erez Crossing on working days.

COORDINATION

Responses to COVID-19 related needs during 2021 have been mainstreamed in virtually all humanitarian activities planned for the year and included in the [2021 Humanitarian Response Plan](#) for the oPt. The Plan requires \$417 million in order to deliver assistance to 1.8 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, including East Jerusalem. An additional \$36,821,796 has been requested to cover needs from April to December 2021, in light of the recent surge in infections.

Coordination Forums

In early February, it was agreed that the Inter-Agency COVID-19 Task Force, led by the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC), would be convened on an 'as needed' basis and that response to COVID-19 should be incorporated into the key strategic decision making forums of the Humanitarian Country Team and the Humanitarian Country Team Plus Meetings as well as the UN Country Team as a standing agenda item. If there is a significant change in the context demanding a specific response, an *ad hoc* Task Force Meeting will be convened. In the meantime, the sub national Inter-Cluster Coordination Groups in both Gaza and the West Bank, continue to convene regularly, to coordinate the implementation of various responses to the crisis.

Access

In April, the RC/HC's Access Coordination Unit (ACU) facilitated 22 UN and diplomatic missions into and out of Gaza. Due to tightened restrictions in April by the local authorities in Gaza, including restrictions on vehicular movement at weekends, the ACU coordinated a total of 155 critical UN and NGO missions.

After extensive negotiations with the Israeli authorities following the airport closure in January, from 8 April, the ACU succeeded in restarting the ad-hoc mechanism for International NGO staff members to enter Israel. Since then, INGOs submitted requests for 58 staff members/dependents, of which 33 were approved and the people concerned have arrived, 24 are in process, and one has been denied. The ACU continues to negotiate with the Israeli authorities regarding the reopening of crossings to international staff without conditions.

Procurement

The Health Cluster is tracking the procurement and delivery of critical medical supplies by cluster partners against the needs identified in the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan. The table below highlights the availability and gaps regarding the most important medical items needed. All partners are encouraged to subscribe and submit their requests for procurement of medical supplies for laboratory testing, case management and infection prevention and control through WHO's global COVID-19 response coordination portal.

Supplies Tracking:

Supplies Tracking:						
Supply Category	Item / Unit	Estimated Requirements (based on 2021 HRP COVID-19 caseload + upsurge needs)	Delivered	Pipeline	Current Gap	Notes
Case Management	Ventilator, medical, invasive, adult/child	100	98	108	-106	38 adult ventilators, donation from King Salman Centre for Relief and Humanitarian Action in Jordan 45 delivered by UNICEF, not from the pipeline
	Patient Monitor (vital signs)	250	77	157	16	37 delivered by UNICEF, 6 from the pipeline
	Oxygen Concentrator	250	55	80	115	5 by UNICEF not from the pipeline
	ICU Hospital Beds	200	78	38	84	72 Delivered by UNICEF, 41 from the pipeline 6 Delivered by WHO, not from the pipeline
	Patient Beds, ea	500	60	279	161	40 added to the pipeline by WHO
Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)	Surgical Mask	8,200,000	530,400	614,050	7,055,550	20,000 added to the pipeline by QRC
	N-95 Respirator	630,000	7,000	75,880	547,120	
	Surgical gloves	16,400,000	1,332,000	2,614,922	12,453,078	20,900 added to the pipeline by QRC
Laboratory Testing	COVID-19 PCR Tests	1,100,000	91,440	39,800	968,760	1,000 delivered by WHO, not from the pipeline 35,000 added to the pipeline by WHO
	COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Tests	1,500,000	200,000	155,000	1,145,000	100,000 delivered by WHO, from the pipeline 105,000 added to the pipeline by WHO
	Swabs / Medium, sample collection	2,600,000	150,000	80,100	2,369,900	30,000 added to the pipeline by WHO
	RNA Extraction Kits (2000/Kit)	700	99		601	

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

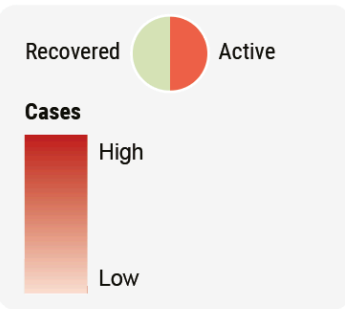
The national Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) campaign continues to target media outlets and governorates with COVID-19 messaging, aimed at promoting adherence to public health measures, including face covering, hand-washing, physical distancing, and avoiding mass gatherings. In addition, following the roll-out of the mass vaccination campaign, the focus of RCCE messaging has broadened to include information about vaccines and the importance of vaccination, in an effort to increase demand for vaccination on the part of the population. Messaging continues to be conducted via the distribution of brochures, text messaging, daily radio advertising and sharing of influencer videos. RCCE materials are [available online](#).

COVID-19 CONFIRMED CASES IN OPT (as of 05 May 2021)

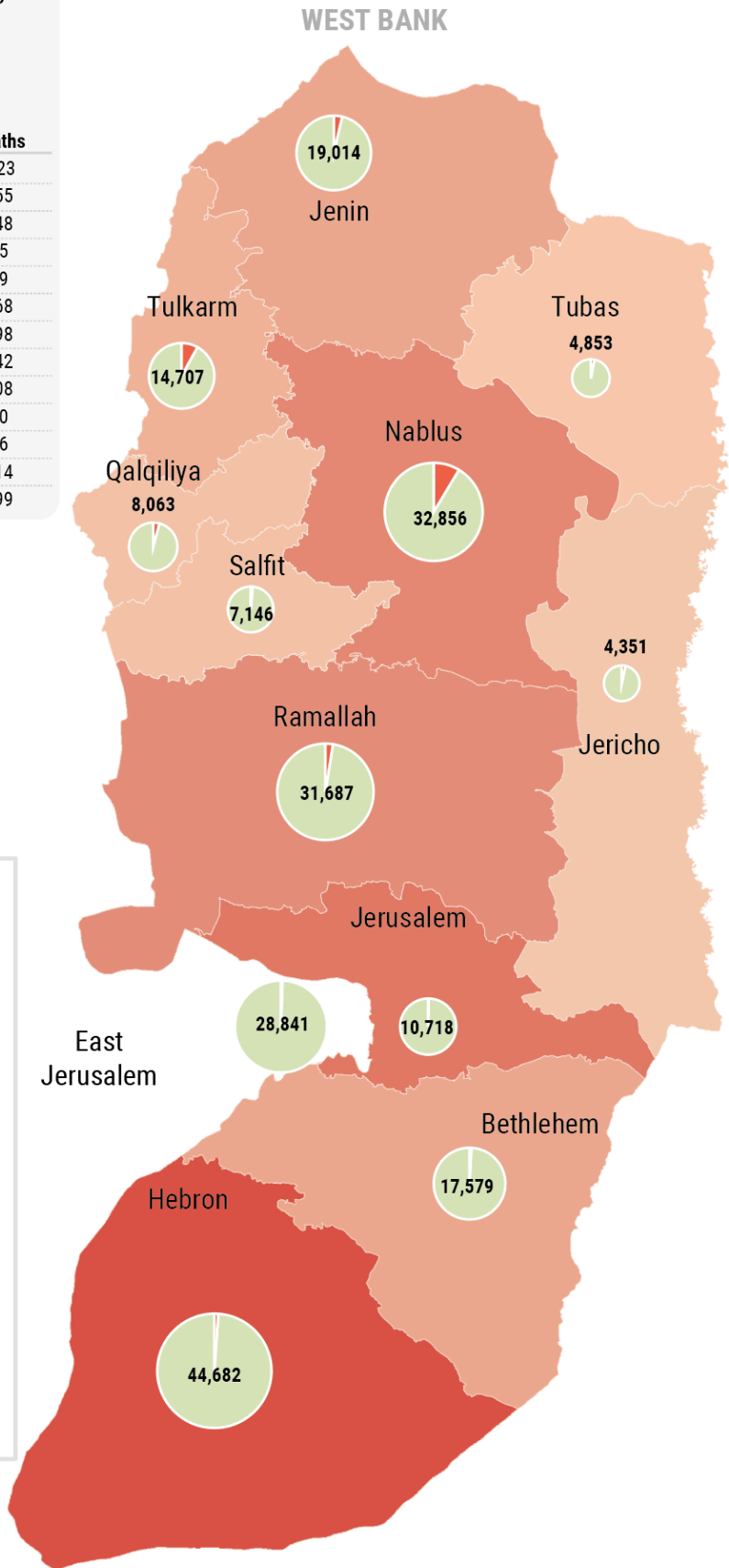
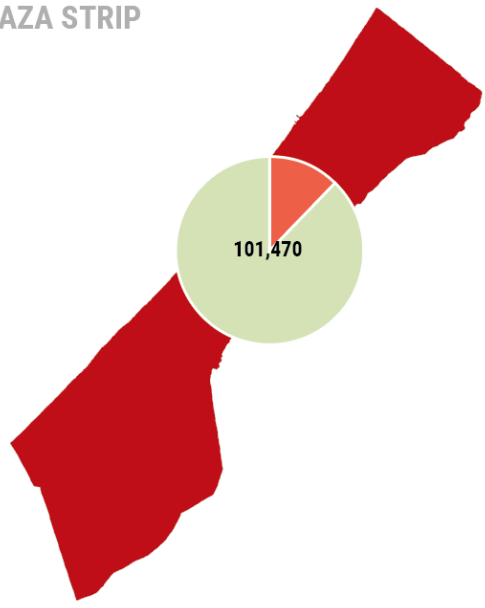


Total Cases 325,967
Recovered 302,684
Active Cases 19,758

Governorate	Cases	Recovered	Active	Deaths
Bethlehem	17,579	17,208	148	223
Hebron	44,682	43,520	607	555
Jenin	19,014	18,040	726	248
Jericho	4,351	4,159	147	45
Jerusalem (Ex. EJ)	10,718	10,582	47	89
East Jerusalem	28,841	28,409	164	268
Nablus	32,856	29,648	2,810	398
Qalqilya	8,063	7,581	340	142
Ramallah	31,687	30,566	813	308
Salfit	7,146	6,955	111	80
Tubas	4,853	4,646	151	56
Tulkarm	14,707	13,287	1,206	214
Gaza Strip	101,470	88,083	12,488	899



GAZA STRIP



Data Source: Ministry of Health

For more information including a detailed list of activities by cluster in both Gaza and the West Bank and for detailed maps of the Quarantine Centres please visit the COVID 19 Webpage found on the OCHA Website. Please go to the OCHA Website:

[OCHA COVID-19 DEDICATED WEBPAGE](#)
[DETAILED LIST OF ACTIVITIES BY CLUSTER](#)
