

Emergency Medical Response under extreme conditions: CADUS's Response in Gaza



Cadus
international
disaster response

Gaza 2025: Photo: Mattia Bricoli



Tens of thousands of people have been killed and hundreds of thousands injured in the Gaza war. Millions of people depend on humanitarian response. Many live in extremely cramped conditions with little access to medical emergency response.

As the first and only German Emergency Medical Team (EMT), CADUS has been providing emergency medical aid in Gaza since February 2024.





Gaza, January 2025 Photo: Mattia Bidoli

Hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced multiple times within Gaza and separated from their families. **People are trapped in this tiny territory and exposed to the fighting.**

Humanitarian relief is massively obstructed by Israel. The Gaza Strip is extensively destroyed, and shortages are widespread. Only about half of all health facilities remain even partially operational. Time and again, **medical staff and humanitarian workers are also killed** – most of them Palestinians. They are doing outstanding work under the most adverse conditions.



Yet, and precisely because of this, we have a team on the ground in Gaza providing emergency medical care, conducting trainings, and carrying out specialized patient transports. Through this work, we have already been able to help several thousand people.

In the face of crises, division, and injustice, our answer remains:

#GlobalSolidarityNow!



Gaza 2025; Photo: Mattia Bidoli



Saving lives, relieving suffering, and preventing further hardship.

Every person should have access to help when they need it and the opportunity to become self-sufficient by building their own capacities.

That's why we work in Gaza together with partners such as the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) on creative, needs-based solutions. We share our knowledge through trainings and, in this spirit, advocate for sustainable, respectful humanitarian relief.



Factor War Zone

Our response in Gaza is highly challenging, above all in terms of the team's safety. We are operating in an **active war zone**, where humanitarian workers, medical staff, and civilian infrastructure are also targeted by attacks. The situation on the ground is highly volatile and can change within the shortest time.

The work of humanitarian organizations is repeatedly obstructed by the parties to the conflict.

Our teams, too, have already faced arbitrary treatment, threats, and attacks by the Israeli army.

Logistics are also extremely difficult to organize.

Strict rules apply even to humanitarian goods and medical equipment. Limited usability of border crossings further complicates planning for transports and team rotations..

In such an emotionally and politically charged conflict, public communications is also a challenge. Upholding humanitarian principles is therefore all the more important to us.



Rescue workers and humanitarian workers, too, keep falling victim to Israeli attacks on Gaza. Photo: CADUS



Gaza March 2025, Photo: CADUS

CADUS's Response in Gaza

In a largely destroyed health infrastructure, rapid help can mean the difference between life and death. CADUS helps close critical gaps in care exactly where they're needed.

- **Medical Evacuations (MedEvacs):** Safe transfer of patients between medical facilities.
- **Field Hospital:** Support for a field hospital run by PRCS (Palestine Red Crescent Society).
- **Emergency Response Team:** The Emergency Response Team (ERT) provides medical support for the operations of UN and international non-governmental organizations, including OCHA, WFP, UNICEF, WHO, UNMAS, and UNDSS, during convoy movements and situational assessments in high-risk areas.
- **Trainings:** Our medical trainings teach knowledge and techniques that can save lives in an emergency, training both local medical colleagues and, above all, people without a medical background.



* Glossary:

OCHA: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs WFP:

World Food Programme

UNICEF: United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

WHO: World Health Organization

UNMAS: United Nations Mine Action Service

UNDSS: United Nations Department of Safety and Security



Medizinische Evakuierung, Gaza 2025



Medical Evacuations (MedEvacs)

In coordination with the **WHO** and partner organizations such as **PRCS** (Palestine Red Crescent Society), CADUS carries out medical evacuations to transfer **critically injured** and **severely ill patients** between medical facilities or to bring them abroad for further treatment.

These responses take place in a highly volatile environment, marked by destroyed infrastructure, restricted access, and scarce resources.

Despite these challenges, CADUS ensures medical care during transport, responds flexibly to dynamic situations, and helps sustain life-saving care even under the most difficult conditions.



According to WHO estimates*, **18,500** patients within the Gaza Strip have no adequate treatment option available.

Most hospitals are destroyed, specialized staff have been killed, and there is a shortage of medical equipment and supplies.

As a result, many operations cannot be performed within Gaza, and chronic illnesses go untreated. For cancer patients, for example, the only hope is treatment abroad.

*Source:
https://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/palestine/Sitrep_70b_late_st_1.pdf



Photo: Gaza 2025, Mattia Bidoli

Avery Cox
CADUS Head of Mission Gaza

“Nothing about moving patients in Gaza is predictable – every transfer is a medical, operational, and emotional challenge.”

Medical Evacuation



Photo: Gaza 2025, Mattia Bidoli

In Numbers: What the 2025 medical evacuations achieved

102
patients evacuated

Men
55

Women
47

Distance covered
2,243 Km

* Period: 01.01.-01.12.2025

*** Note: Behind every number is a person with a story.*





Types of injury by frequency Period 01.01.-31.12.2025 *

- 50,98 %** Medical condition
- 22,55 %** Fractures (broken bones)
- 21,57 %** Blunt trauma
(e.g., blast trauma)
- 16,67 %** Other
- 11,76 %** Amputations
- 10,78 %** Penetrating injuries
(e.g., gunshot or shrapnel wounds)
- 6,86 %** Burns
- 1,96 %** Mental health
(e.g., schizophrenia or PTSD)
- 0,98 %** Protection
- 0,98 %** Pregnancy / obstetric care

*Multiple selections possible



What the medical evacuations achieved in 2025

* Period: 01.01.-31.07.2026

135
patients evacuated

Men
79

Women
56

*** Note: Behind every number is a
person with a story.*



Voices from our CADUS team in Gaza



Nermen Kullab
CADUS anesthesia &
resuscitation
practitioner

Every day, our teams support field hospitals and trauma stabilization points as needed, and carry out medical evacuations. Behind this help are people who give everything, day after day.

One of them is our CADUS colleague Nermen Kullab. Born and raised in Gaza, she works as an anesthesia and emergency medicine specialist.

"Ever since I was little, we've experienced war after war in Gaza. And I hated not being able to do anything."

That experience shaped her. Even as a child, she knew she wanted to help people affected by war or other crises. That's why she trained in emergency medicine, hoping to one day work for a humanitarian organization.

Together with her colleagues, she treats patients in field hospitals, accompanies severely ill or injured patients during medical evacuations, and cares for people every day under the most difficult conditions and constant danger.

Some encounters she will never forget: a young girl who lost her mother and sister in an attack. Or a pregnant woman who gave birth to her son on the very day she lost her husband and almost her entire family.

And yet, she gets up again every morning.

"Every time I can help even a single person, I'm grateful."

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Being able to help gives Nermen the strength to keep going. At the same time, she deeply worries about the future of Gaza's children. She hopes they will regain access to education, health care, and a safe daily life, and that they won't be forgotten.

For this hope to endure, it takes people who keep paying attention and who make humanitarian response possible.

"Many people have already died because they couldn't get the treatment they needed here. That's why significantly more medical evacuations need to be made possible. At the same time, more medicine and medical supplies need to reach the country."

CADUS Interview, July 2026.



Photos on the right: The CADUS team carrying out medical evacuations of patients. All age groups are represented.



Photo: CADUS, Gaza, 2025

Emergency Response Team (ERT)

The Emergency Response Team (ERT) in Gaza is a cross-organizational UN support element operating in **high-risk** and complex **humanitarian environments**.

The ERT does not carry out independent operations itself. Instead, it **supports UN agencies** and **international organizations** in making their operations safer and more effective. The **medical component is provided by CADUS**, ensuring pre-hospital care, triage, and evacuation support for humanitarian personnel and partner organizations.

Trainings

CADUS conducts C-TECC-certified trainings in both Arabic and English, taking cultural specifics into account. A C-TECC training (Tactical Emergency Casualty Care) teaches medical and tactical skills for treating the severely injured in high-risk and threat situations. The courses follow the official guidelines of an international committee.

In a war zone like Gaza, these trainings help people care for their own family, friends, and neighbors in an emergency.

Beyond the acute situation, the trainings also strengthen local communities' capacity for self-help.



The focus areas of this training in December 2025 included, among other things, the essential steps of first aid, as well as effective control and initial treatment of bleeding and trauma. Especially in conflict-affected regions like Gaza, fast and competent initial care is of critical importance.

Photo: CADUS, Gaza 2025

In 2025, our emergency response achieved the following

* Period: 01.01.-01.12.2025

279

MCI patients treated
(Mass Casualty Incidents)

1.852

TSP patients treated
(Trauma / Primary Health Care)

102

patients evacuated
(Medical Evacuations)

24

Training Sessions
conducted

351

people trained and given
medical instruction



And in the first half of 2026, we
achieved the following:

* Period: 01.01.-31.07.2026

62

MCI patients treated
(Mass Casualty Incidents)

6.008

field hospital patients treated
(support for the Palestine Red Crescent Society)

135

patients evacuated
(medical evacuations)

34

Training Sessions
conducted

465

people trained and given
medical instruction



Behind these numbers are people whose lives would have been in acute danger without rapid stabilization, safe transport, and functioning structures.

Every single response shows how urgently this work is needed, and how much it achieves. For CADUS to continue carrying out medical evacuations, supporting field hospitals, and running trainings, we need support.



With the help of donations, we make possible:

- Stabilizing severely injured patients
- Preparing and repeatedly carrying out medical evacuations
- Procuring urgently needed medicines
- Deploying experienced emergency teams under extreme conditions
- Medical trainings that teach life-saving skills

Donate [here](#) for our Gaza response.

The humanitarian needs remain enormous. Even more effective is a recurring donation. It allows us to stay flexible and respond faster in extreme situations, and it strengthens our operational capacity and independence.

[Support regularly.](#)

Scan the QR code to go to the donation form.



Specifically, donations for Gaza are used, among other things, for:

- Medical equipment, supplies & medicines
- Rescue vehicles & repairs
- Safety and security measures
- Response coordination
- Response technology & logistics
- (Medical) response personnel
- Technical equipment
- Trainings & capacity building



Accountability is one of our core principles. That includes transparency about how our funds are raised and used. We are part of the Initiative Transparente Zivilgesellschaft (Transparent Civil Society Initiative). Find out more [here](#).

If you have questions about your donation, you can reach us anytime at spenden@cadus.org.



Press coverage



WHO Podcast

In this episode, our emergency responders talk about the challenges of medical evacuations and emergency care in Gaza under conflict conditions.

01/05/2026

[Listen to the podcast](#)

Their colleagues are dead, but these aid workers refuse to leave Gaza

After an Israeli airstrike killed seven humanitarian workers, those choosing to stay share their experiences of the dangers of their work on the ground and weigh up future operations

The Times

"Their colleagues are dead but these aid workers refuse to leave Gaza"

04/06/2024

[Read the Article](#)



WHO YouTube Channel

"Emergency Medical Teams in Gaza: Saving lives and preserving health"

04/04/ 2024

[Watch the Video](#)

Thank you for
your attention!

