

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

People in need of health assistance ¹

3 MILLION

People targeted of health assistance¹

2.7 MILLION

Funding requirement

US\$ 296.2 MILLION

¹Health figures from 2025 Humanitarian Response Plan

CONTEXT

Since October 2023, the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) has plunged millions of people into devastating conflict, political turmoil, and economic instability. The health system in the Gaza Strip continues to be systematically dismantled and devastated by attacks. Over 45 500 Palestinians have been killed between the onset of the conflict and 31 December 2024. More than 108 000 Palestinians have been injured, with over 25% of the people injured suffering from life-changing injuries. In addition to the risk to lives and livelihoods driven by the conflict, many in Gaza are suffering from a lack of access to the basic means of survival. The risk of famine persists across the whole of Gaza, and about 1.84 million people across the Gaza Strip are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity. The lack of humanitarian and health access to the people of Gaza throughout the conflict, coupled with the impacts of the ongoing hostilities, has driven rising levels of malnutrition, gender-based violence and death as well as outbreaks of diseases including acute diarrheal and respiratory diseases and polio. Damage to essential infrastructure, including the destruction of many of the hospitals and health facilities in the Gaza Strip, has impacted health and wellbeing across the board, with many Palestinians unable to access essential and continuing health care for chronic conditions, prenatal and postnatal support and infant care, mental health and rehabilitative services, and other urgent health needs, in addition to the death, displacement and injury caused by conflict.

Severe restrictions on humanitarian actors and their ability to operate continues to be an impediment to fully facilitating humanitarian operations, including the provision of life-saving health care and essential goods and services. More than 3 million people in Gaza and the West Bank need urgent support, and there remains a considerable risk that the conflict will worsen and the humanitarian situation will continue to deteriorate. Between October 2023 and January 2025, WHO has verified 654 attacks on health care in Gaza, causing acute strain on the health system, limiting the capacity to manage trauma cases, and impacting already scarce resources for surgical interventions and post-operative care. Additionally, WHO estimated that over 12 000 patients need to be evacuated out of Gaza to receive urgent and specialised care. There are widespread shortages of medical supplies, including essential medications, surgical tools, basic infection prevention supplies, diagnostic equipment and electricity and fuel.



I was injured in Gaza. I am very happy now as after three months of waiting, I am finally traveling abroad to receive a prosthetic limb and continue my treatment so I can walk again. Thanks to WHO, I was moved from the north to the south to start my journey abroad. Thank God, tomorrow they will support us with traveling abroad.

Sara Marzouk, patient



Sara Marzouk awaits medical evacuation.
Photo credit: WHO

just
KEEP
going

WHO'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- 1. Maintain life-saving essential health services:** Ensure the provision of critical, life-saving health care services, including emergency medical support, essential supplies, and operational referral pathways, to address urgent health needs in crisis settings.
- 2. Strengthen public health intelligence, early warning, prevention and control of communicable diseases:** Enhance disease surveillance and diagnostic systems to improve early detection and response to outbreaks. Strengthen Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures, ensure the availability of medical supplies, and improve WASH facilities to mitigate the spread of communicable diseases.
- 3. Coordinate health emergency efforts (coordination, communication and advocacy):** Lead coordination of the health cluster to ensure a unified and efficient response. Advocate for public health priorities and scale up emergency medical support.
- 4. Strengthen early recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction and support the development of the health sector component of the Conflict Recovery Framework:** Support the transition from emergency response to recovery by rehabilitating health care facilities and integrating risk-reduction measures into reconstruction efforts. Collaborate with governance structures, donors, and private sector partners to develop a sustainable health sector recovery framework that supports long-term resilience and development.

With support from WHO and partners, we were able to re-open Nasser Medical Complex after its destruction in February 2024, overcoming incredible challenges to restore vital health services. The hospital's capacity was initially expanded from 350 to 500 beds. However, with the rising number of patients, WHO provided additional support to add 88 more beds through a new extension. Today, Nasser Medical Complex is once again the largest referral hospital in Gaza, especially in southern Gaza.

Dr Atef Mohammed Al-Hamoud, Director General of Nasser Medical Complex



Children receiving the polio vaccine in the northern Gaza Strip.
Photo credit: WHO

WHO 2025 RESPONSE STRATEGY

In 2024, WHO collaborated with Health Cluster partners in Gaza to facilitate over 10 million primary health care consultations and 605 421 trauma and emergency consultations, ensuring access to critical health and nutrition services for affected populations.

Key achievements include 683 503 children immunized against vaccine-preventable diseases, more than 556 000 children under 10 vaccinated against polio in a two-round campaign and 448 425 children receiving Vitamin A supplements. Additionally, 244 693 antenatal consultations, 386 414 postnatal consultations and 1.9 million consultations for non-communicable disease (NCD) management were conducted. There were 1.8 million consultations providing basic psychosocial support and psychological first aid, while 108 244 rehabilitation consultations and 5403 assistive devices were provided to those in need. The Health Cluster also supported the coordination of operational needs, with partners procuring US\$ 130.2 million in health supplies and equipment, delivering \$81.3 million in aid, and ensuring the coordination and prioritization of consumption of 8.6 million litres of fuel to sustain health operations. These efforts underscore the vital role of WHO and its partners in addressing urgent health needs amidst challenging conditions. WHO and the Health Cluster evaluated 106 health facilities across Gaza on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), trained 749 social mobilizers and received and handled over 150 00 calls reporting abuse and harassment.

WHO and health cluster partners in the West Bank delivered 500 000 primary health care consultations, including services in refugee camps and marginalized communities through mobile clinics. Over 146 000 people in 176 locations accessed primary health care services, while 200 000 people benefited from medical supplies provided by partners. With support from WHO, the cluster partners provided 13 000 trauma-related consultations, 23 000 rehabilitation consultations, and distributed 1730 assistive devices to those in need. To strengthen community capacity, 3500 volunteers were trained in first aid, and 380 health workers received training in life-saving techniques. Mental health and psychosocial support reached 83 000 individuals, ensuring a comprehensive response to health challenges across the West Bank. These achievements highlight WHO's commitment to addressing health needs alongside its partners in a complex humanitarian landscape.

OPERATIONAL PRESENCE

The WHO Office in the oPt operates through its head office in east Jerusalem and teams in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The office comprises approximately 148 staff, including both international and national personnel distributed across various technical and operational roles, 56 staff in east Jerusalem and the West Bank and 92 within the Gaza team. Such field presence ensures that WHO provides operational support to the ongoing emergency response and continues to provide evidence-based strategic public health advice to the health authorities and partners.

The Health Emergencies and Health System Strengthening teams play a pivotal role in addressing the pre-existing health challenges and those intensified by the crisis in Gaza and the West Bank. Experts work to strengthen health systems, enhance emergency preparedness and response and build public health resilience. Technical specialists focus on key areas such as mental health, trauma care, non-communicable diseases, public health intelligence, outbreak response, and maternal and child health and nutrition – essential services that are significantly impacted by ongoing violence and limited access to care. The Operations team facilitates operational support, logistics, procurement and administrative support across oPt, often navigating significant challenges posed by blockades and security risks. Specialists in grant management, monitoring and evaluation, and donor relations ensure that resources are mobilized and utilized effectively, providing accountability to donors and addressing immediate humanitarian needs. Through this structured and responsive framework, WHO oPt strives to address the critical health challenges posed by the current crisis, ensuring that life-saving assistance reaches those in need while working to rebuild and strengthen the health system for early recovery and long-term resilience building.

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

Since its establishment in January 2009, the health cluster in the oPt has coordinated humanitarian health responses across the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including east Jerusalem. Led by WHO and co-chaired by the Palestinian Ministry of Health, the cluster comprises 75 active partners: 40 international NGOs, 29 national NGOs, 5 UN agencies and 1 national authority. This diverse coalition collaborates to identify health needs, prioritize responses, and ensure the delivery of essential health services to vulnerable populations. The health cluster's efforts are vital in addressing the complex health challenges arising from ongoing conflicts and humanitarian crises in the region.



WHO and partners evacuated 229 patients and companions from Gaza to Romania and the United Arab Emirates.
Photo credit: WHO



WHO and partners visited Public Aid Hospital in north Gaza to support the deployment of a specialized medical team.
Photo credit: WHO

KEY ACTIVITIES FOR 2025

Maintain life-saving essential health services

Procure and deliver life-saving medical supplies and equipment to maintain essential health services in existing primary and secondary health care facilities and ambulance services across the occupied Palestinian territory.

Provide health operations support to primary and secondary health care facilities to address critical gaps, including essential infrastructure, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) repairs and the establishment of temporary facilities in key locations.

Continue to operationalize and support the referral pathways within the Gaza Strip and medical evacuation pathway outside Gaza for acutely injured and chronically ill patients.

Maintain provision of services to cases with severe acute malnutrition.

Strengthen public health intelligence, early warning, prevention and control of communicable diseases

Strengthen disease surveillance system, including diagnostic capacities.

Procure and deliver medical supplies to prevent and respond to potential outbreaks.

Conduct risk and needs assessments to inform prioritization and implementation.

Provide health information analytics and reporting.

Improve Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and WASH in health facilities.

Coordinate health emergency efforts (coordination, communication and advocacy)

Coordinate the delivery of health response with all partners involved, including UN agencies, international and national partners and donors.

Support and enhance the function of the public health emergency operations centres.

Advocacy and communications for public health impact, health and human rights and WHO's role in response and coordination.

Coordinate and facilitate the scaling up of emergency medical support across the Gaza Strip.

Prevent and respond to sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment.

Early recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction and support the development of the health sector component of the Conflict Recovery Framework

Mainstream early recovery into the humanitarian response using the principles of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

Develop coordinated recovery-related health interventions contributing to a smoother transition between emergency relief and development assistance, including a more efficient use of resources, and integrate risk reeducation measures at the very early stages of emergencies and beyond.

Support the development of the health sector component of the Conflict Recovery Framework in close coordination with the identified governance structures, including health authorities, partners, donors and private sector.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024

Helped restore hospitals and primary care facilities after raids, attacks and destruction.

111 WHO missions conducted out of 279 initiated. The remaining were either denied, cancelled or impeded.

8.8 million liters of fuel delivered to health facilities and partners.

Medical supplies provided to support over 6.3 million treatments and surgeries.

Supported the establishment and operation of 6 malnutrition treatment centers.

Supported a two-round polio vaccination campaign, with 559 161 children under the age of 10 vaccinated in the first round and 556 774 in the second.

Supported the treatment of 1 million people with mental health conditions by providing medicines, supplies, and training for health workers and partners.

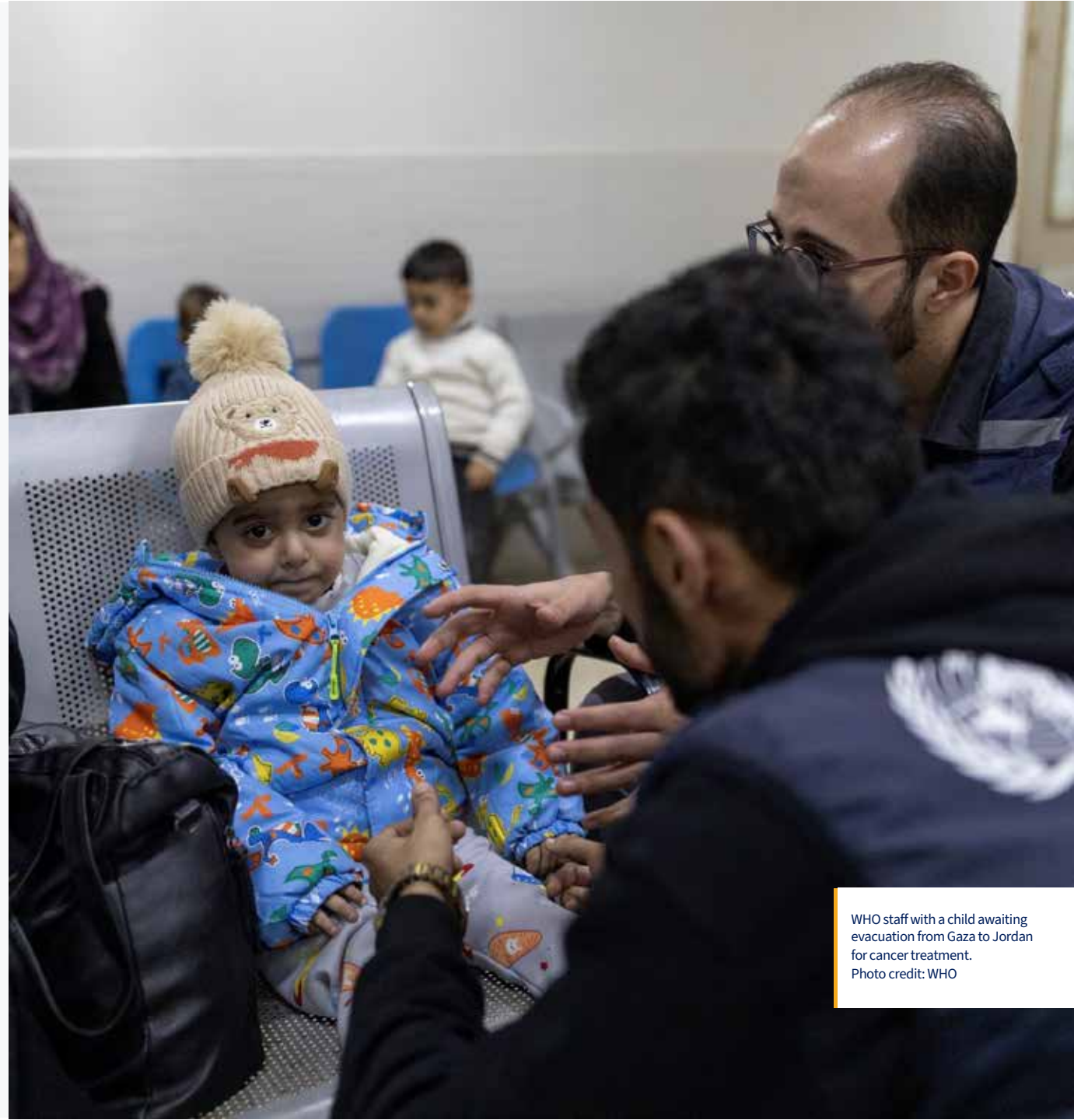
Procured hygiene and sanitary supplies to support 70 000 women and trained 125 health workers in the clinical management of rape and care for survivors of gender-based violence.

Supported 19 partners across 56 health care facilities with equipment, supplies, and training, enabling **19 055 skilled deliveries**, aiding the treatment of **268 993 sick children**, and providing **reproductive health supplies to 46 598 girls and women**. Additionally, 165 health workers were trained in sexual and reproductive health.

49 emergency medical teams deployed across Gaza provided over 2.2 million consultations.

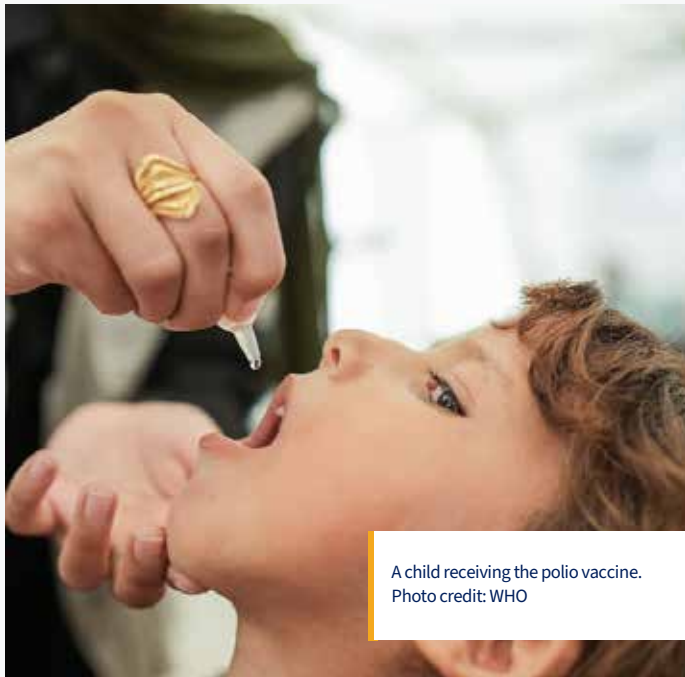
Supported the evacuation of over 5300 critically ill patients for lifesaving care abroad.

Coordinated the response of 73 Health Cluster partners across Gaza.



ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024

AROUND 560 000 CHILDREN VACCINATED IN TWO ROUNDS OF POLIO CAMPAIGN IN GAZA



A child receiving the polio vaccine.
Photo credit: WHO

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) partners, a two-round emergency polio vaccination campaign was conducted in three phases from 1-12 September and 14 October to 5 November 2024 in the Gaza Strip.

Following meticulous planning and coordination, during the first round the campaign provided novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2) to 559 161 children under 10 years of age. This involved the use of an extensive network of mobile teams, vaccinating at selected fixed sites at health facilities and outreach posts.

Mobile teams actively reached out to families living in shelter homes, tents and camps for the displaced, alongside community workers engaging families to raise awareness ahead of and during the campaign. For each phase, a daily area-specific humanitarian pause was agreed to ensure the safety of communities and health workers and enable vaccination efforts.

Partners at all levels recognize common operational challenges faced during these efforts, including devastated infrastructure from health facilities to roads, health care workers with limited training, access issues due to insecurity, limited fuel for generators used to safely store vaccines and freeze ice packs, and constant population movements. However, despite these challenges and the conditions that families in the Gaza Strip have endured over the past year, families flocked to health facilities to get their children vaccinated. This can be attributed to traditionally positive health seeking behaviour among the Palestinian people and an impactful campaign to raise awareness and mobilize the public.

“Health and community workers have shown incredible resilience, carrying out this campaign at unprecedented scale and speed under the toughest conditions in Gaza. In areas where humanitarian pauses took place, the campaign brought not just vaccines, but moments of hope,” said Dr Richard Peeperkorn, WHO Head of Office for the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt).

During the second round, a total of 556 774 children under the age of 10 were vaccinated with a second dose of novel oral polio vaccine type 2, and 448 425 children between 2 and 10 years old received vitamin A to boost overall immunity.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Dr. Richard Peeperkorn, WHO Head of Office for the occupied Palestinian territory, peeperkornr@who.int

Dr. Shannon Barkley, Health Policy Advisor, WHO occupied Palestinian territory, barkleys@who.int

Dr. Ayadil Saparbekov, WHO Health Emergencies Team Lead, WHO occupied Palestinian territory, asaparbekov@who.int



A child shows her finger marking
after receiving the polio vaccine.
Photo credit: WHO

2025 FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY CRISIS EMERGENCY RESPONSE PILLAR	2025 ESTIMATED COSTS (US\$)
A. Maintain life-saving essential health services	150 000 000
<div><div></div><div><div>1.</div><div>Procure and deliver life-saving medical supplies and equipment to maintain essential health services in existing primary and secondary health facilities and ambulance services across the occupied Palestinian territory.</div></div><div><div>2.</div><div>Provide health operations support to primary and secondary health care facilities to address critical gaps, including essential infrastructure and WASH repairs and establishment of temporary facilities in key locations.</div></div><div><div>3.</div><div>Continue to operationalize and support the referral pathways within the Gaza Strip and medical evacuation (medevac) pathway outside Gaza for acutely injured and chronically ill patients.</div></div><div><div>4.</div><div>Maintain provision of services to cases with severe acute malnutrition</div></div><div><div>5.</div><div>Logistics & coordination</div></div></div>	
B. Strengthen public health intelligence, early warning, prevention and control of communicable diseases	40 000 000
<div><div></div><div><div>1.</div><div>Strengthening of disease surveillance system, including diagnostics capacities.</div></div><div><div>2.</div><div>Procure and deliver medical supplies to prevent and respond to the potential outbreaks.</div></div><div><div>3.</div><div>Risk and needs assessment to inform prioritization and implementation.</div></div><div><div>4.</div><div>Health information analytics and reporting.</div></div><div><div>5.</div><div>Improve IPC and WASH in health facilities.</div></div><div><div>6.</div><div>Logistics & coordination.</div></div></div>	
C. Health emergency coordination (coordination, communication and advocacy)	6 000 000
<div><div></div><div><div>1.</div><div>Coordinate the delivery of health response with all partners involved including UN agencies, INGOs, NNGOs and donors.</div></div><div><div>2.</div><div>Support and enhance the function of the public health emergency operations centre.</div></div><div><div>3.</div><div>Advocacy and communications (Communications, advocacy and visibility for public health impact, health and human rights, and WHO role in response and coordination).</div></div><div><div>4.</div><div>Coordinate and facilitate the scale-up of EMT support across the Gaza Strip.</div></div><div><div>5.</div><div>PRSEAH</div></div></div>	
D. West Bank response	5 000 000
<div><div></div><div><div>1.</div><div>Response to the evolving emergency situation in the West Bank.</div></div></div>	
Total for programme activities cost - Response (A-D)	201 000 000
E. Operational cost	40 200 000
<div><div></div><div><div>1.</div><div>Mitigation of risks to staff and creating operationally safe environment to deliver a response (operational and security costs).</div></div><div><div>2.</div><div>Adequate human resources structures and capacities for timely, coordinated, sustainable and accountable responses.</div></div></div>	
Total for response pillars	241 200 000
EARLY RECOVERY	
F. Early recovery	50 000 000
<div><div></div><div><div>1.</div><div>Mainstream early recovery into the humanitarian response using the principles of Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus (HDPN).</div></div></div>	
G. Operational cost	5 000 000
<div><div></div><div><div>1.</div><div>Mitigation of risks to staff and creating operationally safe environment to deliver a response (operational and security costs)</div></div></div>	
Total for recovery pillars	55 000 000
Grand Total	296 200 000