Traumatic injuries and surgical interventions at the Médecins Sans Frontières Surgical Field Hospital in Gaza, from August 2024 to August 2025: a retrospective analysis of medical records

Dr Sohaib Safi

Médecins Sans Frontières / Luxembourg Operational Research Unit / Operational Centre Brussels

Conflict of interest: the author has declared no conflict of interest.

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SCIENTIFIC DAYS

Context and Aim:

Conflict, attacks on healthcare, and why this hospital matters

- Gaza, August 2024–August 2025
- Repeated mass-casualty events and pressure on surgical capacity
- MSF field hospital expanded trauma bed and operating theatre capacity
- **Aim:** describe trauma patterns, surgical care, and early outcomes among patients reaching MSF care
- **Why it matters:** systematic trauma and surgical evidence from Gaza remains limited

Key statistics – February 11, 2026

Health workforce targeted

Health Sector Martyrs	1245
Martyred Doctors	131
Health Workers Martyred In Detention	4
Health Sector Detainees	93
Health Sector Freed Detainees	269

Note: Cumulative figures as confirmed from multiple sources until the stated date

Source: Institute for Palestine Studies

Attacks on Health Care

Completely Destroyed Hospitals	9
Partially Destroyed Hospitals	25
Mass Graves In Hospitals	7
Ambulances Targeted	144

Source: Institute for Palestine Studies

Hospital Functionality

Fully Functional Hospitals	0
Partially Functional Hospitals	18
Non-Functioning Hospitals	18

Source: Health Cluster

Health Impact

Deaths Due To Famine	463
Deaths Due To Extreme Cold	28
Cases Of Infectious Diseases	2142000
Patients Needing Evacuation Abroad	20000

Note: Cumulative figures until the stated date, so each person may suffer from an infectious disease multiple times during the genocide

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Health / Gaza

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Wider trauma burden: published MSF analysis

Explosive-Weapons piece data:

Published MSF analysis, six MSF-OCB-supported facilities, Gaza, 2024

- 207,942 OPD consultations
- Wound care represented 44.8% of all OPD consultations
- Violent trauma represented 42.6% of wound-care consultations

Among violent-trauma wound-care consultations:

- Bombs and shelling: 83.0%
- Gunshots: 11.3%
- Burns: 3.8%

Children among wound-care consultations:

- <15 years: 29.7%
- <5 years: 9.8%

War wounds caused by explosive weapons in Gaza: data from a 2024 study by Médecins Sans Frontières

Meinie Nicolai [a] · Sohaib S S Safi [a,b] · Michael Casera [a] · Dounia Dekhili [a] · Christopher Hook [a] · Caroline Gaudron [a] · Anna Elizabeth Cilliers [a,b] · Amrish Y Baidjoe [a,c] Show less

Affiliations & Notes Article Info

a Médecins Sans Frontières, Operational Centre Brussels, Brussels 1050, Belgium
b Médecins Sans Frontières, Operational Centre Brussels, Gaza Strip, Palestine
c Médecins Sans Frontières, Luxembourg Operational Research Unit (LuxOR), Luxembourg

Show Outline

As of July 23, 2025, Israel's military assault on Gaza has killed over 59 219 Palestinians, wounded an additional 143 045, and displaced nearly all of the 2·1 million people who live there.[1] Triangulation and modelling of different data sources estimate even higher mortality estimates.[2,3] As of July 31, 2025, almost no humanitarian aid has been allowed to enter Gaza since March 2, 2025—with a total blockade of humanitarian aid from March 2 to May 19, 2025. The state of Israel has resumed using explosive weapons in its attacks on Gaza and its people since breaking the ceasefire agreement on March 18, 2025.[4]

THE LANCET

Nicolai M, Safi S, Casera M et al.
War wounds caused by explosive weapons in Gaza: data from a 2024 study by Médecins Sans Frontières. The Lancet, 2025; 406, 687-688

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Study methods and data pathway

Methods:

- Retrospective analysis of routinely collected inpatient records (Aug 2024–Aug 2025)
- Data extracted into structured CRF (REDCap)
- MSF ERB 2559 + Gaza MoH approval

Emergency Department → Operating Theatre → Intensive Care Unit → Surgical Inpatient Department → Outpatient Department

What we need to capture/analyse

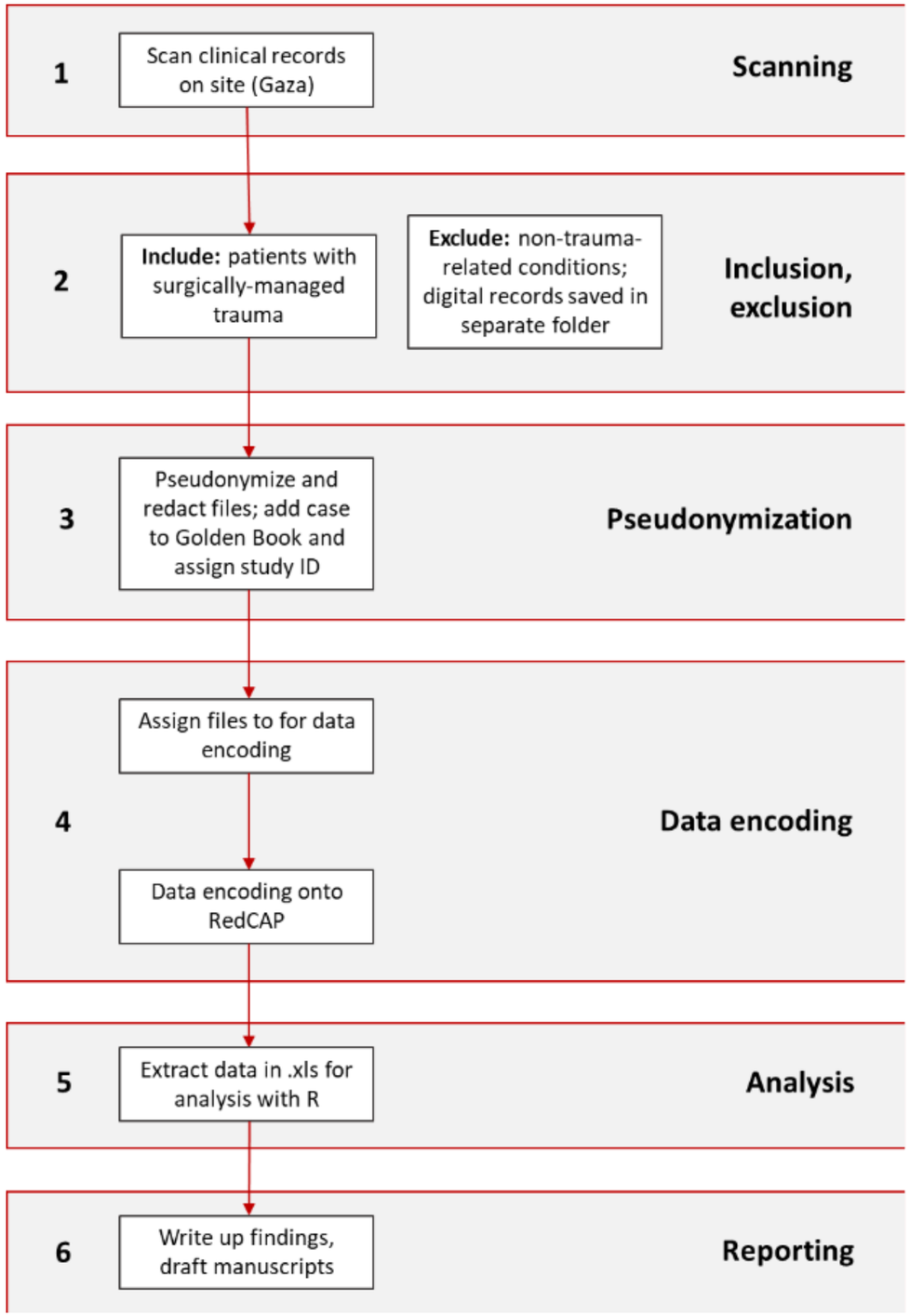
- Full clinical pathway
- Injury mechanism and severity
- Surgical procedures and re-interventions
- Complications and outcomes

Why it matters

- Surgical Planning
- Preparedness in conflict settings
- Resource planning

Limitations

- Routine records, incomplete documentation
- Only patients who reached care
- Ongoing data cleaning and analysis



Approvals from:
- Gaza MoH
- MSF-ERB
- MSF – ILD
- MSF – DPO
- MSF – Patient safety

Support from:
Universities and medical staff/students

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Preliminary analysis: major conflict-related surgical burden

Characteristics of patients admitted to MSF-OCB Field Hospital in Gaza, August 2024 – August 2025 (N=207)

Characteristic	N (%)
Total patients	207
Sex	
Male	172 (83%)
Female	35 (17%)
Age at first admission	
<5	10 (5%)
5-17	51 (25%)
18-44	116 (56%)
45+	30 (14%)
Median age (IQR)	26.2 (16.1, 38.5)
Date of first admission	
August 2024 - February 2025	62 (30%)
February 2025 – August 2025	145 (70%)
Number of admissions over study period	
1 admission	181 (87%)
2 admissions	25 (12%)
3+ admissions	1 (<1%)

Note: this is a preliminary analysis among a representative subgroup

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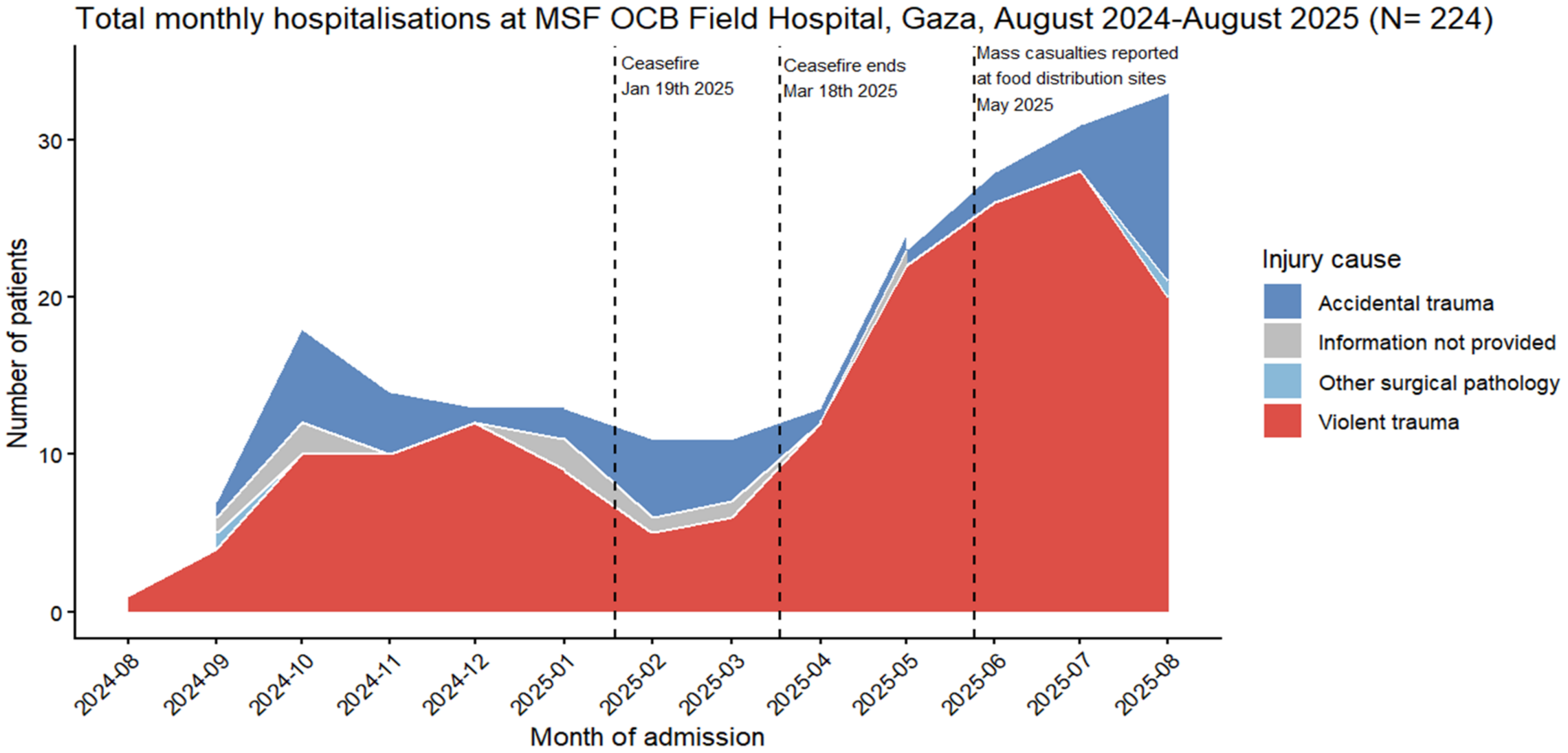
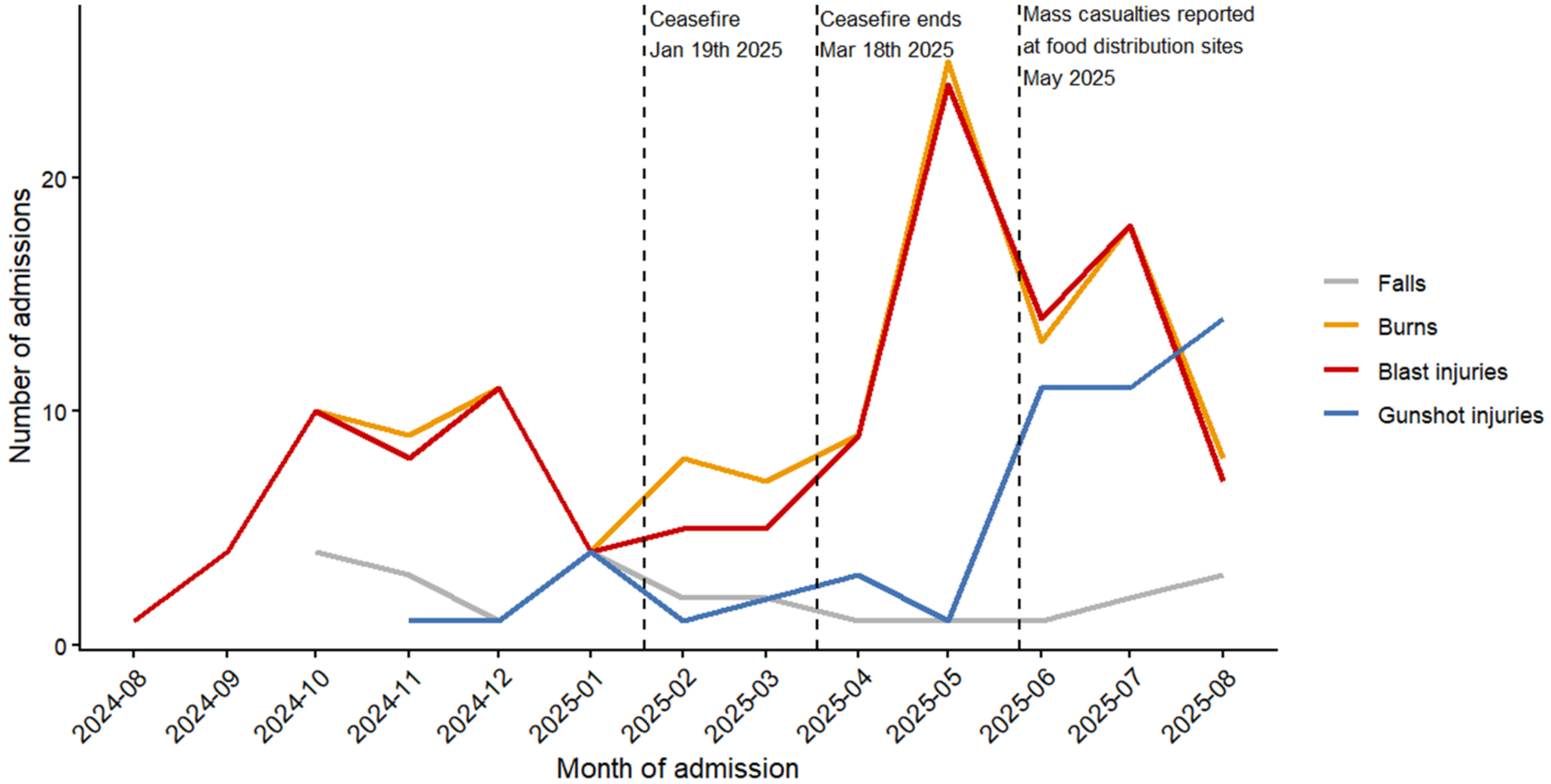


*Exclusions: re-admissions for complications or follow up of existing trauma

Monthly hospitalisations at MSF OCB Field Hospital, Gaza, by cause of injury: August 2024 - August 2025



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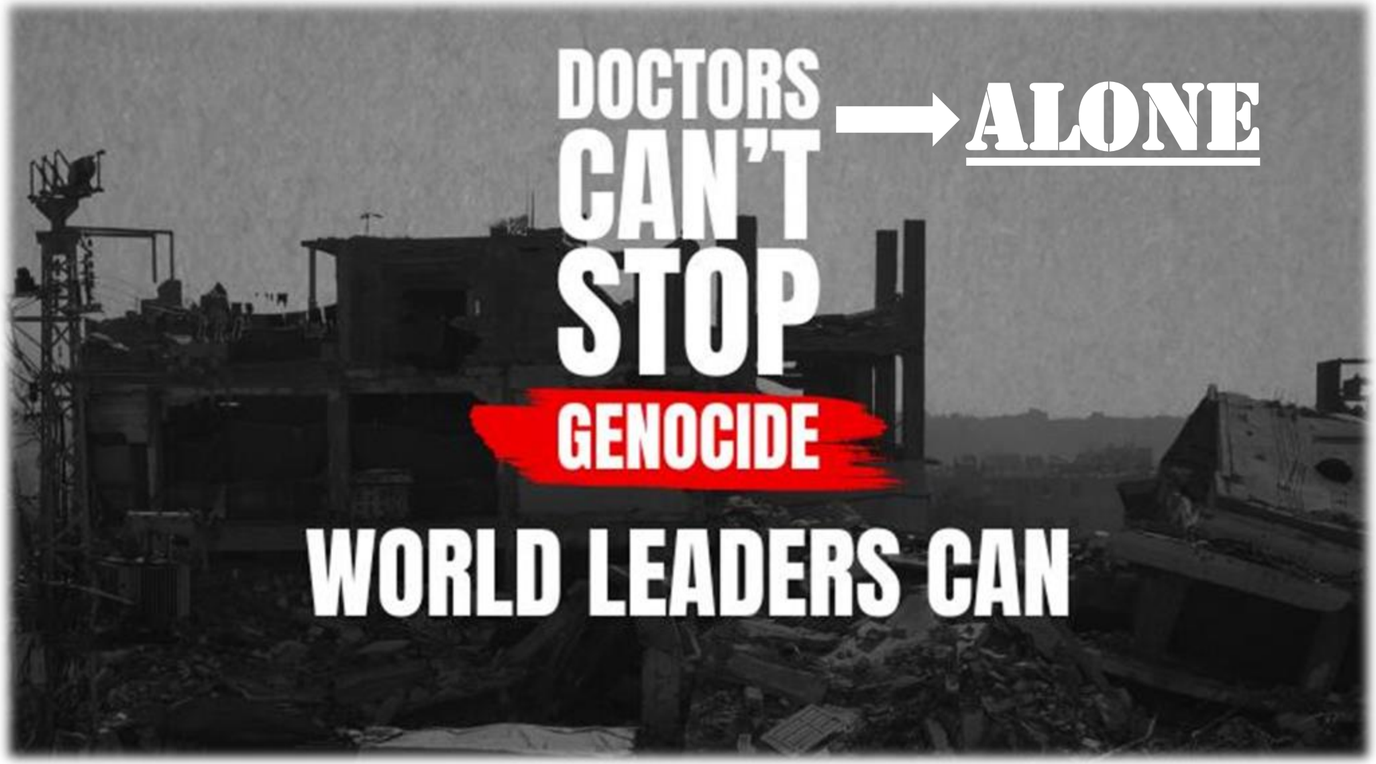
Testimony and Final Messages:

From medical data to medical advocacy

Clinical data can:

- Document patterns of injury and care
- Show patterns of weapon-related injury
- Identify affected groups, including children
- Demonstrate pressure on surgical services
- Support planning, preparedness, and advocacy

- **Imperfect clinical data can still help MSF improve care, allocate resources, and bear witness; if used responsibly in collaboration with others**
- **MSF should strengthen systematic trauma documentation in conflict settings**



Primary Project team

Lead PIs:

- Amrish Baidjoe (LuxOR Director): **contact focal point**
- Shazeer Majeed (Surgical Referent, OCB)

Lead Support OR:

- Sohaib S.S. Safi (LuxOR OR advisors, former Deputy Project Medical Referent, OCB-Gaza)
- Laura Paris (LuxOR, consultant, former UNWRA)
- Sylvia Lim (LuxOR OR Advisor, Epidemiology)
- Temmy Sunyoto (LuxOR OR, clinical)
- Innocent Nyaruhirira (Orthopedic Surgeon Referent, OCB)

Emergency Unit:

- Christopher Hook (Medical Responsible)

Medical project level:

- Mohammed Sommad and his team; Gaza data team – Scanning
- Dr Ali, Dr Saber; Gaza Medical Doctors- Encoders

Support:

- Intersectional Legal Department: Blandine Contamin, Alice Proby
- Patients data safety: Marie Mescam
- DPO officers, IT departments
- **External Partners: Utrecht Medical University, Karolinska Institut**