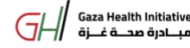


Uniting Knowledge,
Resources
and Solidarity

Gaza Health Initiative Conference Amsterdam



Uniting Knowledge, Resources and Solidarity: Gaza Health Initiative Conference Amsterdam

For Immediate Release

Amsterdam, [11 July 2024] — In response to the unprecedented destruction in Gaza, KIT Institute in collaboration with the Gaza Health Initiative (GHI) will co-host a critical conference in Amsterdam to address the urgent need for rebuilding the health sector in Gaza. This event is the third in a series, that includes successful gatherings in Amman and Beirut. The conference will take place on 13 September 2024, at KIT's campus in Amsterdam.

It will bring together donors, international and local NGOs, humanitarian and development organisations, and multilateral institutions to deliberate on the immediate and long-term strategies for Gaza's healthcare sector.

The Gaza Strip has faced catastrophic destruction. A joint World Bank and EU report estimates direct damage at US\$18.5 billion – a level of destruction that cannot be overcome without significant international donor assistance. Among the wreckage is essential infrastructure such as hospitals, health facilities, and basic services for sanitation, hygiene, education, energy, and ICT.

There are currently no fully functioning hospitals in the Gaza Strip, and an estimated 700 healthcare and aid workers' lives have been lost. Medical facilities lack personnel, beds, medicine, equipment and electricity. The extent of damage to both medical facilities and water and sanitation infrastructure has led to a 23-fold increase in communicable disease incidence, and critically limited the ability of the health system to treat the burden of injuries, non-communicable diseases, and mental health trauma.

To prevent further loss of life, there is an imminent need to rebuild basic services, including the health sector.

"At KIT Institute, we are dedicated to leveraging our convening power to bring key decision-makers together to identify priorities and support indigenous solutions for the immediate and long-term health needs of the Gazan people," said Mayada El-Zoghbi, Managing Director of KIT Institute. "Healthcare is a basic human right, and it is our duty to ensure that every possible measure is taken to fulfil this right."

Recognising the urgency, the Gaza Health Initiative (GHI) — a coalition of medical professionals, non-profit organisations, humanitarian actors, academics, and concerned individuals — has been working tirelessly to assess the worsening healthcare needs in Gaza and support where possible. The Amsterdam conference hosted by KIT Institute, in partnership with GHI, aims to build on the achievements of the previous conferences in Amman and Beirut. The objectives are to explore and agree on concrete actions needed for the stabilisation, recovery, and development of the Gaza healthcare system, and to enable financial and technical partners to pledge their support towards identified health priorities.

"Our collective efforts are more crucial than ever. By bringing together expertise, resources, and unwavering solidarity, we can make tangible progress towards rebuilding Gaza's healthcare system. The Amsterdam conference is a pivotal step in this journey, and we are committed to turning our shared vision into reality," said Irene de Vries, Maternal and Newborn Health Expert and Co-Chair of the Organising Committee.

Media Contact

Bipasha van der Zijde,
KIT Institute
b.v.d.zijde@kit.nl

End of Release**Notes to Editors**

KIT Institute is an independent knowledge institute. Guided by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), our work focuses on global health, gender equality and sustainable economic development.

The Gaza Health Initiative is committed to the recovery and development of Gaza's healthcare system, advocating for resources, documenting the crisis, and promoting transparency. Through its coordinated efforts, GHI aims to address the healthcare emergency in Gaza and build a sustainable future for its residents.

The specific Amsterdam Conference Objectives

1. Accompany Palestinian Knowledge and Power: Explore and agree on concrete actions for the stabilisation, recovery, and development of Gaza's healthcare system.
2. Enable Financial and Technical Partnerships: Encourage pledges of support towards identified health priorities, given the significant resources required.
3. Catalyse Global Citizen Solidarity: Foster long-term development support for Gaza from the global community.

<https://www.kit.nl/>

<https://www.kit.nl/institute/uniting-knowledge-resources-and-solidarity-gaza-health-initiative-conference-amsterdam/>