“You are light for the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lampstand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in people's sight, so that, seeing your good works, they may give praise to your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14-16)

Throughout the last months, we have continued to witness the ongoing conflict in the Holy Land, it is essential to acknowledge the deep humanitarian suffering that has resulted from this decades-long conflict. Innocent people continue to be caught in the crossfire, with families being displaced, homes destroyed, and lives lost. We are deeply concerned about the current situation that might escalate at any moment given the current uncertainties.

The situation is particularly dire in Gaza, where more than two million Palestinians live in a tiny strip of land, with limited access to basic necessities such as food, clean water, and medical care.

The ongoing violence and political instability in the region have exacerbated the humanitarian crisis, leaving many families struggling to survive. Caritas continues to care for the most vulnerable people in these areas with limited resources.

We are also witnessing the deteriorating situation in the West Bank and particularly in Jerusalem. During the holidays of the three monotheistic religions in the holy city of Jerusalem, we have witnessed how fragile the situation is becoming. Many local Christians were banned from entering the holy city especially on Holy Saturday. The attacks against Christians are escalating in and around the holy city. His Beatitude Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Latin Patriarch and Caritas Jerusalem president, has warned that the new government in Israel is endangering the Christian presence in the Holy Land.

Amid these aggressions against Christians, we as Caritas Jerusalem have a vital role in supporting the Church to preserve the Christian presence in the Holy Land. For centuries, Christians have been an integral part of the region's history and culture, and they continue to play a significant role in the area's socio-economic fabric. We at Caritas Jerusalem, are encouraging Holy Land solidarity pilgrimages to let our sisters and brothers encounter the people's stories besides worshiping in the holy places. These efforts plant more hope in the people for a better future.

As we reflect on the suffering and resilience of the people in the Holy Land, let us remember the importance of supporting humanitarian efforts in the region and conveying the light and love of the Risen. May we work towards planting hope for a just and peaceful resolution to the conflict that has caused so much pain and suffering for so many people in the Holy Land.

We seize this opportunity to thank our supporters and the delegations that visited us in the last period, especially the members from Caritas Europe, Belgium, France, Poland, Spain, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland and many others.

Anton Asfar
Secretary General
Socio-Pastoral intervention

Intergenerational Project: bridging the gap between the youth and the elderly

Through the intergenerational project, Caritas Jerusalem has been working to bridge the gap between the youth and the elderly. To better interact with the elderly, the youth received training in safeguarding, human rights and advocacy, which helped not only to attentively care for the elderly but also to advocate for their right to live with dignity.

Through this project, and with the involvement of the youth, the elderly were also able to relax and reduce their sense of loneliness by participating in fun activities during the International Day of the Elderly and Mother's Day, as well as taking part in a trip to Jericho.
**Family to family support**

The family to family support project in Gaza helps war-affected poor families regain their humanity. Each month the families receive unconditional cash payments.

**Success story**

This is the story of a woman who decided to use the money to start her own business. Meet Majdia Al-Shaby! She is a 48-year-old Palestinian housewife and a mother of six. Her husband is disabled and her children still attend school. Instead of using the money directly to meet the family's basic needs, Majdia decided to save up the monthly cash and use it to start her business of breeding poultry and sheep. Her plan worked and now she is slowly establishing her business and paying for most of the necessities of her family. However, she still struggles to meet the medical needs of her husband and to pay for her children's schools and college expenses.

“I will expand my business until you hear my brand's name everywhere” Majdia speaks of her future plans regarding her business.

---

**Health and Emergency intervention**

**Mobile medical teams in marginalized communities in the Gaza Strip**

In its quest to improve access to primary health care services, Caritas Jerusalem dispenses mobile medical teams to local community-based organizations (CBOs) within 5 marginalized communities in the Gaza Strip. From October 1, 2022 until March 31, 2023, there were 15,983 consultations conducted by the 5 mobile medical teams and 620 home-based visits.

**Success story**

Seraj is a 14-year old boy who was involved in a road accident that left his leg broken. He had surgery and an external fixator was installed at the bone. But due to him needing regular dressing for his wounds, it was an additional burden for local clinics to see him. This resulted in infections in the wounds which led his mother to take Seraj to Caritas Health Centre, where he received regular wound dressings and antibiotics to treat the many infections he suffered from.

“We followed up on his injury on a daily basis and provided dressings,” said Dr. Malak Azzam who is treating him. “In comparison to Seraj's first visit and now, there has been improvement in his case”.

“I'm very thankful for the service that Caritas Health Centre offered to my son which improved his well-being,” said Seraj’s mother. “All thanks to God and the doctors who followed up on my son's case”.

---

**Story of Majdia Al-Shaby from Gaza**

**Story of Seraj from Gaza**
Development intervention  
Women and youth empowerment in Jenin

The project benefited the women and youth in the area of Marj Ibn Amer (ten villages under one Jenin Governorate, in north of Palestine) and aims to enhance resilience and well-being of rural communities by providing training to enhance employability and entrepreneurship skills. In this initiative, three micro projects were funded and 12 young people were employed for 2 months. A consultant was hired by Caritas Jerusalem to provide training for the unemployed graduates.

Success story

Meet Shatha! Shatha is a 35-year old married woman with 3 children from Jenin who is passionate about working with people with disabilities and special needs. “I believe that disabled people can be active members in society if special support and care are provided for them,” said Shatha.

Prior to our intervention, Shatha completed a diploma in “Special Education and dealing with people with disabilities” as well as a course in sign language and Braille Alphabet. However, all her efforts were futile in finding a suitable place to apply her skills and thus couldn't contribute financially in supporting her family.

But when she heard about the employability skills training offered by Caritas Jerusalem in Marj Ibn Amer area, she quickly inquired about it and was interested in participating. She thought that this training would help her find the job she wants.

Shatha registered and was committed to her training sessions. Her enthusiasm and commitment to develop her skills led her to be selected for a 2-month paid employability internship, enabling her finally to realize her dream to work with disabled people and help her family financially.

“I never lost hope to work with disabled people,” said Shatha. “Even though there were few work prospects in the Jenin area, Caritas Jerusalem's opportunity of training supported this hope and pushed me to work hard and gain skills that helped me find the job of my dream”.

---

[Images: Caritas Jerusalem branded images of a woman and a child engaged in an activity, and another image of a woman and a child with a mohair toy]
To Share Love...

For Donations:
Bank Name: Pax Bank EU
Swift Code: GENODE1PAX
Account Number: Pax-Bank eG, Von-Werth-Str. 25-27, 50670 Cologne, Germany
Credit Account: Caritas Jerusalem
IBAN: DE82 37060193 00 58051012

For Donations:
Bank Name: BANK OF PALESTINE
Swift Code: PALSPS 22
Account Number: 1379000
Credit Account: Caritas Jerusalem
IBAN: PS95PALS045013790000013000000 (USD)
IBAN: PS03PALS045013790000333000000 (EUR)

For Donations:
Bank Name: Arab Bank
Swift Code: ARABPS22110
Account Number: 457793/0/590 EUR
Credit Account: Caritas Jerusalem
IBAN: IBAN PS26 ARAB 0000 0000 9110 4577 9359 0
Branch No.: 9110

For Donations:
Bank Name: Arab Bank
Swift Code: ARABPS22110
Account Number: 457793/0/510 USD
Credit Account: Caritas Jerusalem
IBAN: IBAN PS52 ARAB 0000 0000 9110 4577 9351
Branch No.: 9110

Safeguarding Policy is A social Responsibility
Those who report are protected by Caritas Jerusalem Safeguarding Policy.

Safeguarding@caritasjr.org

Caritas Jerusalem
We Put Love Into Action

Notre Dame of Jerusalem center
P.O.BOX 31426, Jerusalem 913131
Tel: +972 2 6287574 | Fax: +972 2 6288421
Email: caritas@caritasjr.org