

Dear Friends,

As we listen to the news that all US funds to Palestine, including the Gaza Strip, are frozen we think of the millions of innocent people who will suffer. This morning I returned from visiting our projects in Gaza where the already dire situation is getting worse and I wonder what is the intention and where is the humanity of policy makers who decide to cut off funds for primary education for thousands of children, food for babies, and medicine for the sick and dying. One of our major projects in Gaza is to provide high quality primary health care in 10 marginalised areas near the route of the border fence from the north of the Gaza Strip to the Egyptian border. Funds for that project will end on 30th September and many of you have already responded to an emergency appeal for funds to enable us to continue that essential service. For those who have not yet had an opportunity to contribute, details on how to donate can be found at the end of this Newsletter.

On behalf of Caritas Jerusalem, and the increasingly desperate people in Gaza, I thank you for your support for this project that is truly a Gospel response to feed the hungry, to visit the sick, to clothe the naked. As Jesus tells us “so long as you did this to the least of my brothers and sisters you did it to me.”

**Sr Bridget Tighe**  
**General Director**

*Healing the wounded in Gaza*



According to The Ministry of Health in Gaza, over 160 Palestinians have so far been killed and more than 18,000 wounded by Israeli forces as Palestinians marched near the fence separating Gaza from the rest of the West Bank in a major demonstration which started on March 30, 2018, marking the 42nd anniversary of Land Day, and has continued weekly since. These marches demand the lifting of the eleven-year siege of Gaza and the implementation of the Right of Palestinians to Return to their homes and lands of origin.

Israel's siege on Gaza has triggered major socio-economic and health crises. 80% of the population are dependent on humanitarian aid to survive, and 42% of essential medicines are currently at zero stock. The UN warns that Gaza will be uninhabitable by 2020 unless urgent action is taken. As it stands, 97% of the water is not safe for consumption and there are electrical blackouts for 16 – 18 hours each day.

Caritas Jerusalem attempts to assist the Gazans with various services and interventions in order to answer some of the basic needs and provide them with all the support needed in partnership with our local and international friends and organizations.



Ali is a 31-year-old man from Gaza city who was shot in his leg during the demonstrations. After being discharged from the hospital our emergency Mobile Medical Team (MMT 2) started treating his wounds. He was very depressed *“I can hardly walk and am in constant pain!”* he said. The team provided him with the needed medications and psychosocial support and after several sessions Ali is showing signs of improvement.



*“Boosting his self-confidence and belief in his ability to recover is what matters most. Ali is significantly improving, and his wound is healing well.”* The doctor stated during the last session.



The MMT 2 provides ambulatory nursing care services for the people injured due to the current demonstrations who need additional follow up and care.

### *Children at risk*



Yousef is a three-year-old boy from a very poor family in Gaza. When our medical team examined this little boy, they found blue spots all over his body. The doctors suspected that he has Idiopathic Thrombocytopenia, which is a disorder characterized by an increased destruction of platelets. After blood tests, the doctor's diagnosis proved to be accurate. After our intervention and provision of medications, iron supplements and fortified biscuits Yousef's condition

improved greatly. Currently, he is enjoying his childhood in running around with his friends.

Children in Gaza are living in dire conditions; they do not have proper food or even access to health centers. Caritas Jerusalem's medical clinic aims to improve the health of these children by providing nutrition and hygiene supports especially to the refugee children in Al Shati Camp, Jabalia and Beit Lahia.



CJ has been providing life-saving medical treatment to thousands of children in Gaza especially to those who suffer from intestinal parasitic infections by improving the health and nutrition of 6,000 children aged between 3 and 6 we enhance their brain development and prevent stunting. We also educate mothers, fathers and care givers in personal hygiene, food safety and nutrition.



We also provide fortified biscuits combined with fortified milk to prevent children from being underweight, stunted or anemic.

Caritas Jerusalem believes in the right of every child to get proper nutrition and medical care.

### *Clowning Around in Gaza*

*There's nothing like a good laugh and they can be hard to find in Gaza*



On the 14th of August 2018 Caritas Jerusalem organized a fun day at Jabaliah refugee camp in Gaza led by the Italian therapeutic clown Marco. (Marco has been involved in the Middle East since 2005 his main goal is to heal traumatized children in war-ridden countries like Syria, Iraq and Palestine)



With fun games and magic tricks, Marco was able to draw smiles on these traumatized children's faces and make them forget about their fear and suffering for a while. For a moment, these children could experience a care free life, interact and intermingle with each other just like typical children should.

The Jabalia refugee camp is the largest of the Gaza Strip's eight refugee camps. It is located north of Gaza City, with a population of around 120,000. It only covers an area of 1.4 km<sup>2</sup> making it one of the most densely populated places on earth. Limited electricity supply with extended power cuts, a contaminated water supply, high unemployment rates and overcrowdedness are some of the more pressing challenges facing camp residents.

Caritas Jerusalem implements various projects in the area in order to answer to some of the basic needs of the people who completely rely on charity organizations like Caritas.



Forty children attended the fun day accompanied by their primary care givers. Caritas social workers weren't sure who were happier, the adults or the children.

### ***Strengthening the capacity of local health committees in Gaza***

Caritas Jerusalem endeavors to empower the people of Gaza with different and various interventions in terms of physical and psychological health, economic development and raising the awareness of human rights with senior citizens among others. Our approach is holistic in order to enable people to become more resilient in the hard conditions that they live in.



Currently, CJ is working with the local health committees in four locations (Sawarha, Mosadar, Shoka and Mawasi) in Gaza to support the people in the area by providing them with medical days, lectures by professionals on issues related to health education, women empowerment, domestic accident prevention, emergency management and other issues that answer their needs.



We would like to thank Misesan Cara, Development and Peace, CAFOD, Trocaire, CRS, Caritas Spain, OBOS and IMC for their financial support.

***Update on Emergency Appeal to continue the work of the Mobile Medical Team after 30th September***

Caritas Jerusalem has launched an emergency appeal for Gaza through CI. We appreciate the contributions by Caritas Internationalis, Caritas Italiana, Caritas Belgium, Caritas Hong Kong, Caritas Japan, CHARIS Caritas Singapore, and Caritas Poland for their pledges to support the EA 22/2018.

We still need your support; for further information please refer to our website <https://bit.ly/2Q9dtER> or through BAOBAB <https://bit.ly/2wLFWsC>

**How can you help?**

Support our activities  
Your support is essential to provide long-term assistance to our beneficiaries.

Please see below our bank details to make a donation:

Bank Name: Arab Bank

Swift Code: ARABPS 22110

Account number: 457793/0/510 USD

Credit Account: Caritas Jerusalem

Branch No: 9110

At Arab Bank in Al-Ram

P.O.Box: 2445-Al-Ram