



Caritas
JERUSALEM



2023

ANNUAL REPORT

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MOTHER TERESA

PRAYER

He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth.
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear,
He burns the shields with fire. the ends of the earth.
Be still and know that I am God. atters the spear,
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth. am God.
Psalm 46:9,10 exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth.
Psalm 46:9,10





The compassionate arm of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land

Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa

Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem - Caritas President

"Caritas Jerusalem, the compassionate arm of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land, stands unwavering in its commitment. Our mission is clear: to embody love, compassion, and solidarity.

Love, both divine and human, fuels our actions. For to love God is to love our fellow beings. Caritas Jerusalem brings this love to life, weaving compassion into the fabric of our communities.

We believe that every act of service, every hand extended, is an expression of God's love for humanity. Our values—rooted in empathy, justice, and dignity—guide us as we address the social, economic, and political challenges faced by our communities.

Caritas always walks alongside the weary, the forgotten, and the marginalized. We see beyond the surface, recognizing that every face carries a story—a story of poverty and loss but of resilience and hope. Caritas sows seeds of empowerment. We believe in the dignity of work, in nurturing dreams that defy despair.

Within Gaza's war-torn neighborhoods, our dedicated team stands as a beacon. Viola, Issam, and others—heroes who gave their lives—remind us that love in action knows no bounds. In social services, we tend to wounds, both visible and hidden.

And when emergencies strike, Caritas Jerusalem responds swiftly. Our health programs, fueled by compassion, bridge gaps and heal hearts.

Caritas Jerusalem: where compassion meets courage, and hope blooms against all odds.



Anton Asfar

The Secretary General of
Caritas Jerusalem

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

During a pre-Christmas visit to Gaza on a Sunday in 2022, I was deeply moved by a sermon delivered by H.B. Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, the Latin Patriarch and President of Caritas Jerusalem. Cardinal Pizzaballa was particularly touched by a verse on the wall of the Missionaries of Charity convent and the mission of Caritas Jerusalem in Gaza. He mentioned that through the work of Caritas, he witnessed "Love Into Action." Since that visit, the motto "We Put Love Into Action" has inspired and driven our mission.

Amid the ongoing brutal war in the Holy Land, our faith and prayers remain our guiding compass. Despite the loss of our dear colleagues, Viola and Issam, we remain committed to serving our people. We take solace in knowing that we have our own Saints watching over and empowering us. May their souls rest in peace.

Reflecting on 2023, it is essential to recognize that while the events following October 7th have undoubtedly captured the world's attention, Caritas Jerusalem's first nine months of the year were marked by extraordinary achievements. Caritas Jerusalem made remarkable progress in its first nine months, reflecting its dedication to integral human development. Key achievements include empowering people with disabilities through innovative programs, providing unwavering support to needy families, and empowering women in refugee camps with the necessary skills and resources. Caritas also strengthened local markets and food security by supporting farmers and businesses, and significantly improved health services, enhancing the quality of life for many individuals.

It is worthwhile citing that Caritas Jerusalem dedicated significant effort throughout the year to its organizational development. A development plan was implemented, during which the Caritas board, executive committee, and management introduced a new structure, revitalized standard operating procedures, and changed the fiscal reporting year to end in March instead of December.

As we present this Annual Report which reflects Caritas Jerusalem's initiatives for the year 2023 and the first quarter of the year 2024, let us take a moment to praise these milestones. They are a testament to the hard work, dedication, and compassion that define Caritas. Together, we have made a difference and will continue to do so with unwavering faith and relentless pursuit of our mission to serve.

Finally, we extend our deepest gratitude to our Lord for the spirit of synodality among our partners. The support and collaboration of the member organizations within the Caritas confederation have been invaluable. Each partner, from large organizations to individual contributors, has played a crucial role in our mission. Their dedication, resources, and unwavering commitment have enabled us to achieve our goals and serve communities in need more effectively. The collective efforts and shared vision of our partners have not only strengthened our initiatives but have also fostered a sense of unity and purpose within our network. We are profoundly thankful for their continued partnership and the positive impact it brings to our mission.



Vision

Caritas Jerusalem is at the heart of the Church in the Holy Land where all people enjoy love, peace, justice, and prosperity and live in dignity.

Values

Dignity: We seek to make the poor not objects of pity but subjects of their own development and agents of change, best placed to develop their own solutions in global partnership.

Equality: Any economic, social, political or cultural structure which opposes or oppresses change toward justice is wrong and we challenge it. Caritas listens to the voice of the silent poor and enables them to speak for themselves

Solidarity: Caritas works to enhance solidarity with the poor, seeing the world through their eyes, and recognizing the interdependence of humanity.

Stewardship: Caritas commits itself to being in solidarity with the whole of creation and therefore always seeks to act in an environmentally sustainable way.

Compassion: The fundamental response of Caritas to the poverty and suffering of our vulnerable brothers and sisters is compassion rooted in love. Through advocacy and action, we seek to alleviate such suffering.

Mission

Caritas Jerusalem is the social arm of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land and a member of the Caritas International Confederation. We empower the people of the Holy Land to realize their full potential, thus giving a voice to the voiceless and hope and encouragement to the youth. We strive to achieve sustainable development and improvement in the health services, social welfare, food security and livelihoods, through advocacy, micro-credit loans, education, charity, emergency intervention and direct service provision.



Social Intervention

The Social Intervention serves as the cornerstone of Caritas Jerusalem, offering vital support to the increasing number of underprivileged families in East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. Through its extensive local network, which includes parishes, schools, and healthcare institutions, Caritas Jerusalem can swiftly and effectively assist those in need. In 2023, CJ provided aid to hundreds of families through a range of interventions, making a meaningful impact on the lives of those it serves.

Empowering Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)

Caritas Jerusalem has provided comprehensive support for (PWDs) across Palestine through various strategic initiatives. These included social interventions, rehabilitations, and vocational trainings, focusing on financial sustainability and community integration.

CJ has established six community-based rehabilitation centers, where they have launched income-generating projects such as sheep breeding and digital advertising to promote PWDs' self-reliance and societal participation.

Caritas Jerusalem has also provided holistic support to families, including food packages and home renovations, to enhance inclusivity and the social fabric in remote communities.

Furthermore, CJ has set up advanced therapy rooms in Hebron Governorate, benefiting over 850 individuals, and distributed sensory boxes for continuous at-home therapy.

Through partnerships and campaigns, Caritas Jerusalem has reached over 460,000 people to promote PWD rights and acceptance. They have also collaborated with vocational centers for skill development and have integrated women and youth with disabilities into Gaza's labour market, providing training and employment opportunities for financial independence.

In addition, Caritas Jerusalem has initiated the Family-to-Family program, supporting 60 families by aiding them in meeting basic needs amidst adversity.

Caritas Jerusalem's initiatives have significantly improved the lives of PWDs, fostering societal transformation and inclusivity across Palestine. CJ remains committed to empowering PWDs and their families, ensuring their dignity and well-being through targeted and sustainable support.





Support to Needy Families

In a year filled with challenges, the collective initiative emerged as a hope for better days to come. It has provided financial aid and a sense of dignity and resilience to those facing harsh conditions. While the stories of beneficiaries are unique in their struggles, they all share a common thread of transformation and renewed hope brought about by this support.

Confronted with the relentless challenges of conflict, the initiative has shown unwavering dedication, ensuring that essential support reached families in dire need, even as they faced displacement and disruption. The commitment to maintain contact and provide reassurance in times of uncertainty has been a constant, providing a sense of security to those in need.

Field reports reflect the profound impact of the network's support, particularly during times of conflict. The emphasis on financial aid coupled with compassionate communication has been pivotal in uplifting spirits amidst loss and destruction. Your support has made a significant difference in these challenging times.





Family Support

The Family-to-Family initiative has significantly improved living conditions for 110 families in the Gaza Strip. The program provided comprehensive social assessments and aid distribution to these families. Additionally, it facilitated the creation of bank accounts for beneficiaries, ensuring transparent financial aid delivery to 586 individuals. This aid helped them meet essential needs amidst conflict.

The initiative took a holistic approach by providing regular social worker visits and offering financial and emotional support. This contributed to the families' dignity and helped them manage household expenses effectively.

As a result of this assistance, beneficiaries reported significant positive changes in their lives. Despite operational challenges caused by ongoing conflict, the initiative maintained consistent communication and support for needy families.

Social workers observed the initiative's profound positive effects, emphasizing the role of financial aid and empathetic engagement in uplifting the affected individuals.

2024 INITIATIVES

Social Intervention

During the first quarter of 2024, CJ has made remarkable strides in empowering PWDs and enhancing livelihoods for women and youth in Hebron Province and throughout the West Bank:

- * Rehabilitation Centers Upgrade: Since September 2022, rehabilitation centers in Hebron have been upgraded, benefiting over 100 PWDs with assistive devices and promoting their rights through public awareness campaigns.
- * Specialized Training: Providing training in microproject management to empower PWDs for independence and initiating income-generating projects for both PWDs and 20 women and youth participants.
- * Improved Access to Therapy: Enhancing therapy access for PWDs in remote areas.
- * Comprehensive Medical Support: Establishing medical support for needy families.
- * Educational Grants: Connecting Christian students in Bethlehem with sponsors in Chile, facilitating grants for 700 students.
- * Elderly Day Care Center: Fostering intergenerational connections and ensuring medical and social support for elderly individuals.
- * Humanitarian Relief Efforts: Ongoing relief efforts in Jenin and the Gaza Strip respond to urgent needs, providing essential assistance to families affected by conflict.

Caritas Jerusalem's initiatives in 2023 and early 2024 exemplify a steadfast commitment to enhancing the quality of life for marginalized communities in Palestine. By providing continued support and resources, CJ ensures long-term resilience and improved livelihoods for those it serves.





COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



In 2023, Caritas Jerusalem's Community Development Intervention implemented several impactful programs to address the needs of vulnerable communities in Palestine. These initiatives focused on enhancing social cohesion, promoting economic empowerment, and improving food security

Empowering Refugee Women in Bethlehem

In our efforts to promote community development and empowerment, we launched a significant project aimed at improving the employability and business skills of refugee women in Bethlehem. This initiative was made possible through a collaborative effort with the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce and other local organizations. Our combined efforts resulted in the successful implementation of training sessions in three refugee camps, leading to the certification of 64 women. This milestone represents not only individual achievement but also a collective improvement in workforce readiness.

In addition to our educational endeavors, we also focused on supporting the local economy. By assisting ten emerging micro-enterprises and providing micro-grants to eight established businesses, we have laid the foundation for sustainable economic growth. Despite the challenges posed by regional instability, we remained steadfast and conducted three comprehensive training sessions. Our collaboration extended to a consulting firm, ensuring a rigorous selection process for our enterprise support program, thus creating an environment conducive to growth and prosperity in the local community. This section of our annual report highlights a year characterized by resilience, collaboration, and transformative impact

MENT INTERVENTION



Strengthening Local Markets and Advancing Food Security in Beit Jala

In our unwavering commitment to revitalizing Beit Jala’s economy and safeguarding food security, we proudly launched the “Enhancing Local Markets and Advancing Food Security in Beit Jala, Palestine” initiative. This groundbreaking project has been the cornerstone of promoting sustainable agricultural practices and elevating regional agrotourism. Our remarkable accomplishments this year have included several noteworthy triumphs.

The Al Makhroul Visitors Center is a testament to our commitment to community engagement. It has become a catalyst for local tourism and economic vitality. The center offers amenities such as bicycle rentals and a cafeteria, allowing our community to come together and thrive. The annual Al-Makhroul Festival celebrates our community’s rich culture and heritage. It has evolved into a shining embodiment of Palestinian pride. It invites visitors and locals to participate in performances and activities that enhance community spirit and instill a sense of pride in our shared heritage. Additionally, distributing 6,000 fruit trees to more than 100 local beneficiaries represents a significant step towards sustainable agriculture and long-term food security, contributing to environmental health.

These concerted efforts have not only fortified local markets but have also played a pivotal role in advancing food security and enriching Beit Jala’s cultural tapestry.



JENIN GOVERNATE COHERENCE

Social Cohesion and Greater Resilience of Rural Communities in Jenin Governorate – Coherence Jenin:

Our ‘Social Cohesion and Greater Resilience of Rural Communities in Jenin Governorate Program-Coherence’ program has not only been instrumental in promoting social cohesion, revitalizing the rural economy, and improving disaster resilience in the Jenin Governorate, but it has also directly impacted the lives of the local community. This year, we are proud to have achieved several significant milestones.

We have provided strategic planning skills to four Local Action Groups (LAGs), which have led to the development of four comprehensive strategic documents. Additionally, 126 new graduates have received training in employability skills, preparing them for the competitive job market. We have offered financial assistance to 40 vocational trainees and 64 micro-businesses, contributing to local economic growth and stability. Our commitment to safety has led us to conduct risk assessments and provide disaster preparedness training to Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), strengthening our global partnership ethos through international collaborations.



Our ongoing initiatives exemplify our unwavering commitment to fostering a united, resilient, and economically prosperous Jenin Governorate. Through targeted programs and collaborative efforts, we aim to enhance infrastructure, support local businesses, and empower communities to thrive.

2024 INITIATIVES

Community Development Intervention

In the first quarter of 2024, our community development initiatives have made notable advancements while facing ongoing challenges across our various offices, as detailed in this report. In Beit Jala, our project “Strengthening the Local Market and Improving Food Security through the Production and Marketing of Agroecological Food and the Promotion of Agritourism,” supported by the Governorate of Valencia and Caritas, has progressed significantly, including the selection of 30 beneficiaries for land rehabilitation and the successful launch of the Al Makhrour festival; however, we faced obstacles such as the closure of the Al Makhrour area and contractor issues, which delayed some activities. In the Bethlehem Governorate, our project aimed at enhancing the employability of refugee women has seen 64 participants complete training sessions and the selection of 10 micro-enterprises for support, with an ongoing focus on building local business partnerships. Meanwhile, our Jenin project on “Social Cohesion and Greater Resilience of Rural Communities,” funded by Belgian Development Cooperation, has completed crucial planning stages and distributed seedlings to beneficiaries while reviewing 3,500 applications for micro-businesses and continuing vocational training for 40 individuals. Despite the hurdles, our teams remain dedicated, illustrating the resilience of the communities we serve. As we move forward into the fiscal year, we express our gratitude to our donors and partners for their support, reaffirming our commitment to effecting meaningful change together.







*Fulfilling Dreams Through Sewing and Design
Success Story*

Renad Amoudi

Mrs. Amoudi is a devoted mother of five daughters who lives in Burqin, Jenin Governorate. Her journey from being a talented seamstress to becoming a successful businesswoman and instructor is a testament to the power of ambition and perseverance.

Renad's passion for sewing and fashion design led her to enroll in a vocational training center where she honed her skills. She mastered the basics of sewing and design and excelled in an advanced clothing design course, which prepared her to pursue her dreams in the fashion industry.

After completing her training, Renad sought opportunities to apply her new skills and generate additional income for her family. She found the Coherence program through Caritas Jerusalem on the Burqin Municipality's Facebook page, which offered support for small projects. Renad applied for support to kickstart her clothing design and repair business, and her project was selected for assistance.

With the necessary machines and equipment provided by Caritas Jerusalem, Renad launched her business, significantly contributing to her family's income. Renad's success extended beyond her business; she now shares her knowledge and passion as a sewing instructor at the Jenin Vocational Training Centre, inspiring a new generation of seamstresses.

Renad's story exemplifies the transformative impact of

vocational training and support programs. Her journey from a student to a successful entrepreneur and instructor showcases the power of determination and the importance of support in achieving one's dreams. Renad continues to inspire others, demonstrating that with ambition and the right resources, one can overcome challenges and create a better future for themselves and their community.

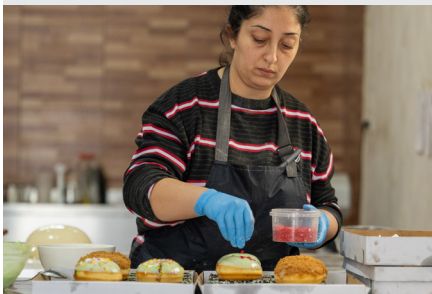


Improving Food Security through Income-Generating Activities

The Project has been providing hope for families in Palestine by addressing the critical issue of food security. This is done through the provision of micro-grants and capacity-building initiatives. In collaboration with local parish priests, we have carefully selected and awarded 16 families with the financial means to start or grow their businesses.

We received a strong response from the community, with 82 applications that were thoroughly assessed to ensure the most impactful use of our resources. The selected families have received financial support and benefited from extensive training and coaching, enhancing their entrepreneurial skills for sustained economic growth.

Our commitment to these growing micro-businesses goes beyond initial funding; we provide ongoing customized coaching and marketing assistance to foster their development. Caritas Jerusalem has made a tangible impact in 2023 through these efforts, empowering vulnerable communities, strengthening social cohesion, and securing food resources. This paves the way for enduring development and resilience within these communities.





HEALTH AND EMERGENCY INTERVENTION

Chronic Patients' Health Improvement (CPHI)

The Chronic Patients' Health Improvement (CPHI) project by Caritas Jerusalem has significantly enhanced healthcare access for patients with non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as hypertension and Type 2 diabetes in Taybeh village and its surrounding areas. These remote regions, marginalized from the main city of Ramallah, face a severe shortage of medical supplies and healthcare services. Local governmental health centers cannot provide the necessary health and nutrition education or follow-up to manage chronic NCDs effectively.

In response, Caritas Jerusalem provided medications, food supplements, and lifestyle training. This training covered dietary recommendations, exercise routines, and stress management techniques to help manage hypertension and diabetes. The project targeted 165 diagnosed patients and was widely promoted through social media and the medical center's database.

In the past year, 183 individuals were screened, and 169 were diagnosed with non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Out of these, 158 attended health education sessions. Each patient received a personalized management plan designed in collaboration with healthcare professionals, following national protocols that included clinical examinations, lab analyses, and risk assessments. The project achieved remarkable results, with 57% of the patients showing improvement in their lab results, indicating better disease control and overall health.

Despite the challenging circumstances, including the broader impact of the Gaza conflict, the intervention in Taybeh remained solid and continuous. This shows the project's resilience and commitment to the community. The program's success is evident in the increased health awareness among patients, with 82% adopting healthier lifestyles and 14% of obese patients experiencing weight loss. The initiative also provided an important space for social interaction and stress relief, especially in the aftermath of the conflict.

A total of 183 patients, mostly elderly, from Taybeh and surrounding villages directly benefited from the project, with an additional 1,043 indirectly benefiting. The program's comprehensive approach ensured that patients received necessary medical care and support, significantly improving their quality of life and empowering them to manage their chronic conditions effectively.

Mobile Medical Team (MMT) Project

The Mobile Medical Team (MMT) project by Caritas Jerusalem has not just improved access to primary healthcare for men, women, and children in the marginalized areas of Gaza, but it has also significantly impacted their lives. The project provided essential health services, including screening, lab tests, medications, and health education, addressing the needs of a vulnerable population.

The MMT conducted 1,268 consultations throughout the reporting period, referred 59 individuals to specialized healthcare centers (SHC), and organized group health consultancy sessions for 1,173 patients. Additionally, 213 individual counselling sessions were provided, ensuring personalized care and support for those with specific health concerns.

This year's intervention faced unprecedented challenges due to the ongoing conflict in Gaza. Movement was severely restricted from the outset, necessitating innovative solutions to deliver care. Caritas Jerusalem responded by assembling a health team from displaced individuals within the shelters. They established 'health committees' in these shelters, equipped with first aid kits, medications, and essential medical supplies. These committees served everyone in need, focusing on children, women, the elderly, and individuals with non-communicable diseases.

Despite the challenging circumstances, the MMT project, with its unwavering dedication, managed to offer vital health support and primary medical services. Caritas Jerusalem, standing strong in the face of adversity, was one of the few organizations operating in the North of Gaza, providing much-needed medical assistance. The medications distributed to patients were funded by Misesan Cara and other partners, and they continue to be utilized within the Latin Compound.

The success of the MMT project highlights Caritas Jerusalem's commitment to providing healthcare in the most challenging environments, ensuring that even the most marginalized populations receive the care and support they need.





CONTEXT AND IMPACT OF THE CONFLICT

The Gaza Strip experienced intense Israeli bombardment from air, land, and sea, leading to significant civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of infrastructure. Between February 26 and February 27, 96 Palestinians were killed, and 172 were injured. Over a broader period from October 7, 2023, to February 27, 2024, 29,878 Palestinians were killed, and 70,215 were wounded. During the same timeframe, 238 Israeli soldiers were killed, and 1,408 were injured. Additionally, 1,200 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed in Israel, with 134 individuals remaining captive in Gaza as of February 27, 2024.



IMPROVEMENT OF HEALTH AND REDUCTION OF ILLNESS IN THE GAZA STRIP

In 2023, Caritas Jerusalem (CJ) made significant efforts to alleviate the severe health crisis in the Gaza Strip, a region afflicted by ongoing conflict and a weakened public health system. The health situation, already critical due to a 16-year blockade, worsened further with the renewed hostilities that began on October 7, 2023. This escalation worsened existing shortages of medicines, health supplies, and essential services such as clean drinking water, electricity, and sewage disposal, which increased the risk of disease outbreaks.

The CJ's Mobile Medical Team Project aimed to improve health outcomes and reduce morbidity among Gaza's most vulnerable populations, including residents of remote areas and individuals with disabilities. This initiative provided crucial healthcare services, complementing the efforts of the Palestinian Ministry of Health, which faces resource limitations.

The project aimed to provide comprehensive healthcare services addressing infectious and chronic diseases. Despite challenging conditions, the team conducted 2,482 consultations for contagious diseases, reaching 62% of their target, and 1,794 consultations for chronic diseases, achieving 60% of the goal. Laboratory analyses were performed for 1,411 patients, reaching 56% of the intended 2,500. Medication was dispensed to 6,229 patients, surpassing the initial target and achieving 73% completion. Additionally, the team managed 278 wound dressings, reaching 93% of their target.

The project provided essential healthcare services for pregnant women despite significant obstacles. Antenatal care was administered to 257 women; the exact number received ultrasound examinations, each representing 64% of the intended target. Efforts to manage infections and provide nutritional supplements reached 87 women. In comparison, 257 pregnant women received the necessary nutrients, achieving 64% of the goal. High-risk pregnancies were identified, and 34 were referred to specialized clinics, fulfilling 68% of the objective.

Health education was another critical component of the project. The team delivered awareness sessions on infectious diseases to 4,418 patients, reaching 63% of the target. Sessions on maintaining a healthy lifestyle were attended by 2,736 patients, achieving 68% of the goal. Additionally, 257 pregnant women participated in health awareness sessions, meeting 64% of the intended outreach.

The project's beneficiaries played a critical role in its implementation. Services were provided to all who approached the team. Health promotion, disease prevention, chronic disease management, and tailored health education addressed specific patient needs. CJ formed a 'health committee' from displaced individuals to provide primary healthcare services to children, women, the elderly, and those with non-communicable diseases, establishing CJ as a leading provider of medical and health services in Northern Gaza.

Regular field visits and meetings with community partners ensured effective implementation. The administrative staff made follow-up visits to oversee progress. The project coordinator managed milestone reports and ensured high standards for services. The financial manager ensured compliance with internal protocols. At the same time, the head of the Health & Emergency Response Department supervised the team and ensured the achievement of project objectives.

The project highlighted the importance of effective planning based on thorough needs assessments. Given Gaza's chronic emergency status and political instability, CJ emphasized the necessity of readiness for sudden emergencies to maintain and resume activities as planned. Early procurement of equipment, medications, and supplies proved essential for ensuring availability and readiness, significantly contributing to the project's success.

Despite the challenging environment, CJ's Mobile Medical Team Project made substantial progress in improving healthcare access and outcomes for the Gaza Strip's vulnerable populations. The positive feedback and impactful results underscore the importance of continued and adaptive humanitarian efforts in this protracted crisis.



2024 INITIATIVES

In the first quarter of 2024, our coordinated efforts in Gaza, the West Bank, and Jerusalem made significant progress in supporting humanitarian needs. We conducted a needs assessment for renovating the Caritas Gaza Medical Center and planned capacity-building activities for the Caritas Taybeh Medical Center. We improved health access for 4,062 patients by procuring medical supplies, recruiting a medical team, and providing comprehensive health services, including treating infectious diseases, managing chronic conditions, and offering antenatal and elderly care. Mental health support reached 500 individuals, facilitated by a psychologist and animators who conducted group and individual sessions. Economic support was provided to 2,750 families through Multiple Purchase Cash Assistance (MPCA) in coordination with the Ministry of Social Development (MOSD), using the Palpay system and planning direct bank transfers for northern Gaza beneficiaries. These achievements demonstrate our commitment to improving health and economic conditions in the Holy Land, laying a strong foundation for future progress.





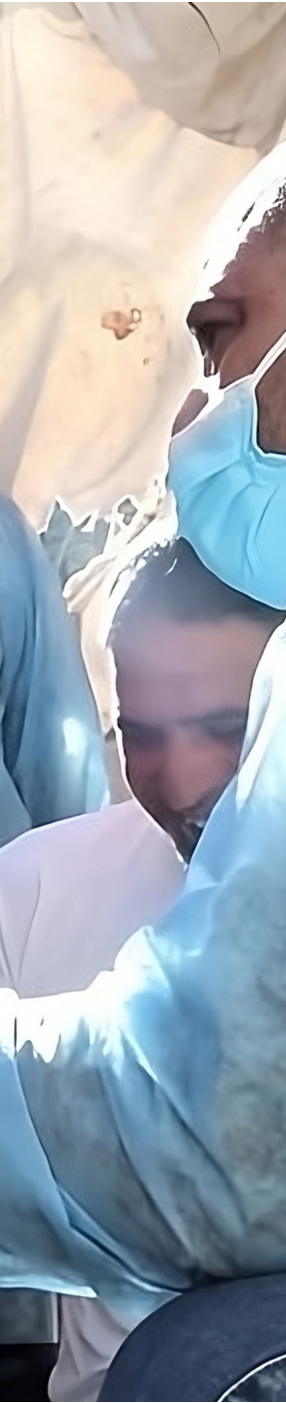
A Journey to Healing and Health Success Story

Sabreen

Sabreen, a 70-year-old woman, experienced a profound loss when her husband died from COVID-19 three years ago. His sudden death left her in shock and deep sorrow, making it hard for her to move on. The overwhelming grief caused Sabreen to neglect her own health. She didn't take her diabetes and high blood pressure medications. She rarely left her home because she feared people would think she didn't care about her husband's passing.

Sabreen's daughter was worried about her declining health and encouraged her to join a project supported by Caritas Jerusalem. At first, Sabreen was unsure, but she eventually joined the program. It marked a significant change in her life. Through the project, she got medical help and learned how to care for her health, which was essential for her recovery.

The medical support from Caritas Jerusalem helped Sabreen manage her chronic conditions better. She began to understand the importance of caring for her health and realized it was a gift she needed to cherish. This new awareness and care made her physically and emotionally better. Caritas Jerusalem's support made Sabreen healthier and gave her a new sense of purpose and strength to live with dignity. Sabreen's story shows how caring healthcare and community support can make a big difference. She hopes that Caritas Jerusalem will continue to provide this help to others in need.



RAPID RESPONSE APPEAL

The ongoing conflict has resulted in severe humanitarian crises. Allegations of shooting by Israeli forces at Palestinians waiting for humanitarian aid in Gaza City have been reported. Significant incidents included shelling and shooting at people gathering for aid delivery, resulting in multiple casualties.

MEDICAL AND HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

Caritas Jerusalem (CJ) took prompt action to address the escalating needs. Despite the constraints, CJ provided critical health services, food, hygiene kits, psychosocial support, and financial assistance to affected populations. Specific interventions included:

1. Healthcare Provision:

- 1,119 patients received primary healthcare services within shelters.
- 1,094 patients were provided with essential medications.

2. Food and Hygiene Kits Distribution:

- Food was provided to shelters, although hygiene supplies were unavailable for procurement.

3. Psychosocial Support (PSS):

- PSS was delivered to Jerusalem and the West Bank staff through three sessions focusing on emotional regulation, self-care, and mindfulness.

4. Economic Assistance:

- Multiple Purchase Cash Assistance (MPCA) was provided to 440 beneficiaries, including Gaza staff and shelter households, with bank transfers of NIS 1600 to their accounts.

CHALLENGES AND ADAPTATIONS

The volatile situation necessitated immediate and adaptive responses:

- Evacuation Efforts: The Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and a UN team evacuated 24 patients from Al Amal Hospital in Khan Younis despite severe constraints and direct interference from Israeli forces.
- Humanitarian Access: Restricted access to northern Gaza hindered the delivery of essential supplies, exacerbating food insecurity and public health challenges. The humanitarian community continues to engage with stakeholders to ensure safe and effective aid delivery.

POPULATION VULNERABILITIES

Older people in Gaza are among the most vulnerable, facing increased risks of hunger, dehydration, illness, injury, and death. The ongoing conflict and displacement exacerbate their pre-existing conditions and access to health services.

FEEDBACK AND EVALUATION

A feedback mechanism conducted by CJ involved reaching out to beneficiaries through phone calls to assess the effectiveness of interventions:

- Cash Assistance: The distribution of 1,600 NIS per family was instrumental in meeting immediate needs. Beneficiaries used the cash for food, essentials, utilities, and debt repayment.
- Basic Needs Supplies: High satisfaction levels were reported regarding the quality and quantity of food supplies provided in shelters.
- Safety and Security: Despite the conflict, beneficiaries felt safe and secure during the distribution process.



CONCLUSION

Caritas Jerusalem's interventions successfully addressed the immediate needs of the conflict-affected population in Gaza. The feedback mechanism highlighted the positive impact of cash assistance and the effectiveness of food distribution. Moving forward, these insights will guide future efforts to deliver targeted, efficient, and impactful humanitarian aid to ensure the resilience and dignity of affected communities.

CARITAS JERUSALEM

Extract from Audited Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2024

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

(All amounts in USD)

	For the Year Ended March 31,	
	2024	2023
Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets		
Revenues and Donations		
General Contributions and In-Kind Donations	257,756	601,489
Medical Centers Income	154,314	240,768
Other Revenues	184,973	178,024
Financial Revenues	41,060	-
Total Revenues and Donations	638,103	1,020,281
Net Assets Released from Temporary Restriction	4,616,565	3,899,287
Total Income and Net Assets Released from Restriction	5,254,668	4,919,568
Expenditures		
Salaries and Related Expenses	1,596,747	1,458,303
Program and Administrative Expenditures	1,055,643	1,451,805
Projects' Direct Expenses by Activity	2,624,981	1,608,004
Financial Expenses	6,363	42,993
Depreciation	119,119	183,964
Loss on Disposal of Property, Plant and Equipment	2,154	12,119
Total Expenditures	5,405,007	4,757,188
(Decrease) Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets for the Year	(150,339)	162,380
Reclassifications from Temporary Restricted Net Assets	226,196	5,660
Total Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets	75,857	168,040
Changes in Temporarily Restricted Net assets		
Temporarily Restricted Grants Additions	5,725,448	3,873,426
Net Assets Released from Temporary Restriction	(4,616,565)	(3,899,287)
Reclassifications to Unrestricted Net Assets	(226,196)	(5,660)
Changes in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	882,687	(31,521)
Changes in Net Assets for the Year	958,544	136,519

•Fiscal year 2024: April 2023 to March 2024

•Fiscal year 2023: April 2022 to March 2023



THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF THE CARITAS JERUSALEM FAMILY

**YOUR SUPPORT FUELS OUR EFFORTS, AND WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO SERV-
ING WITH LOVE, EMPATHY, AND UNWAVERING HOPE.**

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We put *love* into action

