

OUR FALLEN COLLEAGUES SERIES: ISSAM, DEDICATION TO THE END

10 July 2024



Issam sorting medication in an Agency pharmacy. © 2024 UNRWA Photo

[Download UNRWA multimedia resources here](#)

On 7 March, Issam was killed in his family home in the al-Hakar neighbourhood of Deir al-Balah, Gaza. Tragically, Issam's son also died, while his wife and four other children were severely injured. Issam's father, brother and sister also lived with him – and his father, sister, and his brother's entire family were likewise killed.

Issam hailed from Deir al-Balah camp, where he attended UNRWA schools as a child. After graduation, he enrolled in Al-Azhar University Gaza's Faculty of Pharmacy. He went on to become an assistant lecturer at the university, and earned a Master's degree in public health and health administration.

In addition to his dedication to education, Issam served the Palestine Refugee community through his work in UNRWA clinics. Working in the Rafah and Khan Younis camp communities since 2011, he was known for his diligence and dedication. During previous escalations of hostilities in Gaza, Issam often worked round the clock, helping his colleagues in health centres.

During the war, Issam moved south to work with the UNRWA team at the Agency's General Stores Complex in Rafah. "We will never forget our colleague Issam who was hardworking, very proactive, intelligent, working in any emergency without hesitation. He was always very keen to serve patients and Palestine Refugees," said Dr. Wissam, UNRWA's Pharmaceutical Services Officer at the General Stores Complex.

"His hard work and devotion to his work has left a good impact on us that we will never forget, and he will remain immortalized in our memory and a good example to be remembered," said Dr. Muammar.

UNRWA honours the service and memory of Issam and the 197 other UNRWA staff members killed in the ongoing war in the Gaza Strip.