

### Situation

Israel's war on Gaza has entered its sixth month, with the situation reaching an indescribable level of devastation and catastrophe. Food scarcity is currently the major issue in Gaza, with almost the entire population facing an imminent risk of famine. Israel continues to bomb all areas from the North to the South, including Rafah, which currently hosts 80% of Gaza's displaced population, while also blocking most aid from entering the Strip. The healthcare system has also completely collapsed, with the North's Al-Shifa Hospital most recently going out of service. The Ministry of Health in Gaza has since appealed to international organizations and relevant institutions to establish field hospitals in the Gaza Strip and in the North. With Israel intending on invading Rafah, the situation is likely going to become even more catastrophic and disastrous beyond imagination in Gaza.

### Updates on Juzoor's Response in Gaza

Juzoor now oversees 70 shelters in the Gaza Strip, with over 50 located in the North alone, including all of the North's UNRWA schools, 10 in the South, and others in different regions in Middle Gaza and Gaza City. Juzoor provides these shelters with a range of health, medical, and MHPSS services, and supplies them with essential aid which may include food, water, hygiene and emergency items, nutrition supplements, and medications.



### Juzoor Health Points & Clusters

Having started as a few health centers that serve a limited number of shelters with primary healthcare services to deal with burns and injuries, Juzoor's health initiative has evolved into a decentralized cluster system, greatly expanding its reach and services. At the heart of this system are the health center points, staffed with furniture, equipment, and a team of health professionals including at least one doctor, nurse, midwife, PSS specialist, and other volunteers.

These health points serve a cluster of smaller, nearby formal and informal shelters. Each of these smaller shelters is also supplied with a first aid kit and has a compact health team with at least one nurse that provides essential but less specialized services. Such clusters are present in different regions across Gaza, with the health points covering all 70 shelters we oversee and beyond. Additionally, supervisors oversee regions of clusters and meet weekly to assess needs and ensure an adequate supply of devices and equipment to support our health points effectively.

Juzoor's staffing of health personnel has grown significantly over the last weeks, now comprising over 120 professionals in the North and 30 in the South. Our executive team in Gaza constantly monitors the situation and identifies sites in need of health assistance. Once identified, a health team is assembled and a room is transformed into a health center with the essential furniture, medical supplies, medications, emergency bags, and disposables.

### Health Services

Seeing as no clinics or hospitals are operating in the North of Gaza, Juzoor has become the sole healthcare provider for the majority of the displaced population. As a result, and due to the worsening health crisis and increase in number of patients, our health points continue to expand and upgrade their services to cover a wider range of needs and health problems. These health points have all been supplied with the necessary medical devices and equipment in order to deal with all kinds of patients, including those with chronic diseases and those requiring surgery.

Our health teams conduct tens of thousands of health services on a weekly basis, mainly to people in the North. These services encompass a range of categories including communicable diseases, noncommunicable diseases, maternal and child health, sexual and reproductive health, primary healthcare, rehabilitation, trauma and emergency care, as well as mental and psychosocial support.



### Sexual and Reproductive Health

Due to our health centers experiencing a high demand for maternal care, and the lack of health services offered throughout Gaza, Juzoor established a specialized health team of 21 volunteers including 17 midwives to oversee the health of women and babies in shelters. The main activities of this team include identifying and reporting all pregnant women in the shelters and documenting them in each of their 'Mother and Child Cards', distributing hygiene and maternity kits, conducting general physical exams, arranging for laboratory tests and performing ultrasound exams at Al Awda Health Center, providing individual health counseling, and collaborating with pregnant women to make decisions regarding their place of delivery.

This team succeeded in performing more than 55 normal deliveries in shelters during a time when the North was under heavy bombardment. Thanks to them, thousands of women in our shelters now have access to vital sexual and reproductive health services including antenatal and postnatal care, pregnancy tests, and treatment for miscarriages and abortions. Between February and March alone, over 5,000 women benefitted from these essential services.

### Child Health

Our health services also extend to meet the needs of children in shelters, mainly with immunizations, nutrition screenings, newborn check-up exams, addressing special cases such as underweight or malnutrition, and health counseling. More than 23,000 services were offered to children in the months of February and March across Juzoor's 70 shelters, mainly in the North.

Since the launch of our immunization campaign in January in partnership with UNICEF, our trained immunization team comprised of 35 nurses and staff has vaccinated thousands of children in our four immunization clinics in the North of Gaza. Unfortunately, Phase 2 of the immunization campaign faced delays due to shortages of vaccines, for which a partnership was established with UNRWA and the MoH to organize regular immunization schedules at four sites. Plans are also underway for an immunization campaign at Beach Camp and the establishment of a regular vaccine station to serve the area.

The immunization campaign also involved malnutrition screening and treatment for children through MUAC measurements, and a high percentage were identified as acutely malnourished by Juzoor. Previously, Juzoor provided these children with ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF). However, due to supplies running out in the North, newly diagnosed children with malnutrition are unable to receive this treatment. Plans are also in progress for a more extensive malnutrition screening and treatment campaign targeting all children under 5 in Gaza.

### **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Program**

Our comprehensive mental health and psychosocial support program consisting of a team of PSS specialists has been providing counseling services to low-intensity, moderate, and severe cases of mental disorders as well as conducting various recreational activities for all displaced individuals in shelters to ease their stress and boost their mood, whether that be through playful engagement for children or meditation exercises for women. These activities target thousands of individuals every month, mainly children. More than 25,000 people were supported and targeted through such activities during February and March in all of Juzoor's shelters.



### **Emergency Support Helpline**

Our emergency toll-free helpline has been a crucial lifeline for individuals seeking advice on primary and emergency health care in Gaza, including nutrition, maternal care, and psychosocial support. Juzoor consistently addresses calls through this helpline, with inquiries addressed by a team of professionals tailored to the specific needs of the callers. To enhance accessibility, the helpline has been upgraded to include a selection menu, allowing individuals to request specific assistance and connect with the appropriate specialists accordingly.

Juzoor is committed to further enhancing this helpline's reach and continues to conduct extensive awareness campaigns throughout Gaza to ensure widespread awareness of the helpline's availability and purpose.

### **Trainings & Workshops**

A significant factor contributing to the success of our interventions and programs in Gaza is our focus on building the community's capacity to provide various services through training volunteers and specialists. Juzoor continues to organize and conduct diverse workshops and training sessions covering topics like emergency preparedness and psychological first-aid, and refreshment and boost courses for health personnel regularly, including midwives. Through these initiatives, we hope to empower individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to offer essential support to those in need.



In late February, Juzoor organized a training workshop to enhance the capacity of 21 midwives and 3 doctors, including some of Juzoor's personnel working across different locations and shelters alongside 7 midwives from UNRWA and 3 physicians engaged in antenatal care activities. The training focused on equipping them with the skills needed to manage pregnancy, delivery, and postnatal care effectively, both in emergencies and under regular circumstances.

Another training session on Psychosocial First Aid (PFA) and emergency midwifery was later conducted for more than 60 nurses, in collaboration with EFE. These nurses have gone on to implement several activities in shelters to provide relief for children and provide health support to pregnant women.

Other trainings were concluded to help standardize PSS and maternal activities in shelters, alongside various awareness workshops for protection, and some others specifically focused on introducing the emergency helpline and educating individuals on its usage.

### Distribution of Supplies & Resources

Juzoor remains committed to supplying the people of Gaza with their essential needs. Throughout February and March, we were able to procure and distribute various supplies and aid including hygiene kits, maternity and child kits, PFA kits, winterization kits, and more. Additionally, we ensured the continuous supply of medical kits to our health points and shelters, while also providing our personnel with specialized kits (e.g. midwifery kits) to support their work effectively.

Through collaborations with donors and partners like the WFP and UNFPA, we have been delivering food parcels to displaced people in the South and postpartum kits to new mothers across Gaza.

Recently, Juzoor distributed newborn kits to the maternity department at Al Awda Hospital in North Gaza in partnership with UNFPA.



## Gratitude to Global Partners and Urgent Appeal for Support

Juzoor's work would not be possible without the invaluable support and assistance from our global partners and supporting organizations -- UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP, MDM Spain, Save the Children, Oxfam, Care, World Central Kitchen, Search for Common Ground, Amplify Change, Caritas Germany, IMC, PAMA, IRC, Italian Cooperation, PaLCH, Lions Club International, HelpAge, EFE, among other organizations -- as well as all the individuals whose donations have enabled us to carry out our work.

While Juzoor has been actively addressing issues across Gaza, the situation has reached a point far beyond catastrophe. Our teams have been working tirelessly, even in extremely challenging conditions, including direct bombings, to ensure that essential medical supplies and health and psychosocial support reach those in need. Nevertheless, the severity of the situation and the growing demands surpass our current resources.

Juzoor appeals to the international community and global humanitarian organizations and entities to continue to assist Juzoor on the ground in Gaza. *Your support and collaboration have always been invaluable to us, and your contribution can have a substantial impact on alleviating the people of Gaza's suffering and saving their lives.*

**For additional details on Juzoor's response in Gaza, kindly visit our website where you can review earlier response reports, appeals, and ongoing projects.**

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