

**From Harriet Wheeler**  
**Executive Head of UK Office**  
**St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital**  
**21<sup>st</sup> February 2024**

Dear Supporters

Hope you're well. With hostilities in Gaza and Israel continuing for the past 137 days, it is reported that 28,000 people have now been killed and 67,000 injured in the Gaza Strip. It is also reported that 1,200 Israelis have been killed with more than 5,400 injured.

Many of the hostilities are in the southern parts of the Gaza Strip with a major concern regarding possible land incursions in Rafah where some 1.2 million displaced people are residing.

Our staff are predominantly residing in Rafah enduring the most devastating conditions. Despite the challenges, we have continued to pay staff and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

We have been engaged in discussions with the major health care responders in Gaza including, the World Health Organization, Care International, International Medical Corps and others to both identify ophthalmic health care needs and coordinate our forthcoming responses. Management is also engaged with The Unit for Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) to secure shipment of medical equipment and medications to Gaza in preparation for ophthalmic medical responses which should commence as soon as there is a reasonable ceasefire agreement.

For detailed information about the situation on the ground, please refer to the latest update on the website of the United Nations' Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs website - <https://www.ochaopt.org/crisis>.

In Jerusalem and the West Bank there has been an increased level of violence with more than 40 Palestinians killed since the start of the year. This has further compromised the movement of people and goods within the West Bank.

Despite such challenges, we have continued to provide services at all our facilities in Jerusalem and the West Bank.

In Jerusalem, clinical activities continue at about 75% capacity and more than 100% at Kufor Aqab. At the Hebron Hospital, clinical activities have been sustained at about 90% capacity.

Outreach services as well as the child vision screening project are progressing very well with an increased number of patients screened and referred, especially from West Bank refugee camps.

Due to the increased level of hostilities in the north of the West Bank, which have reduced the free movement of people and goods, clinical activities at Anabta continue to fluctuate between 30-50%.

Monthly updates continue to be published on our website: <https://www.stjohneyehospital.org/israel-gaza-hostilities-weekly-bulletin/> where you can also find out information about our [Emergency Appeal](#).

With warmest wishes and our sincere thanks for all that you do.

Best wishes  
Harriet

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