

Dear Supporters

With hostilities in Gaza and Israel continuing for the past eight months, it is reported that more than 34,500 people have now been killed and 76,000 injured in the Gaza Strip. It is also reported that 1,200 Israelis have been killed with more than 5,400 injured. The two parties (Israel and Hamas) have failed to reach a ceasefire agreement.

Israeli forces have started a land incursion in the eastern parts of Rafah City as well as the Rafah Crossing Complex. Some 800,000 refugees have sought refuge in other safer areas, mainly in the middle of the Gaza Strip. There have also been extensive military activities in parts of Gaza City as well as neighbouring refugee camps.

The SJEHG emergency medical interventions have continued despite the escalation in hostilities in Rafah. Our teams provide primary eye care services at 4 locations but had to suspend work at one of the field Hospital in Rafah due to safety concerns.

On average 1,000 patients are examined and treated every week in Gaza.

We have secured sufficient medical supplies for 2 months and we are still waiting for a sizeable delivery of equipment and medical supplies to reach Gaza once the humanitarian border crossing resumes its work.

With a very well-established phase one of our intervention, we are keen to go to phase two in the next few months.

Phase two will focus on the prevention of blindness and treatment of Diabetic Retinopathy which will start as soon as we are able to transport refrigerated medication across the border.

Phase three of this plan, which we anticipate will not commence before the end of the year, will focus on the rehabilitating and re-equipping of the hospital in Gaza City which can only commence once there is a permanent ceasefire.

As for our staff, most who were residing in Rafah City have now moved to Deir El Balah (middle of the Gaza Strip) and remain unharmed. The Hospital has continued to pay staff despite all the challenges.

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>.

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

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

Best wishes  
Harriet

Harriet Wheeler

**Executive Head of UK Office**

**St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital**

4 Charterhouse Mews, London, EC1M 6BB. Registered Charity: 1139527