

Dear Supporters

With hostilities in Gaza and Israel continuing for the past 165 days, it is reported that more than 31,000 people have now been killed and 70,000 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) are now engaged in indirect negotiations to reach a ceasefire agreement.

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.

Following an urgent Board meeting to approve the SJEHG's response plan in Gaza, staff are now engaged in discussions with the major health care responders in Gaza including, the World Health Organization, Care International, and International Medical Corps.

Our staff on the ground have secured at least one location to serve as a semi-mobile unit in Deir El Balah. We have also secured an approval from The Unit for Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) to move medical equipment and medications to Gaza in preparation for ophthalmic medical responses which should commence as soon as there is a reasonable ceasefire agreement.

As for our staff, most are residing in Rafah and Deir El Balah (south 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>.

In East Jerusalem and the West Bank, the security situation remains fragile with sporadic incidents on a daily basis. There has been no relaxation of restrictions on movement during the month of Ramadan.

Our outpatient clinical activities in Jerusalem continue at 75% capacity where most of the outpatients are from the Jerusalem district. As for surgery, the Jerusalem Hospital operates at almost 75% capacity as compared to the pre-war period.

At the Hebron Hospital, clinical activities have been sustained at almost 95% capacity with an increased number of surgeries performed at the Hospital every week.

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. To date, more than 20,000 children have been screened by the 3 teams across the West Bank refugee camps as well as East Jerusalem.

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

Harriet Wheeler  
**Executive Head of UK Office**  
**St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital**

Direct: [+44 \(0\) 207 553 6963](tel:+442075536963)

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