

peacemail

VOLUME 7 • ISSUE 6

FAMILY HEALTH CARE IN GAZA

POSTAGE PAID
OFF PEAK
AUSTRALIA

act for peace
reduce poverty | protect refugees
prevent conflicts | empower communities

The international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA)

Peel gently to open

Peel gently to open



The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is rooted in a near intractable dispute over land. Claimed by Jews as their biblical birth right, the land was occupied by Palestinians for centuries until the state of Israel was created after World War II. In 1967, an Israeli offensive led to the capture of the Gaza strip and the West Bank, creating a mass refugee outflow. Israel now occupies the land and Palestinians are not permitted the right to return, leaving 5.5 million Palestinians without a homeland.

Within the Palestinian territory of Gaza, lives are strictly controlled by the continuing Israeli occupation and blockade. The dilapidated state of infrastructure, restrictions on livelihoods including fishing and agriculture and the denial of free movement from Gaza have severely compromised economic trade and living standards. The threat of conflict between the Israeli authority and Palestinian leadership in Gaza also weighs heavily on the population.

Finding a peaceful and just resolution is critical. Finding ways to address the dire poverty and protect families and communities caught up in the violence is even more urgent, and that is the task of Act for Peace's partner, The Near East Council of Churches' Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees, which has been struggling to relieve their plight through focusing their efforts to on healthy children and functioning families.



\$15 can provide a can of milk for a malnourished child or treat a child with a respiratory infection.



\$70 can provide a course of treatment for an anaemic child.



\$285 can support laboratory testing for up to 50 patients.

All gifts of \$2 or more are tax deductible.



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THANK YOU Partners for your commitment to Act for Peace through your prayers and regular gifts. Through your generosity, we are making a real and lasting difference to the lives of many people affected by conflict or extreme poverty.

If you would like to upgrade your regular gift, simply free call Howard or Emma, **1800 025 101** or email hgraham@ncca.org.au. Also, all feedback and suggestions are welcome, as we love to hear from you and to pass on comments to project partners.

On the other hand, if you are not yet an Act for Peace Partner and would like to be, or would just like to help this project, your call or email will be welcomed!

Act for Peace is the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA)

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Vital Health Care for Children and Families in Gaza

Dear Partner,

The concern of our work at this Health Care Centre is predominantly for the women and children, as we find that they are most in need. We provide different programs, like ante-natal care, post-natal care, well baby clinics, the anaemic and malnourished children program, family-planning, afternoon activities and psychosocial support.

We, here in Gaza, suffer from the siege and from the occupation. We live like we are in a cage.

After the war, the situation deteriorated, especially for women and children. We noticed a disturbing change in the behaviour of children, such as stress and anxiety related problems like bedwetting and failures at school. We also noticed an increase in violence against women.

The children felt insecure and that there was no safe environment. Every day, they expected a bombing. On their way to and from school they were scared of an attack.

We bring groups of mothers and children together facing the same problems and have group counselling sessions. It helps them to talk and share experiences.

The children are asked to draw something. Often they will draw planes and bombings. We make a psychosocial plan and after one or two months the child can go back to school. We then ask them to draw their future and they will draw flowers, sun, sea...even weddings!

We all hope for peace and safety for our children. We would really like to thank Act for Peace Partners for all your support, especially after the war, and for standing by us in this deteriorating situation.

Lubna - Health Care Worker

My name is Maha. I'm 25 years old and married with three children. My husband is presently unemployed due to the siege imposed on Gaza. This means our family is without a source of income and we must depend completely on dry rations distributed by charities.

We are grateful, but found that the rations were insufficient to meet the needs of my family, in particular my children. They suffered from malnutrition and anaemia because we are unable to provide the proper food and milk.

Thanks to the Family Health Care Centre run by the Near East Council of Churches Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees, we are provided with the necessary treatment, medication and milk for my family. The staff's kind attention and proper treatment with follow up, both at the clinic and our home, has helped my children overcome malnutrition and anaemia. I cannot imagine what would happen to them without their help.

Thank you, friends, for supporting this much needed work. We all wish you continued success in the service of humanity.

Maha - Patient at the local Family Health Care Centre

Partners Prayer Points:

- Give thanks for the humanitarian work of The Near East Council of Churches.
- Pray for peace in the region, respect for human rights and just solutions for refugees and displaced people.



A psychosocial group in session