



# MIDDLE EAST HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

1-YEAR DONOR UPDATE

# AID AGAINST ALL ODDS

**Despite overwhelming challenges, your support is reaching people in need**

The ongoing conflicts in the Middle East are impacting millions of people and generating unimaginable suffering, further exacerbating already complex and protracted large-scale humanitarian crises in the region.

The scale of violence and destruction is difficult to comprehend. Few have been spared the death of loved ones, displacement from their homes and communities, or the ongoing struggle to meet the necessities of life. A constant fear of the next attack has civilians living in a perpetual state of uncertainty, with few places to go that are safe.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement personnel in the Middle East are working around the clock—often in dangerous conditions—to provide vital assistance to those impacted by the hostilities. Twenty-seven staff and volunteers have been tragically killed while conducting their Red Cross and Red Crescent humanitarian work in Gaza, West Bank and Israel, with many more injured; an unacceptable loss for the affected population as well as our network of humanitarian responders around the world.

**Civilians—including women and children, older adults, and the wounded and sick—continue to pay the heaviest price, physically and mentally.**

We continue to coordinate with our international Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners as further needs arise across the region.

The Canadian Red Cross, would like to thank the generous individuals, businesses, and organizations who have provided \$8.6 million to the Middle East Humanitarian Crisis Appeal as of September 30, 2024. As part of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the Canadian Red Cross continues to support the Movement's tireless efforts to respond to the evolving needs of people whose homes, livelihoods, and access to critical services are severely impacted by the conflict and is committed to helping meet humanitarian needs for the months and years to come.

Despite constant, overwhelming, and consistent challenges, your support reaches people in need. Please read on to see how you are part of a concerted effort to navigate these immense challenges to get aid where it is needed.

The Canadian Red Cross has a long history of supporting the work of National Societies in the Middle East region, including Magen David Adom (Israel's National Society), the Palestine Red Crescent Society, and the Lebanese Red Cross. The Canadian Red Cross continues to support partners in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to provide humanitarian aid to the people impacted by the crisis, mobilizing funds, personnel, and supplies.

**Funds have supported:**

**Lebanese Red Cross Society**

**Magen David Adom**

**Palestine Red Crescent Society**

**Egyptian Red Crescent**

*(through the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies)*

**The International Committee of the Red Cross**

**The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

**THANK YOU** for your compassion for the people impacted by this crisis.





More than **1.9 million people** across the Gaza Strip have been forced to leave their homes; many have been displaced multiple times. It is estimated that more than 90 per cent of the population is dependent on humanitarian aid.

*Credit: ICRC*



# A COORDINATED REGIONAL RESPONSE



October 2023-October 2024

Across the region, Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies are working to reduce suffering.

Here are just some of the ways they are reaching those in need.



The International Committee of the Red Cross facilitated the release, transfer, and return of **109 hostages** from Gaza and **154 Palestinian detainees** from Israeli places of detention to their families.



## EGYPTIAN RED CRESCENT

The Egyptian Red Crescent is supporting the coordination of all humanitarian aid that arrives in Egypt, and significantly scaled-up its logistics capacity to help facilitate the increased activity.

**Currently the only humanitarian organization** with access to the port in Al-Arish and the Rafah border crossing. However, with the Rafah border crossing closed since May 7, 2024, crucial aid is not making it into Gaza.

**Dozens of humanitarian service points** supported for people arriving from Gaza and truck drivers transporting humanitarian aid; ensuring access to water, food, and hygiene items, in addition to health care, and psychosocial support.

## LEBANESE RED CROSS\*

The Lebanese Red Cross is the most widely accepted humanitarian organization in Lebanon, with 12,000 volunteers across the country. Since October 2023, the Lebanese Red Cross has been supporting people in conflict affected areas.

**5,500 ambulance missions** providing emergency medical care and patient transport.

**200,000 essential relief items distributed**, including blankets, mattresses, potable water, and ready-to-eat meals.

**120,000 people reached** with medical services across the country, providing consultations and medications to internally displaced people.

*\*The Canadian Red Cross supports the work of the Lebanese Red Cross through both the Middle East Humanitarian Crisis Appeal, as well the Lebanon Humanitarian Crisis Appeal.*







**27 staff and volunteers have been killed** while conducting their Red Cross and Red Crescent humanitarian work in Gaza, West Bank, and Israel.

### MAGEN DAVID ADOM (MDA, ISRAEL'S NATIONAL SOCIETY)

Magen David Adom is Israel's national emergency medical service with 3,000 staff and 30,000 volunteers across the country.

 **1 million emergency calls** responded to with life-saving care and medical assistance.

 **500,000 people** received CPR and first aid training.

 **450 community Emergency Response Teams** equipped to respond in remote areas.



Credit: Magen David Adom





Credit: PRCSS

### PALESTINE RED CRESCENT SOCIETY

The Palestine Red Crescent Society, operating in both Gaza and the West Bank, has more than 1,500 staff and volunteers who are putting their lives on the line every day to provide aid.

 **1.6 million emergency relief items** distributed, including food parcels, hygiene kits, blankets, mattresses, and tents.


 **100,000 people reached** with emergency medical assistance through ambulances and health centres.


 **100,000 people reached** with psychosocial support services.

### SYRIAN ARAB RED CRESCENT

During the escalation of the conflict in Lebanon, many people fled for safety in Syria. The Syrian Arab Red Crescent supported people fleeing violence at Humanitarian Service Points at key border crossings.

 **Tens of thousands of people** supported.

 **319,000 relief items distributed** such as food, blankets, and mattresses.

 **Other aid provided includes** psychosocial support, emergency medical care, and clean water.



Credit: SARCC





Credit: Magen David Adom

# SAVING A BRAVE GIRL'S LIFE IN ISRAEL

**Compassion and courage in a critical moment**

**Yarin is a Magen David Adom (MDA) paramedic based in Jerusalem.** He helped save 6-year-old Ofek, with his colleague, Gali, on October 7, 2023.

*“We were in the Ofakim area and treated quite a few wounded,” recounts Yarin. “At a certain point, we were called to a border crossing...we were there alone for the first few minutes and then a military vehicle arrived with soldiers. The back door opened and we saw Ofek with a gunshot wound in her leg and a tourniquet. We could see the situation was critical.”*

“Ofek lost quite a bit of blood, but she was very calm, not crying at all.”

Yarin's team contacted their MDA centre to request a helicopter evacuation, and she was transported to the hospital immediately.

One month later, Yarin and Gali were able to reunite with Ofek—relieved to see her standing on her own two feet. They brought her a stuffed unicorn on which was written ‘To Ofek, the heroine, with great love, Gali and Yarin from MDA.’





Credit: Norwegian Red Cross/Olav A. Saltnanes

# PROVIDING HOPE AMONGST THE RUBBLE

## at the ICRC Field Hospital

Since May 2024, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Field Hospital in Rafah, Gaza, has been operating around the clock to care for people in need—treating wounds, providing mental health care, and helping deliver babies into the world.

The Canadian Red Cross is supporting the operation of the field hospital, in collaboration with the ICRC and several other National Red Cross Societies. Thanks to your support, this facility is equipped with essential surgical equipment, medicines, diagnostic tools, and disinfection materials; all vital in a setting where access to critical supplies is scarce and the flow of additional resources into Gaza is limited.

Credit: Norwegian Red Cross/Olav A. Saltnanes



### Meet baby Nous

While there are many difficult moments for the patients and medical teams working in the ICRC Field Hospital, there are also moments of hope and joy—like the birth of a baby.

Baby Nous—weighing in at 6.2 pounds—is one of 168 babies born at the field hospital. Each baby is a testament to the resilience of life, even in the most challenging circumstances. Eman and Daif, Nous' parents, were able to introduce their families to their new baby for the first time in the field hospital—a moment to be cherished when moments like these are hard to come by.

Your support continues to sustain these essential services, bringing much-needed care and hope to families like Nous'.



### ICRC Field Hospital Facts

**Opened:** May 2024

**Location:** Rafah, Gaza

**Capacity:** 60 beds, 200 patients daily

**Departments:** Surgical, maternal and newborn, pediatric, emergency

**Staffing:** 230 local and international staff

### Your Impact

**Patient visits:** 29,950

**Babies born:** 168

**Surgeries performed:** 1,444

*As of September 28, 2024*



Credit: ICRC

# HEALING MENTAL WOUNDS IN GAZA

**How one father turns his anguish into action**

Mustafa lives in Khan Younis with his four children. He began volunteering with the Palestine Red Crescent Society shortly after the escalation of hostilities in October 2023, providing psychological first aid to people who are injured and their families.

As part of the team that is stationed at the ICRC Field Hospital in Rafah, Mustafa provides psychological first aid to patients, their families, and field hospital staff to help them process the deeply traumatic events they have endured and witnessed. His team also guides patients to where they need to be in the hospital and occasionally supports patient transfers to other hospitals. While the impacts of this crisis will be felt for decades to come, mental health supports are critically needed now to help people to cope in the immediate future.

Mustafa is deeply affected by the conflict himself. His home is badly damaged. Nonetheless, he still helps people every day who are in even greater need.

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*“Houses are manifestations of our dreams, memories, and hard work. Every corner of the house has a memory. Even though my house is damaged and uninhabitable, I want to stay here in my home and bring back the dreams and memories.”*

- Mustafa, Psychological First Aid provider, Palestine Red Crescent Society

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# HOW VOLUNTEERS ARE WORKING TO GET AID INTO GAZA

Trucks are lined up as far as the eye can see. The logistics hub buzzes with activity as volunteers work around the clock to receive, track, sort, and transport, when they can, severely needed humanitarian aid across the border.

The Egyptian Red Crescent has been coordinating all humanitarian aid which has been able to pass through the Rafah border crossing into Gaza. It is an immensely large and complicated operation.

Thanks to you, the Canadian Red Cross has provided financial support to the Egyptian Red Crescent to help them scale-up their logistical capacity.

Canadian Red Cross Vice President of International Cooperation, Kelsey Lemon, visited the hub in Al-Arish to learn more about the response and how volunteers are supporting this vital work.

“Volunteers are at the heart of the work the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement does,” explains Kelsey. “Time and time again on my trip, I meet volunteers who are so motivated to help their neighbours in Gaza.”

“Volunteers have never stopped giving their hearts,” says Dr. Amal Emam, acting CEO of the Egyptian Red Crescent.



*Kelsey Lemon, Vice President of International Cooperation (pictured right), speaks with Lotfy Gheith, Egyptian Red Crescent Head of Operations, at the Egyptian Red Crescent logistics warehouse.*

Your support means these dedicated volunteers can continue their challenging job of getting aid into the hands of those most in need, working against immense challenges like border closures, restrictions, or other impediments to their humanitarian mission. The Rafah border crossing has been closed since May 7, 2024, meaning that this crucial aid is not making it into Gaza.





Credit: PROS

# THE LOOMING THREAT OF DISEASE



**In July 2024, the first case of polio** in more than 20 years was confirmed in Gaza, and reports are emerging of other suspected cases.

Humanitarian organizations in Gaza are working together to vaccinate children against polio. Just a few drops of the vaccine in the mouth of each child can prevent this potentially fatal disease. The Palestine Red Crescent Society, working with other international organizations, participated in a 12-day campaign under incredibly difficult conditions to reach children under 10 years of age in north, central, and south Gaza. The ICRC Field Hospital in Rafah was also used as a vaccination point.

While vaccination campaigns are a welcome measure, the public health and sanitation situation in Gaza remains dire and, without access to clean water and proper sanitation, civilians are still at risk of multiple infectious diseases.





Credit: ICRC/Thomas Glass

# THANK YOU FOR HELPING FAMILIES LIKE SAYED'S

**Your generosity is reaching those most in need**

Your compassion has helped many families in their fight to survive as intense hostilities continue across the region. In Gaza, the Al-Marwani family is among them.

When bombing destroyed their house in Beit Lahia in northern Gaza, Sayed Al-Marwani and his wife took their three daughters and fled in his taxi, heading south to his father's house in Khan Younis. It too was bombed; his father seriously wounded. The family moved again, this time to Rafah, but they could not find available space in any of the camps. Their only choice was to sleep in the taxi, which Sayed still owned.



Sayed and his family were **one of thousands who received two tarpaulins** from the ICRC, which he used as shelter for his family.

Like so many fathers, Sayed is focused on protecting his children and says he hopes to one day leave Gaza so he can provide a safe future for his daughters. For now, he is grateful for the little bit of added comfort he's able to give his family, thanks to you.

For families like Sayed's, there has been so much heartbreak in the Middle East over the last year. Through it all, our local partners have been able to continue working around the clock—saving lives and easing suffering. You have enabled this critical work.

**We are deeply grateful for the care and compassion you have shown to those who have been affected by this crisis.**

**THANK YOU.**





Drawings by children who are internally displaced hang on the fence of the ICRC Field Hospital in Rafah, Gaza. In the background, Palestine Red Crescent Society volunteers from the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support team do activities with the children.

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*“All of us want to go back home,”*

says 12-year-old Alaa.

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