

DSPR – MECC Update

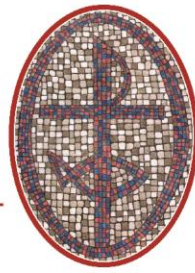
February 2025

The ceasefire was met with great relief and joy, for we prayed continuously and urged all our friends and partners to work for this achievement. Yet, as people returned to their homes, they were confronted with overwhelming devastation. Entire neighborhoods had been erased, and what were once homes filled with memories and love were now piles of rubble. But it's obvious that the spirit of the people remains unbroken. They returned, and many could be seen clearing the rubble from the remains of their homes, seeking to set up even the simplest shelter, a tent to call home amid the ruins.



Humanitarian aid trucks are breaking the terror of hunger and thirst. With them comes the first glimpse of renewed life. At the same time, people are awakening to the depth of their grief and the longing not only for survival but for dignity, healing, and restoration. DSPR decided to continue its mission there to restore hope for a better life.

In Rafah, we have reopened our primary healthcare center, which had been forced to close during Israeli the invasion to rafah. Thankfully, the building was not destroyed, though it required repairs, medical equipment, and medicine. The medical team, some of whom had been displaced to Khan Younis and Deir al-Balah, was reorganized, and services resumed.



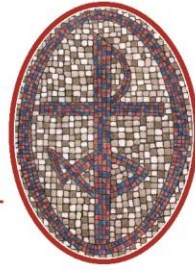
Despite the hardships, we also continued operations at the clinic in Nuseirat, in the central area of Gaza strip, and adjusted staff distribution to continue serving the community there.

The staff members who returned to Gaza City and the northern regions have joined the teams there, resuming their mission of healing. The temporary medical point established in Gaza City after the destruction of our clinics in Shejaiya and Daraj remains active. Restoration work is also underway at DSPR's main building, bringing us closer to reopening two primary healthcare centers that will serve the people of Gaza City.

Alongside healthcare, DSPR teams have been actively distributing water, nutrients, and providing psychological first aid to those returning from the south to northern Gaza. As thousands made the hard journey back on foot, our teams stood along their paths to provide little support.



Despite the ceasefire, Churches continue to house around 570 displaced Palestinian Christians, as their homes have been destroyed or lack essential utilities like water and electricity. In the churches, they find access to water, communal kitchens, and a safe space to sleep and shelter their families.



Yet, the future remains uncertain. Even as we strive to rebuild, the threat of renewed war looms. Netanyahu and his extremist government are threatening to resume their war on Gaza once the second phase of the ceasefire agreement ends. This ongoing uncertainty leaves many hesitant about rebuilding their lives, fearing yet another wave of destruction.

But we remain steadfast in our mission, standing firm in faith and in action. We are watching closely, exploring potentials and revisiting the plans while continue to support our communities with healthcare, relief, psychosocial support, and exploring the possible vocational training services to be resumed.

The West Bank has entered a new phase of suffering and atrocity. Invasions of various areas, particularly in the northern districts, have reached unprecedented levels. The use of helicopters to launch rockets into densely populated refugee camps and the bombing of 15 buildings at once are something never witnessed in the West Bank. Settler violence and attacks and the reveling of the plans to annex west bank and acting accordingly is also dangerous precedent. This is evident in the staggering number of checkpoints imposed within the West Bank, now reaching 900, making daily life nearly impossible for millions.



This is not in Gaza, it's in Jenin-West Bank

In response, DSPR continues to support marginalized families through small-scale relief projects, focusing on food security and subsidized health services to ease their hardships.

In these difficult times, we continue to pray with the psalmist: "*I lift up my eyes to the mountains, where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.*" Psalms 121: 1-2.