



Christian Aid's partners are extremely thankful for the support from the Jersey Overseas Aid Commission. The £30,000 grant has provided 4,512 individuals with support at such a difficult time. Hundreds of families have been supported to access safe shelters, find medical support externally and in their home, as well as lawyers providing legal advice and evacuating people from their homes. This work would not be possible without your support.

### Context

Slightly smaller than the Isle of Wight, the Gaza Strip is one of the most densely populated places on the planet, with some 1.8 million people living there. Due to the longstanding Israeli blockade, around 75 per cent of its people rely on international aid for their day-to-day living; more than half are unable to grow or purchase enough food for themselves and their families.

Children aged seven and over have now lived through three major conflicts in their short lives, which, in 2008, 2012 and 2014 devastated the tiny strip of land, killing nearly 2,000 Palestinian civilians, injuring more than ten thousand, destroying homes and devastating Gaza's schools, medical facilities and infrastructure. The 50-day military offensive, which took place in July and August of 2014, compounded an already fragile humanitarian situation and recovery



will take years; 108,000 people lost their homes, dozens of health facilities and hospitals were damaged and ten ambulances destroyed. Damage to schools was so severe that more than half a million children were unable to return to school for the new term in late 2014.

### Project Description

Funding from the Jersey Overseas Aid Commission has helped support two of Christian Aid's partners in Gaza, Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS) and Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR).

PMRS mobilised groups of people to shelters all over Gaza and provided comprehensive medical care to people staying there. Their services included health care and support for people with chronic disease, pregnant women, new mothers and newborns, as well as psychological help and recreational activities for traumatised children. The medical staff also provided physiotherapy and wound dressing services.

Two separate teams – funded by JOAC – started visiting the injured at their homes after being released from the hospital and provided them with wound dressing services so that they did not have to go to the hospital. Their needs were assessed and they were provided with necessary equipment if needed, for example, wheelchairs, walking sticks and medical mattresses. Approximately 2,500 people received medical care at home, this included wound dressing, assistive devices to help them function around the home and individual relief, which included both food and non-food items.

PCHR were able to recruit and train legal experts in order to document human rights violations and report families to the correct medical care and protection. PCHR lawyers assisted 15 families to evacuate their homes from extremely dangerous zones. 149 patients were assisted to medical centres in order to receive support.

## Case Study

Saly is a 20 year old woman who was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at birth. She has been living in a residential home for people with disabilities, which was bombed in the airstrikes. Saly was taken to hospital and when her mother Soona went to see her daughter in hospital doctors told her she had sustained burns all over her body and skull injuries and a pelvic fracture.

Soona said, “Paramedics who rescued my daughter told me: Your daughter is lucky to have survived; the pressure of the bomb was so high that it threw her meters away while she was holding to her doll.” Despite Saly’s critical injury, Shifa Hospital prematurely discharged her after four days due to overcrowding. Saly should have received wound dressing and monitoring after being discharged, but on returning home nobody contacted them; they were alone.



Thankfully, Sooma was referred to the Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS) who came immediately after she called them asking for help. When the PMRS medical team diagnosed Saly, they discovered shoulder and femur fractures that were not discovered in hospital.

PMRS continued to provide Saly with dressing care until she was referred to the West Bank for medical treatment. PMRS teams in the West Bank visited Saly in hospital frequently and provided her with the support Saly and her family needed.

The PMRS team have bought Saly a doll similar to the one she she lost on the night of the bombing. Sooma said: “I’ll be grateful to PMRS all my life for all they have been doing to save Saly.”



**On behalf of Christian Aid, our partners in Gaza and all the beneficiaries we are extremely thankful for JOAC's very kind gift of £30,000 to support families torn apart by the conflict.**