



Standing Together in Hope, DSPR's Continuing Service in Gaza

Dear Partners and Friends,

Greetings from the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) of the Middle East Council of Churches.

With hearts carrying both pain and hope, we write to share with you a glimpse of the ongoing journey of DSPR in Gaza, where our teams continue to live out our calling and witness through service, compassion, and steadfast commitment to the dignity of every human being.

Despite the overwhelming suffering, emotional pain, and the unbearable weight carried by our communities, with no visible prospect of a political solution on the horizon, DSPR continues to uphold its living mission and the spiritual and humanitarian vision of ecumenical service that has guided our work for decades. Even in the midst of devastation, we remain committed to being present with people in their suffering, extending compassion, and witnessing through action to the value of every human life.

The reality in Gaza remains devastating. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), “people across the Gaza Strip, including humanitarian workers, remain exposed to airstrikes, other military activity, new or protracted displacement and persisting health risks. For most residents, displacement, overcrowding and limited access to basic services continue to undermine safety, dignity and well-being” (OCHA, *Humanitarian Situation Report*, 3 July 2026).

Families continue to live in overcrowded displacement sites and tents, with very limited space for privacy, protection, or dignity. The intense summer heat has transformed many of these shelters into unbearable environments, where people struggle with extreme temperatures, inadequate shelter conditions, and the lack of basic necessities. The absence of any reconstruction has left many surrounded by destruction and rubble, carrying the painful memories of homes, communities, and a way of life that has been lost.

Humanitarian reports continue to highlight the severe challenges facing civilians, including shortages of essential supplies, rising prices, limited access to food, clean water, medicines, and healthcare services. According to OCHA, humanitarian operations continue to face “significant constraints,” while people across Gaza experience “critical shortages of essential items and services” (OCHA, *Humanitarian Situation Report*, 3 July 2026).

The health situation remains extremely alarming. The World Health Organization (WHO) has repeatedly warned that the health system in Gaza continues to operate under extraordinary pressure, with healthcare workers facing shortages of medicines, medical supplies, fuel, and functioning health facilities while responding to overwhelming needs. The already fragile health situation has been further compounded by the spread of communicable diseases, including a significant increase in cases of chickenpox, particularly among displaced populations living in overcrowded shelters and tents. Limited access to clean water, inadequate sanitation, overcrowding, and the lack of proper living conditions have created an environment where infectious diseases can spread rapidly, placing additional pressure on an already overwhelmed healthcare system. (WHO, *Gaza Strip: Health Emergency Situation Report No. 70*, 2026).



Yet, even amid this suffering, hope remains alive.

Through our three primary healthcare clinics, one in Nuseirat and two in Gaza City, with the limited resources we have, DSPR continues to serve thousands of people every week, providing essential health services to those who have nowhere else to turn. Our clinics remain spaces of care, dignity, and compassion, where people receive not only medical support but also reassurance that they are not forgotten.

Our teams also continue delivering psychosocial support programs to thousands of children and women, creating safe spaces where they can express their fears, process traumatic experiences, and rebuild a sense of resilience. In a reality where so many children have lost homes, loved ones, and a sense of security, these programs continue to plant seeds of hope and affirm that healing and a better future remain possible.

Our commitment remains rooted in DSPR's vision, to continue reaching the marginalized, extending a hand of compassion, and empowering people to preserve their dignity and live with hope and possibility, even under the most difficult circumstances. We believe that humanitarian service is not only about responding to immediate needs; it is also about affirming rights and the value of life, standing with communities in their darkest moments, and witnessing to God's love through action.

At the same time, we remain deeply concerned for our dedicated staff in Gaza. For nearly three years, our teams have worked without real moments of rest, carrying not only the responsibility of serving others but also their own personal losses, losing family members, colleagues, relatives, neighbours, homes, memories, and the familiar world they once knew. They continue to serve among the ruins of their communities and amidst an overwhelming human reality of displacement and suffering.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our partners, supporters, churches, and friends around the world. Without your presence, solidarity, prayers, trust, and commitment to justice and peace, we would not have been able to continue this mission. Your support has enabled DSPR to remain a sign of hope and a witness of compassionate service when hope often seems distant.

We ask you to continue standing with Gaza, with our teams, and with the communities we serve. Your partnership is more than assistance; it is an expression of shared humanity, faith, and commitment to a world where dignity, justice, and peace prevail.

Together, through faith, compassion, and solidarity, we continue to proclaim that even in the darkest valleys, hope can still be planted, nurtured, and shared.

"They that sow with tears shall reap with rejoicing." Psalms 126:5