

# EVERY HUMAN

DECEMBER 2019

## What's happening in Palestine?

All the latest news, updates, and projects from our team in Gaza.

## Fire at A-Shifa Hospital

A devastating fire raged through the hospital. Find out what happened from the head of the Radiology Department.



# INTRODUCING EVERY HUMAN

## Welcome to our inaugural edition of Every Human!

Each month, Every Human will be adding humanity to your inbox, bringing you the latest news, unique stories from our projects, and first-hand testimonies from our teams on the ground. In each issue, we'll focus on one country; this month, December, our spotlight is on Palestine.

Keep reading to find out what happened when a fire broke out at Al-Shifa Hospital, as told by the Head of Radiology, Dr. Kamel Jaber.

You'll also meet Khalil, who used to have to walk in the dark at 2 a.m. just to receive dialysis, and you'll hear from the head of the hospital's Mechanics Department, Khaled Abu Jayyab, who explains how salty water can be deadly.

In each issue, we'll give the floor to one of our inspiring local staff members who'll fill you in on the details first-hand. This month, meet 34-year-old Azzam, who was born in Kuwait, fled the Gulf War to Gaza, and now works every day to improve the lives of those around him in Palestine.

And of course, you'll find out how your charity has transformed lives.

We hope you enjoy getting to see behind the scenes, and from Every Human here at Human Appeal, thank you.

**Cover:** We're currently working with small-scale farmers in Khan Younis, Gaza to rehabilitate land, install water networks, and plant 680 olive trees.

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A man helps a child during an escalation in attacks in Gaza, November 2019

## LIVE FROM PALESTINE

On November 14 a fragile ceasefire came into place in Gaza, ending two days of violence that killed **34** Palestinians – including eight children – and injured **111**.

The casualties put extra strain on an already overstretched healthcare system, which has struggled to cope with medical shortages, the blockade, power cuts, cyclical violence and the **35,000** injuries caused during the Great Return March.

Human Appeal has been working in Palestine for over **20** years, but recently one of our focuses has been on supporting medical facilities –

particularly Gaza's largest hospital, Al-Shifa – and empowering healthcare workers to treat sick and injured Palestinians.

We're upgrading vital electronic parts at Al-Shifa Hospital's intensive care unit and operating theatres so that doctors have the proper equipment to save lives.

Earlier this year, a fire broke out in Al-Shifa's CT department, destroying the ward. Find out how your donations helped Dr. Kamel Jaber to get back to work.

With your support, we'll also be installing a nursing lab at Al Aqsa University, with **46** pieces of equipment to help the next generation of nurses to gain practical experience before they go on to graduate and save lives.

We're also installing desalination units in three of Gaza's hospitals, supporting staff and patients, and ensuring equipment isn't damaged by unclean, salty water. Read on to find out how water is the difference between life and death for dialysis patients.



Zinat received food vouchers last year to help her to afford food for her son (pictured) and 10 other children.

## How your donations are saving lives

Our supporters continue to help **4,738** orphaned children in the West Bank and Gaza. Between 2018 and 2019, your donations provided food to **200,000** Palestinians. This year, 11,000 patients benefited from our delivery of urgent medicines, and **100,000** are benefiting from spare parts that we provided to operating theatres and intensive care units.

Currently **97 per cent** of water in Gaza is contaminated and unsafe to

drink according to the World Health Organisation (WHO) In 2018, we installed a desalination unit in Al Aqsa University, supporting 15,300 students, staff and visitors each day. We've installed a desalination unit in Rafah, serving **30,000** people, and we're constructing a sewage network in middle Gaza.

Last year, we also supported **3,200** people to seek treatment for eye conditions through our optic centre.

➤ **4,738** orphaned children supported in the West Bank and Gaza.

➤ **11,000** patients benefited from our delivery of urgent medicines.



800 people in Gaza depend on dialysis treatment to survive.

## IN A HOSPITAL, SALTY WATER IS DEADLY

Human Appeal Palestine is installing desalination units in three of Gaza's hospitals so that patients can have access to safe drinking water, and to prevent the deterioration of medical equipment.

We'll also be repairing and maintaining the water networks in each facility, and testing water samples to ensure that the water remains clean and safe. Each month, **75,222** people will benefit, including patients, their families, and staff.

The water desalination unit at Al-Shifa Hospital, Gaza, provides water to operating theatres, analysis labs, sterilisation services, laundry units and to **500** dialysis patients.

Khaled Abu Jayyab, Head of Mechanics Department of Gaza hospitals explains how salty water affects patient treatment, and how clean water saves lives.

## None of this would have been possible without your support.

We're here at the seawater desalination plant which serves Al-Shifa medical complex – the biggest hospital in Gaza, which treats more than **2,000** patients per day.

This desalination plant was established four years ago, but since then, salinity levels have doubled, and many filtration membranes have deteriorated and been blocked. There are unprecedented levels of contamination, exposing patients to health risks, and damaging medical equipment – even increasing post-treatment infections by up to **50%**.

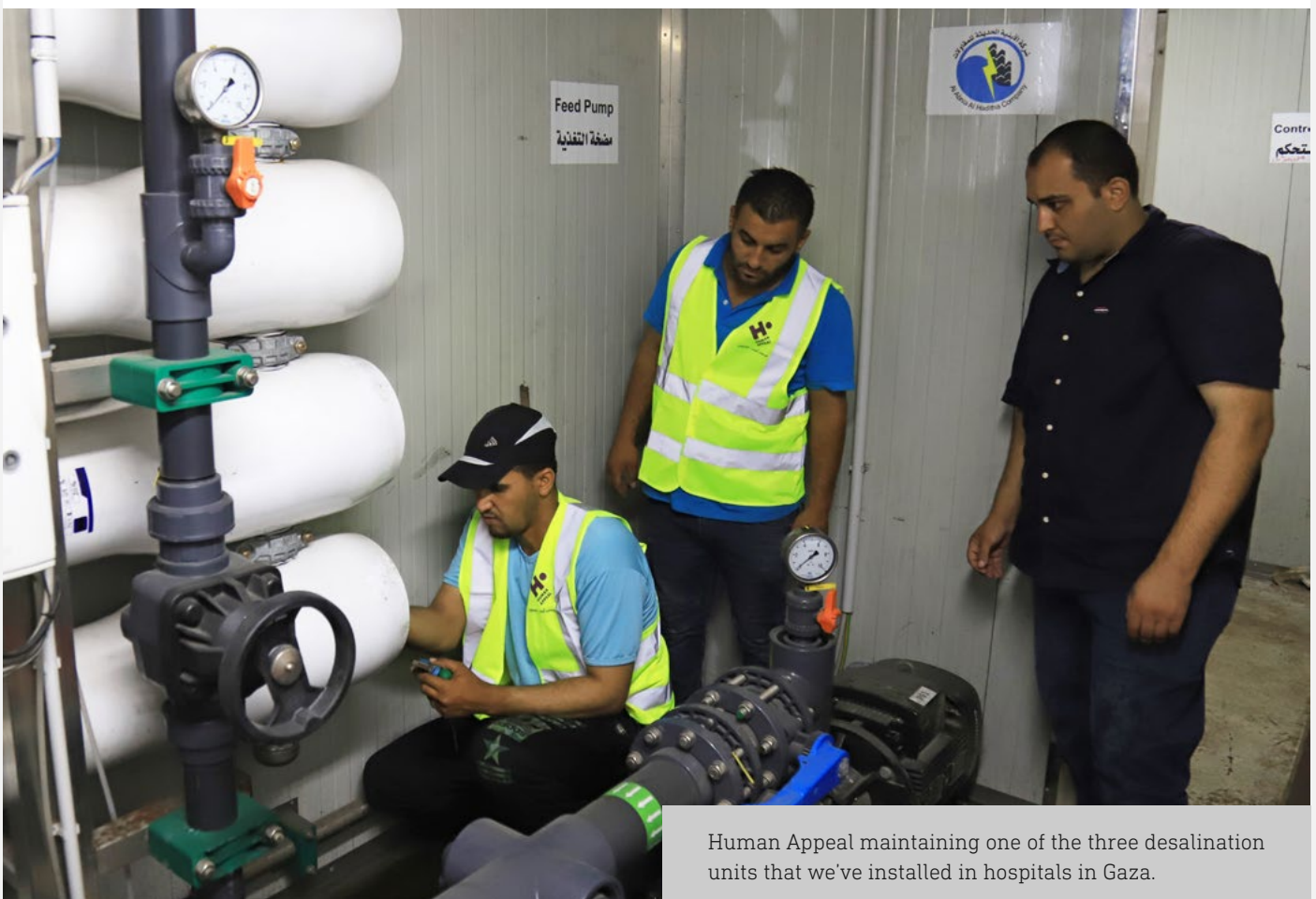
Salty water can damage critical equipment in operation theatres, affect the accuracy of lab results, and kill dialysis patients who depend on clean water for treatment.

When we appealed for help in restoring our desalination unit, Human Appeal contacted us immediately and within a week had developed an idea for a project to restore our clean water.

It's not the first time that Human Appeal has supported us. They've reconstructed our critical CT department and supported other hospitals in Gaza with vital equipment and spare parts for intensive care units and operation theatres so that we're able to provide care and save lives.

May Allah reward you.

**Khaled Abu Jayyab**  
Head of Mechanics  
Department of Gaza hospitals



Human Appeal maintaining one of the three desalination units that we've installed in hospitals in Gaza.



Because of over-demand and water shortages, Khalil used to have to attend dialysis treatment in the middle of the night.

## WATER, LIFE, AND DEATH

Clean water saves lives, but not just through hydration. Also benefiting from our three desalination units, are those on dialysis treatment, which requires clean water to purify blood.

We spoke to 54-year-old Khalil, who can now rely on regular, uninterrupted clean water for his dialysis treatment at Al-Shifa Hospital:



### Water is a matter of life and death to us

We always suffer because of water shortages; we come for treatment but often there's no water and we're delayed three or four hours. It's exhausting and suffocating.

We'll come for dialysis and find that the machine isn't working, so they ask us to return later, or the next day. But I can't walk, and, when I have to come for dialysis at 8 p.m. because of

the shortage of machines, I have to walk home at 2 a.m. when I can't see further than one metre.

Water is a matter of life and death to us. When we used to undergo dialysis, the machines would beep for a lack of water. Now the water is good. May God send us good people to help us with the lack of dialysis machines too, as they solved our lack of clean water.







We're building a 3-floor welfare centre for vulnerable Palestinian children in Beit Hanina, Jerusalem.

## THE FOUNDATIONS OF EDUCATION

A staggering **83.4 per cent** of children in East Jerusalem live below the poverty line. Welfare services for Palestinians are under-resourced and schools are persistently overcrowded. Many school buildings are unsuitable and lack the proper facilities to give children a rounded education, such as play areas and libraries. Too often, children simply drop out of school in order to work to support their families.

➤ **The centre will have 21 classrooms and will employ 16 teachers, a director, and administrative staff.**

➤ **The centre will provide approximately 300 girls and 150 boys.**

### Jerusalem welfare centre

Since 2018, Human Appeal has been working on constructing a welfare centre for **450** vulnerable Palestinian children. Once complete, the centre will have **21** classrooms and will employ **16** teachers, a director, and administrative staff.

The welfare centre will provide approximately **300** girls and **150** boys, including around **180** orphaned children, with study support and classes in reading, Arabic, English, Maths and Quran. The centre will also have a courtyard, a playground, a mosque and 18 bathrooms.

So far, we've completed the main structure of the three floors, and we're now working on the exterior of the building.

# WHAT'S IT LIKE WORKING FOR HUMAN APPEAL IN GAZA?

Each month, we pass the mic to one of our field staff members. They're at the forefront of our work, responding to, and even experiencing, crises, while helping local communities to build resilience.

This month, hear from **Azzam Alsaqqa**, a 34-year-old Palestinian in Gaza, and one of our project coordinators.



## Warm greetings from Palestine!

You have no idea how your generous support inspires and touches people of all ages in so many different ways. But I'd like to give you a little window into the ways that you're helping to restore faith in humanity here in Gaza.

First, a few basics. I was born in Kuwait, but my family fled to Gaza after the Gulf War in 1990. After graduating in English Language and Literature, I started my career as a journalist, covering the news in my community.

But I always felt like something was missing. Deep down, I wanted to do more than just write about people, I wanted to serve them.

Today, I've been working in the development sector for thirteen

years, the last of which I've spent with Human Appeal.

The wonderful thing about working for Human Appeal is that we're always told to keep sustainability in mind. When we start projects, they don't just respond to immediate community needs, they're designed to reduce the likelihood of these emergencies ever occurring again.



13-year-old Basel Almajdalawi (right) plays football with his friend.



## I'll never forget the day...

Whenever possible, our projects are integrated, meaning that often one project will benefit the people of another in a creative way.

Our carpentry project trains talented youths who have hearing impairments to become carpenters. They spend four months in training, creating pieces of furniture.

Elsewhere in Gaza, we support the most vulnerable families whose homes have collapsed and deteriorated. We replace roofs, restore doors and kitchens, and we provide furniture, created at our training workshop for youths.

I'll never forget the day that we delivered the furniture to a sixty-year-old woman, who once believed that she and her ten children had been forgotten. *"I'm so surprised,"* she told me, *"We were expecting to receive some basic furniture for our empty home, but I never imagined to see such quality. This is the first time in over 35 years that I've had a proper bedroom cupboard."*

I couldn't be more proud or humbled to see the happy tears of this woman, who thought she was alone in the world without help.



## Making a better world

I believe that if we improve ourselves and improve the way we engage with communities, we can change the world for the better.

As a field office, we've committed ourselves to the principles and values of Human Appeal, such as compassion, justice and empowerment. We make sure that we're guided by our values, and equipped with regular industry training so that we're competent and able to meaningfully empower communities.

We try to give people the means to live a decent, dignified life, and help them become less reliant on humanitarian aid.



9-year-old Farah is an orphaned child living in Bureij camp.

# FIRE IN AL SHIFA HOSPITAL

How you helped us to restore a CT department. Dr. Kamel Jaber, Head of Radiology, Al-Shifa Hospital, Gaza:



## You've been there for us when we needed you most.

One evening I was on my night shift when a fire broke out in the CT room. The scanner was not in use and the room was locked, so nobody in the department knew what was going on until the radiologists in the X-ray room noticed smoke and heat coming from next door.

Doctors and nurses, rushed to control the fire. With the help of the Fire Brigade, we were able to control the fire and nobody was harmed. The CT machine wasn't damaged because it was in a separate, special room, but all the nearby rooms and admin areas were engulfed. Electrics, phone lines, infrastructure were all damaged, as was the Uninterruptable Power Supply, which provides back-up electricity in emergencies.

Al-Shifa Hospital was already stretched beyond its capacity and, while the department was unusable, our other CT unit was taking on double the cases. Sometimes we had to turn people away, or ask them to see a private clinic and pay £45 for the scan, which few people can afford.

It's a long journey through corridors that aren't suitable

for sick patients to get to the other building where the CT scanner is. During bombing attacks, we'd have to physically carry the hospital beds from building to building.

Now the department is as good as new – or even better, turning a destructive incident into an opportunity to improve our ward.

You've been there for us when we needed you most. First, you provided us with spare parts for operating theatres, then you responded to our urgent appeal for medical supplies, and now you've helped us to restore our critical CT department.



Dr. Kamel Jaber  
Head of Radiology, Al-Shifa Hospital, Gaza.

# SHARED BLESSINGS

It was narrated by Ibn Umar (AS) that a man came to the Prophet (PBUH) and said: O Messenger of Allah, which of the people is dearest to Allah? And which deeds are dearest to Allah? The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said:



*The dearest of people to Allah, may He be exalted, is the one who does most benefit to people, and the dearest of deeds to Allah, may He be exalted, **is joy that you bring to a Muslim, or relieving him of distress, or paying off debt for him, or dispelling his hunger. And to walk with a brother to meet his needs is dearer to me than observing i'tikaaf in this mosque** – meaning the mosque of Madinah – for a month.*



Join us in helping to relieve stress, dispel hunger, and fulfil the needs of vulnerable people.