



REPORT BACK

Conference in Jordan focusing on
Rebuilding Gaza's Health Sector



REPORT BY DR YACOOB A.K. VAHED
(IMASA-FIMA REPRESENTATIVE)

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Assalaamu-Alaikum wa Rahmatullah

Alhamdulillah, it was an honour to represent IMASA at the very first conference held within five days of the current ceasefire, the aim of which was to rebuild the Health Sector in Gaza. The conference was hosted by the Jordanian Medical Syndicate with Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan as the Key-note speaker. The attendees represented over 100 medical organizations from 25 countries. The aim of the conference was to consolidate the efforts of the organizations that are already assisting or wish to assist in Gaza and wider Palestine. At the conference, an online platform was presented which any organization could utilize to either add activities or take up new activities that are available.

In attendance was Dr. Ammar K Daoud from Jima (Jordanian Ima) , Prof Hafeezur Rahman representing Al Khidmat foundation, PIMA and Fima and also our very own FIMA Executive member Dr. Ashraf Jedaar. Dr. Qasim Bhorat (Gift of the Givers) made prior contact with the South African Embassy in Jordan – we met with the Deputy Ambassador, Adv Zweli Nkosi who also attended the conference and set up a meeting for us to meet with the head of the Hashemite Charitable Organization in Amman, Dr Hussein Shibli, at his offices. Dr Shibli made a presentation at the conference. His organization previously helped GOTG with aid distribution. Brother Mamoun Rashed, GOTG's representative in The West Bank was also present at this meeting.

The advantage of attending such a conference was the high level of Networking – I met with many individuals from many organizations – Some of these are: Imam Qasim from Al-Khair (UK), Mohammed Al Fadl from Medics Worldwide(Turkey), AGHOSH (UK) which partners with AlKhidmat Foundation, ACA from Lebanon, etc, etc. I also met with Dr Yusuf-ud-Din Shaikh (orthopaedic Surgeon from UK) who is actively involved with medical students from GAZA and is also on our SA Team: Gaza medical students Whatsapp chat.

Some of the presentation highlights were :

Dr Yusuf Abu-al Reesh (Acting Minister of Health in Gaza) via ZOOM- his message" SEND WHATEVER YOU CAN ASAP"- The needs are dire for medication and Equipment. DR Muhammad Abu Salmiyah (Doc from Gaza- via Zoom)- gave a detailed account of the destruction to health infrastructure and Health education. He is currently in charge of medical evacuation from Gaza. 10 000 patients need emergency evacuation. He pointed out that Cancer patients and chronically ill patients were dying at an accelerated rate – he wanted AID organizations not to forget this category of patients. Another category was the amputees and brain and spinal injury victims – unfortunately no rehabs survived the genocide. He said that within a short time 2 operating theatres have been re-established at Al Shifa hospital. After Thanking Allah(SWT), he was elated that the WORLD has not forgotten them. He also thanked the Jordanian Govt (he mentioned that no other ARAB govt helped them). He reported that on some days they went through 1000 to 2000 martyrs. His figure is 110 000 martyrs so far.

Al Khair Foundation (UK)

The Al Khair Maternity Hospital in Khan Yunis was destroyed and housed up to 6000 orphans at some stage. From October 2023 to Nov 2024, 70 million USD worth of aid was delivered to Gaza on behalf of over 100 organizations. Many of the team members were martyred at the Rantisi Hospital and 8 were martyred during a missile attack on the Wafa Hospital.

Medics Worldwide

Currently renovating Al Shifa Hospital and Hind al Dhagma Health centre in Gaza.

Paediatric Cancer Patients

3 Children from Gaza (ages between 5 and 8) gave a presentation at the conference.

They are Cancer patients currently treated in Jordan. This very eloquent and passionate presentation drove the crowd to tears and a standing ovation.

Private Hospital Contribution

The Private hospitals in Jordan, represented by Dr., Ahmad al Ahmad, have allotted a budget for free treatment to Gazans on an ongoing basis – 3000 private sector beds have been allocated to GAZA patients and currently they run 6 field hospitals in Palestine under the Royal Medical Services of Jordan.

PCRF

Dr Waleed Masood, from PCRF (Palestine Children Relief Fund), a US based organization which is present in 40 countries, has an ongoing relationship with Gaza- he has been 40 times to Gaza previously and twice after October 2023.

Jordanian Medical Association

More than 1 million patients attended hospitals in Gaza during the current genocide- doing remarkable work.

Grants were set up in the name of medics who were martyred

The Dr Adnan al Bursh International Grant for students – valued at 250 million USD set up by the Specialized Hospital Group. One of this Martyr's sayings was " In the Valley, only it's stones endure....and we are it's stones"

Dr Sereen al Attar Grant set up by Istiqlaal Hospital group – Martyred Physician's Residency Scholarship.

Dr Mohammed Dabour Grant

Dr Hammam Alloh Grant

Banners and Posters

The literature, stats, posters and video presentations of the conference were very informative and too numerous to single out. The first session was an opening session which included Prince El Hassan bin Talal (Brother of the late King Hussein of Jordan)- his main message was : DON'T FOCUS ONLY ON THE BRICKS, MORTAR, MEDS AND EQUIPMENT- ALL THESE SOMETIMES DON'T LAST- GIVE MORE EMPHASIS TO THE HUMANITY OF THE GAZANS- GIVE THEM DIGNITY AND ASSIST THEM TO RECOVER THEIR HUMANITY. Don't Invest only in Real Estate but mainly human capital. So far from 1948 until currently, ONLY BAND AID solutions are offered to the Palestinians and this is Not acceptable. He just returned from a summit with the Arab Kuwaiti fund and the GCC. In his opinion, The West Bank is being isolated further by Israel- the ceasefire is NOT for Peace at all. He mentioned that from Ukraine to Madagascar there are more than 10 hotspots of conflict and war. In the middle East, Israel is busy with a grand plan to occupy a wider region than most people think. He reminded the audience that there was a large number of mines and exploration projects with a total inferred gold resource of over 40 million ounces of Gold in the Arabian-Nubian shield spanning 10 countries and 2 continents. This may be the real intention of the occupiers and their allies.



Cancer patients from Gaza presentation



Dr Yacoob AK Vahed, Deputy Ambassador to Jordan Adv Zweli Nkosi, Dr Qasim Bhorat(GOTG), Mr. Mamoun Rashed (GOTG rep - Westbank)

In summary

The Expected outcomes of the conference were:

- Adoption of Immediate Relief projects
- Launch of the Online Platform
- Strengthened International Partnerships

When we observe the magnitude of the work done by the many organizations, we sometimes feel dwarfed by the little we may be doing. However, the need of the time is for the Ummah to rise and do whatever is possible. Remember some of these organizations have governmental assistance and thus the numbers sound very high. IMASA is a totally community based and funded NGO which is always doing phenomenal work. I have to mention that after South Africa's ICJ case against Israel, People the worldover take very kindly to us and are very proud of our country- We should be very proud also.

Where can IMASA fit into all of this?:

- HCW's to volunteer - we can work with GOTG for this. Dr. Imtiaz Sooliman is very experienced and we can collaborate with him- currently he is reluctant to send South Africans into Gaza- this may be possible in the coming phases of the ceasefire when the outcome will inshaAllah be more permanent.
- Aid - food, clothing, medical equipment and medication- we could send via GOTG or any of the Jordanian organizations eg. Hashemite Charitable organization.
- Cash funds - we could arrange via Dr. Imtiaz or directly.
- We could partner with a hospital/s in Gaza to give ongoing support.
- We can start a bursary/grant in the name of All of Gaza's martyred medics- the recipients could be students from Gaza.
- We can encourage private hospitals to offer dedicated budgets towards free treatment for an X number of patients from Gaza. Eg AAK Hospital, Raslow Hospital and add more.
- We can continue with the Gaza student program support in collaboration with GOTG on a long term basis.
- We have to look at establishing some service of a more permanent nature within Gaza- eg. Orphanage, Clinic, Widows shelter, etc based on a need assessment.
- We have to travel more often to Gaza in the future to establish a working relationship with the people on the ground. (All of the above will very soon be applicable to Jenin and the wider west Bank)
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ALL of the above can be done independently or IMASA can add the activities on the Online Platform created at the conference. Allah (SWT) accept our efforts and grant us the ability to be consistent and sincere.

Wassalaam

Yacoob A.K. Vahed

Welkom



**Prince El Hassan bin Talal-
Keynote speaker**



**Dr. Ammar K. Daud (Jordanin IMA),
Yacoob Vahed**



**Yacoob Vahed, Dr. Ashraf Jedaar (FIMA),
Dr Qasim Bhorat (GOTG)**



**Prof Hafeezur Rahman
(FIMA, PIMA, AL KHIDMAT)**



Dr. Abu Salmiyah- live from Gaza



Meeting with Dr Hussein Shibli (2nd from R) (Hashemite Charitable Organization)

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