

Eleventh Emergency Response Report

07th August - 07th September 2024

It has been 11 months of the ongoing Israeli aggression against our people in Gaza and the West Bank. On the 28th August, the Israeli government launched "Operation Summer Camps" in what is considered to be the largest military assault campaign in the West Bank since 2002. More than 45 Palestinians have already been killed by Israeli Airstrikes and the IOF is destroying crucial infrastructure in Jenin and Nablus. In Gaza, for the first time in 25 years, Polio is spreading and approximately 600,000 Gazans are in urgent need of the polio vaccine. Vaccination campaigns have been severely disrupted due to Israel's restrictions on humanitarian aid workers, exacerbating the crisis. Israel continues to deliberately force displacements, obstructing any possibility of return for the Palestinian people and worsening the humanitarian crisis, pushing Gaza closer to becoming entirely unlivable.

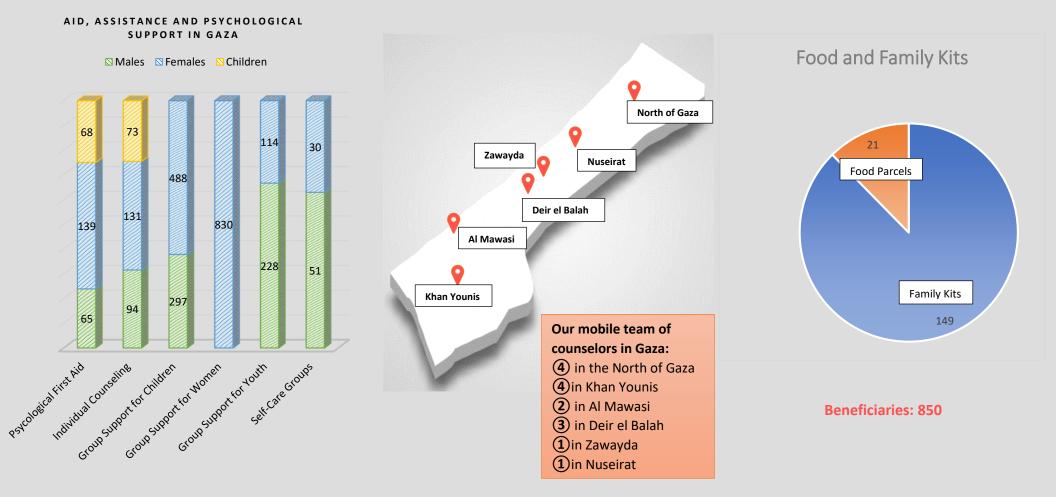
IN GAZA: up to 07/09/2024, Israel has killed 40,602, injured over 93,855, and forcibly displaced 1.98 million Palestinians according to OCHA. Currently, the continuous destruction of Gaza by the IOF has rendered 86% of the strip considerably affected and 40% of it completely impossible to return to. Crucial infrastructure like roads, transportation, healthcare, communication and more have all collapsed and over 65% of roads are ruined. The environmental impact is making Gaza increasingly uninhabitable, as severe ecosystem and public health crises emerge from contaminated agricultural lands and aquifers, the infiltration of toxins into the food chain, and the spread of diseases like polio and hepatitis. Israel has inflicted unprecedented levels of destruction, intensifying its bombing campaign to the point where only 11% of the strip remains without evacuation orders. Moreover, the 2.2 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip continue to face a massive shortage of medical supplies, medicines, fuel, water, food, and electricity.

West Bank and Jerusalem: up to 07/09/2024, Israel killed over 622, including 149 children, injured over 5,685 (including 855 children), and detained over 6,198 Palestinians according to OCHA. The number of attacks by Israeli settlers on Palestinians continue to grow as 1,183 attacks have been recorded by UNICEF since the 07th October 2023. Airstrikes in the West Bank have intensified, especially in Jenin and Nablus, and have killed over 145 Palestinians including 26 children. Moreover, large-scale Israeli operations involving helicopters, drones, and ground forces are being conducted daily in the Jenin, Tulkarm, and Tubas governorates. These actions are inflicting further damage and loss of life among Palestinians, increasingly targeting journalists and aid workers

The PCC is consistently scaling up its emergency response in the West Bank and Gaza, developing and implementing a range of MHPSS interventions to support survivors in their healing and recovery. These efforts include Psychological First Aid (PFA), group debriefing and support sessions, individual consultations and counselling either in-person, online or by phone, as well as group counseling.

In Gaza

The PCC's team of 15 MHPSS counselors continued to provide psychological first aid, individual consultations and counseling, self-care groups, group support for women, youth and children survivors of the Israeli aggression, overall benefiting **2,757 survivors**.



PCC and Partner CBOs in West Bank including Jerusalem



North & Jordan Valley (JV):

Bardala Association (JV) Zubeidat Youth Center (JV) Rural Woman's Development Association Qaryut Sports Club Khatwa Development Association Arabeh Mothers' School Association

Center – Jerusalem:

Teachers Village Association – Al Tur Jabal Mukaber Club Abad Al Shams Association Mada Creative Center - Silwan

South – Bethlehem & Hebron:

Human Rights Defenders Association Beit Iskaria Women's Association Popular Committee for Services of Al-Fawar Camp Masafer Yatta Youth Center Al-Arroub Women's Center Rural Women's Association for Enhancing Developmental Capacities

North & Jordan Valley:

- 200 PFA interventions; 872 beneficiaries including 414 children
- 33 phone consultations; 34 beneficiaries

<u>Center:</u>

- 26 PFA interventions; 115 beneficiaries including 47 children
- 62 phone consultations; 30 beneficiaries

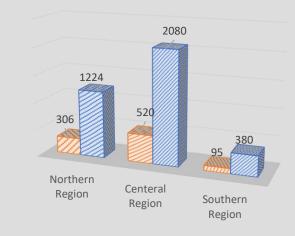
South:

- 76 PFA interventions; 227 beneficiaries including 69 children
- 52 phone consultations; 53 beneficiaries

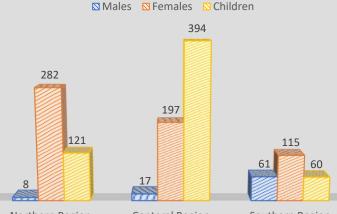
1,331 Beneficiaries

921 emergency Family Kits disturbed including Medical First Aid Kit, Food Parcels, and Stationery - benefiting **3,684**

EMERGENCY KITS DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT WEST BANK INCLUDING JERUSALEM



COMMUNITY MHPSS SUPPORT ACTIVIT WEST BANK INCLUDING JERUSALEM



Recreational Activities

- Stress relief Activities
- Awareness raising and visits to the elderly
- Open Days for Children
- Volunteer activities for Youth

1,255 Beneficiaries

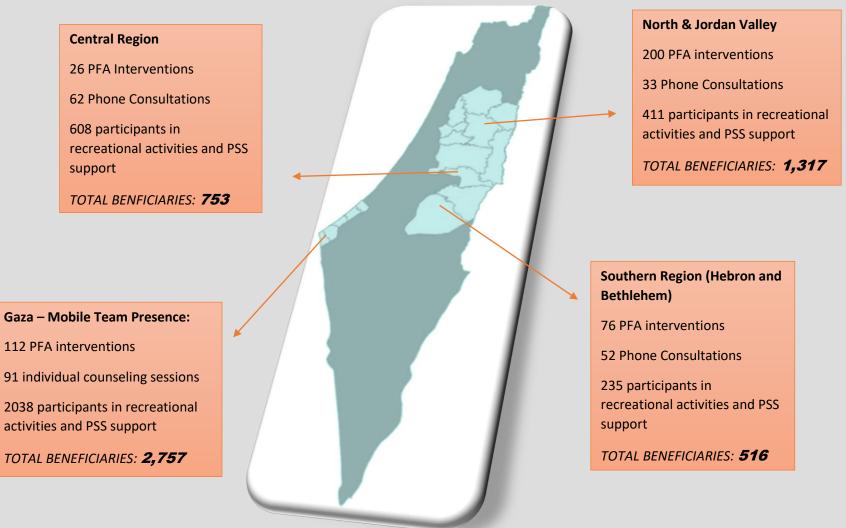
PCC – Emergency Report - August 2024

Northern Region

Centeral Region

Southern Region

Number of beneficiaries reached on the National Level 5,343



PCC Story of the Month

In April 2024, at the Sharik Center in Hebron's Old City, a 16-year-old girl named Sundus Al-Rajabi arrived with her parents. Her father, a regular visitor to the center, had brought her along for the first time. One of our counselors, noticing Sundus's quiet demeanor, sat with her to understand why she had come.

Sundus had been a regular student until the age of 14. However, her school was located a bit far from home, requiring her to pass through military checkpoints in the Old City, where Israeli forces frequently harassed and delayed Palestinians, especially during the morning hours. Concerned for her safety, her father eventually forbade her from attending school. As a result, she dropped out after the 10th grade and abandoned her education entirely. Since then, her days revolved around household chores, caring for her siblings, and running errands alongside her mother. Her father soon began mentioning the idea of finding her a husband, hoping marriage would fill the void in her life.

Eager to help her, the counselor reached out to her father, as Sundus didn't have a phone of her own. She invited her parents to Sharik center to discuss their daughter's future and to propose enrolling her in the "Empowering Beautiful Souls" group, which was running at Sharik Center. During their conversation, the counselor emphasized the benefits of their daughter participating in these groups and the potential of her volunteering with community organizations.

Given their familiarity with the center, her parents agreed. Sundus quickly warmed to the idea of joining the group and leaving the house more frequently. Over the course of three months, she gradually became more comfortable, engaging with the group and embracing her newfound freedom. However, after about the tenth session (3 months in), the counselor learned that her father had suddenly stopped her from attending the remaining meetings. He explained that rumors had begun circulating about her going out every week and being seen by others in the neighborhood. Concerned, the counselor immediately contacted him again, stressing how transformative the sessions had been for Sundus's mental health and self-esteem. She explained that she had developed greater confidence, improved her communication skills, and started expressing her thoughts and feelings, whereas she had been withdrawn and hesitant in the beginning.

Through the counselor's encouragement and the support of the other girls in the group, she had overcome her initial shyness and isolation, even taking the initiative to request more sessions. She is now training in Psychological First Aid (PFA), eager to use her own experiences to help others facing similar challenges. What once seemed out of reach has become a new calling for her. Her life has taken a complete turn, from being limited by external restrictions to embracing new opportunities, including exploring a potential career as a makeup artist. Her journey reflects not just personal growth but a profound shift in how she views her own future, filled with possibilities she once thought impossible.

Her story is a testament to the life-changing achievements fostered by the PCC, helping young women like her realize their potential and aspire to greater heights.