Palestine Humanitarian Crisis
Emergency Update
March 14, 2008

Current Situation

Increasing conflict in the Gaza strip has added to Palestine’s ongoing humanitarian crisis. Restricted fuel shipments have left water facilities unable to treat sewage or properly operate wells, leaving 40-50 percent of the 1.5 million Gazans without access to clean running water.

Recent fighting has left over 100 people dead and several hundred others wounded, with severe damage to houses and infrastructure.

Hospitals and primary healthcare facilities in Gaza suffer greatly from ongoing electricity cuts and shortages of medicines and border closures prevent patients from leaving Gaza for vital medical aid. More than 1,000 patients needing urgent medical care are awaiting permission to leave Gaza.

Ongoing travel restrictions and border closures are making aid deliveries increasingly difficult.

Currently, only absolutely vital aid is being allowed into Palestine.

Facts on Palestine:

- Over two-thirds of Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip are living in poverty
- At least 1.3 million Palestinians are estimated to be food insecure
- 1,562 patients are waiting for permission to leave Gaza for medical reasons
- 80% of Palestinian workers are unemployed
- 8,000 farmers have lost their jobs
- Over $170 million in economic losses in the agricultural and industrial sectors
- 87% of Palestinian children suffer from depression
- 90% of Palestinian children do not feel safe

Islamic Relief’s Emergency Response

On January 22, 2008 Islamic Relief launched a close to $10 million emergency appeal to help provide food, healthcare, and shelter in the worst effected areas. So far, over $1.4 million worth of vital aid has been spent to relieve the immediate suffering of more than 500,000 people in Palestine including children, hospital patients, farmers, needy families and those affected by conflict.

Though donors have given generously, the target amount needed to relieve the suffering of Palestinians during this crisis has yet to be reached.
For the fourth year in a row, Islamic Relief has been recognized as a 4-star charity, the highest rating assigned by Charity Navigator, America’s largest charity evaluator.

Islamic Relief USA is listed in the catalog of the Combined Federal Campaign of the National capital Area- A charity program for federal employees.

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