

Caritas pays tribute to Gaza health workers caring for others while enduring war themselves.

Caritas is paying tribute to the extraordinary commitment of healthcare workers in Gaza, after new findings from Caritas Jerusalem highlighted the immense personal toll carried by frontline staff who continue caring for others while enduring the same conflict themselves.

A recent survey of Caritas Jerusalem's Gaza staff found that healthcare workers have been displaced an average of almost six times since the outbreak of the conflict, with some enduring as many as 20 separate displacements.

More than 70 per cent reported their homes had been partially damaged, while more than a quarter said their homes had been completely destroyed. Nearly seven in ten lost their family's primary source of income.

The survey also found that almost one in five staff members suffered injuries themselves, nearly a third lost immediate family members, and nearly three-quarters lost members of their extended family.

"Behind every patient treated is a healthcare worker who is fighting a battle of their own" said the statement from Caritas Jerusalem.

Caritas Jerusalem also said the findings offer "a rare glimpse into the reality endured by healthcare workers who continue to heal others while living through the same tragedy themselves."

The survey found that two-thirds of respondents reported losing a family member because healthcare was simply inaccessible when it was needed most.

"Every morning in Gaza, Caritas healthcare workers wake up carrying the same fears, losses, and uncertainties as the communities they serve. They have lost homes, loved ones, livelihoods, and a sense of safety. Yet every day, they put on their uniforms, open clinic doors, and continue caring for others," said Caritas Jerusalem.

The experiences of healthcare workers come as Gaza's health system continues to face enormous strain.

The [UN](#) reports that shortages of fuel, generator parts and essential medicines continue to threaten critical healthcare services across Gaza, including dialysis, cancer treatment and care for people with chronic illnesses. Respiratory infections, skin diseases and acute watery diarrhoea remain widespread. Humanitarian agencies continue to warn that damaged infrastructure and shortages of essential supplies are undermining health and water services, especially as winter approaches.

Despite these conditions, Caritas Jerusalem's healthcare workers continue providing care to patients while living through displacement, grief and uncertainty themselves.

"They treat wounds while carrying wounds of their own. They comfort grieving families while grieving themselves. They support the displaced while living in displacement. They encourage people not to lose hope while struggling every day to preserve their own", said the statement from Caritas Jerusalem.

Recognising both the sacrifices made by staff and the immense emotional burden they carry, Caritas Jerusalem recently organised a Staff Well-being Open Day for healthcare workers in Gaza.

Designed from a Mental Health and Psychosocial Support perspective, the event provided opportunities for rest, self-expression, social connection and emotional relief.

Caritas Jerusalem reflected on the impact of the day, saying "For one day, the caregivers became the ones receiving care. The smiles, laughter, and enthusiasm witnessed throughout the day were powerful reminders of something often forgotten in humanitarian crises: even the strongest people need support."

While acknowledging that one day cannot undo months of trauma and loss, Caritas Jerusalem said supporting staff wellbeing remains critical to sustaining healthcare services in Gaza.

"It cannot rebuild destroyed homes. It cannot bring back loved ones. It cannot remove the uncertainty of tomorrow. But it can provide something equally important: a moment to breathe. A moment to feel seen. A moment to remember that they are not alone".

The organisation said the story of its healthcare workers in Gaza remains one of resilience, compassion and hope.

"They are heroes because they continue to give when they have almost nothing left to give. They continue to choose compassion over despair, service over surrender, and hope over hopelessness. For that, they deserve more than our gratitude. They deserve our admiration, our support, and our deepest respect".

Read the full report from Caritas Jerusalem here: <https://www.caritas.org.au/news/blog/a-day-of-light-for-those-who-never-stop-giving/>

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