

“You may have seen on the news that aid is not getting to Gaza because the Rafah crossing is closed. How then, can Islamic Relief ensure that the donations to its Palestine Emergency Appeal reach the people of Gaza?”



Rafah is not in fact the main supply route through which humanitarian goods enter Gaza. Islamic Relief and most other organisations work through Karm Abu Salem, the main border through which goods travel. This border is now operating for essential humanitarian needs (including food and medical aid). As such, the frequent closures of Rafah do not affect the aid coming into Gaza from Islamic Relief.

### **What has your donation done so far?**

Your donation has provided Palestinians with three trucks of desperately needed medical supplies, and two trucks of essential medicine to twelve hospitals. It has also helped deliver six truckloads of food to eleven hospitals. It's also delivered 400 food packs, which will provide much-needed staple foods to 2,000 people.

### **Where will your donation go in the future?**

With your assistance, we're planning to continue to provide food and medical aid, and also provide eight schools with water tanks. This will give 13,000 people access to clean water.

### **How does Islamic Relief know what's needed?**

Islamic Relief has been working in Palestine since 1998, and almost all of our staff in Gaza are from Gaza. We've been there in the 2009 conflict and the 2012 conflict. Because of this, our experienced staff were ready for the current situation.

We had prepared – in advance – stockpiles of essential non-perishable food and medical supplies.

This meant when the current conflict began, we were working almost immediately, distributing aid and working to alleviate the suffering of the people in Gaza. As your donations came in, we were able to replenish our stockpile and continue to distribute.

We understand that the most critical needs at present are providing medical supplies to hospitals, and food to people whose homes have been destroyed.

### **What can you do next?**

You've already done so much to help the people in Gaza. But we're asking, for their sake, that you help even more. Your donations are being put to work right now to effectively and efficiently assist the people in Gaza.

Because we have a long-term presence in Gaza, we won't leave as soon as the bombing stops. Instead, we will continue to help the people rebuild their houses and their lives, and provide support for the children, until we're not needed anymore. So you can be confident that your donation now will help Palestine both right now, and also in the future.

Finally, when we spoke to our Islamic Relief colleague Hatem Shurrab, in Gaza, he reminded us of this: "The first thing we need from people all over the world is your prayers".