

## **News from Gaza and East Jerusalem: Ahli Hospital and Princess Basma Center Struggle to Provide Services**

September 2018

Since the announcement last week that the U.S. would roll back \$200 million in aid pledged to assist Palestinian refugees through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and this week's news that the U.S. government will cut an additional \$25 million in direct aid to support hospitals in Jerusalem, we've been speaking with our friends in the Diocese of Jerusalem about the impact on Ahli Hospital and Princess Basma Center.



This is what we know so far:

### **Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City**



Ahli Hospital's ability to care for patients will be deeply impaired by the \$200 million cut to U.S. contributions to UNRWA. This agency, which was formed in 1949 to specifically address the humanitarian needs of Palestinian refugees, has an agreement to provide Ahli Hospital \$56,000 per month to support medical referrals. This has been reduced to a maximum of \$14,000 each month - a 75% reduction in what had been a sustained source of funding.

### **Princess Basma Center for Disabled Children, East Jerusalem**

The Princess Basma Center for Disabled Children in East Jerusalem is a member of the East Jerusalem Hospital Network, which has been targeted for cuts in U.S. aid totaling \$25 million..

For the Princess Basma Center, an internationally accredited therapy and rehabilitation center and inclusive K-12 school, these cuts in funding are compounded by the inability of other key funding sources to reimburse Princess Basma for services. The Ministry of Health, the Military Medical Services and UNRWA combined have overdue balances to Princess Basma totaling \$1.7 million.

The overdue balances coupled with the fresh cuts in U.S. aid threaten the ability of Princess Basma Center to provide continuity of medical care and rehabilitative services to children and families.

### **What can you do to help?**

Suddenly - in the space of two weeks - two health care facilities that provide critical, humanitarian service to the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters in the most desperate conditions find their operations in serious jeopardy.

You can step in and help keep the doors open for all at Ahli Hospital or the Princess Basma Center (or both!).

[Please give generously to sustain Ahli Hospital and Princess Basma Center at this time of deep financial need.](#)

Keep the staff of these institutions and all those they serve in your prayers. Thank you for your support.

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