

CARE Succeeds

Program managers at CARE International have had to think outside of the box when it comes to helping the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. Pockets of populations are limited with borders and checkpoints that hinder their mobility. One of the many cases is the community in Al Maleh, located in the northern region of the Jordan Valley. With approximately 1,000 inhabitants, the Al-Maleh community is restricted from health care facilities due to checkpoints that require prior coordination with Israeli authorities.

CARE International has launched a project serving to curb the acute health needs in the West Bank and Gaza by maintaining mobile clinics for residents of vulnerable communities, one of which is Al-Maleh. The Community-Based Health and Hygiene Assistance in Palestine (COHHAP) project, funded by the European Commission for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), aims to provide both preventive and curative primary health care to the local population in most isolated communities in the West Bank as well as impoverished communities in the Gaza Strip. The interventions offer specialized care for women and children, yet services do not exclude any vulnerable and or marginalized group. The project provides mobile clinics and medical staff with emergency first aid resources in communities that lack health clinics. Besides emergency response and primary health care, beneficiaries also receive health and hygiene awareness from medical staff who also offer indispensable services such as post-natal care.

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The mobile clinics visit Al Maleh twice a week. Prior to the project, residents of Al-Maleh had to travel to Tubas, Nablus, or Jericho, and pass through Israeli checkpoints to get basic health care; a time-consuming and expensive process. However, after launching COHHAP, approximately 90 individuals receive their needs of health services through the mobile clinic, especially non-communicable disease patients, women, and children. One of the families who benefited directly from mobile clinics of the project is the Ka’abneh family in Al-Maleh.. The Ka’abneh family recently encountered an incident when their son Mohammed, aged 3 became comatose after a scorpion sting. The family was able to carry Mohammed to the mobile clinic that was in the vicinity that day. Medical staff was able to respond and treat him with a cortisone injection in order to decrease the allergic shock. The presence of the mobile clinic, the timely reaction of the medical staff, the proper equipment and treatments available with the mobile clinic, the proper counseling and communication given to the patient by medical staff, and the cooperation of the medical staff with the child’s parents; all are elements of success in impacting people’s lives and saving them in emergencies. Thanks to funding CARE has been able to offer the proper medical response available to an otherwise destitute area.

There is far more to be done for the Al Maleh community among the numerous other regions that lack resources and mobility. Under human rights law all people have the

right to an adequate standard of living and the high standards of health, something that many Palestinians have yet to receive.

For more information on the COHHAP project [click here](#).

