



**WORLD FEDERATION  
OF THE DEAF**

25 July 2024

Dear Ordinary Members, partners and donors,

I would like to share with you an update on the WFD's work with the Palestinian Union of the Deaf. This is part of our growing portfolio of work with deaf associations around the world during disasters and humanitarian conflicts.

Since the advent of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, the WFD has supported the Palestine Union of the Deaf in the following ways:

- **Collaboration with UN Agencies:** Partnering with UNRWA, UNICEF, and the World Food Program to identify and address the needs of deaf people in Gaza, including children.
- **UNICEF Cash Transfer Program:** Creating a database of affected deaf children for inclusion in support programs for families of children with disabilities.
- **Emergency Response Plan:** Assisting UNRWA in highlighting the needs of deaf people for their 2024/2025 emergency plan.
- **Building Partnerships:** Supported the Palestinian Union For Deaf to join the Palestine Ministry of Social Development's Persons with Disabilities Thematic Working Group.
- **Advocacy:** Sent a letter to the Palestinian government urging the inclusion of Palestinian Sign Language in humanitarian actions.
- **Creating knowledge-sharing spaces:** Organized exchanges to learn from the Ukrainian Society of the Deaf on how to support deaf communities in conflict zones, provided continuous information in sign language, and crisis management.
- **Regional Support Networking:** Connected the Palestinian Union For Deaf with our members and partners from Egypt, Lebanon, and Jordan to identify and support the needs of deaf refugees.
- **Deaf Palestinians' presence at United Nations:** The Palestinian Union of the Deaf was invited to present the situation of deaf people in Gaza at the UN's COSP17.
- **Direct Aid:** Donated funds to the Palestinian Union of the Deaf to distribute food and financial support in Rafah, mobilising volunteers to deliver aid directly to those in need in conflict areas. Donations are ongoing according to the funds received and following our signed MOU with the Palestine Union of the Deaf.
- **Connecting deaf refugees in Egypt to humanitarian aid:** Falaah Projects (a subsidiary of Gift of the Givers) is assisting deaf refugees in Egypt on an ongoing basis through coordination with the WFD.

As you can see, our work is multisectoral and encompasses cooperation with a wide range of humanitarian organisations.



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We are focused on change for deaf people, not clickbait for social media. Unfortunately, a small group of internet trolls seek attention by attacking the WFD on different issues. Lately, they have turned to our work in this region. The social media posts by the internet trolls contain false statements and illegally recorded video footage. What concerns the WFD the most is that vulnerable young children in a conflict zone have been used as political props. The WFD strongly condemns any such exploitation of vulnerable children.

We are focused on real change and meaningful impact on deaf people's lives. We urgently need your support for our fundraising on behalf of deaf people in Gaza through our Ordinary Member, the Palestinian Union of the Deaf. You can see what we have raised so far on our fundraising platforms. Funds are transferred to our Palestinian partner on an ongoing basis. To date, we have not raised nearly enough to meet the needs on the ground.

You can do two things today:

1. Share our campaign on your social media to spread the word about our work supporting deaf people in Gaza.
2. Make a donation to our campaign at either **GoFundMe:** <https://gofund.me/9a6bdbca> or **Donor Box:** [Deaf Human Rights in times of Crisis and Disasters | wfdeaf.org](https://www.wfdeaf.org) (Powered by [Donorbox](#))

Together, we can make a difference.

Warmly,

Joseph J. Murray  
President