



# St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group

## CHILDHOOD BLINDNESS IN PALESTINE



**50%** of marriages in Palestine are intra-familial.

This causes children to suffer from conditions normally found in the elderly like Glaucoma and Cataracts.

### GENETICS



**29%** of people living in Palestine are unable to find work and **80%** of Gazans rely on international aid to survive.

This causes families to fear seeking treatment as they worry about the cost.

### POVERTY



**56%** of patients and their companions in Gaza are delayed or denied access to treatment outside of their area (**20%** for West Bank patients).

This causes a lack of access to primary health care.

### ACCESS



**80%** of blindness is completely preventable.

However the majority are only treatable if caught quickly, otherwise they cause permanent damage.

### TIME

## THE IMPACT

### In Palestine lack of sight robs children of a happy future.



### EDUCATION

Children suffering from eye conditions needlessly miss out on an education, denying them the chance of a future career.



### STIGMATIZATION

The visible nature of eye conditions causes bullying, confidence issues, and isolation from communities. This is especially so for young women in Palestine, where marriage is important.

## THE SOLUTION

### ACCESS and EDUCATION



### QUALITY EYE CARE



We run three mobile outreach clinics, two satellite clinics and three hospitals across Palestine which ensure no one is left behind in the fight against blindness. In our clinics and schools across Palestine, we educate children about the importance of healthy living and eye care through awareness sessions with teachers and parents.

We train ophthalmic doctors and nurses in Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, and maintain the highest standards of care by adhering to the gold-standard JCI accreditation standards. We were the first hospital in Palestine to receive this accreditation.

## THE RESULT

Ahmad, an 8-year-old Gazan boy received a double corneal transplant in February 2018. His parents are extremely relieved:

*"The difference is incredible, in spite of our struggles we are so very happy now, he can see everything! Most importantly he is back in school, working to build his future."*

Ahmad is one of over 42,000 children that St John Eye Hospital reaches each year. They make up 30% of our overall reach and are mostly seen in our Mobile Outreach and satellite clinics as it is difficult to travel to Jerusalem due to permit restrictions.

Children who receive treatment, like Ahmad, report greater levels of happiness and confidence and are able to return to their education free from the hindrance of visual impairment.

**By supporting St John Eye Hospital you are providing a future to 42,000 children across the Holy Land.**