

# WOMEN IN GAZA: OVERCOMING CHALLENGES AND THE CRITICAL NEED FOR GLOBAL SOLIDARITY

May 2025 | Juzoor for Health and Social Development



## A Humanitarian Catastrophe for Gaza's Women

As of May 2025, **over 50,000 pregnant women** remain trapped in the besieged Gaza Strip. Under constant bombardment, with collapsing infrastructure and limited humanitarian access, these women face life-threatening conditions during what should be one of the most protected times of their lives. **The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** estimates that **more than 5,000 women are expected to deliver in the coming month**, equating to **160 births per day**.

Yet, without access to food, clean water, medical care, or safe delivery facilities, this reality is nothing short of a public health emergency. Nearly 20% of pregnant women are now suffering from malnutrition, 50% are experiencing high-risk pregnancies, and miscarriages have increased by 300% due to war-related trauma and poor medical conditions.

### 1. Women in Crisis: The Struggle for Survival in Gaza

The destruction of hospitals, the killing and displacement of medical staff, and shortages of medical supplies have left tens of thousands of women in Gaza in a desperate situation.

#### Lack of Access to Medical Care

With only a few functioning health centers, women are giving birth in shelters, tents, or makeshift facilities, often without skilled attendants, sterile tools, or anesthesia.

“I suffered from an injury in my back and had to undergo sutures without anesthesia. Now I also have anemia.”

— A displaced pregnant woman from Northern Gaza

#### Shortages in Essential Supplies

Delivery kits, prenatal vitamins, antiseptics, and medications are in dangerously short supply. These deficiencies contribute to high rates of infection, maternal mortality, and neonatal complications.

#### Food Insecurity and Malnutrition

Malnutrition threatens not only pregnant women but also their unborn babies. Many mothers are surviving on minimal food rations, often going **three to four days without eating**.

“The hunger we are enduring is unbearable.”

— A woman in her third trimester, now living in a shelter

#### Psychological Trauma and Mental Health Strain

Displacement, loss, fear, and uncertainty have created a mental health crisis among women. Many suffer in silence from anxiety, depression, and trauma-induced health complications.

“I feel extremely tense, depressed, insecure, worried, and uncertain.”

— A young pregnant woman receiving mental health support from Juzoor

## 2. Juzoor's Lifesaving Interventions for Women in Gaza

In the face of these overwhelming challenges, Juzoor for Health and Social Development has stepped in as a lifeline for thousands of women.

Once a developmental organization, Juzoor now operates as the largest primary healthcare provider in North Gaza, delivering essential services to displaced populations under fire.

### Expanding Medical Access through Community Health Centers

- 90+ medical points and 5 operational community health centers in North Gaza, Gaza City, and Deir al-Balah.
- Morning services include: maternal and child healthcare, infection treatment, immunizations, and malnutrition screening.
- Afternoon services offer specialized care: gynecology, dermatology, and advanced maternal health interventions.

### Antenatal and Delivery Care

- Juzoor has trained antenatal care teams to track pregnancies, manage complications, and distribute prenatal vitamins.
- Emergency delivery rooms have been set up in several shelters to ensure safe childbirth.

“My health needs are not met at all. I need food, water, medication, a clean place, etc.”

— A newly delivered mother in Deir al-Balah



### Nutrition Support for Mothers and Children

- Juzoor operates 10 nutrition centers across Gaza.
- These centers identify moderate and severe malnutrition and offer nutritional supplements to pregnant and lactating mothers.

### Psychosocial Support and Trauma Counseling

- Juzoor provides mental health first aid and community-based psychosocial sessions tailored for pregnant and postpartum women.
- Group therapy and one-on-one counseling are made available through a network of mental health professionals.



### 3. Voices from the Ground: Women Testify to the Impact

The voices of women serve as the strongest testimony to Juzoor's impact:

“Juzoor's clinic was the only place I could find a doctor after weeks of running. They gave me iron tablets, checked my baby's heartbeat, and treated me like I mattered.”

— Displaced woman from Jabalia



— New mother, currently residing in a temporary shelter in Gaza City

“It was the first time someone asked how I was doing emotionally, not just physically. I didn't realize how much I needed that.”

“Every day, we are seeing exhausted, malnourished pregnant women arriving at our clinics—many of them displaced multiple times, living in overcrowded shelters, and struggling to access even the most basic food and water.”

said Dr. Yehia Abid Juzoor's Director in Gaza.

“We are also witnessing a sharp increase in premature births and pregnancy complications. These women are doing everything they can to survive, but without immediate international support, the risks to both mothers and babies will only grow.”

### 4. Call to Action: The World Must Not Look Away

Despite their resilience, Gaza's women cannot face this crisis alone. They need the global community to take urgent, coordinated action. Every day delayed risks more lives lost.

**We call on humanitarian agencies, donors, and governments to:**

- Scale up funding for maternal healthcare and reproductive services in Gaza.
- Ensure safe humanitarian corridors for medical teams, food convoys, and supplies.
- Support frontline NGOs like Juzoor that have the local trust and infrastructure to deliver effectively.
- Push for immediate accountability and access under international humanitarian law.



#### Conclusion: Help Us Help Them

**Juzoor will continue to stand by the women of Gaza.**

But we cannot do it alone. Their survival depends on our ability to act—together and now.

**Join our mission. Donate. Advocate. Share.**

Visit [www.juzoor.org/donate](http://www.juzoor.org/donate) to support our emergency response.

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