

**occupied Palestinian territory 2018 (part of 2018-2020 HRP)**

<b>Appealing Agency</b>	<b>QATAR RED CRESCENT SOCIETY (QATAR RC)</b>
<b>Project Title</b>	Promoting chemotherapeutic oncology services in the Gaza Strip
<b>Project Code</b>	OPT-18/H/116366
<b>Sector/Cluster</b>	Health and Nutrition Cluster
<b>Refugee project</b>	No
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>Main Goal: saving lives of patients suffer from life threatening Disease "cancer" and cannot be transferred outside Gaza</p> <p>Specific objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The provision of quantities of drugs necessary for cancerous patients and enough to continue the medical services provided to them in MOH hospitals for several months</li> <li>- Reduce the deterioration in services provided in hospitals caused by unavailability of treatment</li> <li>- Reduce the proportion of patient for treatment abroad, as these drugs are the most in terms of the referral of patients abroad</li> <li>- Promote awareness and appropriate practices for the early detection of cancer at different levels (individual, household, and community).</li> </ul>
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	<p>Total: 8,697 one of life threatening disease</p> <p>Female: 4,744</p> <p>Male: 3,953</p>
<b>Implementing Partners</b>	PRCS for Palliative and Psychosocial support
<b>Project Duration</b>	Jan 2018 - Dec 2018
<b>Current Funds Requested</b>	<b>\$982,800</b>
<b>Location</b>	Projects covering just Gaza
<b>Gender Marker Code</b>	2a - The project is designed to contribute significantly to gender equality
<b>Contact Details</b>	Akram Hassan Nassar, anassar@qrc.qa.org, + 972 59 5699386
<b>Cash transfer programming</b>	<p>Is any part of this project cash transfer programming (including vouchers)? <span style="float: right;">No</span></p> <p>Conditionality:</p> <p>Restrictions:</p> <p>Estimated percentage of project requirements to be used for cash/vouchers: <span style="float: right;">0</span></p>

**Needs**

More cancers can nowadays be cured, if diagnosed early as for example cervical, breast, and neck cancers, using one or more of the treatment modalities of onco-surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy may be necessary. This requires adequate human resources with sufficient training, added to that the necessary equipment and provisions for its maintenance, and adequate supply of drugs to be delivered within an appropriate infrastructure.

Usually, patient with cancer travel abroad to get treatment due to the serious gaps in service provision in Gaza, shortage of drugs, lack of radiotherapy services in Gaza, lack of palliative care, and lack of specialized services. In total, around 8500 referrals were issued in 2015 and a similar number in 2016. In August 2016, 17 percent of cancer drugs were at zero stock - less than one month's supply on shelves - according to Medical Aid for Palestinians.

The Gaza Strategic Health Plan indicates there are serious problems with the cancer services available in the GS with shortages in human resources, inappropriate infrastructure and equipment for oncology services, deficiencies in necessary drugs and supplies, and an absence of clear guidelines and policies for referrals. It is thought that the shortage of drugs for chemotherapy in Gaza may contribute to increased referrals out of Gaza for treatment as well as failures in treatment. Additionally, the project is in line with the needs of the oPt and in particular with the health sector strategic plan 2014–2018 which aims at Enhance the provision of quality health care services to meet the needs, demands and expectations of the population “Intermediate objectives: 1.4 Strengthening the provision of quality secondary and tertiary health services”.

Despite the efforts of a number of international bodies and institutions to contribute to the solution of the problem, all these efforts covered only a small part of the needs required according to the data of the Ministry of Health as the average monthly consumption of the Ministry of medicines and medical consumables equivalent to approximately 2.6 million dollars, A qualitative intervention to solve this problem has become necessary by focusing on the highest priority items whose decrease is a direct threat to the patients' lives, and providing reasonable amounts sufficient to form a strategic balance covering the need of the ministry for several months.

Also, the level of awareness about cancer is limited. In a study conducted in 2013 on school teachers in Gaza showed that the level of knowledge about risk factors of cancer breast did not reach 70%. The mostly recognized risk factor was being non-nursing mother while the least recognized factor was aging. Mostly, interviewed teachers received information about cancer through media, not through health care providers. Regarding practices, 4.1% of the interviewed women performed mammography as recommended; 60% never ever done that; half never ever done breast self-examination. When asked about barriers to access breast examination services, women reported crowded health facilities (56%), lack of clear information (50%), lack of technical professionals (49%), lack of equipment (46%). Interestingly, 58% of the interviewed teachers believed that reading Quran cures the disease. and from this point the problem is raised

#### **Activities or outputs**

the project will be implemented through a committee from MOH, QRC, and random sample of beneficiaries

1. Need assessment :

the project will cover types of drugs that are at zero stock for at least 6 months and caused the most referrals during the last year also it considered a life threatening drug, the intake is a must

2. Beneficiary selection

the beneficiaries from cancerous patients who are in dead need to chemotherapeutic agents is counted and specified needs after initial assessment is determined, also the beneficiaries from the health promotion system who may be care giver and or others at risk at the community

3. health promotion

this will focus on the most types of cancer spread; Breast cancer, Breast also came first for cancers that affect women in Gaza, which reached 34.8 with a rate of 33.1 new cases per 100 thousand females in Palestine annually).

On the other hand awareness more about other types of cancers that comes second after Breast cancer which is the first leading cause of death in Palestine is very important as a part of primary prevention. People can be aware about the colorectal cancer (13.3% in men cancerous patients, and 9.2% in women), Lung cancer (12% in men and 2.9% in women) through radio spokes, TV shots, brochures, social media... etc. These services will alert the population of cancer risk factors (smoking, air pollution, bad food habits, overweight or obese, air pollution, sedentary life style,...etc.), promote healthier lifestyles and create healthier environments that aim to reduce potential risk factors. drugs as needed:

those types determined after communication with MOH as the service provider, and must be identical with pre set conditions in the project design and target equally males and females elderly and children

item	Monthly consumption	Quantity for 3 Months
Bevacizumab 400mg/16ml	SINGLE 45	135
Imatinib 400 mg	THOUSAND 1.8	5.4
Rituximab 500mg/50ml	SINGLE 45	135
Trastuzumab 440 mg	SINGLE 53	159

community involvement in planning:

QRC has been always sensitive and responsive to feedback from care givers and male and female patients who need receiving health services with receptivity and dignity which consequently reduce referral rates.

The deputy minister and other MOH specialist form a committee that involved and supported the assessment of the cancerous patients at all levels needs in Gaza. Qrc will also aim to involve beneficiaries throughout the course of the project's intervention. This will take place through beneficiary consultation, case studies and field visits by QRC. QRC will regularly meet with the heads of central drug store and talk to staff and also unit of oncology to meet caregivers of males and females, children and elderly benefited.

M&E

The project will be implemented in MOH, QRC has been working with staff in these places for many years and have supported the establishment of a committee who will be directly involved in the planning, implementation, delivery, monitoring and evaluation of the project. With support from these committee QRC will monitor the project utilizing the baseline data collected in the assessment and also the monthly data on referral rates

For the health promotion interventions, it will be monitored by QRC's team and MOH with engagement of community at all steps of implantation

Output/Results

- Over 30000 people benefit from health promotion as discussed before
- MOH hospital is supplied with the main four drugs that cause referral for chemotherapeutic treatment
- More than 8000 male and female patient suffer from life threatening disease in place to receive high quality health service

**Indicators and targets**

The main goal is promotion of awareness and appropriate practices for the early detection of cancer at different levels (individual, household, and community).

**Target 1**

access of 8700 cancerous patients (male, female and children) to lifesaving services in Gaza including the provision of life saving drugs is assured

indicator

8700 patients receive the life saving chemotherapeutic agents

**Target 2:**

availability accessibility and acceptability of specific types of chemotherapeutic (top four drugs caused high referral rates) agents is assured

indicator : number of drugs that mostly cause the high referral rates in cancer treatment are available

**Target 3**

simulate sharing knowledge regarding a life threatening cancer amongst community levels

Indicator: number of vulnerable people affected in Gaza (women and men) accessing quality and affordable essential health promotion service

Indicator	Project target
-----------	----------------

<b>Qatar Red Crescent Society(Qatar RC)</b>	
<b>Original BUDGET items</b>	<b>\$</b>
certain types of anticancer drugs	850,000
health promotion	50,000
monitoring and evaluation	10,000
admin costs (8%)	72,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>982,800</b>

<b>Qatar Red Crescent Society(Qatar RC)</b>	
<b>Current BUDGET items</b>	<b>\$</b>
certain types of anticancer drugs	850,000
health promotion	50,000
monitoring and evaluation	10,000
admin costs (8%)	72,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>982,800</b>