

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2023



HUMAN RIGHTS
ישראל ישראל
ISRAEL

PHYSICIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
רופאים אדם
לזכויות אדם لحقوق الإنسان



עברית



عربي

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DEAR FRIENDS,

These are harrowing days for us all. The recent months' events have personally impacted each and every one of us, and nearly all of us have friends, family members, or acquaintances who lost their lives or homes, who were wounded, or who were taken hostage.

Over the final three months of 2023, PHRI encountered every possible aspect of this suffering. We worked tirelessly to provide care and protect the rights of all victims of the October 7th Hamas attacks and Israel's subsequent assault on Gaza. As a Palestinian physician who lives in Israel, it was personally important to me to volunteer at the field clinic PHRI established for survivors of the Be'eri massacre. I wanted to contribute to the efforts and provide care for those who had endured unspeakable trauma. **In my view, human suffering does not discriminate between Jews and Arabs, and it is my duty as a physician to provide care for anyone in need of treatment.**

During the clinic's eight days of operation, we treated both physical and mental wounds and supported individuals who had received the bitter news of a family member's death. I will carry the memories of those eight days for the rest of my life.

In addition to my direct contact with these experiences of pain, I also endured another form of suffering. On the first day of the war, my sister-in-law's brother, Marwan, was killed by an Israeli air raid. Marwan was an ambulance driver who lived in Gaza, whom I got to know during my many visits to the Strip. My connection with Gaza is deeply personal - besides my familial links, I have traveled to Gaza as a physician with PHRI's medical delegations. During my visits there, I was exposed to extreme poverty, malnourished children, and patients unable to receive the medical care they required. Since October, the humanitarian crisis in Gaza has reached catastrophic proportions. The thousands of children killed by Israel's bombardments and the hundreds of thousands of displaced people facing starvation; the cold weather; the injuries left untreated in the absence of medication, medical personnel, and attacks on hospitals; the premature babies dying due to the lack of fuel and power - these heart-wrenching images will never cease to haunt me.

Amid this immeasurable suffering, PHRI plays a vital role. **It is our duty to identify any violations of the right to health and other fundamental rights. Our mission is to document and highlight these violations in the local and international arenas, represent their victims, and promote change.** We carry out essential efforts to ensure access to healthcare for all marginalized communities, including asylum seekers and migrant workers, residents of Gaza and the West Bank, and individuals in Israeli incarceration settings. I am proud to serve as chairperson of an organization representing a crucial and unambiguous position - an organization that refuses to compromise its principles. 2023 was our most challenging year yet, and I am proud to say we weathered the challenges and acted wherever we were needed within this complex reality.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lina Qasem-Hassan
Chairperson of the Board of Directors
Physicians for Human Rights Israel



13,729

13,729 visits by Palestinian patients to our 66 Mobile Clinics in the West Bank and Gaza

146

Volunteer physicians helped train 146 surgeons during 142 complex surgeries in Gaza

4,494

4,494 patient visits by asylum seekers and other status-less people to our Bella Kaufman Open Clinic in Jaffa

490

490 treatments and procedures funded for Palestinians in the oPt and for people without legal status in Israel

56

56 petitions submitted to Israeli courts to promote the rights of individuals or promote policy change

433

433 prisoners and detainees whose right to health was denied assisted

521

521 students and medical professionals in Israel engaged in educational activities regarding the right to health and medical ethics

AN UNEXPECTED CRISIS – RESPONDING TO THE ISRAEL-GAZA WAR

Words fail to describe the tragedy and subsequent war that erupted in Israel and Gaza on October 7th, 2023. Hamas committed a harrowing attack on Israel's South in which some 1,200 individuals were murdered, hundreds injured, and tens of thousands displaced, in addition to the approximately 240 people who were kidnapped into Gaza, including children, women, and the elderly.

Israel's response in Gaza has been a ruthless and unrelenting attack, killing over 27,000 Palestinians, tens of thousands more injured, and 85% of the Strip's population internally displaced. Amidst the unprecedented catastrophe unfolding in the Gaza Strip, characterized by the destruction of civil infrastructure, the highest number of civilian casualties ever witnessed in the region, and the targeted attacks on medical staff and infrastructure, Gaza's entire population is left incredibly vulnerable, injured and in desperate need of treatment, yet unable to access it.

PHRI has struggled to find effective ways to respond to the severity of the situation, and we are tirelessly working to do our best. The war has impacted every element of our work, yet we remain at the forefront of response efforts – providing critical medical support, speaking out for human rights, and advocating for the well-being of all affected communities. Below is an overview of PHRI's work in the wake of the war.





ADDRESSING THE CRISIS IN ISRAEL

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE FOR EVACUATED ISRAELI CIVILIANS

Following the Hamas attack, thousands of Israelis were evacuated from the Gaza Envelope to hotels across Israel. PHRI responded to requests for medical support from internally displaced Israeli communities and set up a makeshift clinic at a Dead Sea hotel for survivors from Kibbutz Be'eri. For 8 days, PHRI volunteers provided medical treatment to approximately 400 people. We also delivered medication and medical equipment to other locations based on requests.

ASSISTANCE TO DISPLACED THAI MIGRANT WORKERS AND OTHER STATUS-LESS GROUPS

PHRI visited Thai workers in the areas to which they were evacuated, providing necessary medical treatment and medication as well as personal hygiene products. We also conducted extensive advocacy to address the fact that status-less people were excluded from the State's aid packages and fell through the system's cracks for receiving care and financial support.

ADVOCATING FOR ISRAELI HOSTAGES

PHRI attempted to address the dire situation of the approximately 240 hostages kidnapped into Gaza. After connecting with their family members, we sent a list of essential medicines required by the kidnapped to the Gazan health system, in addition to critical information about wounded hostages. We also engaged in several attempts to deliver the medication required by the hostages to Gaza, but without success.

DATA-COLLECTION AND DOCUMENTATION OF THE HAMAS ATTACK

PHRI published a comprehensive [position paper](#) on Hamas' attacks on Israeli medical staff on October 7th and outlining our stance on the matter. Additionally, we collected all available evidence related to sexual and gender-based attacks on the 7th and published a [position paper](#) about the issue. The paper pushed the Israeli healthcare system to ensure its preparedness to provide care to survivors of sexual assault as they begin to come forward and expressed our deep concern regarding hostages who might be subject to sexual crimes during their captivity.



RESPONDING TO THE UNPRECEDENTED CATASTROPHE IN GAZA

RESPONDING TO THE ATTACK ON HOSPITALS

Since the early days of Israel's unrelenting assault on Gaza, PHRI has collected vital information directly from Gazan hospitals to document the collapsing healthcare system and Israel's attacks against healthcare facilities and personnel. We are preparing a position paper documenting the attacks on Gazan hospitals during the first three months of the war. Further, in response to a statement by Israeli physicians advocating for the bombing of Shifa Hospital in Gaza, [PHRI initiated a collective response](#), backed by 300 signatures from medical professionals, condemning the original letter. Additionally, PHRI appealed to the Forum of Hospital Directors and the Israeli Medical Association to intervene against attacks on medical facilities and personnel in Gaza, emphasizing the commitment to medical ethics. Finally, we submitted an urgent High Court petition after Al Quds Hospital in Gaza City received a notice that it would be bombed and must be evacuated – in response to which the military stated it did not intend to bomb the hospital imminently.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A [joint letter published on October 15th](#), signed by over 110 Jewish and Arab physicians in Israel, called for the immediate release of all hostages held in the Gaza Strip, an end to the harming of uninvolved civilians in Gaza, and for the opening of a humanitarian corridor. This call was published during a period when Israel was preventing the entry of all goods and aid into Gaza, including water, food, and fuel.

HUMANITARIAN AID

In early November, PHRI attempted to arrange a large delivery of medication and medical equipment valued at 250 thousand EUR through the humanitarian corridor from Egypt. Sadly, at the time of writing, due to a refusal by our bank to release the funds to purchase the medication, we have not had any success on this front. We are currently re-examining possible avenues for aid delivery into Gaza and will continue pushing until we succeed in helping the civilian population of Gaza, which currently lacks access to the most basic healthcare.

CALLING FOR A CEASEFIRE

Based on the numerous reports from Gaza revealing destruction on an unfathomable scale, including of medical facilities, PHRI quickly published several [calls for a ceasefire](#), with the first one going out on November 6th. The calls urged the international and medical communities to push for the protection of all civilians in danger and demanded the immediate release of all hostages from Gaza. In addition, [we published a joint call](#) with 9 international health and humanitarian organizations calling for an urgent ceasefire.



ADDRESSING THE CRISIS IN THE WEST BANK AND ISRAEL'S PRISONS

SPOTLIGHTING THE WEST BANK

Since October 7th, we have witnessed a grave escalation of violence and severe movement restrictions against Palestinians in the West Bank. We began to monitor the obstacles obstructing the arrival of medical teams from the West Bank to Jerusalem, gathered information on the expulsion of Bedouin communities in Area C, and documented attacks on health and rescue teams in the West Bank. We also doubled the efforts of our West Bank Mobile Clinic due to the numerous roadblocks impeding access to clinics and hospitals, deploying a second mid-week medical delegation. Separately, we arranged deliveries of much-needed medication and medical equipment to medical facilities and hospitals throughout the West Bank, who are dealing with an increased patient load due to the numerous incidents of settler and military violence.

ADDRESSING THE STATE OF CRISIS IN ISRAELI PRISONS

Incarcerated individuals, specifically Palestinians, [faced worsening conditions](#) and strict restrictions in the wake of the declared emergency state in Israel's prisons. In some cases, we received reports of grave abuse of incarcerated individuals, and an alarming seven people have died in Israel Prison Service custody since the beginning of the war. PHRI submitted three High Court petitions and other principled interventions regarding the violation of prisoners' rights and denial of health services in Israeli prisons. We are closely monitoring the alarming ill-treatment of detainees, including serious concerns regarding possible torture, and are investigating the deaths of Palestinians in incarceration. We are also working to alert the media to the dire conditions witnessed and the suspected widespread ill-treatment. Finally, our ethics committee [called on the Israeli healthcare system](#) to adhere to medical ethics no matter what and provide treatment to every patient, even individuals arrested in the wake of the October 7th attack.

Shavit Vered Baruch Social Worker, The Bella Kaufman Open Clinic for Migrants & Refugees



A few weeks ago, PHRI's Bella Kaufman Open Clinic for Status-less Individuals mourned the loss of K', a client we first encountered a year ago when he was newly diagnosed with ALS. K' had a complex psycho-social background, yet he maintained remarkable optimism. He was exceptionally intelligent, possessed a sharp sense of humor, embraced devout Christianity, and never settled for anything less than he believed he deserved as a human being. In the last few weeks of his life, his health rapidly deteriorated, rendering him unable to speak, eat, and ultimately, breathe. *As the social worker for PHRI's Open Clinic, I supported K' throughout the past year – a process that was both challenging and inspiring;* we formed a close bond, and I gained insights into the person he was. Although K' is no longer with us, he imparted valuable lessons about humanity and humility, and he will always hold a special place in my heart.

Like many of our beneficiaries, K' overcame immense pain throughout his life, facing numerous hardships in pursuit of a dignified existence. As an asylum seeker from Eritrea, K' belonged to a community that is denied the most basic rights in Israel and is forced to contend with structural injustices at every turn. Although most of this community arrived in Israel over a decade ago, they are still not entitled to access Israel's public healthcare system, and PHRI's Open Clinic steps in to bridge this enormously challenging gap. In addition to our direct service provision to people like K', we continuously work toward systemic solutions to these challenges.

I joined PHRI approximately four years ago, aspiring to contribute to positive change in the plight faced by asylum seekers in Israel. *While there are days when I am left breathless witnessing the pain and grief among our beneficiaries, I also have the privilege of observing their resilience — the hope they carry, the sacrifices made for a better future for their families, and their unwavering persistence in demanding the life they deserve.*

As the social worker for the Open Clinic, part of my role involves supporting our beneficiaries by helping them comprehend their medical diagnoses, case management, providing emotional support, and advocating for their needs. Over the years, I have initiated and led unique support groups, have helped, together with the clinic's team, foster a safe space for our beneficiaries, and mediated between our beneficiaries and the medical teams caring for them. Working at PHRI teaches me creativity, compassion, persistence, trust, and hope.

PHRI has been pivotal in my professional and personal growth, providing essential resources and fostering a culture of continuous learning and collaboration. The unwavering commitment of our inspiring volunteers exemplifies the spirit of hope. Despite daily challenges, the dedication of my colleagues is awe-inspiring. Meaningful connections with beneficiaries, colleagues, and volunteers bring hope and inspiration, reaffirming my faith in the compassion and resilience of humanity. The shared goal of providing relief serves as a constant motivation.



October 7th caught us all off guard, and we spent the final three months of 2023 consumed by efforts to assist the communities impacted on all sides and prevent further destruction and loss of life. Against this backdrop, it's easy to forget that the first 9 months of the year were also fraught with challenges. This section will cover some of PHRI's responses to the challenges presented to our work and the communities we serve before the outbreak of the most destructive round of violence witnessed here in decades.

At the beginning of 2023, Israel's political landscape witnessed a significant shift with the formation of a government made up of ultra-right-wing extremist parties, intensifying the already challenging situation on the ground. Violence against Palestinians reached a 20-year high, especially in the northern West Bank, and the political reality exacerbated conditions in prisons, weakened status-less communities in Israel, and widened inequities along Israel's socioeconomic and geographic divides.

Given the challenging political landscape and the dominance of the attempted judicial overhaul in the first nine months of the year, PHRI was forced to adapt its programming and advocacy strategies. Despite witnessing an optimistic surge of activism from the healthcare community as part of the protests against the judicial overhaul, the critical issue of ending the occupation and Israel's apartheid regime was frequently omitted – or deliberately sidelined – from the discourse. PHRI's beneficiaries bore the brunt of the government's detrimental and perilous rhetoric and actions.

The impact manifested in threats to our funding, constrained lobbying efforts due to the presence of ultra-right-wing parties in the Government, and a need to shift our focus to international advocacy. This shift proved effective when international pressure prevented the government from promoting a bill to tax foreign funding to Israeli NGOs, clearly and openly aimed at harming human rights and anti-occupation organizations. Despite these obstacles, **PHRI persevered in delivering critically needed medical care and continued to advocate for the rights of all people under Israel's responsibility.**

Hostilities in the oPt

The year was marked by two escalations in Gaza, beginning with the May hostilities, during which the Israeli military launched a 5-day assault resulting in dozens of casualties, leaving hundreds injured and displaced. **PHRI responded to the escalation quickly and, within a week of the ceasefire, raised funds through an emergency campaign and coordinated three shipments of essential medical supplies** and equipment. Further, a PHRI delegation entered Gaza days after the ceasefire, during which our team conducted expanded mental health training which focused on working during and handling the impact of conflicts and trauma. While we are now witnessing – with immense sadness – the destruction of the Gazan healthcare system, we are so proud to have contributed to the capacity to provide high-level care to Gaza's population over the years.

Escalations in the West Bank

2023 was plagued by disturbing surges of violence against Palestinians, particularly from settlers, and primarily in the northern West Bank. Following the pogrom in Huwara at the end of February, where hundreds of settlers, accompanied by soldiers, invaded several neighborhoods in Huwara and carried out a violent attack, PHRI sent the first of the year's solidarity visits, which included a tour of the affected areas - visiting damaged buildings and meeting with locals. Following these meaningful conversations with affected residents, the delegation held a medical day, providing examinations and treatments to 150 individuals.

In June, the Jenin Refugee Camp was raided by the Israeli military, and multiple violent attacks on medical teams occurred when attempting to treat and evacuate patients. **In response, PHRI conducted a solidarity visit and medical day in Jenin. Subsequently, we organized training for mental health professionals** led by a PHRI volunteer. In addition to a solidarity day and Mobile Clinic, PHRI collected testimonies revealing the severe negative impact on residents' mental and physical health and access to care.

Contending with the Threat to Shepherding Communities

At the beginning of the year, we initiated a groundbreaking project in collaboration with Yesh Din, designed to delve into the intricate dynamics of community resilience amidst the escalating settler violence. The project focuses on Bedouin communities in the Northern West Bank grappling with the consequences of Israel's expanding settlement shepherding outposts. The sharp rise in settler violence throughout the year, and especially since October 7th, **resulted in the expulsion of all the communities under study by our project.** This forced us to shift our focus from work aimed at preventing the communities' forced displacement, to an attempt to document their displacement and its implications, including for their health.





Impact on Status-less Communities

The volatile atmosphere throughout Israel manifested in almost every sphere. During September, [violent clashes erupted](#) between Eritrean regime supporters and opponents, and these were met with **heavy-handed state violence and widespread arrests, leaving hundreds injured. PHRI opened our doors for post-hospital rehabilitation support.** We also met with leaders of the Eritrean community to learn about their needs and concerns in the wake of the violence and worked with our partners in the NGO community to closely monitor the treatment of detained Eritreans and the treatment of those injured in hospitals.

In August-September, 14,000 Ukrainian refugees faced abrupt discontinuation of health services, resulting in over 100 cancelled surgeries and critical treatments. After intensive advocacy and legal work, services were reinstated until the end of 2023, but only for a period of several weeks. We have since been compelled to engage with this issue again, through a second High Court petition to ensure continued state-funded health coverage for this vulnerable group.

Worsening Conditions in Incarceration Settings

Extremist right-wing policies directly affected prisoner's rights in 2023. **A proposed bill sought to limit the provision of medical care to Palestinian prisoners,** potentially depriving them of essential services and limiting their quality of life. In response, PHRI's ethics committee published a position paper on the matter (available [in Hebrew](#) only), and we undertook international advocacy activities calling on international stakeholders, the diplomatic community, and global health organizations to address this alarming issue. Further, we mobilized our community of volunteers to tackle the issue, and a PHRI volunteer physician challenged the bill at a Knesset hearing.



Salah Haj Yahya, Director of the Mobile Clinic



For the past 35 years, I have served as the Director of PHRI's Mobile Clinic, organizing and conducting hundreds of visits to the West Bank and dozens of medical delegations to Gaza. During this time, I have borne witness to the deteriorating circumstances in both areas, and I am heartbroken to see the immense destruction currently unfolding in Gaza – where I have spent years building strong professional and personal ties with members of the medical community. Many of them are now losing their homes, loved ones, and some even their own lives. Our efforts to provide direct medical aid to Gaza since October have all met with insurmountable bureaucratic barriers. Despite the incredibly challenging circumstances on the ground, I remain in contact with many of the medical professionals I have worked with throughout the Strip.

While the situation in Gaza is devastating, circumstances in the West Bank also remain extremely challenging, with military invasions, curfews, and mass arrests casting a shadow over the lives of the Palestinian residents, impacting their freedom of movement and every aspect of their existence. The past year has brought a surge in settler and military violence, with devastating attacks on Palestinian communities in the West Bank and a 20-year high in casualties. Each cycle of violence triggers military closures, movement restrictions, business shutdowns, and a halt to vital services, including healthcare, precisely when people need them most. This has not only instilled fear within communities but also left them feeling abandoned, struggling to navigate the essentials of life. Basic healthcare, a fundamental right, has become a privilege, with connections severed due to movement restrictions, complicating the work of our mobile clinic but simultaneously rendering it more crucial than ever.

With each visit of the mobile clinic, I witness the magnitude of the tragedy of the residents and the importance and necessity of our visits to them. Time and time again, I have seen how residents of the area feel neglected, scared, and disappointed by the lack of assistance and protection, viewing us as the only source providing essential services that were denied to them. In the weeks after a general closure was imposed on the oPt after the October 7th attack, we made solidarity visits to the villages of Huwara, Madama, al-Sawiyya, Luban Sharqiya, and Beit Furik, examining hundreds of patients and providing medication to many more.

We were the first Israeli organization to reach out to these communities following the escalation, providing medical care, hearing their stories, and addressing the shortages in essential medication and equipment at the local clinics. The appreciation and welcome we received were overwhelming, reinforcing the impact of our presence. Despite the increased challenges, our Clinic has doubled its weekly visits, targeting communities most affected by movement restrictions and settler violence.

It is now more apparent than ever that the communities we serve are left vulnerable and exposed to the harshest conditions of life. The desperation resulting from violence, apartheid, and oppression reinforces our commitment to providing care and solidarity, and we are constantly re-examining possible avenues to resume providing medical aid to residents of Gaza as well as the West Bank. I am more certain than ever that nothing will deter us from our mission.

While so much has changed since October 7th, we wanted to highlight and celebrate some of our earlier achievements during the year, in the hope that a continued belief in our work can help get us through these dark times.

This year, we performed multiple new surgeries in Gaza to help build local providers' capacity. In particular, we launched a training program to build capacity for local surgeons to **conduct kidney transplants independently**. During our delegations, a PHRI volunteer – the head of the kidney transplant unit at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem – trained a local team, including technicians, a urologist, a vascular doctor, and an anesthetic team. We conducted 8 transplants during 2023. In advance of each delegation, PHRI also purchased and delivered the necessary surgical equipment and disposables used during the surgeries or for future surgeries, due to the lack of equipment in the Strip. Further, our volunteers also performed a new form of eye surgery for the first time on a child, and we accomplished many difficult joint replacement surgeries – all while training local providers.



PHRI completed its **3-year joint project with the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme (GCMHP)** and published a [report](#) with the findings of our joint research regarding the consequences of Israeli human rights violations and the repeated rounds of violence, on women's health in Gaza. More than 400 women participated in the study, and we found a clear association between exposure to human rights violations and poor mental and physical health. PHRI used this report for international advocacy efforts and participated in a [webinar](#) to share our findings.

For three decades, PHRI has been working to end the use of solitary confinement in Israeli prisons. This year, after gathering 10 experts for an international working group, PHRI published a [guiding statement](#) of short-term steps and long-term recommendations to stop and prevent the continued use of this harmful and inhumane practice. This document has been used in advocacy efforts and, throughout the year, was presented to various international bodies and organizations to raise awareness and harness support, including the UN Committee Against Torture.



4 Following a petition submitted last year by PHRI and HaMoked: Cener for the Defence of the Individual, the High Court of Justice determined that **the Ministry of Health must implement a policy to update the families of hospitalized prisoners and detainees regarding their medical conditions** unless there is an explicit security preclusion against doing so. The procedure was implemented in Israeli hospitals, and PHRI continues to monitor and intervene in instances when families are not updated on their loved one's medical condition. This project utilized our strong connections within the medical community, with a designated group of volunteers joining our efforts and alerting us to failures to implement the new policy in various Israeli hospitals.



5 In 2022, the government announced a new policy that would have severely restricted the fields in which asylum seekers could work within Israel's 17 largest cities. The policy was set to go into effect in January; however, together with partners, PHRI continued previous advocacy efforts and **successfully litigated before the Supreme Court to prevent the implementation of the procedure.**

6 In early August, 14,000 Ukrainian refugees woke up to discover that their access to health services had been abruptly discontinued. The short-term mechanism for their coverage was not extended in time, and the lapse in coverage resulted in the cancelation of over 100 patients' surgeries and critical treatment, including chemotherapy. PHRI began intensive advocacy efforts to push for the **reinstatement of health services for Ukrainian asylum seekers**, and our efforts succeeded in September. Unfortunately, the win was temporary and only for a period of several weeks. Thus, in December 2023, we were compelled to take legal action once again.



PHRI engaged in advocacy efforts which led to **increased mental health services for members of Israel's status-less population**. This included the opening of the long-awaited B'Derech Clinic at Ichilov Hospital for survivors of the Sinai torture camps. We also closely followed the closure of the Ruth Clinic, which was the only free mental health clinic for members of the status-less population. Due to ongoing pressure, the Yachad Clinic, also at Ichilov, opened on December 1st to replace the Ruth Clinic. PHRI worked closely with the Ministry of Health, Ichilov, and Ruth Clinic, together with partner organizations, to advocate for the new clinic to be opened on time and to ensure a smooth transition.



In March, **PHRI published a position paper titled "Contraception in Israel: A Policy of Non-Policy"** (available only in [Hebrew](#)). The paper describes the policies that severely limit access to contraceptive methods within Israel's public basket of health services and highlights how those who are left out of care in the public system are often those who need it most, perpetuating disparities and inequity. The paper was sent to various representatives in the Ministry of Health, and it gained specific interest from the deputy director of the medical division. We planned to submit a proposal to include a broader variety of contraceptive methods in the public system, but further advocacy efforts have been delayed. This remains a top focus for 2024.



Dr. (PhD) Anat Rosenthal, Board Member




The October 7th events and subsequent months have challenged many aspects of PHRI's work. As a volunteer and board member, I've often found myself reflecting on my understanding and experience of the recent violence and suffering, given all that I've learned from my colleagues and project partners at PHRI over the years.

Outside my work with PHRI, I am a global health policy researcher. In addition to my role on the ethics committee, my volunteer work with PHRI over the past six years has included research assistance for documentation and policy recommendation projects focusing on chronic morbidity and medical workers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and women's mental health in Gaza. I've been lucky to be involved not only with the methodological aspects of these projects but also with the cooperations and relationships formed within their frameworks.

Last summer, we completed a report on human rights violations in Gaza and their impact on women's health. The report resulted from three years of collaborative work between PHRI's Occupied Territory Department and the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme (GCMHP). We conducted an extensive, first-of-its-kind study, including surveys and interviews with women living in Gaza. The years of work on the topic produced a delicate cooperation between PHRI's staff and GCMHP. Through our many joint meetings, we got to know each other, planned the project and its goals, lamented the reality of life in Gaza, and remained inspired by the power of the brave women who shared their stories with us. **These women, whom I never met in person, will always remain close to my heart.** The sadder moments of working on the report emphasized the injustices of the Israeli occupation and the suffering it continues to produce. **In the brighter moments, the collaborative work with our colleagues in Gaza reminded us of the common language that the struggle for the right to health can generate.**

Our cooperation successfully overcame the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the violence, illuminating a period of darkness with moments of humanity. Throughout, our shared commitment to ensuring the right to health and well-being of women in Gaza and the struggle to end the occupation stood at the heart of the project. **The unrestrained violence of recent months has not diminished the voices of the women in Gaza or our collaborative work. We must not allow the October 7 events to overshadow these moments of humanity or the struggle to end the occupation.**



**In addition to hundreds of individual donors in Israel and abroad,
PHRI thanks these organisations and foundations
for their generous support:**

B8 OF HOPE
BREAD FOR THE WORLD
DIAKONIA
ENTWICKLUNGSHILFEKLUB
FIDELIO FOUNDATION
FOUNDATION DISRUPT
FOUNDATION FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE
GLEZERMAN FAMILY FUND
HILTI FOUNDATION
JEWISH WOMEN'S FUND OF ATLANTA
MANOS UNIDAS
MEDICI PER DIRITTI UMANI
MEDICO INTERNATIONAL
MEDICO INTERNATIONAL SCHWEIZ
PORTICUS
SECOURS CATHOLIQUE - CARITAS FRANCE
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UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES
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HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

484K

Over 484,000 USD worth of hours volunteered in our clinics and beyond

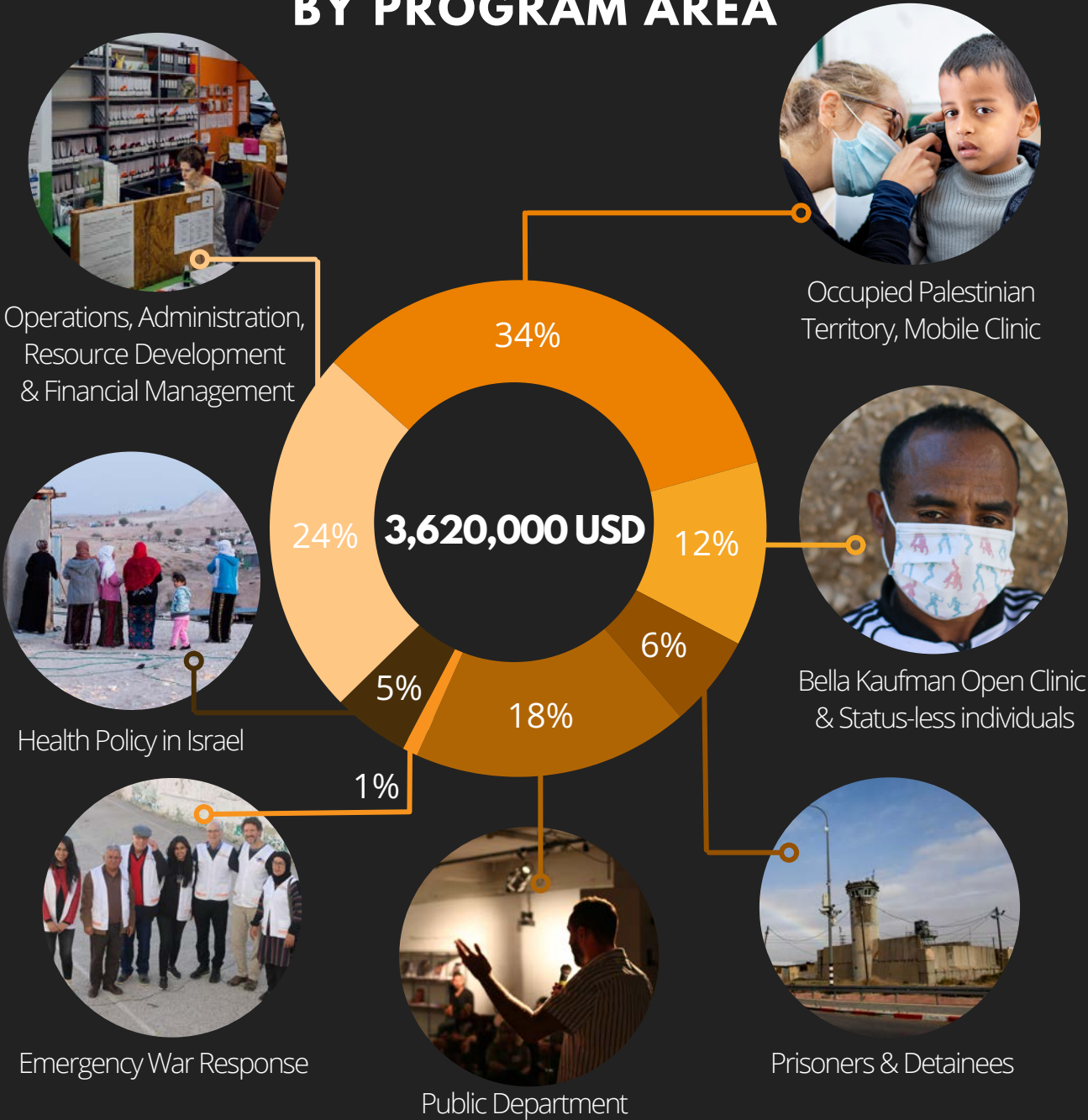
3.6 M

PHRI's total expenses in 2023 came to approximately 3,620,000 USD

20%

20% of our budget raised from individual donors

2023 EXPENSES BY PROGRAM AREA



For over 35 years, PHRI has worked to promote a just society where the right to health is granted equally to all people under Israel's responsibility and control. We provide free healthcare and humanitarian aid to thousands of people each year, and work to challenge and change discriminatory and abusive policies. Help us keep doing this lifesaving work.



Our work is funded entirely by donations. Help us provide healthcare to thousands more in 2024.

Support our work by making a monthly donation [here](#).

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