

Comprehensive Report on Gaza's Mobile Clinic Operations for Animal Welfare

December 2024 until August 2025

Dear respected colleagues,

On behalf of the people of Gaza, we sincerely thank you for helping us bring the Mobile Clinic to life in these extraordinarily difficult times. Your support has gone far beyond material assistance—it has become a beacon of hope for our team and for the countless animals in desperate need of care. Without your dedication, this lifeline for both people and animals would not have been possible.

Narrative Breakdown of Cases Treated (OUR MOBILE CLINIC ACHIEVEMENTS)

Khan Yunis emerges as the heart of our operations, accounting for 4,212 treated cases, which represents 42.7% of the total caseload. The majority of these were donkeys (3,010 cases, 41.8% of all donkeys treated), followed by horses (560 cases, 48.5% of all horses treated). The remainder included sheep and goats (380 cases, 62.0% of all treated small ruminants), pets (194 cases, 27.2% of all pets treated), and 68 camels (37.2% of all camels treated). These figures not only highlight the intensity of need in Khan Yunis but also demonstrate how deeply the conflict has affected working animals that families rely upon for survival.

Deir al-Balah ranks second, with 2,367 cases, equivalent to 24.0% of the total caseload. Here too, donkeys dominated the treatments (1,720 cases, 23.9% of all donkeys treated), followed by horses (270 cases, 23.4%), pets (190 cases, 26.7%), sheep and goats (160 cases, 26.1%), and 27 camels (14.8%). The strong presence of donkeys in this area underscores their role as essential transport and livelihood assets for displaced families moving between shelters.

Rafah comes third, recording 2,339 cases, which represents 23.7% of the total caseload. Donkeys again formed the bulk with 1,650 cases (22.9%), followed by horses (260 cases, 22.5%), pets (138 cases, 19.4%), sheep and goats (73 cases, 11.9%), and 18

camels (9.8%). Despite being slightly lower than Deir al-Balah, Rafah remains one of the most strained zones due to the high density of displaced families and their animals.

During the short-lived ceasefire in January and February 2025, we managed to expand into Gaza City and North Gaza, treating 945 cases in total, equivalent to 9.6% of the caseload. Of these, donkeys made up 821 cases (11.4% of all donkeys treated), with smaller numbers of horses, pets, and small ruminants included. This limited but significant intervention demonstrated both the mobility of our team and the desperate need across the Strip, even in regions where access was heavily restricted.

Alongside these challenges, one of our proudest achievements has been our ability to respond to animals in the most critical conditions. *So far, we have carried out 173 special visits to assist animals in life-threatening situations—most often complicated birthing cases and other emergencies. These were not ordinary visits: many times, we moved through collapsed rubble and even crossed red-zone areas under extreme danger, putting our own lives at risk to save the voiceless. Often, these missions took place after our official work hours—in the evenings, at night, and even on weekends—because urgent calls cannot wait.*

When a donkey, horse, or other animal's life hangs in the balance, we make the decision and we move. This commitment to immediate response, regardless of time or risk, reflects the heart of our work and the depth of our responsibility toward the innocent lives entrusted to us.

Summary of ALL Cases Treated by Area as aforementioned

1. Khan Yunis: 4,212 cases
2. Deir al-Balah: 2,367 cases
3. Rafah: 2,339 cases
4. Gaza City & North Gaza (during ceasefire): 945 cases

Grand Total: 9,863 cases treated across all areas from December 2024 to 14 August 2025.



Animals Health Conditions and Challenges

The cases we have treated reveal the sheer scale of suffering among animals, particularly donkeys and equines, who bear the heaviest burden of this war. The clinic has been confronted with a wide spectrum of diseases and injuries that speak to both the harsh environment and the lack of access to care.

1. Malnutrition, Starvation, and Famine:

The single most pressing challenge remains malnutrition and outright starvation. Countless animals, especially working donkeys, arrive at our clinic with visible signs of severe wasting, sunken flanks, weakness, and collapsed bodies. In many instances, the lack of proper food and forage has led to famine conditions, making animals too frail to stand, work, or even walk.

The most heartbreaking cases we face are starving pregnant female donkeys. Too often, their unborn foals die from hunger before birth. In such situations, we are forced to intervene to remove the baby—a task made even more harrowing when the mother herself is so emaciated that she cannot stand, let alone push. Even when delivery is possible, many mothers are too weak to produce milk, leaving the newborns to perish. These tragic realities explain why, despite our tireless efforts, the number of deaths continues to rise at an alarming rate.

2. Dehydration and Exhaustion:

Alongside starvation, dehydration is rampant. Water sources are scarce, and the extreme heat combined with overwork has left animals collapsing from exhaustion, with dry skin, dull eyes, and dangerously weak pulses. These conditions are often life-threatening when left untreated.

3. Fractures, Deep Injuries, and Bleeding Wounds:

Many animals have been brought in with broken bones, severe fractures in their legs, and deep cuts caused by collapsing buildings, sharp debris, or accidents while pulling

overloaded carts. In some tragic cases, animals bleed to death before we can even reach them. Others arrive with shattered limbs that render them unable to move, forcing heartbreaking decisions about their future.

4. Skin Diseases and Wounds:

Skin problems are dangerously and predominantly widespread. Many animals suffer from untreated sores, chronic skin infections, fungal patches, and infestations of parasites. Open wounds on their backs from constant overloading and ill-fitting harnesses often fester, turning into deep abscesses if not cared for.

5. Back Injuries and Burden-Related Trauma:

Donkeys in particular carry unbearable weights daily. This has resulted in severe back injuries—open sores, raw flesh, and permanent spinal strain. Some can no longer bear loads, collapsing under even small amounts of pressure. These injuries reflect the brutal reality of their daily exploitation in a war-torn environment.

6. Leg, Foot, and Hoof Problems:

Problems of the legs and feet are among the most common cases we see. Overuse, malnutrition, and lack of proper rest result in swollen joints, lameness, and chronic pain. Hoof problems, including cracks, overgrowth, infections, and abscesses, prevent many animals from walking properly. Left untreated, these conditions worsen rapidly, turning working animals into immobilized, suffering beings.

7. Eye Injuries and Blindness:

A considerable number of cases involve eye trauma—ranging from scratches and infections to complete loss of vision. Shrapnel, dust storms, and untreated infections are major causes. Some animals are left permanently blind, further reducing their chances of survival in these conditions.



Overall Losses and Preventive Impact:

So far, we have recorded 975 animal deaths, including 347 donkeys and equines. 103 donkeys are recorded missing completely!! These numbers are already staggering, yet I firmly believe that without our intervention, the figures would have multiplied many

times over. Each life saved represents an immeasurable difference—not only for the animals themselves but also for the families who rely on them.

Despite all our efforts, we could not fully save many animals from starvation, because we ourselves are starving like them. Food scarcity has gone far beyond what is imaginable. Still, we have been able to relieve their pain, treat their wounds, and provide the necessary medical care that allow them to move on with less suffering.

Our work has not only been about physical treatment; we also provide psychological and emotional support to these animals—comforting them, reducing their fear, and giving them a sense of safety amidst chaos. This aspect is very necessary, because animals, like humans, experience trauma, anxiety, and despair. Offering this kind of care is as vital as medicine itself, and it is what enables them to keep surviving in such unbearable conditions.

Challenges Faced by the Mobile Clinic Team

Operating a mobile veterinary clinic in Gaza under conditions of war and instability comes with overwhelming challenges. Despite our commitment, the obstacles we face are immense and often life-threatening.

1. Constant Threat of Violence

The team operates under the shadow of conflict, where anyone could be targeted, injured, or killed at any moment by missile shrapnel, bombings, or sniper fire. This constant danger creates immense psychological pressure and limits our ability to move freely, particularly in areas most devastated by violence.

2. Starvation and Malnutrition

One of the greatest challenges is confronting widespread starvation—both among people and animals. Many donkeys, horses, and livestock are severely malnourished, arriving at our clinic emaciated and too weak to stand. While we cannot always save them from starvation due to our own limited access to food, we work tirelessly to relieve their pain and stabilize their conditions whenever possible.

Our team itself is deeply shaken—psychologically and emotionally unstable from the constant loss, the starvation we endure, and the crushing burden of survival. Prices of some basic goods have risen hundreds of times, making even the simplest necessities nearly unreachable. This unbearable reality weighs heavily on our minds and spirits, for no one can deliver astonishing work under such torment without inner strength. Yet, despite the hunger, the grief, and the relentless emotional strain, we refuse to surrender. We keep pushing ourselves to serve and to help—because lives, both human and animal, depend on us.

3. Shortage of Medicines

The scarcity of veterinary medicines in Gaza forces us to rely heavily on sourcing medicines locally, where prices are excessively inflated. To secure basic treatments, our team travels long and risky journeys across towns and villages. These trips are fraught with danger, yet they remain essential to keep even minimal supplies flowing.

4. Lack of Surgical Facilities

We currently have no dedicated veterinary clinic or surgical center. Without a sterile and well-equipped space, we are unable to perform major operations—such as repairing severe fractures, treating internal injuries, or conducting life-saving procedures. Many animals who could otherwise survive die because we lack the proper facilities to intervene effectively.

5. Inadequate Equipment

The tools we have are basic and insufficient for complex or emergency cases. Severe musculoskeletal injuries, deep wounds, internal bleeding, and critical hoof and back injuries often demand more advanced instruments than we possess.

6. Logistical Constraints

Fuel shortages and limited transportation make it difficult to reach remote areas or transport supplies. This challenge becomes even more acute in emergencies, especially in rural or isolated communities where animals are often in the worst condition.

7. Rising Costs

Relying on local suppliers has driven costs to unsustainable levels. We are forced to purchase medicines at inflated prices, often three to four times higher than normal. While we do everything possible to conserve resources and use them judiciously, the financial burden continues to rise sharply.

8. Overwhelming Demand for Services

The number of sick and injured animals far exceeds the capacity of our small team of four members and one volunteer. Donkeys and horses are the most affected, followed by sheep, goats, and livestock. Camps such as Al-Mawasi and Deir al-Balah Refugee Camp generate particularly high demand, highlighting the urgent need for an additional team to expand coverage.

9. Psychological and Emotional Toll

The daily reality of watching animals suffer—and often die in our care—takes a heavy toll on the team. The despair of owners, who depend on these animals for survival, adds further weight to our work. Balancing compassion with limited capacity is emotionally exhausting.

10. Absence of a Permanent Operational Base

Without a stable and well-equipped center, our ability to plan, coordinate, and respond effectively is severely limited. A permanent base would allow us to store supplies securely, treat animals in a safe and sterile environment, and perform complex surgical procedures. While establishing such a facility is currently impossible due to the conflict, it remains one of our most urgent post-war priorities.

11. Another major challenge we face is transportation.

Fuel is extremely scarce and outrageously expensive, making it nearly impossible to move freely. In the most critical situations, we are forced to rent a car and buy fuel at unbearable prices just to reach desperate animals in far or dangerous areas. Most of the time, our team moves on foot or by bicycle, carrying our limited medical supplies on our backs. But there are situations where a car is not just necessary, it is life-saving—for the animals and for the people who depend on them. This remains one of our toughest struggles, but still, we do everything possible to manage it with dignity and persistence, working with whatever little we have.

Dr Saif, September 2025
