Gaza Mobile Clinic: January & February 2026 Report

January 2026 Report

In January 2026, our mobile clinic treated a total of 679 animals across southern and central areas of the Gaza Strip. Operations were strategically focused on locations where working animals and livestock remain particularly vulnerable due to displacement, economic hardship, and limited access to veterinary care.

Khan Yunis (Primary Operational Area – 70%)

475 animals were treated in Khan Yunis and its surrounding towns and rural communities. Field visits covered areas including Dome, Al-Najjar neighborhood, Abu-Hadyad area, Bedouin communities, Al-Qarara, Khan Yunis Refugee Camp, and Central Khan Yunis. These areas host large numbers of working animals used for transportation and livelihood activities.

Deir al-Balah and Surrounding Areas (20%)

136 animals were treated in Deir al-Balah and nearby communities, including Al-Matahan, Deir al-Balah Refugee Camp, and Al-Baraka. Veterinary support focused mainly on working animals and small livestock supporting families' daily livelihoods.

Rafah (10%)

68 animals were treated in Rafah, particularly in Al-Mawasy on the western coastal areas, where many displaced families and their animals currently reside.

Emergency Response

During January, our team handled 59 emergency cases. Interventions included treatment of severe wounds, broken bones, infections, traumatic injuries, and animals suffering from extreme exhaustion and dehydration as well as constipation (various digestion problems resulting from unclean water and unhealthy diet), which are key factors in their overall poor health conditions.

February 2026 Report

In February 2026, our mobile clinic treated a total of 583 animals, continuing to focus on communities where veterinary services remain extremely limited.

Khan Yunis (76%)

443 animals were treated in Khan Yunis and its surrounding towns and villages, including Dome, Al Najjar neighborhood, Abu-Hadyad area, Al-Zahara, Bedouin communities, Al-Qarara, Khan Yunis Refugee Camp, and Central Khan Yunis. Cases included wounds, infectious diseases, malnutrition, lameness, and work-related injuries.

Rafah (14%)

82 animals received treatment in Rafah, particularly in Al-Mawasy and nearby western coastal areas.

These communities include many displaced families who rely heavily on animals for transportation and small-scale economic activities.

Deir al-Balah and Surrounding Areas (10%)

58 animals were treated in Deir al-Balah, including Al-Matahan, Deir al-Balah Refugee Camp, Al-Magragah, Fayyad Neighborhood, and Al-Baraka. Veterinary services focused mainly on working animals and livestock supporting local livelihoods.

Common Health Conditions Observed

During the field visits conducted throughout January and February 2026, our mobile clinic encountered a wide range of health conditions affecting working animals particularly donkeys and horses as well as small livestock across the areas served by our team. Many of these conditions are closely linked to the difficult living conditions in which animals currently live and work, as well as the limited availability of regular veterinary services.

Our team treated a significant number of cases involving skin diseases and parasitic infestations, including ticks, mites, and other external parasites that cause irritation, hair loss, and skin infections. These conditions are often worsened by overcrowded living environments, limited shelter, and the absence of regular veterinary treatment. Alongside these cases, our mobile clinic frequently treated open wounds and untreated injuries, many of which resulted from poorly fitted harnesses, friction from carrying heavy loads, and accidental trauma while animals were being used for transportation and labor.

Another common category of cases encountered by our team involved lameness, hoof infections, and musculoskeletal injuries. Working donkeys and horses are often required to carry heavy loads over long distances, frequently traveling on damaged or uneven roads. As a result, our mobile clinic treated many animals suffering from hoof abscesses, cracked hooves, joint inflammation, and ligament strain, conditions that can significantly impair mobility and cause severe discomfort if left untreated.

Our team also observed a number of respiratory infections, often associated with dusty environments, poor ventilation, and weakened immune systems. Symptoms commonly included coughing, nasal discharge, and breathing difficulties. In addition, digestive disorders such as colic, diarrhea, and other gastrointestinal problems were encountered, frequently linked to irregular feeding patterns, poor-quality forage, or contaminated water sources.

Our mobile clinic responded to animals in critical condition, including those suffering from deep infected wounds, traumatic injuries, and other ‘advanced illness’ that had gone untreated for extended periods. Rapid medical intervention by our team was often necessary to stabilize these animals and prevent further deterioration.

Finally, our team observed a growing number of animals suffering from malnutrition, dehydration, and poor health conditions. The ongoing shortage and suddenly rising cost of animal feed have made it increasingly difficult for many owners to provide adequate nutrition for their animals. As prices continue to fluctuate and increase multiple times than the actual price (all depends on whether the Rafah Crossing), many families struggle to purchase sufficient feed, which further worsens the health condition of animals already weakened by heavy workloads and limited care. This situation creates a compounding challenge, where the economic pressures faced by animal owners directly affect the wellbeing and resilience of the animals they

rely on for their livelihoods. Moreover, our team treated numerous animals suffering from broken bones, eye infections, and severe dental problems, including worn or fractured teeth that impaired their ability to eat properly. Digestive disorders such as constipation and colic were also frequently observed, often linked to poor-quality food and irregular nutrition.

Operational Challenges

Despite the continued commitment and dedication of our team, a number of significant challenges continue to affect the scope and effectiveness of our operations. One of the most pressing difficulties is the rapidly growing demand for veterinary services across the communities we serve. The number of animals requiring treatment continues to increase as more families rely on working animals for transportation and livelihood activities. While our mobile clinic makes every effort to reach as many locations as possible, the scale of need currently "exceeds our operational capacity", meaning that some communities and animals remain beyond our immediate reach.

Many areas still require regular veterinary coverage, particularly in northern parts of Gaza as well as several communities in central Gaza, where access to veterinary services remains extremely limited. Expanding coverage to these areas remains an important priority, as the need for veterinary care continues to grow across the region. The team is also facing rising operational costs, particularly the inflation of veterinary medications, medical supplies, and transportation services. Prices remain highly unstable and can increase suddenly, especially during periods of restricted access to goods and supplies. The sudden closure of the Rafah crossing has further intensified concerns about the availability and affordability of essential veterinary medicines and logistical resources.

Field operations are additionally complicated by unsafe road conditions and the physical remnants of the war, including damaged infrastructure and debris that make travel both slow and hazardous. These conditions increase the risks faced by the team while moving between communities. Another serious concern relates to the uncertain boundaries of the so-called "yellow line", where access and movement remain highly sensitive and potentially dangerous. Many animals in urgent need of veterinary care are in areas close to these boundaries. However, the team must operate with extreme caution, as the exact distance from these restricted zones is often unclear, creating constant concern about unintentionally approaching dangerous areas.

Moreover, our mobile clinic continues to face significant limitations in terms of medical infrastructure. At present, there is no fully equipped centralized veterinary facility available to perform complex or advanced surgical procedures. As a result, animals suffering from severe injuries or conditions that require immediate surgical intervention cannot always receive the level of care they urgently need. Establishing access to a properly equipped veterinary center would significantly enhance the team's ability to treat critical cases. Finally, our team regularly faces extended and unpredictable working hours. Some emergency cases arise outside normal operating times, and the team remains committed to responding whenever possible. While this dedication allows many animals to receive urgent care, it also places considerable physical and emotional strain on the staff who continue working under very challenging circumstances. Despite these obstacles, our team remains fully committed to delivering veterinary assistance to the communities and animals who depend on these services, while continuing to adapt to the complex and rapidly changing conditions on the ground.