

Gaza Mobile Clinic: Operational Report – May 2026

Overview

During May 2026, our mobile clinic provided veterinary care, emergency treatment, and field support to a total of 624 animals across the Gaza Strip. Despite escalating operational challenges, restricted movement, deteriorating infrastructure, and severe shortages of veterinary supplies, the clinic maintained continuous outreach to vulnerable communities whose livelihoods depend heavily on working animals, livestock, and companion animals. The clinic's interventions remained essential for safeguarding animal welfare, supporting household resilience, and preserving critical sources of transportation, income generation, and food security.

Geographical Coverage

Khan Yunis (86%)

Khan Yunis remained the clinic's primary area of operation, accounting for approximately 537 animals treated. Services were delivered across urban neighborhoods, displacement camps, agricultural zones, and surrounding rural communities where access to veterinary assistance remains extremely limited.

Deir al-Balah and Surrounding Areas (11%)

A total of 69 animals received treatment across Deir al-Balah and neighboring communities. Interventions included support for displaced households, small-scale livestock keepers, and owners of working animals affected by worsening living conditions.

Rafah (3%)

18 animals were treated in Rafah, where veterinary services remain largely inaccessible and animal owners continue to face significant barriers in obtaining medical assistance for their animals.

Animals

The clinic's caseload reflects the continued dependence of Gaza's population on animals for mobility, livelihoods, food production, and companionship.

- *Donkeys and Horses – 487 animals*

We also provided some emergency treatment to other livestock, pets and birds. The predominance of working equines highlights their indispensable role in transporting people, water, food, humanitarian supplies, and agricultural goods in areas where conventional transportation options remain severely disrupted.

Clinical Findings and Veterinary Interventions

Throughout May, our team encountered a wide range of medical conditions reflecting prolonged exposure to conflict-related hardships, environmental degradation, inadequate nutrition, and delayed access to veterinary care.

Working Animals: Donkeys and Horses

Working equines represented the majority of cases and frequently arrived in poor physical condition after months of intensive labor under extremely challenging circumstances. Many animals exhibited severe exhaustion, weight loss, dehydration, and advanced physical deterioration resulting from excessive workloads and insufficient access to quality feed and clean water.

A substantial number of cases involved traumatic injuries caused by accidents, overwork, unsafe terrain, and inadequate harnessing equipment. Our team managed numerous wounds, tissue injuries, abscesses, lacerations, and infection-related complications requiring immediate intervention to prevent further deterioration.

Musculoskeletal disorders were also highly prevalent. Cases included lameness, tendon injuries, joint inflammation, chronic hoof abnormalities, and mobility impairments that significantly affected the animals' ability to work and survive.

Infectious diseases continued to pose a major challenge, particularly among animals exposed to contaminated environments. Our clinic treated bacterial infections, septic conditions, tetanus-related complications, and other infectious diseases associated with poor environmental hygiene and prolonged exposure to decomposing organic material.

Parasitic infestations remained widespread. Both internal and external parasites contributed to severe weakness, poor body condition, reduced immunity, skin irritation, and increased susceptibility to secondary infections.

Gastrointestinal disorders, including digestive disturbances, diarrhea, colic, and feeding-related complications, were frequently observed, often linked to abrupt dietary changes and the scarcity of appropriate feed resources.

Emergency Visits

During May, the clinic managed 63 emergency cases requiring urgent veterinary intervention:

Distribution of Emergency Cases

- Khan Yunis: 48 cases (76%)
- Deir al-Balah: 11 cases (17%)
- Rafah: 4 cases (7%)

Emergency interventions involved animals suffering from severe traumatic injuries, advanced wound infections, fractures, critical dehydration, acute systemic infections, severe parasitic complications, and life-threatening conditions associated with exhaustion and neglect. Many emergency responses required our team to reach animals located in difficult-to-access areas affected by damaged infrastructure, displacement movements, and security-related constraints. In numerous cases, rapid intervention prevented irreversible suffering, preserved the animals' ability to work, and protected families whose daily survival depends directly on these animals.

Emerging Animal Health Concerns

Our clinic continues to observe a concerning increase in environmentally driven diseases affecting multiple animal species.

Particularly alarming is the growing prevalence of infectious skin diseases, bacterial infections, respiratory illnesses, and parasitic conditions linked to deteriorating environmental health conditions. The accumulation of waste, stagnant water, overcrowding, and the presence of decomposing animal remains have created favorable conditions for the spread of disease.

Animals living in densely populated displacement areas appear especially vulnerable to disease transmission. Our team has also observed an increase in cases involving weakened immune systems, chronic infections, and recurring health complications associated with prolonged malnutrition and environmental stress. ***Without sustained intervention and access to adequate veterinary resources, these problems are likely to intensify, increasing both animal suffering and the risk of wider disease outbreaks.***

Operational Constraints and Field Challenges

The clinic continues to operate under exceptionally difficult circumstances that directly affect service delivery and response capacity.

Rising Operational Costs

Transportation expenses have increased dramatically, placing significant strain on field operations and reducing the clinic's ability to reach distant communities in need.

Limited Access to Essential Medicines

Critical veterinary medicines, vaccines, wound-management supplies, and antiparasitic treatments remain uneasy to secure, procure, and increasingly expensive.

Damaged Infrastructure

Road destruction, debris, and damaged transportation routes continue to slow movement and complicate access to affected communities, particularly in remote or heavily impacted areas.

Safety and Security Risks

Our team regularly operates in unpredictable environments where security concerns and environmental hazards remain ongoing challenges, requiring constant adaptation and careful risk assessment.

Humanitarian and Physical Burden on Staff

Our team frequently travels long distances under physically demanding conditions, often carrying medical supplies on foot to reach inaccessible locations. Prolonged operational pressure, repeated emergency deployments, and increasing caseloads continue to place considerable strain on the team's capacity and wellbeing.

Key Achievements and Outcomes

Our clinic successfully maintained uninterrupted veterinary outreach throughout May 2026, delivering essential medical services to 624 animals across three governorates. This sustained presence ensured that vulnerable communities continued to receive access to veterinary care at a time when such services remain largely unavailable.

Timely interventions contributed to improving the health and welfare of hundreds of working animals. Early treatment of injuries, infectious diseases, parasitic infestations, dehydration, and nutritional disorders helped prevent further deterioration and reduced the risk of long-term disability and mortality among many animals.

The management of 63 emergency cases represented a particularly important achievement. Rapid response and field-based interventions enabled critically ill and injured animals to receive life-saving treatment, preserving the livelihoods of families who depend on them for transportation, agriculture, and daily survival.

The clinic also played an important preventive role by addressing infectious and parasitic diseases before they could spread more widely within animal populations. Continuous field monitoring allowed the team to identify emerging health threats and provide early treatment, thereby reducing the likelihood of larger outbreaks.

Furthermore, the clinic strengthened the resilience of vulnerable communities by preserving the health and productivity of working animals that constitute essential assets for many displaced and low-income households. Through its continuous presence and outreach, the clinic helped safeguard animal welfare while supporting the coping capacity and food security of affected families.

Most importantly, despite shortages of medicines, damaged infrastructure, and difficult operating conditions, our team succeeded in maintaining regular field activities and ensuring that essential veterinary services remained available to communities that would otherwise have had little or no access to animal healthcare.

Conclusion

Throughout May 2026, our clinic remained a vital lifeline for hundreds of animals and the families who depend on them. In an environment marked by displacement, infrastructure collapse, and severe resource shortages, the clinic provided essential veterinary care that protected animal welfare, preserved livelihoods,

and strengthened community resilience. The growing scale and complexity of animal health needs now far exceed available resources. Each treated animal represents not only an individual life saved from suffering but also support for a family relying on that animal for transportation, income, food production, or daily survival. As humanitarian conditions continue to deteriorate, sustained support for mobile veterinary services is more critical than ever. Expanding the clinic's capacity, strengthening its medical resources, and ensuring uninterrupted field operations will remain essential to protecting both animal welfare and the vulnerable communities whose survival is closely tied to the animals in their care.