



Department  
for International  
Development



Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP  
Minister of State

December 2017

Dear supporters of Medical Aid for Palestinians,

Thank you for your recent letters regarding the humanitarian situation in Gaza.

There is an urgent need to address the terrible situation in Gaza and the UK is taking a number of steps to alleviate the suffering of the civilian population. Over the last six months there has been a significant deterioration in the humanitarian situation, including access to clean water and declining sanitation and hygiene standards. I visited Gaza on 21 August and saw the extent of this first hand.

The UK is providing £1.9 million to support the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Gaza urgent funding appeal. This will be delivered through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to support critical water, sanitation and hygiene needs identified by the appeal. UK funding will help provide clean water, rehabilitate sanitation facilities and promote hygiene standards to stop the spread of disease, providing aid to approximately 1 million Gazans.

Furthermore, the UK is committed to supporting vulnerable Gazans in the longer term. The UK is a supporter of United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) which provides basic services to 1.3 million people in Gaza including basic health care. We are also supporting humanitarian access, enabling reconstruction efforts and investing in job creation.

Our Embassy in Tel Aviv and our Consulate-General in Jerusalem frequently urge the Israeli and Palestinian authorities to take steps to improve conditions in Gaza, and for Israel to ease movement and access restrictions on Gaza. We also call on Egypt to show the greatest possible flexibility on opening the Rafah crossing.

Once again, thank you for writing to me with your concerns on this important matter. I hope the above offers some assurances about the UK's action for the Gazan people.

**ALISTAIR BURT**