

Description

A Midwife in Gaza – a Plea for Help



Renad Salem, Midwife, UK-MED, Gaza

She/her

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My name is Renad Salem, a Palestinian midwife from Gaza. Midwifery has always been more than a career to me, it is a humanitarian commitment to protect mothers and newborns in the most difficult contexts. After completing my bachelor's degree in midwifery, I began working at Al-Shifa Hospital, where I served in the maternity and delivery departments until December 2023. During this time, I supported countless women through childbirth, often under pressure, with limited resources, and amidst escalating violence.

When the war intensified and I was displaced from northern Gaza to the south, I continued my work despite personal loss and ongoing danger. I joined UK-MED as a midwife in their field hospital, where I managed emergency deliveries, stabilized mothers in critical condition, and provided essential care for newborns.

My experience working through mass displacement, resource shortages, and repeated attacks has been documented in several published pieces, including the three below:

“A Day in the Life of Renad Salem: A Midwife Working in Gaza” by the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM).

Read here

“What It’s Like to Be a Midwife in Gaza During Israel’s Genocide” by Mondoweiss.

Read here

“Midwives in Gaza: Delivering Hope Amid the Ruins”, an interview with UNFPA.

Read here

These articles reflect the lived reality of midwives in Gaza and highlight the critical role we play in safeguarding the health and dignity of women and infants under extraordinary circumstances.

Despite the challenges surrounding us, I have remained committed to advancing my education so that I may better serve my community. I am honoured to share that I have received unconditional offers to pursue a Master’s degree in Public Health (MPH) from two universities:

- University of Glasgow, beginning in September 2026.
- University of Aberdeen, beginning in January 2026.

These programs represent an important opportunity for me to deepen my knowledge in public health, develop stronger research and leadership skills, and ultimately contribute to rebuilding and improving maternal and newborn healthcare services in Gaza.

As I prepare for this next academic step, I am working to connect with international organisations and institutions that support midwives, particularly those that provide educational scholarships and professional development opportunities for midwives working in conflict-affected areas. My goal is to secure the necessary academic support that will enable me to successfully pursue this degree and later return to Gaza equipped with advanced skills that can benefit mothers, children, and the health system as a whole.

My aspiration is simple yet profound: to learn, to grow, and to return home empowered to create meaningful, lasting change in maternal and newborn health. I believe that investing in midwives, especially those working in crisis setting, has a direct and measurable impact on community health, and I am hopeful that my journey will contribute to that broader goal.

If you can offer any support to Renad, please contact her via the email address below or LinkedIn here

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