

CIDO Newsletter, March 2026

Welcome to CIDO's periodic newsletter! We are aiming to provide you with informative, compelling updates about CIDO's work, and we welcome your suggestions.

Summary

Need to Know: Snapshot of cancer care in Gaza and the West Bank

CIDO Updates: Mariam Joy Project; CIDO Founder and Chair, Shawky Fahel's Trip to Palestine, February, 2026

Donor Spotlight: Drs. Michael and Amira Dan

Your Next Steps: CIDO Donation Link; CIDO Social Media Links

Need to Know

Cancer care in Gaza and the West Bank has faced enormous challenges. The already distressing situation has worsened considerably in Gaza, with health infrastructure destroyed, and limited to no access to cancer treatment and drugs. Seeking permits for treatment outside Gaza is difficult, as it requires obtaining an Israeli medical permit. In 2022, 20,295 medical permits were requested, 35% were for cancer patients, and 33% were delayed or denied. Nearly one-third were children who required a companion, yet 62% of all companion permit applications were delayed or denied, and 25% had to proceed to treatment without their companion. WHO's survival analysis found that between 2008 and 2017, delays or denials of permits increased the likelihood of death from cancer by 1.5 times. While precise data in Gaza have been very limited, in 2024, there were an estimated 10,000 cancer patients in Gaza. They urgently need basic health care and support. (See: [Rimawi, Wispelwey and Madani, 2024](#))

CIDO Updates

Mariam Joy Project

We wanted to share with you inspiring feedback from one of the families supported by CIDO's partner, Mariam Foundation. The "Mariam Joy" project provides daily companionship and emotional support to children with cancer, especially those from Gaza and the West Bank. Mariam Joy places trained university students by the children's side throughout their treatment journeys, offering them care, warmth, and emotional stability during long and difficult hospital stays.

"I am the mother of Mira Abed. About two months after my daughter was admitted to the An-Najah Hospital, she underwent a port implantation procedure. There were stitches on her neck, and she was very afraid to move it. She barely moved her neck for almost a week.

Then one of the students from the Mariam Foundation came to her, talked with her, and gently gave her a neck massage. After that, Mira found the courage to move her neck again.

The Mariam Foundation students played a major role in improving my daughter's psychological state and helping her eat and take her medication. They also played a very important role in supporting us, the mothers.

*For me, the half hour that the students spent with Mira was like a **warrior's rest**. I would leave my daughter with them and step outside to breathe, rest a little, and recover from the exhaustion and psychological pressure we were living under.*

I thank them deeply for every bit of support, every beautiful moment, and every smile that appeared on Mira's face because of their love for her."

CIDO is honoured to stand alongside Mariam Foundation and support projects like "Mariam Joy". To learn more, visit our [Gaza Urgent Appeal page](#).



"Mariam Joy is a burst of happiness that spreads a warm, gentle atmosphere inside An-Najah Hospital, especially in the pediatric department. Mariam Joy is a source of pure energy." - Mariam Foundation project beneficiary, 2025

Shawky Fahel's Historic Trip to Palestine, February 2026

During his recent visit to Ramallah and Nazareth, CIDO's Founder and Chair, Shawky Fahel, saw firsthand the impact of the Mariam Foundation, a valued CIDO partner. In his own words: *"Mariam Foundation is more than an organization — it is a network of compassion, bringing people together through a shared commitment to supporting children."*

The most profound moment of his visit was standing inside "Mariam Home" — the first dedicated rehabilitation centre for Palestinian women and children with cancer. Mariam Home is a purpose-built, four-storey building with twelve separate rooms, each designed for a different dimension of healing — physical, emotional, and therapeutic.





"This is what the CIDO-Mariam Foundation partnership looks like in concrete form: infrastructure of compassion, where children who have endured the unimaginable are given not just treatment, but dignity and the space to truly heal. Every Canadian who has supported this cause should know — this is where their generosity lives." - Shawky Fahel

Read more about Shawky's historic trip to Palestine [here](#).

Donor Spotlight

We wish to highlight Drs. Michael and Amira Dan, who were CIDO's top donor in fiscal year 2024-2025 their generous contribution has been put to work supporting children with cancer through the Mariam Foundation.



"We wholeheartedly support the Mariam Foundation because we believe in the dignity of all people--especially children with cancer. Cancer patients deserve the very best of care, and the Mariam Foundation sets the benchmark for emotional support for cancer patients." - Drs. Michael and Amira Dan, 2025

Your Next Steps

At this time of conflict, displacement and great need in the world, please consider contributing through CIDO to Mariam Foundation's efforts in supporting some of the world's most vulnerable children, who are fighting cancer in Palestine. Your donation would make a huge difference in the life and wellbeing of a child and the overall family. [Donate Now.](#)

We also strongly encourage you to stay connected and follow our work online as we expand our online presence. By following CIDO's social media profiles and engaging with our content, you help increase awareness of our humanitarian mission to support Palestinian families and children in need.

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/officialcido>

Parting Words

“The children are always ours, every single one of them, all over the globe; and I am beginning to suspect that whoever is incapable of recognizing this may be incapable of morality” - James Baldwin