

# Kidney Transplant Project in Gaza, Palestine

Royal Liverpool University Hospital and Al Shifa Hospital Partnership

Abdul Hammad, Sanjay Mehra, Derek Middleton, Adham El Bakri, Abdullah Kishawi  
Royal Liverpool University Hospital, and Al Shifa Hospital Gaza

## Crisis situation

- High mortality and morbidity among patients with kidney failure
- High cost of chronic haemodialysis provided totally by the public sector
- Limited access to essential healthcare equipment, medicines, treatment and diagnostic facilities, alongside scarcity of healthcare workers.
- Healthcare system dependent totally on donations
- No access to the RRT treatment of choice; Renal transplantation
- Lack of registry and surveillance data to predict future needs

## Achievements

- 15 kidney transplants, including 6 children
- Training of 11 doctors, nurses, technicians, and coordinators at the RLUH
- Surgical training fellowship for a surgeon from Gaza
- Renal IT system
- Tissue Typing lab
- Change of legislation

## Gaza Project Goals

- Delivery of integrated RRT services in Gaza
- Establish a viable system for kidney transplantation
- Capacity building to establish and sustain the programme
- Build up a programme with high standards with patient care at the centre

## Scope of the Project

- Establishment of a global health partnership that would enable international knowledge, technology, and skill transfer
- Delivery of first class services, with the highest standards of patient care
- Proper systems of training, education, and assessment of the multi-disciplinary team.
- Implementation of proper audit, and governance systems

## Project Plan- 3 phases

- Short term: Start kidney transplantation provided by the visiting Liverpool team
- Long term: establish a kidney transplant programme in Gaza run by local expertise
- Medium term: continuous support from the Liverpool team till the programme is fully independent

## The Vision

- Establish sustainable kidney transplant programme run by local expertise
- Set up independent Transplant Authority to oversee and regulate transplant activity in Gaza/Palestine
- Introduce cadaveric donation
- Establish other organ transplants

