

Flash News from Ahli Arab Hospital

On Dec. 6, 2018, the Outpatient Clinic of the Ahli Arab Hospital Suddenly Collapsed

In an urgent phone call made to the Diocese of Jerusalem, Mrs. Suhaila Tarazi, Director of the Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, reported to Archbishop Suheil Dawani that at about 2 pm Thursday, December 6th, the 120-year-old Outpatient Clinic of the hospital collapsed because of environmental stress. It is considered the most serious structural failure in the Ahli Arab Hospital's existence, as the steel beams, roof decking, plaster ceiling, and surrounding walls caved into the room, further collapsing into the basement below. If the facility had been occupied during that time, there might have been fatalities. Only by the grace of God was no one injured during this serious incident.



Due to the sudden and catastrophic nature of this failure, Ahli Hospital patients, staff, and doctors had to be rushed out of the area and temporarily relocated to a safer and more secure place within the hospital's vicinity. Other Outpatient Clinic visitors were redirected to the Physiotherapy Department. Patients have continued to receive treatment from healthcare professionals, though at a slower pace under these crowded and temporary conditions.

The Ahli consultant engineer and a construction team were immediately brought in to assess the damage and make recommendations for reconstruction. Their findings provided useful insights about the deficiencies of the bar joists in the Clinic that were manufactured between 1900 and the late 1950s, and still being used well after 1960. These were the chief culprits behind the catastrophic failure of the building—but so were the infrequent renovations, the latest occurring in 1993. With the budget exhausted, the Hospital is confronted with finding immediately the necessary financial resources for this reconstruction to take place. **The estimates for this work stand at \$150,000 (USD).**



On behalf of the Diocese of Jerusalem, which owns and oversees the Ahli Arab Hospital, Archbishop Suheil Dawani makes an urgent appeal to all supporters to contribute towards this reconstruction, which will allow the hospital to continue its charitable ministry with the many needy patients whom its doctors and staff serve each day.

Donations may be made directly to the Diocese of Jerusalem (j-diocese.org), or through one of our partner organizations: The American Friends (USA; afedj.org), the Jerusalem and Middle East Church Association (UK; imeca.org.uk), the Canadian Companions (anglican.ca/resources), and the Anglican Mission Board (Australia: abmission.org; New Zealand: abmission.org.nz).