

Providing COVID-19 personal protective equipments PPE to governmental hospitals in Gaza and West Bank

Phase one, April-May 2020

#### Palestinian American Medical Association, PAMA

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#### **Executive Summary**

The Palestinian American Medical Association (PAMA) is a non for profit US charity that aims to promote health care in Palestine. COVID-19 pandemic has made its way into Gaza and the West Bank and the Palestinian Health Care System is facing perhaps its biggest challenge yet. PAMA has sensed the gravity of the situation and without hesitation has extended a hand to help.

After consulting with local physicians and hospitals, PAMA was advised to provide PPEs to healthcare workers to allow them to serve patients infected with the COVID-19 virus without putting their lives at risk. Due to the worldwide emergency and severe shortage of personal protective supplies, PAMA had to forgo the usual procurement processes and has purchase all needed supplies from one vendor in West Bank and another in Gaza, which were the only venders who could provide the supplies timely.

PAMA has requested a quote on the below supplies, received them and has distributed them to local governmental hospitals in Gaza and West Bank:

- 1. Surgical gloves
- 2. Surgical blades
- 3. 500 ml bottles of %70 Alcohol gel
- 4. Disposable gowns
- 5. N95 masks
- 6. Face shields
- 7. Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) kits
- 8. Reusable face masks

On a different front, PAMA started a series of webinars to share knowledge and experiences with our colleagues in Palestine.



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## Introduction

The main objective of this project is to support the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza and the West Bank to meet the needs of health care workers for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). PPE is much needed to protect the medical health care workers from exposure to COVID-19 while trying to save the lives of their patients. PAMA was part of the immediate response efforts. Also, COVID-19 is a movel virus, and evidence is evolving about its diagnosis and management, PAMA started a series of webinars to share up to late knowledge about the virus.

PAMA launched a <u>fundraiser campaign</u> focused on collecting funds for PPE. Donors are PAMA members and supporters. We used Facebook and Network For Good platformss to approach donors. Funds were used to procure PPEs from West Bank and Gaza suppliers. Our PAMA staff in West Bank and Gaza have supervised and conducted the procurement and distribution of these PPEs.

PAMA also recruited Palestinian physicians in the US and Palestine to hold shared webinars where they can exchange experiences. These physicians are PAMA members or supporters. PAMA used GoToMeeting as an online platform to hold these webinars. Webinars were live and were then recorded and shared with Palestinian physicians on the front lines. These Webinars were also shared on our Facebook and Youtube platforms to be shared with whoever is interested and wherever they are .

## Project implementation

Supplies were delivered through an official handover to Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza and West Bank and to the director of Augusta Victoria Hospital. The total cost for all the regions after tax-exempt was \$55,151.00. PAMA staff distributed Personal Protective equipment and disinfecting supplies during the second week of April to three different regions as follows:



1. Gaza: PAMA staff and volunteers delivered the following supplies to The European Hospital on 4/8/2020.

| Item                           | Quantity    |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| 500 ml bottles 70% Alcohol gel | 800         |
| Surgical Blades                | 1,500       |
| Surgical Gloves                | 80,000      |
| Total Cost                     | \$18,120.00 |

- 2. The West Bank: On 4/6/2020 PAMA Staff and Volunteers delivered the following supplies to the following hospitals:
- 1. Palestine Medical Complex-Ramallah
- 2. Alya Hospital -Hebron
- 3. Al Hussein Hospital Biet Jala
- 4. Thabet Hospital -Tulkarem
- 5. The National Hospital-Nablus
- 6. Jenin Government Hospital-Jenin.

Supplies included:

| Item                                    | Quantity |
|---|----------|
| Disposable gowns                        | 500      |
| N95 Masks                               | 1000     |
| Face Shields                            | 300      |
| Personal Protective Equipment(EPP) kits | 1000     |
| Reusable face masks                     | 300      |

PAMA is a non-profit, 501 (c) (3) organization that works to promote health care in Palestine. US EIN: 47-2227058



| Total | \$28,390.81 |
|-------|-------------|
|       |             |

# 3. Jerusalem: PAMA Staff and Volunteers delivered the following much needed protective supplies to Augusta Victoria hospital

| Item                                     | Quantity    |
|--|-------------|
| Surgical Face Masks                      | 3000        |
| KN95 Masks                               | 500         |
| Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits | 500         |
| Gun Boots (per request)                  | 50          |
| Total                                    | \$11,432.00 |

4. Hugo Chaves hospital: This is the main COVID ICU for Ramallah area, it has received 50 N95 masks and other full gear protective supplies for a cost of \$700.

PAMA has conducted the following Webinars and directed them to Palestinian healthcare workers who are on the frontline of COVID-19 pandemic:

- 1. General management of COVID-19 infection: https://youtu.be/m629ir-Vg1M
- Inpatient management of COVID-19 management: https://youtu.be/NQceY6hM2uM
- 3. ICU management of COVID-19 patients: https://youtu.be/ncMKy94HIjc
- COVID-19 guidelines, a marathon not a sprint-part 1: https://youtu.be/\_xQjmz4VYfg
- COVID-19 guidelines, a marathon not a sprint-part 2: https://youtu.be/X\_EQEaWiAPs

## Conclusion

#### Objectives:

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Provide both PPEs and knowledge to help Palestinian healtcare workers in their fight against COVID-19 pandemic.

#### Outcomes

\$55,151.00 worth of Personal protective equipment (PPE) were provided to nine different hospitals in Gaza, West Bank, and Jerusalem.

#### Challenges

Due to the state of emergency and the severe shortage of medical supplies, all supplies were purchased from one vendor in West Bank "Company Yazan Med Co." and another vendor in Gaza "High Medi Co."

#### Recommendations

PAMA should continue its support through phase two of the COVID- 19 PPE fundraiser and its ongoing fundraising campaigns.





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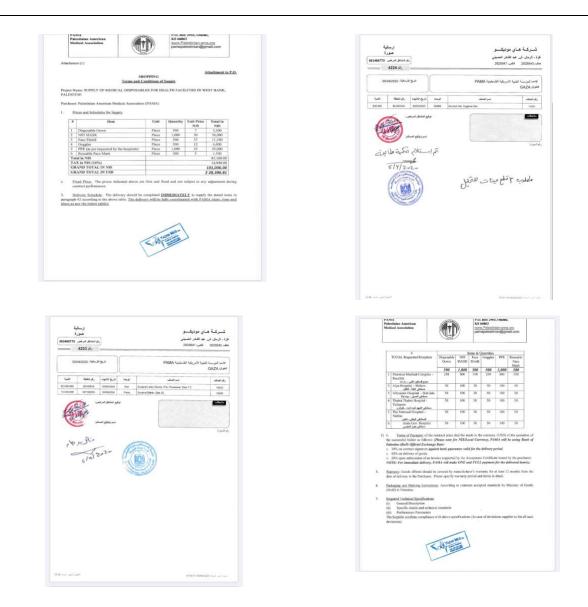
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