

Palestinian patients associations appeal on World Hemophilia Day

Ensuring access to life-saving therapies for Palestinian hemophilia patients and safeguarding their right to health, along with committing to long-term goals such as establishing a Palestinian Hemophilia Federation and systematically implementing updated and internationally recognized treatment protocols, is the appeal directed to the international community by Palestinian sector associations, as gathered by the Haemo-PAL project on World Hemophilia Day. The project, conducted by the Italian Istituto Superiore di Sanità (Higher Institute of Health), coordinated by the Italian National Blood Center, and funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, was launched in 2021 with the aim of supporting the Palestinian Ministry of Health in strengthening clinical centers for the diagnosis and treatment of congenital hematological diseases.

Today, more than ever, the suffering continues for hemophilia patients in Palestine, and a collective commitment is essential; moreover, restrictions on the entry of humanitarian personnel and medical supplies are hindering the continuation of this and other international cooperation initiatives already underway in Palestinian territories.

In this situation of tragic urgency, the Palestinian Society for Bleeding Disorders (PSBD), a partner of the Haemo-PAL project and active in advocacy efforts for years, renews its commitment alongside patients: *“National and international parties”* states Jad Tawill, a founding member of the association, *“must work seriously and sincerely to make this occasion a new starting point for concerted efforts, cooperation, coordination, and global work among decision-makers and service providers in official institutions and civil society organizations, led by the Palestinian Ministry of Health, the National Hemophilia Committee, and all associations working in this field. It is also essential to accelerate the establishment of the Palestinian Hemophilia Federation to represent the Palestinian hemophilia community globally”*.

The goal of the Palestinian hemophilia community remains steadfast: to implement internationally recognized treatment protocols, provide safe and efficient treatments, comprehensive medical care, and psychosocial support to alleviate patient suffering and integrate them into society.

This commitment needs to be complemented by that of the international community, governments, institutions, and sector organizations to ensure the safe supply of medical devices and life-saving drugs, including those for hemophilia and other coagulation disorders.

Every April 17, the birthdate of Frank Schnabel, the founder of the World Federation of Hemophilia, the international community celebrates World Hemophilia Day as an opportunity to mobilize resources and provide support to patients worldwide. Since 1989, the goal of the day has been to coordinate efforts to develop plans, budgets, and actions to implement the principle of *treatment for all*, ensuring adequate treatment for all people with inherited coagulation disorders, regardless of sex, age, or location.

The project, initiated in 2021, involves Italian institutions, foundations, and Palestinian associations among its partners. Among its objectives are the definition of diagnostic-therapeutic protocols, the implementation of an electronic record for clinical management of conditions, the establishment of a national registry of congenital hematological diseases, training for Palestinian specialist doctors, and, lastly, the periodic dispatch of medicines derived from the plasma processing of voluntary and unpaid donors from partner regions Emilia-Romagna, Marche, Tuscany, and Umbria.

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