

COVID AND LOCKDOWN IN GAZA

Until recently, all Covid-19 cases in the Gaza Strip were contained in quarantine facilities. Gaza's healthcare system does not have the capacity to deal with an outbreak of the virus. Healthcare facilities are already on the verge of collapse due to long-term closure and Israeli-blockade on the Gaza Strip. Gaza also has one of the highest population densities in the world and isolation is therefore not always a real option for many Gazans.

Christian Aid's partners have been adapting their work in Gaza since the start of the pandemic in March. As community centres closed, children and youth were kept engaged at home through online lessons and activities. Women have been able to access remote support to cope with added pressures and the rise in gender-based violence. With funding through Irish Aid, our partner PARC (The Agricultural Development Association) is meeting both short and longer-term needs.

On the 5th and 19th of August, 400 vulnerable households in Gaza

received two rounds of food parcels, delivered to their door, with fresh produce and dried goods. The products were purchased from local small-scale farmers and women-led cooperatives, to support them through the economic consequences of the pandemic.

This activity has become even more important, as Gaza's fear of community spread of Covid-19 has come true. As positive cases were identified in different parts of Gaza at the end of August, a state of emergency and full lockdown have been imposed.

Through humanitarian access, PARC continues to support more families, including those who have recently lost their daily wage because of the curfew. Farmers are supported to reach markets to sell their produce, to use their right to access further funding and help them plant for the next agricultural season, to feed the food-insecure.

The people of Gaza are used to tough times and remain unbelievably hopeful and resilient. *Commitment for Life* continues to support and show solidarity to our Palestinian partners and friends. Your support is particularly crucial given how precarious life is right

now. As the UN points out, there are people in Gaza having to [shift through rubbish](#) to find food.



Global Justice Now (GJN)

Debt is too often a mechanism of control imposed on the poor by the rich. COVID-19 has torn away the claims that the system work for the most vulnerable in the world.

GJN is calling for the immediate [cancellation of huge swathes of debt](#) in the global south, along with a wealth tax to stabilise and improve health services. Add your voice to this call!