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# Sharek's Emergency Response

# Sharek's Emergency Response:

In response to the urgent humanitarian crisis in Gaza, Sharek Youth Forum remains steadfast. Acknowledging the imminent humanitarian catastrophe, widely recognized by humanitarian organizations, we have launched a humanitarian campaign in response to this tragedy.

Our campaign, "Sharek Sha'bak," is a youth-led national initiative that took root in 2009 during the war against Gaza. The fundamental mission of this campaign had been consistent ever since it started: To secure immediate support and assistance to the people in need, reinforcing their resilience in the face of indiscriminate aggression that particularly targets civilians, including children, women, individuals with disabilities, and the elderly.



## Where We Operate:

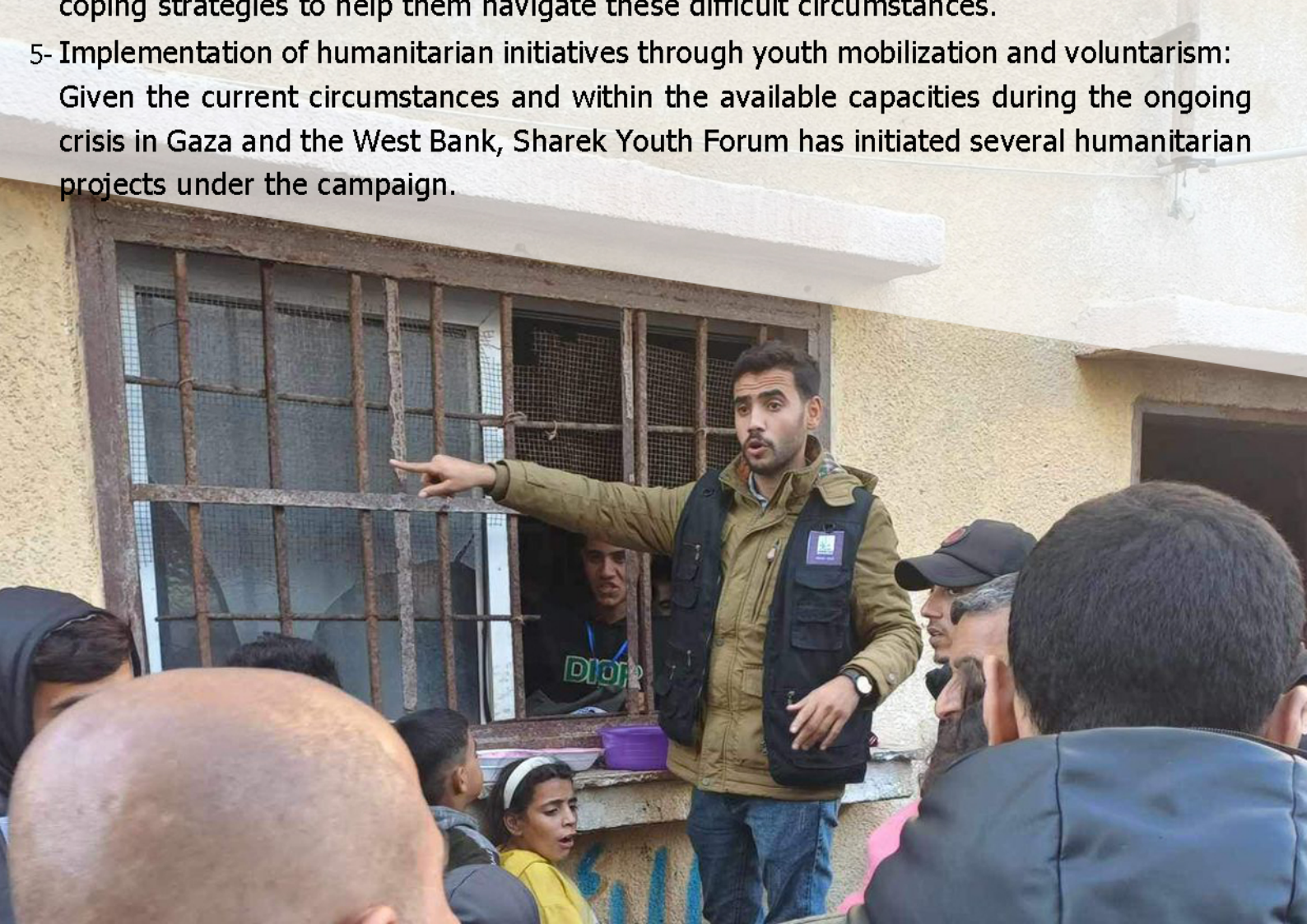
Sharek operates its emergency response in West Bank and Gaza Strip in close collaboration with prominent organizations, including UNRWA, UNFPA, UNWOMEN, AMAN, JUZOUR, local Municipalities and CBOs; with unwavering support from a diverse group of volunteers spanning every corner of the Gaza Strip and West Bank. Currently, we are committed to extending our services to all displaced civilians in Gaza Strip who are seeking refuge in various shelters.

These shelters encompass a wide range of locations, ranging from UNRWA and public-school facilities to unconventional sites such as wedding venues, public spaces, parking lots, and the generous offerings of private residences. Our goal is to provide a safe haven and essential support to those affected by the crisis, ensuring that no one is left without assistance.



## What We Do:

- 1- Distribution of supply packages to address daily food and water needs.
- 2- Distribution of hygiene kits for adolescents and women: Recognizing the significance of the health and hygiene of adolescent girls and women, especially in overcrowded shelters. Providing hygiene kits is a crucial intervention to prevent/control health issues and maintain overall well-being.
- 3- Distribution of postpartum kits: Given that many women give birth and are relocated to shelters directly after hospital delivery, it is vital to cater to their specific needs. Distributing postpartum kits for mothers and new-borns is essential for ensuring their health and safety.
- 4- Implementation of Psychological First Aid (PFA) activities: In the challenging shelter environment, children and adolescents may undergo increased stress and trauma due to the ongoing conflict. Implementing PFA is crucial, providing psychological support and coping strategies to help them navigate these difficult circumstances.
- 5- Implementation of humanitarian initiatives through youth mobilization and voluntarism: Given the current circumstances and within the available capacities during the ongoing crisis in Gaza and the West Bank, Sharek Youth Forum has initiated several humanitarian projects under the campaign.



## How We Operate:

Given the inherent challenges in the Palestinian situation during "normal" times, our local Palestinian NGO observes even greater complications during emergencies and crises. For instance, in the wake of the ongoing hostilities in Gaza and the West Bank, the humanitarian situation remains dire. The Gaza Strip has witnessed an escalation of hostilities, resulting in a significant loss of life and widespread suffering. The West Bank has also experienced its share of violence, with Palestinians enduring confrontations, demonstrations, and attacks, physical assaults, threats, and property demolishing imposed by the Israeli Settlers with Israeli forces sometimes involved in supporting these incidents.

Hence, considering that the Gaza Strip is the most severely impacted by this crisis, particularly with the blockade imposed over it by the Israeli military, severely restricting the entry of vital supplies and basic necessities into the Gaza Strip, Sharek has adjusted its operational approach to overcome these challenges. Leveraging our well-established supply chain networks within the region has become crucial to ensuring that those in shelters have access to the minimum requirements for survival.

Our collaboration with UNRWA plays a pivotal role in this endeavor. Supported by UNRWA's resources and transportation infrastructure, we have successfully implemented a distribution system that reaches multiple shelters in strategic locations, including Khan Younes, Middle, and Rafah Governates.

It is also undeniable that a key point that helped in this success was the continuous and immediate field Meetings held with UNRWA operations team which streamline fieldwork processes and ensured effective cooperation



## On the Ground work:

The interventions undertaken by Sharek and its partners can be viewed shown below:

### Hot Meals and Nutritional supplements distributions :

Sharek recently started the implementation of a daily meals distribution intervention in partnership with the World Food Programme for displaced people in the shelters. Until now we successfully distributed a total of **77,850** nutritional supplements with the assistance of 15 volunteers from our volunteers' network. These efforts have been implemented in four schools in the Rafah area, benefiting approximately 2,595 individuals, including children and mothers.



## On the Ground work:

### Crisis response and preparedness:

The escalations in the West Bank along with the difficulties in mobility and movement suggested the need to bring up a crisis response youth team that is equipped with necessary skills and knowledge to take action in cases of emergency. Therefore, Sharek launched an empowerment intervention tackling the topics of crisis response, preparedness, and first aid. In partnership with the Coalition of Accountability and integrity, AMAN, Sharek trained a group of 25 young male and female activists through a cooperation with the Palestinian Civil Defence.



## On the Ground work

### Humanitarian and hygiene kits:

A total of

#### **650 personal hygiene kits**

were distributed to promote health and cleanliness. This distribution was made possible through our close coordination and collaboration with esteemed partners including UNFPA, UNRWA, and our local associates and dedicated volunteers, addressing the pressing humanitarian requirements for health and hygiene

#### **1370 Dignity Kits**

specially designed for women, pregnant women and girls.

These kits were distributed among shelters in the Middle, Khan Younis, and Rafah governorates.

#### **600 Postpartum Kits**

were specially designed and distributed among women who recently give birth. These kits played a pivotal role in meeting the needs of a total of 1,200 individuals, comprising 600 women who recently gave birth, along with their 600 new-borns.

#### **500 Dignity Kits**

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These kits were distributed among shelters in Khan Younis, and Rafah governorates.





## On the Ground work

### Psychosocial support program

Sharek provided a series of psychosocial support and Relief services in partnership with several local and international NGOs for the survivors and those affected by the aggression, assisting them in overcoming trauma in West Bank and in Gaza Strip; offering guidance to them in navigating the challenges opposed by the current circumstances.

Sharek has reached an additional **4700** individuals (children and adolescents aged between 6-17), bringing the total number of beneficiaries to 64,549 so far.

The interventions under the PSS were:

#### Group Psychosocial support sessions:

##### In West Bank:

In partnership with UNFPA, five group sessions have been conducted at Qalandiah Primary School for Girls, benefiting a total of 130 female students aged between 12-13 years. These sessions aimed to address fear, facilitate the expression of emotions and concerns, offer psychological relief, and foster dialogues about the significance of self-protection.



## On the Ground work

- In partnership with UNFPA, four group sessions have been implemented in Ein Munjed Boys' School. The sessions targeted around 120 male students aged between 12-13 years. The sessions focused on allowing the students to express their fears and discuss ways to overcome them, aiming to reduce the tension they experienced due to the current situations in WB and GS.
- In partnership with UNFPA and UNWOMEN, and with the collaboration of PWWSD, four sessions were conducted in Ramallah, specifically addressing female Evicted patients from Gaza currently residing in Ramallah hospitals and hotels. These sessions reached 56 women and included counseling, relief activities, and the distribution of health/hygiene kits.
- In collaboration with UNFPA, with the support of Hakini Platform, 10 group sessions were implemented at Sharek Youth forum HQ. These sessions engaged 1148 Gazan workers aiming to address various aspects of the workers' well-being, encompassing topics such as mental health, women's roles, and coping strategies through allowing the workers to share their experiences, receive guidance, by the Hakini platform councilors.
- Sharek implemented 3-4 sessions on psychological support CSE and gender equality, targeting young people and adolescents. until now we have reached 6 locations benefiting 163 adolescents. These locations are mainly schools and community centres in Jenin, Qalandia, Hebron, and Ein Arik.



## On the Ground work

- In Collaboration with UNFPA and within the framework of the MHPSS program, Sharek conducted two workshops in collaboration with the Tulkarm Women's Association at the Tulkarm camp. The workshops were designed to offer initial psychological support to over 40 women and mothers in the camp. Topics covered included psychological first aid and strategies to alleviate psychological stress, particularly given the challenging conditions the camp faces due to ongoing intrusions and persistent targeting. The workshops also incorporated group therapy sessions for the participants, utilizing psychodrama techniques to relieve the psychological pressures experienced by them. The workshops concluded with the distribution of first aid kits to the participants, acknowledging the urgent need for these kits due to the frequently challenging conditions the camp encounters. This initiative signifies a joint endeavor to provide psychological support and practical assistance to women affected within the community.



## In Gaza Strip:

- In collaboration with UNFPA and with support from UNRWA, 29 group sessions were conducted in the Gaza Strip, benefiting a total of 1430 participants, including men, women, adolescents, and youth. These sessions were designed to comprehensively address the well-being of displaced individuals, covering topics such as mental health and coping strategies. The sessions provided a platform for those displaced individuals in shelters to share their experiences, receive guidance, and exchange mental coping strategies. With a goal was to create a supportive environment that not only addressed immediate needs but also fostered resilience and community connection among those affected in the Gaza Strip.
- In collaboration with UNFPA and with support from UNRWA , recognizing the critical need to address specific issues affecting females, Sharek has conducted 18 sessions, engaging over 520 women in discussions on essential topics such as self-care, mental health, personal hygiene, and self-protection from violence and exploitation during times of war.



- In collaboration with Aman 10 group sessions were conducted in the Gaza Strip, benefiting a total of 450 participants, including men, women, adolescents, and youth. These sessions were designed to comprehensively address the well-being of displaced individuals, covering topics such as mental health and coping strategies. With a goal was to create a supportive environment that not only addressed immediate needs but also fostered resilience and community connection among those affected in the Gaza Strip.

Additionally, our initiatives extend beyond discussions. We have introduced physical activities and challenges as a proactive measure to facilitate psychological release for these women, aiming to contribute to their overall well-being. Through these efforts, we strive to empower and support the women in Gaza in various aspects of their lives.



## Psychological relief activities:

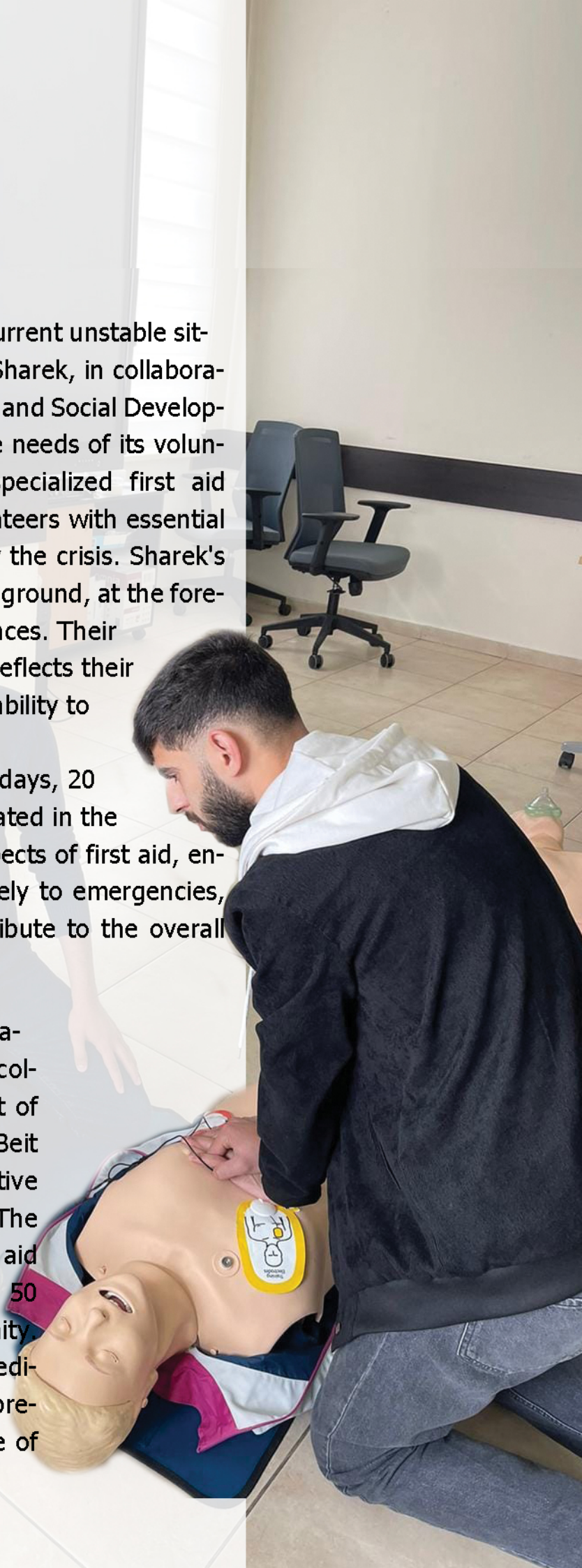
With UNFPA partnership and UNRWA support, Sharek implemented a total of **192** Psychological relief activities. These sessions were designed to provide emotional support and well-being assistance to a significant number of **60,952** children and adolescents, aged between 5 and 14, residing in 88 shelters across the Gaza Strip. The aim of these sessions extended beyond immediate relief, seeking to address the unique psychological needs of the young population affected by the crisis. Through various therapeutic approaches, session targeting **60,952** children and adolescents (aged between 5- 14) in 88 shelter in Gaza strip.

## First Aid Trainings:

Recognizing the urgency created by the current unstable situation in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, Sharek, in collaboration with the Juzoor Foundation for Health and Social Development, took proactive steps to address the needs of its volunteers. The organization conducted a specialized first aid course aimed at equipping Sharek's volunteers with essential skills to navigate the challenges posed by the crisis. Sharek's volunteers play a vital role in being on the ground, at the forefront, during these demanding circumstances. Their dedication to acquiring and honing skills reflects their commitment to effective action and the ability to meet urgent needs promptly.

Over the course of two intensive training days, 20 volunteers from the Sharek team participated in the program. The training covered crucial aspects of first aid, enabling the volunteers to respond effectively to emergencies, provide immediate assistance, and contribute to the overall well-being of the affected communities

In response to the current unstable situation in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, in collaboration with UNFPA, with the support of Red Crescent Volunteers Committee, Beit Fajjar's Local Youth Council took proactive steps to address their community needs. The Council organized an intensive two first aid courses, engaging the participation of 50 male volunteers from the local community. This initiative underscores the Council's dedication to cultivating a resilient and well-prepared community, particularly in the face of challenging circumstances.



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## Humanitarian initiatives:

Sharek in partnership with UNFPA and in cooperation with UNRWA and other CBOS in GAZA strip and west Bank implemented multiple humanitarian and social initiatives through youth mobilization and voluntarism as specified below:

- Self-Care Initiative at Nuseirat Schools: in partnership with UNFPA, and support from UNRWA, new initiative in Nuseirat schools that focuses on raising awareness among displaced women regarding the importance of self-care, particularly in light of hygiene supply shortages. This initiative reached to 120 women and girls as we believe that empowering women and girls with self-care knowledge contributes to their overall well-being.
- Education Support initiative for Tawjihi Students: in partnership with UNFPA, and support from UNRWA, materials and stationery have been distributed as part of our education initiative for displaced Tawjihi students in five shelters. This initiative aims to provide essential resources for their educational journey. This initiative reached to 280 tawjihi students (M: 112, F: 168)

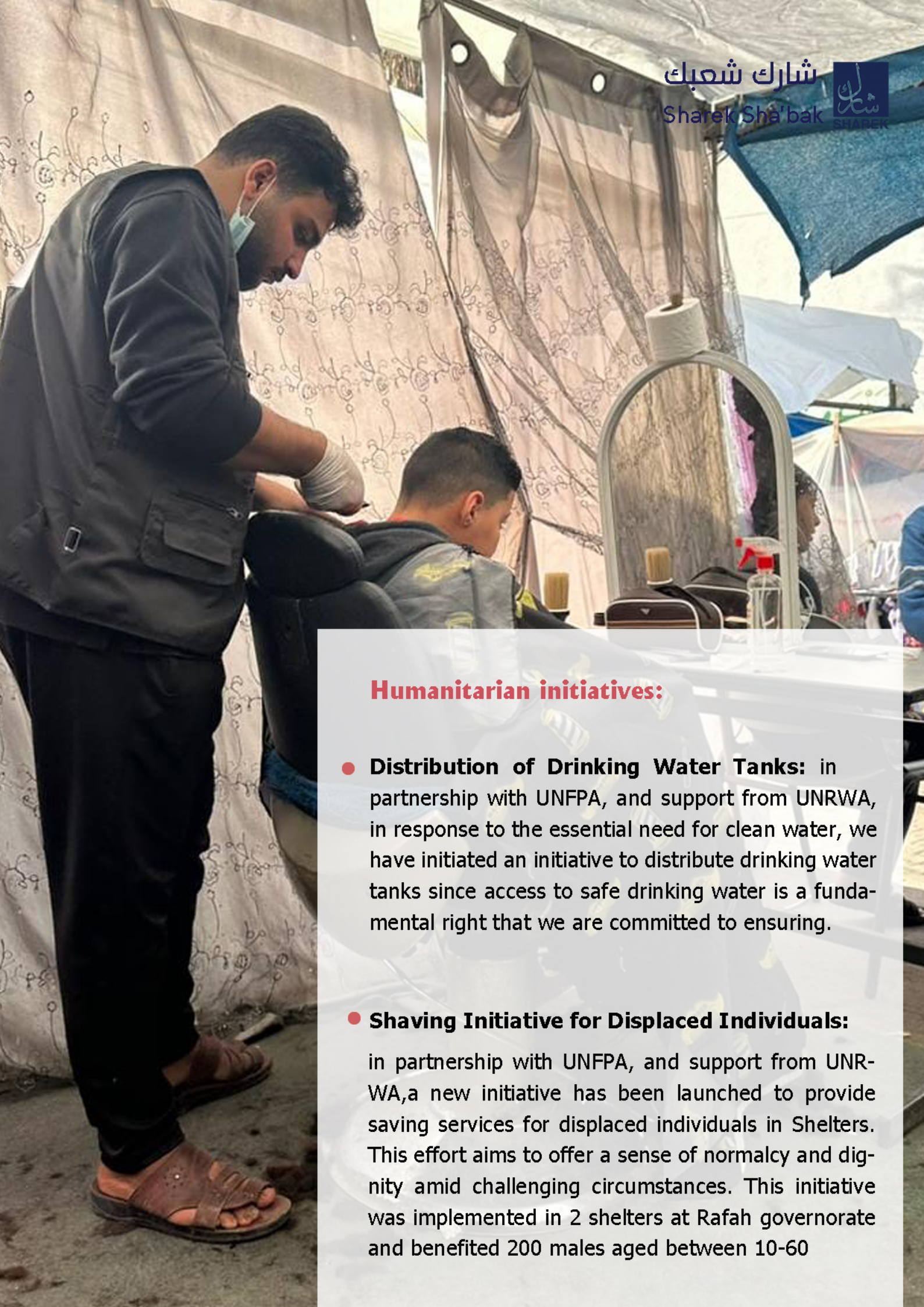


## Humanitarian initiatives:

- **Cooking in the Neighborhoods Initiative:** in partnership with UNFPA, and support from UNRWA, Sharek has launched a food initiative address food insecurity and support families in need. It involves cooking and preparing meals for numerous displaced families in the Gaza Strip. As families themselves, children, and volunteer teams participated, continuing their efforts to create an environment where hope is renewed every day. This initiative was implemented using two approaches:

- 1- reaching families outside the UNRWA shelters; as we were able to reach 30 families in Alwosta governorate outside the UNRWA shelters.
- 2- Cooking in the UNRWA shelters; reaching to two shelters and 1000 persons in each shelter.





### Humanitarian initiatives:

- **Distribution of Drinking Water Tanks:** in partnership with UNFPA, and support from UNRWA, in response to the essential need for clean water, we have initiated an initiative to distribute drinking water tanks since access to safe drinking water is a fundamental right that we are committed to ensuring.
- **Shaving Initiative for Displaced Individuals:** in partnership with UNFPA, and support from UNRWA, a new initiative has been launched to provide shaving services for displaced individuals in Shelters. This effort aims to offer a sense of normalcy and dignity amid challenging circumstances. This initiative was implemented in 2 shelters at Rafah governorate and benefited 200 males aged between 10-60

## Humanitarian initiatives:

- **Clay food ovens initiative:**

in partnership with UNFPA, and support from UNRWA, and in our way to Addressing the critical shortage of cooking gas and electricity, we launched the Clay Food Ovens Initiative to offer a sustainable solution for displaced individuals residing in shelters. Recognizing the pressing need for a means to prepare daily meals, our initiative focused on the construction and distribution of 60 clay ovens in Rafah and Khanyones governorates; 30 clay ovens in each governorate.



## Humanitarian initiatives:

- **Entertainment days in shelters:**

in partnership with UNFPA, and support from UNRWA, in cooperation with youth volunteers from the scouts in Gaza, Sharek implemented seven entertaining and uplifting days across five shelters situated in the Rafah and Khanyones governorates. Recognizing the essential role of play in a child's development, this initiative sought to restore a sense of normalcy and joy for children who have been deprived of such opportunities due to the challenging circumstances they find themselves in. Each event was meticulously planned to create a vibrant, safe space within the shelter environment, providing children with an outlet for creativity, expression, and sheer enjoyment. This initiative reached up to **2600 children aged between 5 and 14 years** old, acknowledging the profound impact of the ongoing Israeli aggression in Gaza on their daily lives. Those days were concluded with the distributing of toys among the children, as an attempt to bring smiles to their faces.



## Humanitarian initiatives:

**Electrical Infrastructure Improvement Initiative:** in partnership with UNFPA, and support from UNRWA, Recognizing the critical need for reliable electrical infrastructure, our organization has launched an initiative aimed at repairing electrical extensions and installing lighting in rooms. The primary goal of this undertaking is to enhance living conditions and provide a safer and more comfortable environment for individuals in need. The initiative was implemented in 5 shelters benefiting 1400 individual in each shelter (3 shelters in Rafah governorate, 2 shelters in Khanyones governorates).



## Humanitarian initiatives:

- **Mobile Blood Bank initiative:** in partnership with UNFPA, and support from UNRWA, As the situation becomes more complicated within the shelters, these initiatives add a vibrant touch to our collective efforts to contribute in improving the conditions of displaced individuals and easing their burdens. This initiative was launched and implemented in cooperation with the Central Blood Bank Association - Gaza Strip CBBS Gaza in KhanYounis governorate with the participation of more than 100 blood donor.





- **The "Clothesline Initiative"**

serves as an effective response to the challenges faced by displaced individuals amid severe overcrowding in shelter centers that are ill-suited to their daily needs. Developed in collaboration between the Sharek Youth Forum , UNFPA and in partnership with the Palestinian Scout in Gaza , this initiative aimed to help displaced individuals meet some of their basic needs by providing laundry pegs for drying their daily laundry and ventilating their bedding. This effort contributes to reducing the spread of diseases caused by inadequate ventilation and poor cleanliness in shelter centers. The initiative was successfully implemented at the Girls' School Shelter Center in Khan Yunis, where over 20 volunteers assisted approximately 15 families. The volunteers' role extended beyond peg production; they also educated families on how to disassemble and reattach them correctly, thereby contributing to the improvement of shelter conditions and the overall health of the displaced individuals.



- **We are one initiative:** in partnership with UNFPA, The Youth Council in Kufr Nima took a proactive step to implement this initiative, responding to the challenges that happened as a result of the Israeli aggression on Gaza strip that affected the West Bank as well. This initiative showed the commitment of the members of the Youth local council to addressing diverse challenges within the community and underscores their dedication to fostering unity and resilience the initiative undertaken included:  
Traffic Management: Given the Israeli closures on the Wadi Al-Dalb road, Kufr Nima - Youth Council played a crucial role in organizing the flow of traffic for individuals entering and exiting the town. This action aimed to alleviate disruptions caused by the closures and ensure smooth and safe mobility for residents.  
Humanitarian Support for Displaced Workers: following the Israeli aggression on the - Gaza Strip, Gazan workers with Israeli work permits found themselves compelled to leave. These individuals sought refuge in the West Bank, facing unforeseen challenges. In response, the Kufr Nima Youth Local Council actively engaged in preparing and providing meals for these displaced workers. By preparing approximately 1000 meals daily, the initiative not only addressed an immediate need but also symbolized solidarity and community support during difficult times.



## Humanitarian initiatives:

### ● **Kobar Youth Local Council:**

In partnership with UNFPA, to address the urgent needs of these displaced workers from Gaza, the Kobar Youth Local Council proactively collaborated with local community organizations, including the Ramallah and Al-Bireh governorates, alongside various official institutions and ministries. This collective effort encompassed several interventions and activities:

- **Reception and Shelter:** The Youth Council facilitated the reception of 2772 displaced workers in Ramallah sheltering centers, ensuring a safe and supportive environment for them to navigate through these challenging circumstances.
- **Database Creation:** The council played a crucial role in assisting with the creation of a comprehensive database for the workers. This systematic approach aimed to address their individual needs and circumstances more effectively.
- **Daily Essentials Distribution:** The Youth Council actively participated in the distribution of daily meals and essential supplies for the Gazan workers, ensuring they had everything they needed for their well-being.

