

13 November 2022 – Dr Naseem reached home after a long shift at the hospital, ready to rest and recharge. He had been looking forward to spending time with his children but found it hard to shake off his worries and disengage his mind. The air felt heavy. The news about growing tensions in Gaza Strip seemed impossible to escape. WhatsApp groups were relentlessly pinging. Neighbours, family members, and people on the street were all talking about the same thing. Memories of the 2021 escalation were still fresh in their minds.

Dr Naseem, who works as the Head of Emergency at the Al Aqsa Hospital in the Gaza Strip, hadn't been at home for long before the news of the August escalation broke. His phone rang shortly after. He knew precisely why he was being called. Hurriedly sipping his tea, he got ready for what was going to be a very long day ahead.

Within an hour of the call, he was at the hospital supervising staff to prepare for receiving and treating casualties. "We knew from previous experience that the situation could deteriorate quickly. We needed to act fast and get ourselves organized. Delays in getting the injured immediate care could cost lives during emergencies. There is no margin for error," says Dr Naseem.



24/7 Healthcare Emergency Services, Ministry of Health, Saudi Arabia. Contact: +966 11 2000 0000. Website: www.moh.gov.sa





Dr Naseem and other staff members are working on a large-scale diagram of the city of Baghdad, showing the location of the ADYIM building and other key locations. The diagram is used to plan the distribution of medical supplies and other resources during the August escalation.