

## Mafraq, Jordan

2022.07.22

**Medical Clinic in the Desert  
- Deep inside the Refugee Camp**

Even though Tzu Chi free medical clinic operations were temporarily halted for nearly three pandemic years in Jordan, aid to the refugee camps

continued. On July 22, 2022, led by Tzu Chi volunteer Mr. Chen, Chen Chiou-Hwa, a free dental clinic was scheduled near Mafraq, a northern Jordanian city near Syria.

Mr. Chen saw the need for dental services for these refugee families so he set out to organize the clinic. Many older and experienced dental volunteers are unable to attend because

**Volunteers from Tzu Chi Jordan  
host a free dental clinic in Mafraq,  
Jordan on July 22, 2022.**



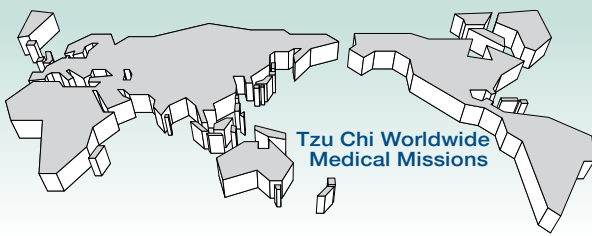


**Medical and dental equipment are in full display during the free dental fair.**

of the continuing pandemic, so he set up a training program for community volunteers.

Mr. Chen procured many boxes of dental equipment left behind from the 2019 TIMA Dental Free Clinic in Jordan. The week before the dental event, from July 14th to the 21st, volunteers were busy testing and assembling that equipment, and packing medicines. Generators and transformers are necessary in a harsh desert environment where public utility reliability is nonexistent.

A disinfecting steaming machine was hauled to the dental office of Dr. Amjad Othman for repair work on the 21st. Othman is the Chairperson of the local Dental Association and the contact person for the Health Department of the Jordanian Dental Emergency Unit. In 2012, the Jordanian Health Department supplied three mobile dental clinics (a total of nine dental chairs) to the refugee camp in Zaatari. When International funds to the camp ran out in 2016, Othman continued a weekly dental program with a group of local volunteers.



The Tzu Chi Jordanian office connected with Othman as a joint partner at that point.

On July 21st, volunteers arrived at the village to set up the free clinic. Many children were eager to come and help. Tzu Chi volunteers were familiar to them due to previous encounters.

On July 22nd, a team of 43 volunteers came to organize the clinic. Dr. Othman brought with him five other dentists, while Jordan TIMA Dr. Ameer Ramahi brought three additional volunteers. A team of ten doctors provided fillings, extractions, root canals and other vital dental services. Dr. Arwaa Shaeib was particularly mindful to small children. Her kind words were soothing and reassuring to the children.

Dr. Afnan Alaomari is a first time volunteer and she recounted her experience: “We did our best to not miss

anyone who needs dental care. Tzu Chi free clinic is beautiful and helping others is a beautiful thing.” She hopes for more opportunities for this type of event.

Dr. Waed Abbasi is also a first time volunteer and he said, “I am happy to be part of a team to help the children and anyone with dental care.” He also had great remarks for the team in terms of communication and collaboration; everyone pitched in and helped one another.

Besides dental clinic services, Dr. Abdul Hakim Khedr was on site to provide patients with Cardiac and ENT specialty care. He was particularly happy to provide specialty care service to the patients who needed it.

Today the clinic served 193 patients; of which 103 required continuing follow-up service and the volunteers assisted with those follow-up arrangements.



**Dr. Abdul Hakim Khedr, Cardiac and ENT specialist, providing service to small children.**