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Pope Francis' Last Initiative: Using the Popemobile to Help Children in Gaza

In his final months, Pope Francis directed the humanitarian organization Caritas to turn his popemobile into a mobile health station for the children in Gaza. The purpose of the initiative is to safeguard and uphold children's fundamental rights and dignity. The popemobile is now being rebuilt, and the first photos from the project have been released.

The humanitarian situation in Gaza is increasingly critical, especially for the nearly one million displaced children. When access to food, water and healthcare is cut off, children are often the first and hardest hit. Starvation, infection, and other preventable conditions put their lives at risk.

Before his passing, pope Francis made his popemobile available to Caritas Jerusalem, which is now turning it into a mobile health unit for children. When the humanitarian corridor to Gaza reopens it will be ready to give primary healthcare to children in Gaza.

Pope Francis blessed the endeavor, and everyone involved in continuing his care for the vulnerable.

'With the vehicle, we will be able to reach children who today have no access to health care – children who are injured and malnourished. This is a concrete, life-saving intervention at a time when the health system in Gaza has almost completely collapsed' says Peter Brune, Secretary General of Caritas Sweden, which is supporting the initiative.

The vehicle will be staffed by a driver and medical doctors. It is currently being fitted with equipment for diagnosis, examination, and treatment – including rapid tests for infections, suture kits, syringes and needles, oxygen supply, vaccines, and a refrigerator for medicines. 'This vehicle represents the love, care and closeness shown by His Holiness for the most vulnerable, which he expressed throughout the crisis' says Anton Asfar, Secretary General of Caritas Jerusalem.

Caritas Jerusalem has a long history of providing health care in Gaza under difficult conditions. The organization has more than hundred staff on the ground. **'It's not just a vehicle, it's a message that the world has not forgotten about the children in Gaza'** - says Peter Brune.

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