

General get to know you questions:

What's your name?

I'm Motasem AlBanna

How old are you?

I'm 20 years old

Where are you from and where do you currently reside?

I am from the Gaza Strip and specifically from the northern Gaza Strip, now resident in the south of the sector and my family members.

Can you describe a typical day for you?

The situation here in Gaza is extremely tragic. Amidst this brutal war, we, the people of Gaza, are suffering greatly. Initially, our homes were destroyed, and we were forced by the occupation to flee from the northern Gaza Strip to the south. Even then, we couldn't find any shelter other than tents, and life in tents is the hardest way to live. They offer no protection from the heat of summer or the cold of winter, and harmful insects are widespread.

With a severe shortage of everything essential to life, we are suffering greatly due to the lack of water. We are forced to transport it from long distances. Additionally, we face immense hardship in obtaining food due to skyrocketing prices and the absence of any financial income for families. Hardly anyone can work because there are no jobs available, nor is there time to work. Early in the morning, we line up for water, which takes about three hours or more, followed by the effort of transporting it. After that, we bake bread, which also requires waiting in line for an hour or more.

Next, we head to aid distribution points, where we wait for around four hours or more, only to receive canned goods that cause many diseases, such as hepatitis. Then, we return to our tents to eat a meal that barely satisfies our hunger, and by then, the day is almost over. This is the daily routine of life in Gaza.

Do you have family with you there?

Yes I exist with my family

Have you lost family?

Not close ones alhamdulillah, But I lost a lot of my further relatives.

Project related questions:

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How often do you follow the news or keep up with current events?

I try to follow the news as regularly as I can. It's important to me to be informed about what's happening in my city and in the world. I get most of my news from the internet and social media.

Do you find it challenging to stay updated on current events and the situation around you? What about for those around you?

Sometimes it can be difficult to stay updated on current events, especially when there's a lot of conflicting information. For the people around me, it's also a challenge, especially for those who don't have internet access or who are not literate.

What challenges do you face when traveling? How do you make a decision to travel one path and not the other? What modes of transportation do you usually use?

As someone from Gaza, I often face challenges when traveling. There are movement restrictions imposed on us by Israel, which make it difficult to travel to the West Bank, Jerusalem, and beyond. When I need to travel, I usually use buses or taxis.

How do you currently find, share, and relay information about the places you travel to, such as safe or unsafe areas or locations of medical aid?

I use a variety of methods to find information about the places I travel to. I use the internet and social media to get general information. I also ask friends and family who have traveled to the area before.

How do you build a sense of community and connect with others? Are there specific ways you prefer to discuss these topics?

I feel a sense of community by participating in community activities and volunteering to help others. I also engage in discussions online about issues that affect my community.

When assessing a situation, would you feel more comfortable trusting reports from other users or official sources?

I would feel more comfortable trusting reports from official sources, such as news agencies and governments. However, I also recognize that these sources are not always neutral or accurate.

Are there any apps you use that allow you to control who can see your information or communicate with you?

I use a variety of apps that allow me to control who can see my information or communicate with me. These apps include WhatsApp, Facebook, and Instagram.

Would you feel more comfortable trusting user reports or reports from officials?

I would feel more comfortable trusting reports from officials, such as news agencies and governments. However, I also recognize that these sources are not always neutral or accurate.

What limitations do you face when downloading and accessing mobile apps? (e.g., Wi-Fi availability, app size, device compatibility)

I face some limitations when downloading and accessing mobile apps. These limitations include Wi-Fi availability, app size, and device compatibility.

How do you feel about relying on digital tools to stay informed and connected within your community?

I feel that relying on digital tools to stay informed and connected within my community is helpful. However, I also recognize that these tools are not always reliable or secure.