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UK Plans Medical Evacuation Scheme for Gazan Children Requiring Urgent Treatment

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The British government is preparing a new medical evacuation initiative that could bring up to 300 injured or seriously ill children from Gaza to the United Kingdom for urgent treatment. The proposal, expected to be finalised in the coming weeks, aims to assist a limited number of cases where local or regional options are unavailable.

Under the plan, each child will be accompanied by a parent or guardian, with siblings allowed if necessary. All individuals will be subject to standard biometric and security screening by the Home Office before travelling to the UK. Treatment will be provided through existing hospital facilities.

This government-backed programme will operate alongside an independent initiative run by the charity Project Pure Hope, which has already arranged the transfer of three children from Gaza to the UK for care. The charity has raised funds privately to cover medical and travel costs.

A government spokesperson confirmed the preparations, stating: “We are taking forward plans to evacuate more children from Gaza who require urgent medical care, including bringing them to the UK for specialist treatment where that is the best option for their care.”

According to UNICEF (United Nations Children’s Fund), over 50,000 children have been killed or injured in Gaza since the escalation of conflict in October 2023. Approximately 5,000 children have been evacuated from the area, primarily to Egypt and countries in the Gulf region.

As part of the broader response, the UK government has allocated an additional £1 million to support the World Health Organization (WHO) in Egypt, assisting with the treatment of Gazans who have already been evacuated.

Meanwhile, Project Pure Hope continues efforts to expand its own evacuation programme, with plans to bring a further 30 to 50 children to the UK under private sponsorship. The charity’s work remains separate from official government channels.

Medical professionals involved in overseas relief have noted that the numbers treated under both public and private schemes remain limited. However, the current effort focuses strictly on the most critical and complex medical cases, selected on a case-by-case basis.

Authorities have not provided a fixed timeline for the full implementation of the plan, but preliminary preparations are under way to identify eligible patients and coordinate with international partners.

The government has reiterated that all incoming individuals under the scheme will undergo full pre-entry checks and that the approach will be managed in coordination with security and health agencies. The programme will remain narrow in scope, focusing solely on individual medical cases based on urgent need.