



Galilee Medical Center: The Next Ten Years

Galilee Medical Center is the closest hospital to the State of Israel's border. Located only ten kilometers away from the hostile Lebanese border, Galilee Medical Center serves a diverse population of 600,000 people comprised of Jews, Muslims, Christians and Druze. As a hospital with extensive combat experience, that even absorbed a direct missile attack during the Second Lebanon War in 2006, Galilee Medical Center became a leading hospital in protection and readiness during emergencies. Nonetheless, there are still gaps and obstacles preventing continuous functioning under fire. While in the background echoes of war are heard from Lebanon and Hezbollah's attack tunnels are discovered along the northern border, plans must be implemented to provide quality medical treatment during the next war, to both IDF soldiers and the region's residents.

Beyond the topic of security, there are wide disparities in accessibility to health services between central Israel and its outlying areas. The hospital provides care to an underserved population suffering from high rates of diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease with less doctors, less available beds and less operating rooms than those available to the residents of central Israel. In recent years the medical center underwent significant quantum leaps, mainly in the field of surgery and employing new talented doctors in many medical fields. The development plan for the next ten years will bring the medical center to the forefront of medicine, capable of providing residents of the Galilee region all of the medical services available to Israelis.

Despite the sensitive security state and disparities in medical services, the Western Galilee region comprised of a demographically mixed population continues to develop and grow. As a region with tremendous security impact and importance to the country’s national strength, it is critical to establish high-level health services for its residents for routine care and certainly during emergency situations. Friends of the Galilee Medical Center, together with the hospital administration and Ministry of Health, consolidated a master development plan for the overall value of \$100,000,000 for the next ten years taking into account the developing community’s needs. The Ministry of Health will complete this budget with a matching donation.

Gynecology department phase 2	\$40,000,000
Five operating theatres	\$15,000,000
Internal medicine division phase 2	\$15,000,000
Fortification of critical units	\$5,000,000
Renovation of foodservice facility	\$7,000,000
Renovation of dialysis center	\$4,000,000
Procurement of critical medical equipment	\$13,500,000
Library for medical students	\$500,000
Total	\$100,000,000

Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics Phase 2 - \$40,000,000

In 2017, the first phase of the new Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics was completed and the department was opened, including a protected wing of labor and delivery rooms and two postpartum units. The new building is a quantum leap in the gynecological and obstetric services in the Galilee and will replace outdated facilities built in the 1950's. The project's second phase will include a second building offering a protected surgical wing, and a protected neonatal care unit, two additional wards for gynecology and high-risk pregnancy, an In-Vitro Fertilization unit and protected underground shelter. The additional building will centralize all women's medical services on one state-of-the-art campus, providing continuous urgent care also during emergency situations and introducing advanced technologies in improved treatment and hospitalization conditions.

Five protected operating theatres - \$15,000,000

There are 12 general operating theatres at the Galilee Medical Center, only five of which are protected and capable of providing continued surgical treatment under fire. Built according to outdated regulations, the operating rooms are small and are not effective for multidisciplinary teamwork (for example during neurosurgery). In addition, the developing surgical services and growing population in the region has created a bottleneck and prolonged waiting due to unavailability of operating rooms. The five new rooms will be built as a continuation to the existing surgical wing, will be protected against conventional and unconventional warfare and will be built according to the most up-to-date regulations, specifically designed to be significantly larger to enable activity of multiple team members simultaneously.



Internal medicine division phase 2 - \$15,000,000

The internal medicine building is comprised of eight wings encompassing 240 in-patient beds and has a 100% occupancy rate throughout the entire year. The outdated building does not meet new safety regulations and is extremely overcrowded making it difficult to fight infections. Hospitalized in the internal medicine divisions are the elderly and most difficult patients arriving at the medical center, namely the many Holocaust survivors and chronically ill patients. In 2019, a renovation project of the internal medicine divisions was launched donated by the Helmsley Charitable Trust allowing the renovation of four wards in the building as well as introducing safety measures. Phase 2 of the project will enable renovation of the remaining wards.

Fortification of Critical units - \$5,000,000

The Galilee Medical Center operates under constant threat of war at the Lebanese border. Today, an underground protected facility is operated, one of a kind in Israel, including about 550 beds in the various underground hospitalization departments all connected underground. The proposed project will handle a number of critical weak points.



1. Fortification of neonatal unit + Neo Natal Intensive Care Unit – preparing a special underground facility under the new women’s wing allowing centralized and safe activity for premature newborns during emergency situations.
2. Building a protected underground intensive care facility – during times of war the need for intensive care beds increases. Today, some of the beds in the general intensive care ward are located in a protected building, however the number does not meet the need. The new complex will include 48 intensive care beds with all of the accompanying equipment.
3. Above ground infrastructure protection – An attack from above on the medical center’s campus hitting critical infrastructure such as electricity, water, oxygen accumulators, medical gases or communication is likely to significantly impair the ability to function during emergency situations, to such an extent that the hospital will cease operations and will be evacuated. The proposed project will establish alternative protected critical infrastructures allowing the continuation of activity even during a state of attack.

Renovation of Foodservice Facility - \$7,000,000

The largest foodservice facility in Northern Israel is operated at the Galilee Medical Center, serving 4,500 meals daily to patients and staff. Located in an outdated building built 25 years ago, the foodservice facility does not meet the updated standards and considering the increasing number of patients it cannot possibly meet existing needs. The project will include physical renovation of the kitchen and dining room emphasizing sanitation and aesthetics, procurement of advanced carts allowing hot food to be supplied to the departments and introducing advanced cooking equipment to improve services, save energy and working under “green” and more environmental-friendly conditions. In addition, the renovation will also allow storage areas to be enlarged and significantly improve preventing infections.

Renovation and Expansion of Dialysis Center - \$4,000,000

One of the largest dialysis facilities in Israel is operated at the Galilee Medical Center. The Western Galilee population suffers from genetic and other diseases, some of which require dialysis treatment throughout the entire lifetime of children and adults. In addition, the only protected dialysis facility in Northern Israel is operated at the medical center. Both the growth in population and rise in life expectancy generate an increase in the need for treatments and available dialysis stations. The proposed project will include physical renovation of the division making it capable of providing treatment under improved and significantly pleasanter conditions, while being overly careful to prevent infections. In addition, this critical service will be expanded to include 15 additional dialysis stations including all of the accompanying equipment.

Procurement of critical medical equipment - \$13,500,000

There is a significant gap in availability and accessibility to advanced medical technology between Central Israel and the outlying areas. Moreover, medical technology is constantly advancing and replacing critical equipment allows for improvement in life-saving diagnosis and treatment. The Galilee Medical Center has a list of advanced medical equipment needed to be purchased and/or replaced, including anesthesia machines and ventilators for operating rooms, replacement of outdated CT devices that emit radiation beyond the new regulations, equipment for intensive care units and more.

Library for Medical Students - \$500,000

In recent years, Galilee Medical Center acts as a teaching hospital affiliated with Bar Ilan University's faculty of medicine in the Galilee. Two-thirds of the students are regularly on-call to receive clinical training in the hospital's various departments. In addition, many residents and interns studying for various medical certification exams work at the medical center. Built years ago, the medical library no longer suits the updated academic needs. The proposed project will include renovation of the library and provide up-to-date activity to the significant number of students and employees. The library will feature combined work stations and study rooms and provide accessibility to databases and advanced technologies.