Three Little Children

From left to right: Salwa 12, Mahmoud 10, Diana 15

In the early morning of 10 August 2014, when Ameen Sabbagh, Caritas Jerusalem coordinator in Gaza arrived at the Caritas Medical Center, he saw three children sitting on the doorstep.

"What are you doing here?" he asked them.

Diana, the eldest of the three said that her sister Salwa is very sick and needs to see a doctor. It was Sunday, (day of rest) but Ameen called the doctor to come and treat the girl.

While they were waiting, Ameen invited them in and they talked about their current situation.

"We are from Beit Hanoun, we used to live in a four story building, on the fifth day of the war, there was heavy bombardment, suddenly at 11 p.m. our building shook, as if there was an earthquake, my sister Salwa, and brother Mahmoud ran downstairs to the third floor, but it was destroyed and our cousins were dead, we continued to run downstairs and finally managed to hide in the basement. The building collapsed on us and there was fire all around, we almost suffocated, all of a sudden we heard ambulance sirens and someone shouting IS THERE ANYONE TRAPPED UNDER THE RUBBLE? So we shouted and screamed for help. The Red Cross staff pulled us out and transferred us to an UNRWA school and that's where we live now. We sleep on the floor of one of the classrooms with many others."

Meanwhile the doctor arrived and checked Salwa's physical condition, she complained of abdominal pain and head ache. After a thorough general medical check-up the doctor concluded that Salwa is suffering from trauma and referred her to our psychosocial team in Gaza.

Ameen gave them some blankets, so that the children will have something to sleep on and the team is following up their case in order to help them as much as possible.