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New app connects patients with blood donors

By Ayah Abulghanam, Jordan News • last updated: May 09,2021



Recent high school graduate Omar Rayyan is seen in this undated photo. (Photo: Omar Rayyan)

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AMMAN – A new app is aims to fill the gap in blood donation requests that fill Jordanian social media feeds daily, and aid those asking for donations of certain blood types for hospitalized friends or family members.

Omar Rayyan, an 18-year-old, recently developed a new smartphone application called "[Qatra](#)" (meaning "drop" in Arabic) which provides a platform to connect those requesting blood with potential

donors.

"We see a lot of posts on Facebook on this, and I felt like there should be a platform that makes it easier for blood donors and blood requesters," Rayyan told *Jordan News* in an interview over the phone.

The aim of the application is to make the blood donation process faster and more efficient. Rayyan said that he had donated blood a few times through social media posts. In a few instances, by the time he called the phone numbers listed in the post the person in need had already passed away.

Rayyan started working on Qatra around two months ago. The app launched three days ago on iOS with an Android version currently in development.

"I have been programming for a while now," he said.

The application, which Rayyan described as simple and uncomplicated to use, works by sending a notification to individuals who have signed up and registered their blood types whenever a listing asking for their specific blood type is posted on the app.

Rayyan also said that the app is currently in the Top 40 list on the [App Store](#) under the category "Health and Fitness".

The app works by signing up on the platform and then requesting a blood donation by adding a name, the name of the hospital or blood bank in [Jordan](#), and then adding the blood type needed and contact phone number, according to Rayyan.

Blood donators can also filter their blood type on the application then connect with the blood requester directly for an easier and more efficient experience.

According to Rayyan, this is the first blood donation app designed specifically for Jordan. He plans on expanding it to include more countries in the future.

"The App Store shows (the number of) downloads after 48 hours. ... The first day there were around 80 downloads," Rayyan said.

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