

Medical Aid for Palestinians works for the health and dignity of Palestinians living under occupation and as refugees.

MAP
MEDICAL AID FOR PALESTINIANS

WITNESS



GAZA IN DARKNESS

GAZA'S HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY

New-born babies at risk

BREAST CANCER IN PALESTINE

Developing quality
breast cancer care

PSYCHOSOCIAL CARE IN LEBANON

Caring for the youngest
generation of Palestinian refugees

HEALTH UNDER OCCUPATION

How MAP is campaigning
for change

WINTER 2017



DEAR READER

As I write, Gaza is in the grip of its worst humanitarian emergency outside of periods of direct military offensive.

Many homes in Gaza are receiving just four hours of mains electricity per day. Hospitals have been forced to cut back on all but the most critical operations, cancelling surgeries and reducing sterilisation and cleaning services.

Essential medical supplies continue to dwindle, and patients face increasing barriers when seeking permission to leave for treatment outside Gaza. At least 30 patients have died in 2017 after being prevented from leaving Gaza for care elsewhere. In 2012, the UN warned that Gaza would be unliveable by 2020. For many patients, it is clear that Gaza is already unliveable now.

The glimmer of hope offered by the widely-reported Palestinian reconciliation deal between the authorities in the West Bank and Gaza has yet to produce significant changes to people's lives in Gaza. So long as the constraints of Israel's 50-year occupation and decade-long blockade and closure continue, major improvements will not be possible.

Meanwhile, settlements continue to expand in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and Bedouin communities in Area C – including those visited by MAP's mobile clinic – face the ever-present threat of demolition.

2018 will mark the 70th anniversary of the Nakba – or catastrophe – which for Palestinians represents the dispossession and dispersal of two-thirds of the population of Palestine in 1948. In the refugee camps of Lebanon, several generations of Palestinians have since been born into exile, and their right to return home seems a distant hope.

MAP's programmes therefore remain as important as ever. Our vision is a future where all Palestinians can access an effective, sustainable and locally-led system of healthcare and the full realisation of their rights to health and dignity. Thanks to your support – and the inspiring fortitude of our teams in Lebanon, the West Bank, and Gaza – we continue to strive towards this goal.

In this edition of Witness, you can read about Gaza's humanitarian emergency, and how MAP is helping protect the youngest and most vulnerable residents in neonatal intensive care units. We also highlight our work helping women with breast cancer access quality treatment and support in the West Bank and Gaza, despite the barriers to care caused by life under occupation, and our psychosocial support programme, in partnership with UNICEF, for young people growing up in Lebanon's refugee camps.

In this year of painful anniversaries, we also committed ourselves to documenting the impact of occupation and blockade on the health of Palestinians. More than 13,000 people joined our call to the UK Government demanding health and dignity for Palestinians, and you can read more about this campaign, and our latest 'Health Under Occupation' report, inside. We also have ideas for how you can get involved in fundraising for MAP in 2018.

This year we also say farewell to Alan Waddams as Chair of MAP's Board of Trustees, and welcome former MAP CEO Steve James to the post. We are immensely grateful for Alan's dedication and leadership since 2013, including through MAP's response to the devastating 2014 military offensive on Gaza.

I would also like to express thanks to our staff, our many partners, and to you, our supporters, for helping MAP save lives and forge ahead in hope of a better future for Palestinians.

AIMEE SHALAN
Chief Executive Officer
Medical Aid for Palestinians

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Front cover photograph:
A Palestinian mother tries to light her family's home during a power cut in Khan Younis, Gaza
Mohammed Dahman / Alamy Stock Photo



LEBANON

Renewed violence in Palestinian refugee camp

Last summer there was renewed violence in the Palestinian refugee camp of Ein el Hilweh, resulting in six Palestinians killed and more than 40 injured.

During the clashes all UNRWA services and MAP's Maternal and Child Health programme activities inside the camp halted temporarily. Visits from MAP's community midwives continued in the surrounding areas and to those displaced in nearby camps.



GAZA

A humanitarian emergency

An electricity crisis, medical shortages and severe barriers to medical referral have created a humanitarian emergency in Gaza.

Homes and hospitals have as little as four hours of electricity per day. Hospitals are struggling to function and have had to cancel operations and drastically cut back on cleaning, sterilisation and diagnostic services.

In the summer, the World Health Organization reported that 35% of essential medications were completely out of stock, including approximately half of all cancer drugs.

Patients continued to face significant barriers to exiting Gaza for treatment. In September, Israeli authorities denied or delayed 45% of patients' permit requests, and financial coverage from the Ministry of Health in Ramallah was 50% lower than the monthly average of the first quarter of 2017. More than 30 patients are reported to have died so far this year after not being permitted exit for treatment.

GAZA

Child dies after swimming in polluted sea

Last summer, Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights documented the sad case of a five-year-old boy who died after contracting a bacterial infection while swimming in the sea close to Gaza City.

Electricity shortages have significantly reduced the capacity of water treatment plants, causing high volumes of untreated sewage to be pumped directly into the sea close to Gaza City. At least two thirds of Gaza's shoreline is now dangerously polluted.



WEST BANK

Armed raids on East Jerusalem hospital

Israeli soldiers and police raided Al Makassed Hospital in occupied East Jerusalem twice last summer, amid protests and clashes in the West Bank.

Israeli forces assaulted medical staff, hospital employees, and visitors. In at least one case, the medical treatment of a seriously injured patient receiving care at the hospital was obstructed by soldiers.



GAZA'S HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY

The humanitarian emergency is particularly dangerous for Gaza's youngest residents

Gaza is experiencing a humanitarian emergency, but when bombs are not falling, the international community pays little attention.

People in Gaza have suffered a decade of declining living standards since Israel's imposition of a blockade and closure in 2007. This year, the crisis has been exacerbated by severe electricity shortages as a result of reductions in the amount of electricity provided via Israel, and reduced fuel entering via Egypt. Daily blackouts of 18-20 hours have made everyday acts like washing clothes, heating homes or refrigerating food a struggle for Gaza's two million inhabitants.

**WITHIN
2 YEARS**

MAP HAS TRAINED

**206
DOCTORS,
NURSES &
MIDWIVES**

**IN NEONATAL
LIFE SUPPORT
IN GAZA**



Severe electricity shortages have obstructed education, livelihoods and healthcare, and left water treatment and desalination plants only able to operate minimal services. At least two thirds of the shoreline is now dangerously polluted.

NEW-BORN BABIES PARTICULARLY AT RISK

Gaza's humanitarian emergency is particularly dangerous for its youngest residents.

In 2017, before the electricity crisis intensified, the UN found that approximately 287,000 children and babies were vulnerable as a result of the deterioration of Gaza's health sector and restricted access to essential health and nutrition services. New-born babies are particularly under threat. 45% of child deaths under the age of five occur within the first 28 days of life – the neonatal period.

Dangerous overcrowding in neonatal intensive care units is threatening the lives of Gaza's most vulnerable babies. Worsening maternal nutrition, heightened rates of premature and low-birth-weight babies have increased the number of new-borns requiring intensive care. Coupled with shortages of essential medicines and increasing obstacles to transfers to hospitals outside of Gaza for care, this means babies need to stay in intensive care incubators for longer periods of time.

Medical teams at Al Shifa Hospital, Gaza's largest hospital, have repeatedly had to place multiple babies in incubators meant for just one. While in the UK critically ill babies are given either 1:1 or 1:2 nurse-to-baby care, Al Shifa has in some instances only been able to provide 1:7 care. Overcrowding of this type makes adequate monitoring and infection control impossible.

Electricity outages due to faulty hospital backup generators, which currently provide power for most of the day, in one case resulted in nurses having to hand-ventilate babies for 50 minutes to keep them alive while they waited for power to be restored.

REDUCING MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY FOR HIGH-RISK NEW-BORNS

Thanks to our supporters, MAP is helping to protect the lives of at-risk new-born babies in Gaza. Since 2008, MAP has been providing life-support training for doctors, nurses and midwives working in obstetric (maternity) and neonatal units in Gaza, as well as providing medicines, disposables and equipment needed to save lives.

Over the past two years, MAP has trained 206 doctors, nurses and midwives in neonatal life support in Gaza, and supported 10 nurses to train in neonatal intensive care skills and care



Dangerous overcrowding in neonatal intensive care units



Richard Gray

management at Al Makassed Hospital in East Jerusalem.

MAP also trained 95 doctors, nurses and midwives on how to safely transfer babies to and from specialist neonatal care, and 11 ophthalmologists, 23 paediatricians and nurses on the early detection and prevention of retinopathy of prematurity, a disease that occurs in premature babies which, if left untreated, can lead to blindness.

As a result, at least 3,600 new-born babies in Gaza have benefitted from increased medical expertise and access to life-saving medicines.

Dr Allam: Head of Al Shifa Neonatal Intensive Care Unit said, "We are very thankful to MAP for their support and the provision of such important equipment, medications, and for raising the capacity of the neonatal team in retinopathy of prematurity, neonatal life support, and neonatal safe transfer."

Ultimately, the safety of babies in Gaza cannot be guaranteed under prolonged blockade and humanitarian decline. Political action to address these issues is vital to save lives, and MAP campaigns for such action in the UK and internationally. Until this is realised, however, we will continue to work in partnership with Gaza's inspirational medics to provide the best care possible in these most challenging circumstances.

THE DAILY STRUGGLE OF GAZA'S ELECTRICITY CRISIS

Mahmoud Shalabi, MAP's Manager of Emergency and Medical Training Programmes, describes how severe electricity shortages detrimentally affect daily life in Gaza:

The electricity crisis does not discriminate between summer or winter, the people of Gaza suffer on a daily basis regardless of the season!

In summer the heat averaged 36 degrees Celsius, and the humidity was over 50 per cent. One hoped that the air conditioners, fans, and other cooling devices available would kill the heat and help Gazans enjoy their day. However, the reality was grim with only 3.5 to four hours of electricity per day, and some even reporting only two hours per day. You could never predict the hours when the electricity was coming back, and even if you were home when it did, there was no guarantee that you could finish all your chores relying on electricity that may be cut off at any minute.

At night, the situation was worse. You could not escape mosquitoes and the heat was still only a notch below 30 degrees. Little children preferred sleeping on the floor to escape the scorching heat.

If you wanted to escape the heat, you would want to go to the big, beautiful, greenish-blue sea to have a swim. But you could not! Due to the shortage in electricity, municipalities dumped raw sewage water into the sea contaminating a very large proportion of it. Driving along the sea road, you read signs that prohibit swimming and even fishing. Thinking of taking a shower? Gazans have no control of when the water is being pumped to houses because of the electricity problem. If you could take your daily shower in the heat, you were lucky!

As we enter the winter, my fears do not budge. The cold in Gaza is bitter.

Most of the time, people rely on heaters to beat the cold, but these heaters either use electricity or gas. Electricity is scarce nowadays in Gaza, and the gas is expensive, with one litre costing £1.30. In an economy where nearly 40 per cent of people live below the poverty line, it is impossible for many families to use heaters.

The lack of electricity also affects the water temperatures at homes making it frosty and painful to use, particularly for older people and children. Many older people I know suffer from bone ache as a result of the freezing water, and the same applies to children who start crying when the water touches their skin.

During summer, due to severe electricity shortages, people spend time in open areas to try to escape the heat and have some natural light, but they cannot do this during the winter and have to spend their time at home. Many families, unfortunately, rely on candles to light their houses during winter where darkness looms for long periods of the day. This threatens their lives, exposing them to the risk of fires caused by forgetting the candles.

All of the above is just a portion of what Palestinians in Gaza have been suffering recently, but imagine the suffering of someone who has health complications, who needs to have regular treatment at hospitals that do not have enough power. Sometimes patients need to be transferred to outside of Gaza for treatment, but for about half of them their application for travel gets rejected or delayed.

Their suffering is even worse.



"The lack of electricity also affects the water temperature at home, making it unpleasant and painful to use, particularly for older people and children"

Mahmoud Shalabi

YOU CAN SUPPORT MAP'S EMERGENCY GAZA APPEAL

at www.map.org.uk/Gaza or by calling us on +44 (0)20 7226 4114

Thank you!



Mohammed Asad

APPEAL UPDATE

Thank you to all those who supported our Gaza Neonatal Unit appeal.

We raised over £96,000, helping to ensure babies in Gaza receive the lifesaving treatment they need.

SUPPORTING BREAST CANCER CARE FOR PALESTINIAN WOMEN



Breast cancer is now one of the best understood, and most treatable, forms of cancer. Nevertheless, a diagnosis is a significant worry for any person, and the journey through treatment – which can include surgery and lengthy courses of chemo- and radiotherapy – is a long and stressful one.

For women living in the West Bank and Gaza, the stress and uncertainty of a breast cancer diagnosis is compounded by living under Israel's 50-year military occupation.

The main Palestinian hospital providing specialised cancer treatment, Augusta Victoria Hospital, is located in occupied East Jerusalem and is therefore cut off from the rest of the occupied Palestinian territory by Israel's separation wall. It is the only Palestinian hospital able to offer radiotherapy treatment, necessary in many cancer cases, and also provides surgeries and chemotherapy.

For patients being treated at the Augusta Victoria Hospital, who are not residents of East Jerusalem, this can mean repeated travel through Israeli military checkpoints. Access is controlled by a complex system of permits, and is a time-consuming process fraught with delays. Family members who wish to travel with patients to support them through their treatments are also frequently denied.

Barriers to movement throughout the West Bank also make it harder for women to access diagnostic services, such as mammography, that are only available at hospitals and health clinics in bigger cities.

This is particularly true for women living in rural communities and Area C, which represents 60 percent of the West Bank where Israel maintains complete civil and military control and where Palestinians are unable to build permanent clinics.

Even where diagnostic services are accessible, gaps in health information and public understanding of the disease, and social, cultural and environmental factors mean that women are often late to get checked or seek treatment.

Breast cancer is consequently often detected late, with more than 60% detected in the third stage of the disease. Early detection is a vital factor to recovery, and survival rates for Palestinian women are far lower than in neighbouring Israel.

IMPROVING CARE IN THE WEST BANK

This is why Medical Aid for Palestinians has, for the last two years, been supporting the Dunya Women's Cancer Centre in Ramallah. Dunya is the only community-based clinic in the West Bank to specialise in breast and gynaecological cancer. It supports around 1,900 women each year, providing a range of specialised services including diagnostic ultrasound and mammography, with the aim of ensuring early, accurate diagnosis and to therefore reduce mortality amongst women affected by cancer.

Women who visit its modern facilities can receive more holistic services at all stages of their treatment journeys, from diagnosis to aftercare. This includes individual and group psychological counselling, and is particularly important given the additional stresses faced by



Group psychological counselling session at the Dunya Women's Cancer Centre in Ramallah

Palestinian women. Women can also receive physiotherapy at Dunya, which is especially vital for those who have undergone mastectomy surgery and are suffering side-effects such as lymphedema.

The centre also runs outreach activities, particularly during October's annual breast cancer awareness month, when they use radio advertising, concerts, theatre and fun runs to spread understanding of the disease and encourage women to self-check for symptoms of cancer.

LAST SUMMER

THERE WERE

SHORTAGES



OF ALMOST HALF OF ALL CANCER DRUGS IN GAZA



Dr Philippa Whitford MP operates on breast cancer patient at Al Ahli Hospital, Gaza



Last year, MAP launched a partnership with Bethlehem University to provide the very first Higher Diploma in oncology and palliative care for nurses in the occupied Palestinian territory. This programme is helping to increase the number of nurses in the West Bank who have the specialised skills, knowledge and evidence-based practice needed to provide high-quality care to patients with cancer in the West Bank.

Thanks to the support of people like you, MAP and the Dunya Centre are ensuring that Palestinian women in the West Bank can be diagnosed earlier and are supported at every stage of treatment.

CHALLENGES IN GAZA

There is still much more to do, however. The blockade and closure means that many women in Gaza remain cut off from services in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. In June 2017, Israeli authorities granted just 50% of all exit permits for patients referred for treatment outside Gaza.

Among these were many cancer patients who were either denied access to the treatment they needed – including radiotherapy, completely unavailable in Gaza – or who received no responses to their applications and therefore missed hospital appointments.

Surgeons, oncologists and other medical professionals are also often prevented from leaving to attend specialist

Thanks to the support of people like you, MAP and the Dunya Centre are ensuring that Palestinian women in the West Bank can be diagnosed earlier and are supported at every stage of treatment.



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training opportunities outside Gaza. This professional isolation limits the application of modern best-practice and new techniques for treating cancers.

PRACTICAL SUPPORT AND POLITICAL ACTION

This year MAP has been campaigning for barriers to the right to free movement for patients to be removed – including Israel's permit regime and the blockade and closure of Gaza. These political changes are vital to the long-term realisation of Palestinians' rights to health.

We have also expanded our programme, supporting breast cancer care to Gaza. In September, a multi-disciplinary team visited the West Bank and Gaza to assess current levels of care and identify new opportunities for training and material support to cancer treatment in the occupied Palestinian territory.

The mission was headed by Dr Philippa Whitford, senior breast cancer surgeon, Member of Parliament, and former MAP volunteer medic. At hospitals in East Jerusalem and Ramallah, the team performed surgeries for women with breast cancer to teach new techniques.

It is hoped these will reduce the number of radical mastectomies performed (where the whole breast is removed), while also helping to improve survival rates.

In Gaza, Dr Whitford returned to Al Ahli hospital – where she volunteered with

ABEER: DENIED CANCER TREATMENT BY THE BLOCKADE

Cancer patient Abeer Abu Jayyab led a peer support group for women with breast cancer at a women's health clinic, partly funded by MAP, in Bureij refugee camp in Gaza. Staff at the Bureij clinic report that Abeer was "a flame of vitality, energy and positivity" and "one of the loveliest and most resilient women" at the centre.

She was suffering from breast cancer and needed a course of Herceptin, a treatment unavailable within Gaza.

Abeer applied for a travel permit to make the journey from Gaza to Augusta Victoria Hospital in occupied East Jerusalem, but the Israeli authorities rejected her requests for "security reasons" and she was forced to miss her appointments in February, March and April 2017.

The cancer spread to her lungs and brain, weakening her sight and movement. Abeer died on 8 June, aged 46, leaving behind her husband and nine children, the youngest of whom is five years old.

Abeer is one of at least 13 Palestinians in Gaza to have died from cancer in 2017 after being denied permission to travel for potentially life-saving treatment.



MAP over 25 years ago as a surgeon – to teach these techniques. The team also held educational seminars, sharing the best-practice in breast cancer care with local Palestinian teams.

MAP hopes that this new programme of work will improve breast cancer diagnosis, treatment and care across the occupied Palestinian territory as a whole.

With your support, MAP is working to help ensure more Palestinian women survive cancer. Learn more and support at map.org.uk/breastcancer.

GAZA LEFT TO SUFFER IN DARKNESS

In August 2017, MAP warned of Gaza's humanitarian emergency, amid a deepening electricity crisis and medical shortages.

Electricity cuts cause blackouts of 18-20 hours per day, and have significantly reduced vital hospital services. Diagnostic services are limited to when mains electricity is available, and voltage fluctuations have damaged sensitive medical equipment such as CT scanners.

Aimee Shalan, CEO of MAP said:

"Gaza is experiencing a humanitarian emergency. Without immediate humanitarian aid and concerted political and diplomatic efforts to end the blockade, the result will be the same: avoidable loss of life and the further collapse of a health sector which is already struggling to provide the barest minimum of care."

Gaza is experiencing
"one of the most dramatic humanitarian
crises that I have seen in many years."

UN Secretary-General António Guterres



Palestinian children play outside their home during a power cut in Al-Shati refugee camp in Gaza City



Amid severe electricity shortages, a Palestinian family warm themselves around a fire in Khan Younis, Gaza



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Alamy



Mohammed Asad

Medical shortages pose a grave threat to patients in Gaza. Without regular access to treatment patients with kidney failure could die



Mohammed Asad

Daily blackouts of 18-20 hours have made daily life a struggle for Gaza's two million inhabitants



Alamy

Demonstrators call for an end to the electricity crisis outside the power plant in central Gaza



Mohammed Asad

Hospitals in Gaza have had to cut all but the most critical services

PROVIDING PSYCHOSOCIAL CARE FOR PALESTINIAN CHILDREN IN LEBANON



Group activity in Rashidieh refugee camp, south Lebanon

The modern history of the Palestinian people is one of waves of dispossession.

In May 2018, Palestinians will mark the 70th anniversary of the 'Nakba', or catastrophe, when over 700,000 Palestinians were expelled from or fled their homes under threat from armed groups during the creation of the state of Israel between 1946 and 1948.

Hundreds of Palestinian towns and villages were emptied of their populations and destroyed, and many of those who fled settled in areas of the West Bank and Gaza, or neighbouring Jordan, Syria or Lebanon.

Today an estimated five million Palestinian refugees around the world are eligible for the services of UNRWA, the UN humanitarian agency which is mandated to support them.

Some Palestinian refugees have been double-displaced over the past 70 years, most recently those who have fled to escape the devastating conflict in Syria.

The original trauma of the Nakba is still lived by many Palestinians today. Three generations of children have been born and grown up in exile.

IN 2016

MAP PROVIDED PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT TO **27,569** CHILDREN & **17,538** CAREGIVERS WHO HAVE FLED VIOLENCE IN SYRIA

549 CHILDREN IN GREATER NEED RECEIVED FOCUSED PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

WE ALSO TRAINED **150** STAFF MEMBERS IN CHILD PROTECTION & 'PSYCHOSOCIAL FIRST AID'

In Lebanon, the obstacles to the health and dignity of Palestinian refugees are considerable. In the 12 Palestinian refugee camps across the country, unemployment and poverty are rife, and overcrowding and poor public sanitation threaten health. The services UNRWA can provide are limited by its chronic budgetary shortfall and the increasing needs of a refugee population that is growing and beset by conflict and crisis.

Amid this situation a new generation of children are growing up. Life as a refugee for Palestinian children in Lebanon poses serious threats to their psychological wellbeing and mental health.

Some have experienced the horrors of Syria's war and flight to neighbouring Lebanon. Among Palestinian refugees from Syria, 96% have witnessed armed conflict, 53% have witnessed the destruction of their homes, and 21% have witnessed the death of a close relative or friend.

Others have spent their young lives growing up amid the deprivation and marginalisation of Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps. Many have been born into families who have witnessed the traumas of the Lebanese civil war and massacres in Sabra and Shatila and Tel al Zaatar.



Learning through play in Beddawi refugee camp

MITIGATING THE IMPACT OF WAR AND DISPLACEMENT

Medical Aid for Palestinians supports the wellbeing and mental health of Palestinian children in Lebanon.

In partnership with UNICEF and local organisations, MAP is bringing psychosocial and mental health support to thousands of children affected by the Syria crisis. Through play therapy and counselling, the programme aims to mitigate the impact of war and displacement and protect children from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect. The programme is open to all Palestinians in Lebanon, including those displaced from Syria and those already in Lebanon.



Eshe is one of six facilitators providing psychosocial support to Palestinian children at Association Najdeh's Education and Psychosocial Centre in the Beddawi refugee camp, supported by MAP and UNICEF.

"I have been working as a facilitator for five years. I lead games and activities for Palestinian children, including those who have fled war in Syria."

The trainings I receive from UNICEF and MAP help me to best support the children. For example, I have learnt how to support children to overcome the psychological trauma of conflict.

I worked with a Palestinian girl from Syria who, when she first came to the centre, did not talk and was unable to express herself. She was withdrawn and didn't want to play with other children. Now she can express herself through drawings and talking. She participates in activities, such as crafts and meditation, and has many friends. I feel that I have made a big difference to this girl's life.

I hope in the future children will overcome all their problems, be happy and always smiling."

"I hope in the future children will overcome all their problems, be happy and always smiling"

Facilitator providing psychosocial support in Beddawi refugee camp, Lebanon



Meditation session in Shatila refugee camp

Thanks to the enthusiasm and hard work of facilitators like Eshe, and the support of people like you, Palestinian children in Lebanon are receiving the comprehensive psychosocial support they so urgently need. This work is helping children affected by trauma and displacement to rebuild meaning and coherence, relieve stress, and limit the development of further complications, whilst also addressing interpersonal, family, social and cultural issues.

But MAP is also looking to the future, and the need to ensure that Palestinian refugees can attain their rights to health and dignity. In 2018, MAP will mark the anniversary of the Nakba by calling for a just, lasting political solution to the longest-running refugee crisis in the world. Only through concerted international action can we ensure that the next generation of Palestinians can attain their rights to health and dignity, free from the trauma of this decades-long displacement.

Visit our website map.org.uk – to learn more and to find out ways to get involved.

Name changed to protect identity



Creating a tree of hope in Beddawi refugee camp

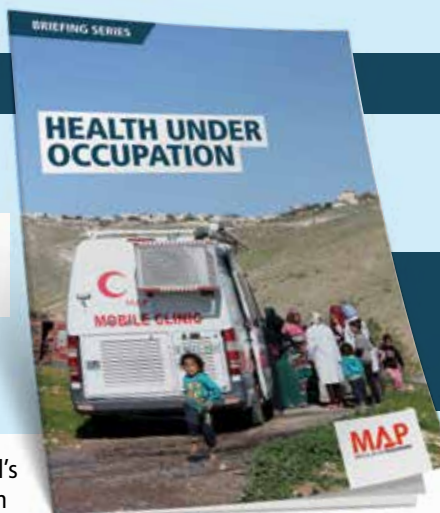


Group activity in Beddawi refugee camp

unicef 
for every child

BRIEFING SERIES

HEALTH UNDER OCCUPATION



To read the Health Under Occupation report go to map.org.uk/HUO

Medical Aid for Palestinians' vision is a future where all Palestinians can access an effective, affordable, sustainable and locally-led system of healthcare, and fully realise their rights to health and dignity. Our project teams in Lebanon and the occupied Palestinian territory work ceaselessly towards this goal with trusted local partners, providing access to essential health services and building up local expertise.

We recognise that the fundamental barriers to fulfilling this vision are political. That is why we are committed to bearing witness to the injustices caused by occupation, displacement and conflict, and advocating for change. The health and development crises faced by Palestinians are man-made, and the solutions must be too.

In 2017, as Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory marked

a half-century under Israel's military occupation, and in Gaza, a decade of stifling blockade and closure, we committed to documenting the many ways in which these prolonged injustices inhibit the provision of healthcare and endanger the lives and welfare of Palestinian people.

The result was our Health Under Occupation report and infographics, which focus on four essential components of the right to health and illustrate the ways in which they are violated by occupation and blockade: access to healthcare; the protection of healthcare facilities and personnel; mental health and quality of life; and development.

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

Chapter One discusses how barriers to freedom of movement imposed by Israel are preventing some Palestinian patients from being able to access healthcare.

PROTECTION FOR HEALTHCARE

Chapter Two explores how Palestinian medical facilities and personnel have been placed in harm's way during repeated military action in Gaza and the West Bank.

MENTAL HEALTH AND QUALITY OF LIFE

Chapter Three uncovers how the political and social conditions endured by Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, undermine mental health and quality of life.

DEVELOPMENT

Chapter Four shows how Israel's occupation obstructs the development of Palestinian healthcare.

"It is vital for health facilities and staff to be able to perform their life-saving work without fear of attack."

World Health Organization

PROTECTION FOR HEALTHCARE

- Al Wafa Hospital, Gaza's only dedicated rehabilitation hospital, was completely destroyed during Israel's 2014 military offensive
- As of August 2017, there has been no credible investigation into its destruction
- Impunity for such attacks makes recurrence more likely

NO ACCOUNTABILITY

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

- The destruction of Al Wafa restricts access to critical rehabilitation care
- Israel's permit regime also restricts patients' ability to travel outside Gaza for care. According to the hospital's Director, Basman Alashi, "many patients choose to live through their pain at home."

RESTRICTED



IN FOCUS: AL Wafa REHABILITATION HOSPITAL

MENTAL HEALTH AND QUALITY OF LIFE

- **17 PATIENTS** were at the hospital when it was attacked and evacuated
- Exposure to violence causes trauma and increases the likelihood of chronic stress and diminished quality of life



DEVELOPEMENT

- After **1 YEAR** at a temporary location with limited supplies, 2016 saw the replacement of some, but not all, equipment lost in the attack
- **3 YEARS** after the attack, the temporary site is providing only 70% of the hospital's original services
- Construction of a new hospital did not start until February 2017



CAMPAIGNING:

WORKING WITH PALESTINIANS TO ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE



Basman Elashi, Executive Director of the Al Wafa Rehabilitation Hospital in Gaza

FROM PALESTINE TO GENEVA

In March, Basman Elashi, Executive Director of Al Wafa Rehabilitation Hospital in Gaza, which was destroyed during the Israeli offensive on Gaza in 2014, joined MAP by Skype at our side event at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on the topic of continuing impunity for attacks on medical facilities and personnel.

Mahmoud Abu Rahma, Communications and International Relations Director of Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights in Gaza, and Munir Nuseibah, Director of Community Action Center at Al-Quds University, also spoke on the panel, powerfully describing how restrictions on freedom of movement affect the physical accessibility of healthcare, including lifesaving treatment, for patients in Gaza and the West Bank.

In May, MAP was back in Geneva to attend World Health Assembly discussions and meetings on the protection of medical facilities and personnel. We were joined by the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) in arguing for consistent and effective support by states for the essential protections of medical personnel and facilities outlined in international humanitarian law.

SUPPORTING PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS TO THE WEST BANK

This year MAP and the Council for Arab-British Understanding (Caabu) supported four delegations of British parliamentarians to the West Bank. These parliamentarians met with Palestinians living under occupation and as refugees to learn about the issues they face, including barriers to their right to health.

"The doctors at Makassed [Hospital in East Jerusalem] told us that a major problem they experience is 'back to back transfers' of patients. This is where an ambulance from Gaza or the West Bank is stopped at a checkpoint and the patient is stretchered through the controls to a separate ambulance waiting on the Israeli side. On average this takes 24 minutes and the delay has been fatal on occasion."

Tommy Sheppard MP (SNP)

To read more about our campaigning work, and take part, visit map.org.uk/campaigns

OVER
13,000
PEOPLE SIGNED
MAP'S HEALTH
AND DIGNITY
PETITION



DELIVERING THE HEALTH AND DIGNITY PETITION TO DOWNING STREET

More than 13,000 people signed our petition calling on the UK government to support Palestinian health and dignity by taking action to end Israel's 50-year occupation of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and Gaza. Thank you to all who took part!

On 1 November, on the eve of the centenary of the signing of the Balfour Declaration, the petition was delivered to the Prime Minister at No.10 Downing Street. MAP was joined at the handing over by Richard Burden MP, Chair of the Britain-Palestine All-Party Parliamentary Group, Nadia Hijab, Co-founder and Executive Director of Al-Shabaka: the Palestinian Policy Network and Atallah Said OBE, Chairman of the British Palestinian Policy Council.

"We are grateful to everyone who supported MAP's campaign. As the humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian territory continues to deteriorate, it is more important than ever that the UK Government find ways to bring half a century of occupation – and a decade of closure in Gaza – to an end."

Aimee Shalan,
MAP CEO



"The response and recognition from thousands of people across the world has been truly inspiring."

Douglas Gilgallon

INCREDIBLE ACTS OF GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT

Our work is made possible thanks to the incredible support we get from individuals like you. We are extremely grateful to everyone who has taken the initiative to support MAP's work and raise funds for Palestinians living under occupation and as refugees.

On 5 June 2017, Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza marked a tragic anniversary – 50 years of living under Israeli military control and occupation. To show our support, we held our '50 Days of Action' and asked people to get involved in a range of fundraising and campaigning activities. We were overwhelmed by the response.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who took part, helping us to raise over £30,000. Supporters raised funds by taking part in sponsored challenges, held comedy and music events, bucket collections, garden parties and campaigned for the health and dignity of Palestinians living under occupation. Thank you to everyone who did something in support of our '50 Days of Action'.



FEELING INSPIRED TO FUNDRAISE FOR MAP?

Contact our fundraising team at fundraising@map.org.uk or call us on 020 7226 4114.

You can also discover ways to get involved and fundraising ideas on our website:

www.map.org.uk

We'd love to hear from you! Thank you



For each £1 donated in 2016, we invested 15p into our fundraising. For every £1 invested we **raised £6.54** allowing us to provide more medical aid to Palestinians

OUR SUPPORTERS

Thank you!

Here are just a few examples of what supporters have done to help support the health and dignity of Palestinians over the past few months. A massive thank you to all!

- **Naz Abdelkhalik**, who organised a charity football tournament in support of MAP at the start of the year and will now take on his greatest endeavour yet, climbing the 5,895m to the top of Kilimanjaro. You can sponsor him via Just Giving!
- **Douglas Gilgallon**, for climbing Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in the UK, in support of MAP.



Maddalena Rayner

- **Maddalena Rayner**, one of our most dedicated and enthusiastic supporters, broke her hip while setting up an awareness board for MAP at her local church. But nothing would stand in her way and she has raised an amazing £774 this year!

- **Supporters** who took part in an 11-mile walk along the Thames in London to show their support for our Health and Dignity campaign.



11-mile walk

REMEMBERING THE PALESTINIANS INVESTING IN HEALTH

One of the ways people choose to support MAP's work is by leaving a gift to us in their will.

Two such committed supporters are Alison Oliphant and Jean Rodger. Alison told us why she and her mother, Jean, are choosing to support MAP in this way.

I have been supporting MAP for over 10 years, since learning that my ancient mother's life-long concern for the Palestinian people, was partially expressed through her quiet support of MAP since the early 1980s.

What is happening to the Palestinian people is a source of endless despair, but knowing that MAP is doing valuable medical work in Gaza, the West Bank and in refugee camps in Lebanon allows us some comfort.

It is important to us that our legacies should include a means of helping an organisation that contributes so effectively to the welfare of the people of Palestine, whose fate we see as one of the great injustices of our modern world.

It is also a means of allowing us to feel rather less powerless in the face of national indifference, and this is why we are both leaving legacies to MAP in our wills.

Thanks to the generosity of supporters in 2016, MAP delivered

£60,000

worth of essential medicines to Gaza's hospitals

HOW YOUR SUPPORT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Your support will help us deliver humanitarian aid and address the most pressing healthcare needs through five strategic programme priorities:

- **Essential primary/public health care**, such as our Mobile Health Clinic in the occupied West Bank.
- **Women and child health care**, such as our extensive midwives programme in the Lebanon camps.
- **Mental health and psycho-social support**, such as our partnership with UNICEF, reaching all the camps in Lebanon, or the work we do with vulnerable children in East Jerusalem.
- **Disability**, such as our locally-led Community-based Rehabilitation projects in Gaza.

- **Emergency preparedness and response**, supporting hospitals, providing zero stock medicines and supplies, delivering life-saving equipment, and facilitating medical missions and training from eminent surgeons in the UK and in Palestine.

Within each programme area we address a number of cross cutting issues, such as capacity building and sustainability, gender, protection, and access for marginalised groups. MAP also adheres to the principles laid out in the Core Humanitarian Standard.

You can make a difference in the future by remembering the Palestinians' right to health and dignity today.

If you would like to leave a gift to MAP in your will and would like to speak with us about how to do so, please do not hesitate to contact us on 020 7226 4114 or email us at info@map.org.uk.

Our Registered
Charity no: 1045315

Thank you!



Sir Vincent Fean (left), Dr Swee Chai Ang FRCS (centre), Steve James (right)



Alan Waddams presenting an award to Rahma Barclay

MAP'S PARLIAMENTARY RECEPTION

MAP held a special reception at the UK Parliament in November to mark the centenary of the Balfour Declaration and 50 years of Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory. Outgoing MAP chairman, Alan Waddams presented John Payne, David Robinson, Adam Nour and Rahma Barclay with awards for their dedication and steadfast support. Alan Waddams also introduced the new chairman, Steve James.

MAP NEWS

■ 50 YEARS OF OCCUPATION: MAP HOSTS HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERTS

In partnership with Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights and Amnesty International UK, MAP was honoured to host Professor Michael Lynk, UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory, in conversation with Sir Geoffrey Bindman QC. The two experts discussed the pursuit of accountability after 50 years of occupation.



To listen to the event go to map.org.uk/michaellynkevent

■ PHYSIOTHERAPY TRAINING: IN GAZA AND THE UK

Two British physiotherapists, Rachael Moses and Helen Ricketts, joined MAP in Gaza to provide training to local practitioners. They taught techniques to assess and treat patients with disorders of the respiratory system.

MAP has also supported a young physiotherapist from Gaza working in the Limb Reconstruction Unit at Al Shifa Hospital to undertake two months training at King's College Hospital in London.

To read more about this work, visit map.org.uk/ukphysiotraining



■ UK PARLIAMENTARIANS MEET PALESTINIANS LIVING UNDER OCCUPATION

In August and September 2017, MAP supported two delegations of UK parliamentarians visiting the West Bank, with our partner Caabu. Parliamentarians from the Labour Party and Liberal Democrats met with Palestinians living under occupation and as refugees to learn about the issues they face, including barriers to their right to health.

■ NEW MAP FILM: WHAT WE DO

Watch our new film showing how your support for MAP helps Palestinians living under occupation and as refugees.



To watch it, visit map.org.uk/about-map



On 15 May 2018, Palestinians around the world will commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Nakba (or 'Catastrophe'), which marks the displacement of more than 700,000 Palestinians from their homes in historic Palestine during the establishment of the state of Israel.

Today, the Nakba continues to be lived by Palestinian refugee families who are still displaced – many of them living in refugee camps across the region, including in Lebanon and the occupied Palestinian territory.

That is why we are calling on our supporters to take action and show support of Palestinian health and dignity. From Nakba Day on the 15 May, we will hold our MAP 'Month of Remembrance' for the forgotten refugees of the Nakba. We call upon our supporters again to take action and show your support.

Please contact fundraising@map.org.uk to find out more or go to our website www.map.org.uk

SUPPORT THE FORGOTTEN REFUGEES



■ UK ANNOUNCES WIDENING OF SYRIA REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT SCHEME

In July 2017, UK Home Secretary Amber Rudd announced that the Home Office is seeking to widen the eligibility of its Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme so that it includes "people of any nationality who are affected by the crisis". MAP has been campaigning for vulnerable Palestinian refugees from Syria fleeing the civil war to be given equal access to this scheme, and provisionally welcomed this announcement.

SOCIAL MEDIA



I'm former Prime Minister of #NewZealand & former @UNDP Administrator: passionate about human #development world-wide.

[Helen Clark Verified @HelenClarkNZ](https://twitter.com/HelenClarkNZ)

Only 40% of #Gaza #women diagnosed w/ breast cancer may survive 5 years, compared w/ 81% in #UK. @RobertoValentUN

Donate online at

www.map.org.uk

Or call today on

020 7226 4114



Follow MAP on Twitter @MedicalAidPal and Facebook www.facebook.com/MedicalAidforPalestinians

33a Islington Park Street
London N1 1QB
info@map.org.uk

Registered Charity no: 1045315

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