MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

2018 was another difficult and tragic year for Palestinians who have been severely affected in all the regions that we operate.

Israeli forces used shocking force against demonstrators in Gaza who posed no imminent threat to life, killing scores and injuring thousands. Many of those injured were shot with live rounds to their lower limbs, sustaining injuries which can lead to amputation.

In the West Bank, Palestinians faced the threat of demolitions. Previously individual homes, community buildings and schools had been demolished by Israeli forces, now entire villages are under threat. You may have heard about the village of Khan al Ahmar which faced demolition and received widespread media attention. It was saved from demolition in 2018, but this village and others remain under threat. Under international law forcibly transferring a population constitutes a war crime.

In 2018, humanitarian aid was also dangerously politicised. The US administration withdrew all of its funding from UNRWA, the UN agency responsible for Palestinian refugees, greatly threatening Palestinian access to basic services including healthcare, education and food assistance.

Although life for many Palestinians has been bleak, the work that MAP has delivered during a most difficult year has been extraordinary. I am incredibly proud of what our team has achieved and I thank you, our supporters, for enabling such work to happen. I hope you will feel the same sense of pride reading through this year’s ‘MAP in Action’, seeing how our programmes have helped people through dire circumstances.

In 2018 alone, we were able to spend over £1m on highly specialist limb reconstruction supplies to help save the limbs of those injured at demonstrations in Gaza. Our new mobile clinic hit the road in the West Bank, providing a lifeline to isolated Bedouin communities. In Lebanon, we continued to support pregnant Palestinian women and their new-born babies through our inspirational community midwives.

I’d also like to take this opportunity to thank our Trustees who have kept our programmes on the right path through these hard times. A special thanks goes to Johnny Rizq and Andrew Kameny who have given so many years of support to MAP and now have reached the end of their term as Trustees. And I’d like to welcome Farheen Chaudhry, Shireen Jayyusi and Dr Stephen Davies as new Trustees, bringing a wealth of new ideas and experience to our Board.

A huge thank you to our supporters. Together we are improving the health and dignity of Palestinians and will continue to do so, despite all the pressures. Thank you for your generosity.

Aimee Shalan,
MAP CEO
In 1982, Lebanese Phalangist militants entered the central-Beirut refugee camp of Sabra and Shatila and killed and injured hundreds of unarmed Palestinian and other civilians inside. Working in a hospital inside the camp at the time was a young orthopaedic surgeon from London, Swee Chai Ang. Refusing to leave the hospital, she worked tirelessly to save the injured and protect her patients during the massacre. On her return, Dr Ang joined with fellow medical professionals and humanitarians to establish Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) and provide front-line care.

Over 37 years later, MAP still strives for the health and dignity in Palestinian communities, aiming to achieve the highest possible standard of healthcare in what remain hostile and difficult conditions.

Today, we have offices in the West Bank, Gaza, East Jerusalem and Lebanon, as well as London. With extensive regional knowledge and experience, we work closely with our partners in local communities, building capacity on a sustainable basis and providing care and medical aid in places facing the greatest challenges.
Since 30th March 2018, Palestinians in Gaza have been participating in widespread civil society-organised demonstrations, known as the ‘Great March of Return’. With more than two thirds of the population refugees, demonstrators are demanding the right of return for Palestinian refugees displaced between 1947-9 and the lifting of Israel’s 11-year unlawful closure.

Israeli forces have responded with shocking violence, killing 255 Palestinians since 30th March 2018, including 35 children from live ammunition, and injuring more than 26,405 people. Thousands of demonstrators have sustained gunshot injuries, mainly to the limbs, and an estimated 1,500 have terrible, disabling wounds that need specialist limb reconstruction treatment and long-term rehabilitation.

**OUR WORK IN THE FIELD**

**LIMB RECONSTRUCTION**

The injuries sustained in 2018 have been devastating and debilitating. The two specialist units supported by MAP, at Al Shifa and European Gaza hospitals, have been saving lives and limbs and ensuring that people receive the specialised rehabilitation needed. This does not happen overnight, and the treatment for each patient will take months if not years. MAP’s Limb Reconstruction project, established with our partner IDEALS, is the only programme dedicated to managing the most complex reconstruction surgeries, utilising vital but costly equipment such as External Fixators and Taylor Spatial Frames and supporting the Ministry of Health to coordinate efforts.

**COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION**

People living with disabilities in Gaza face many difficulties and barriers to fully participating in society. For instance, 90% of people living with disabilities are unemployed. This project aims to contribute to a more inclusive and accessible society, empowering people living with disabilities through training workshops, psychosocial support, on-job training and education about human rights. At the same time, activities are carried out in the community to positively encourage the whole society to be more open and accepting.

Activities in 2018 included social media live-sessions, establishing community guidelines for disability, involving community based-groups, hosting training sessions for community members about disability and presenting on local radio stations to talk about the issues.

“I have learnt a lot from this project since I joined the workshop. In fact, I have received several services, the most important one is the internship I got for 50 days. This chance raised my self-esteem; made me feel that I am a human and I contribute to my society just like others with no disability.”

Amal,* 2018

**EMERGENCY MEDICINES AND DISPOSABLES**

The current emergency has meant that supplies of essential lifesaving medicines in Gaza, including cancer drugs and those specifically for new-born babies, are under even greater pressure. MAP has responded to the crisis by supplying $906,000 worth of medicines to fill gaps in the Central Drug Store. In 2019, we will continue this vital support, so people can receive the treatment and care they deserve.

**LEVELS OF ESSENTIAL MEDICAL ITEMS**

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<th>JAN 17</th>
<th>DEC 18</th>
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**LEVELS OF DISPOSABLE ITEMS**

<table>
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<th>JAN 17</th>
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**HAVE BEEN AT ZERO STOCK (AT SOME POINT) DURING 2018**

$906,000

**ESSENTIAL MEDICINES PROCURED**

$1.3M
MAP's film shows how UK medics on a MAP limb reconstruction mission to Gaza supported local health workers in the treatment of demonstrators injured by Israeli forces.

Visit our website to view all our videos

One of many short films produced by MAP in Gaza in 2018 shows the family, colleagues and friends of Abdallah al-Qatati, a first responder fatally shot by Israeli forces on 10th August while providing care to a 55-year-old man, describing the circumstances of his killing and the need for protection and accountability.

“Abdallah was performing a humanitarian job. He didn’t hold a gun. He was not a militant, nor a terrorist. He had medical solution and gauze to help the injured. They must be held accountable in front of the world”.

Family member of Abdallah al-Qatati
FATIMA*

is 28 years old and lives with her family of six in the Middle Area of Gaza. Her father’s salary is not enough to meet the family’s basic needs, let alone make provision for Fatima’s disability. Like everyone in Gaza, they also suffer from the electricity crisis and continuous power outages. This has seriously affected Fatima as she suffers from a severe visual impairment as well as a physical disability.

The electricity problem has affected her life greatly, especially as she needs lighting to complete her school homework. She heard about MAP’s Community Based Rehabilitation project from her friend and went along to awareness raising workshops on the rights of people with disabilities, and quickly became aware of her rights and the international conventions.

Fatima is currently studying at the Algerian school in Deir El-Balah. Before joining the project, Fatima did not know about her rights and how to face her problems.

She proved this had changed in January 2018, when she had a disagreement with her father who prevented her from going to school. With determination, she was able to express her right to education because of the sessions she had undertaken as part of the project. She was soon able to convince her father that she can participate in things in the same way as her sisters. She has become an increasingly independent person who is now able to express her rights. Fatima told the project team that she would recommend that anyone living with a disability to join the project’s activities so they can realise their rights and advocate for them.

YOUSSEF*

is a husband and father to four wonderful children. He used to run a private business where he along with six other teachers spend their time teaching school students. He was a gardener cultivating a small backyard of his own.

However, a sniper’s bullet broke it all.

“Previously, I was very active, never rested in the afternoon as on top of my work I used to go to my little garden to work and construct materials for my family.”

Youssef had been attending the Great March of Return camps since they started on 30th March, going in groups with family and friends to join different talks and activities, all to demand the right for people to return to their pre-1948 homes.

“On the 14th of May 2018, I remember the smoke from flaming tyres filled the sky. Dark. Angry. It was the day the American Embassy was moved to Jerusalem.”

“I was just standing among protesters about 150 meters away from the fence the moment random shooting started. I was about to run when I suddenly found myself falling to the ground, bleeding, surrounded by nothing but a dead body.”

After a wait a nurse arrived at the scene and he was put in an ambulance. All the way he worried about his leg that he was sure would be amputated. Arriving at the hospital, all the theatres were busy. However, the bleeding was controlled in the ER, and a cast was applied.

Soon after, he was evaluated by the MAP & IDEALS team for the first time, alongside their local colleagues. Providing highly specialist expertise and equipment to manage his wound and develop an ongoing treatment plan meant his bones would heal faster and with a better outcome. This also builds the capacity of the local limb reconstruction team, who already do a fantastic job under the most challenging circumstances.

“They saved my limb and made me throw the wheelchair away. I owe to them a lot.”

*All names have been changed to protect identities

IMPACT STORIES
In August 2018, the US administration cut all funding to UNRWA, the UN agency responsible for humanitarian support for Palestinian refugees, including health services, amounting to a reduction of nearly a third of UNRWA’s operating budget. The decision represents a dangerous politicisation of humanitarian aid and poses a direct threat to Palestinian refugees’ access to healthcare, education and emergency food assistance. In Gaza, where two-thirds of the population are refugees, 80% of people are dependent on some form of humanitarian aid and 53% live below the poverty line. In Lebanon, the poverty rate is even higher: 60% among Palestinian refugees from Lebanon and 90% among Palestinians double-displaced following the war in Syria.

In our work in the field, we focus on addressing the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalised communities, particularly in the fields of maternal, child health, disability, and mental health.

**Maternal Child Health**

The maternal mortality rate for Palestinian women in refugee camps in Lebanon is nearly three times higher than in the West Bank and Lebanon. Our home-visiting midwifery service marked its 10th year in 2018, having provided comprehensive care for over 16,250 mothers since its inception in 2008. This programme is crucial for supporting the next generation of change-makers, filling a vital gap for marginalised families who are facing even further cuts to UNRWA’s already overstretched maternal health services.

- **3,309 Mothers Received Home Visits in 2018**
- **111,235 Home Visits over 10 Years**
- **1,558 Babies were Born in 2018 Under the Programme**

**Disability in Lebanon**

Palestinians in Lebanon are placed at a huge disadvantage because of little or no development opportunities, a lack of support from the state resulting in over-reliance on aid, and crowded, oppressive living conditions without basic necessities like reliable electricity. For over five years we have been partnering with the Ghassan Kanafani Cultural Foundation to provide a range of interventions for children under 12 years old with complex disabilities and their families. This programme prepares these children for future integration into mainstream education and the wider community, despite an almost complete lack of support from any other agency.

**Mental Health in Gaza**

Mental health is a huge issue to be addressed in Gaza, not least because of the stress and anxiety caused by the volatile security situation and the limited supply of electricity and safe water. Throughout 2018, we improved awareness of mental health issues within the criminal justice system and other public service providers and further promoted the rights of people living with mental health problems. This project works with individuals, professional service providers and at the community level to tackle the issue in a holistic way.

- **1,200 Engaged with Activities for World Mental Health Day**
  - Which included painting a large mural involving artists, NGOs, health clinics and schools

**Our Work in the Field**

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Timed to mark the 70th anniversary of the Nakba, MAP released a report in 2018, warning that the health ‘system’ for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon is scarcely fit for purpose. We show not only how dismal socioeconomic conditions impact their health and dignity, but how a chronically underresourced and jumbled system of healthcare is struggling to deliver adequate services.

MAP's medical missions are integral to our goal of a sustainable and local healthcare system for all Palestinians. Due to movement restrictions, healthcare professionals within Gaza and the West Bank lack access to many new kinds of training or development opportunities. MAP facilitates UK and international teams of experts to visit Gaza and the West Bank to provide this vital training and capacity building, as well as providing ongoing remote support between missions and providing training fellowships in UK hospitals. All MAP's healthcare professionals volunteer their own time to do this, often working in challenging circumstances. Without this generous support, we could not run these programmes. In 2018, we ran more than 25 training missions, including work on our Neurosurgery, Breast Cancer, Physiotherapy, Limb Reconstruction and Neonatal Life Support projects, among others.

"In Gaza they have a reservoir of talented, able, and committed medical and other staff. We are trying to train them, to encourage team working, to provide equipment, to teach by example and to do all the other things necessary to build sufficient capacity to help the wounded."
Dr Graeme Groom MA, MB, FRCS, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, in Gaza frequently over 2018 including on the bloodiest day 14th May 2018

"The training has opened my eyes and broadened my horizon to new perspectives of the laparoscopic surgeries, considering the support and guidance I received from both UK and local faculty, I wish I had attended this training before attending laparoscopic surgeries at the hospital."
Helal Shaikh, Surgical Resident in Gaza (Year 3), February 2018

"The Core Surgical Skills course is great, I'm happy that I finally practiced the technical surgical laparoscopic skills with my hands because usually we attend real surgeries as observers, and I noted my improved performance between the first and the third day."
Rami Alhindi, Surgical Resident in Gaza (Year 3), February 2018

"There is always a wonderful buzz around our visits which is so heart-warming and rewarding. I am pleased to say that we are making a real impact for a population of 2 million and it is the most important project that I have been involved with at the college. We can learn a lot from this collaboration. We are establishing a self-sustaining model using local faculty to improve healthcare throughout Gaza."
Professor Shafi Ahmed PhD, FRCS, FRCS (Gen. Surg) Consultant General, Laparoscopic and Colorectal Surgeon, in Gaza in February 2018

"I think it is fair to say this has been one of the best weeks of our lives. The physios are the most wonderful people and fantastic physios. MAP staff are an absolute credit to you and the organisation. I will miss everyone so much. It was without question the best professional thing I have done."
Colin Hamilton, Senior Paediatric Physiotherapist, in Gaza July 2018

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Demolitions are a day-to-day reality for many Palestinians in the West Bank.

Previously individual homes and buildings such as schools were subject to demolition, now entire villages are threatened with the same fate. This places thousands at risk of forcible transfer, moving them to another area against their will, which would constitute a war crime.

Israeli authorities say the demolitions must be carried out because the structures were erected without an Israeli building permit. But, it is virtually impossible for Palestinians to obtain such permits. Between 2009 and 2016 Israeli authorities approved less than 3% of Palestinian applications.

Demolitions & Settlement Expansion

27 of 53 isolated Bedouin communities, like Khan al Ahmar, are visited by the mobile health clinic each month, providing primary healthcare support to this vulnerable population who would otherwise find it impossible to access healthcare. The mobile clinic offers medicines, check-ups and important guidance about health, raising awareness of specific issues like healthy eating and diabetes. Thanks to your support, we were able to purchase a new vehicle in 2018 and expanded our range of services. In 2019, we will be able to reach 40 out of the 53 communities.

Our partner, Al Saraya Centre for Community Services, exists to offer an alternative to children and young people in East Jerusalem. Your support in 2018 enabled an Academic and Social Support Program, to provide them with skills to deal with their harsh environment, a Children’s Literature Program, and drawing and dabkeh dancing courses, to encourage creativity and promote Palestinian culture.

“Instead of being in the street, killing time, I’m here learning and doing something useful with my time”
Khalid*, centre participant
In 2018, in partnership with the Council for Arab-British Understanding (Caabu), MAP took four delegations of British parliamentarians to the West Bank. Upon return, these parliamentarians have been actively promoting issues affecting the health of Palestinians, including tabling questions and promoting debate.

MP DELEGATIONS

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“‘If the demolition of Khan Al-Ahmar goes ahead it will constitute a breach of international law, represent a step change in the nature of the Occupation and could deal a fatal blow to a two-state solution. I’ll be in the Chamber after #PMQs for @RichardBurdenMP’s Urgent Question.’

Matthew Pennycook, MP
is a single mother of triplets, two boys and a girl. Shortly after giving birth, Rana and her husband got divorced. Since then, Rana has been living with her three children at her parents’ house in one of the Palestinian camps in South Lebanon. The house is very small, it has only two rooms, and the road to it is very bumpy. Rana’s husband assists with the children’s expenses, but he is a low-paid worker and what he earns is barely sufficient for their food.

Two of Rana’s children, Shaimaa* and Basel*, are beneficiaries of MAP’s partners the Sour Community Disability Project (SCDP) and Early Intervention Unit. At eight months, Rana started noticing a difference in the length of Basel’s lower limbs. Rana consulted a pediatrician who told her that Basel has had a hip dislocation since birth and needs regular physiotherapy sessions, as well as special boots to wear. When Rana heard about the SCDP centre from her neighbours, she took Basel there and he started receiving regular physiotherapy sessions. Shaimaa, who was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy, also enrolled in services at the centre.

According to Rana, the physiotherapy sessions provided by the project helped Basel walk and reduced his cramps and pain. However, the family were struggling to pay the transportation costs to visit the centre, and it was very difficult for Rana to carry the two children there regularly. Seeing their struggle, the project team alleviated this pressure on the family’s finances by providing Shaimaa and Basel with home-based sessions.

Basel is now enrolled in a kindergarten and he is doing very well. He has many friends and enjoys playing with his siblings. “If it was not for this project, probably Basel would have not walked, or his condition would have become worse. I am very grateful for the centre staff for their kindness, frankness, and understanding for my family conditions. I trust and respect the project team very much,” said Rana.

is a 37-year-old mother living in Ein el Helweh, the largest and currently most troubled of the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. She has five children, the eldest of which is 18 years old. The first time she found out about MAP’s project she was pregnant with her daughter, Lamia, who suffered from a congenital heart defect. The midwife was immensely useful in helping her through a complicated pregnancy, and she has been involved with the project ever since.

Over the last few years, Zeina has had four miscarriages which have caused her great distress. When she found out she was pregnant again 11 months ago, she contacted the midwife immediately for her valued support. The midwife helped her through some complex and multiple complications, reassuring her and listening to her concerns.

In September 2018, Zeina gave birth to a healthy baby boy. Zeina told the midwife that the doctor at the hospital prescribed her with baby formula milk and encouraged her to use it instead of breastfeeding. Zeina proudly told the midwife that she refused to use the formula milk and insisted on breastfeeding her baby exclusively:

“There is no milk better than the breast milk for the baby.”

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**FINANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

**ACCOUNTABILITY**
To promote trust and confidence among all our stakeholders in the work of Medical Aid for Palestinians, we focus on the efficient use of funds raised for our development and humanitarian aid programmes. We ensure that funds are directed to appropriate projects and that we comply with international regulations and industry standards. MAP has a comprehensive project approval and control process which is implemented in line with best international practice.

**TRANSPARENCY**
MAP works to be as transparent as possible about our governance, our activities and our finances. We publish the names of our trustees and directors, details about our activities in Palestine and Lebanon and our annual review and fully audited annual accounts on our website.

**PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE PEOPLE**
Given the environments within which we work and the complexity of some of our projects, the protection of children and vulnerable adults is critical; we are committed to maintaining the highest standards within our organisation and partners, and to the regular review of our policies and protocols and the training of all staff.

**CORE HUMANITARIAN STANDARDS**
Accountability to the communities we work alongside is central to MAP’s ethos. The Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS) sets out nine commitments that humanitarian organisations make throughout their programme delivery. The CHS commitments overall aim is to put people at the centre of humanitarian response. As a member we work in line with the commitments and continuously review our practice.

**GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR)**
Protecting the data of the people we support, our donors, and our partners is of paramount importance. Our processes are in accordance with GDPR and our team is fully trained to keep your data safe and communications in accordance with your wishes.

**TOTAL INCOME**
£11,491,000

- 42% Individuals
- 39% Trusts, institutional, corporate
- 9.5% Community, Challenge Events & Charity Partnerships
- 5% Gift Aid
- 4.5% Legacies

**TOTAL EXPENDITURE**
£8,337,000

- 42% Gaza
- 22% Lebanon
- 15% West Bank
- 2% Advocacy and Campaigns
CHALLENGES
As we look to 2019, we anticipate further challenges to Palestinians’ rights to health and dignity. There is serious concern that the anticipated ‘Peace Plan’ from the US administration could further endanger the rights of Palestinians living as refugees and under occupation. Bedouin communities remain under threat of forcible transfer, and the impact of injuries at the ‘Great March of Return’ protests in Gaza continues with some 1,500 patients needing up to two years of painful limb reconstruction treatment from a health system which the World Health Organization (WHO) has warned is “on the brink of collapse”.

HOW YOU CAN HELP
• Consider becoming a Patron or Benefactor of MAP
• Raise awareness and introduce us to other potential supporters
• Attend or sponsor one of our events
• Ask your company to support us as part of their CSR or sponsor one of our events or projects
• Come Dine for Palestine: Showcase Palestine’s rich cuisine by hosting your very own Supper Club, with recipes created especially for MAP when you sign up
• Sign up to one of the many Challenge Events
• Support MAP’s actions, including ‘write to your MP’ and Twitter actions

PLANS
• In early 2019 we hope to see our Basic Surgical Skills training programme in Gaza become accredited by the Royal College of Surgeons
• Based on feedback received from Bedouin communities in the West Bank, in 2019 we hope to expand our reach to the most vulnerable women and children by running a second mobile health clinic
• We are delighted to be expanding our work in disability in 2019, with new partnerships starting in Lebanon, Gaza and the West Bank
• We will be expanding our work in mental health and psychosocial support
• A continuing priority will be ensuring the sustainability of our Emergency Preparedness & Response programme

LOOKING AHEAD
THANK YOU

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Shaz Rahman
The Ridgeback Charitable Trust
Tom Snow
The Souter Charitable Trust
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Tony Wickett
The William A Cadbury Charitable Trust

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Shahz Bortch (treasurer)
Jean Bowyer DM, FRCPCH
Peter Caleidige
Sir Vincent Fearn
Mr Andrew Kenney (until September 2018)
Mr Johnny Rizq (until September 2018)
Prof. Graham Watt MD FRCPG FRSE FRMedSci CBE
Ezzedin Gouta
Sarah Edin
Nabila Ramdani
Farzeh Chaudhry (from November 2018)
Shireen Jeyssai (from November 2018)
Dr Stephen Davies (from November 2018)
In December we were very sad to learn of the death of close friend, colleague, and former MAP Trustee John Beavis. John was founder of our partner IDEALS and his knowledge, passion and care were invaluable to the establishment of Gaza’s first Limb Reconstruction Unit in 2014, at Al Shifa Hospital, which was crucial to our emergency response efforts in 2018.