

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

MAP
MEDICAL AID FOR PALESTINIANS

WITNESS



SUPPORTING PALESTINIAN HEALTH WORKERS **IN THE FACE OF CRISIS**

RECOVERING FROM TRAUMA IN LEBANON

Mental health and psychosocial support for Palestinian young people and their communities

BRINGING FAMILY MEDICINE TO PALESTINE

A new speciality for Palestinian doctors

TEACHING LIFE-SAVING TECHNIQUES

How MAP is helping to develop neurosurgery in Gaza

HEALTH WORKERS SPEAK OUT AT THE UN

MAPs call for greater international accountability

SUMMER 2019



DEAR READER

I am writing this as people in Gaza mark a year of ‘Great March of Return’ protests, demanding the right of return for refugees and the lifting of the suffocating blockade and closure that has blighted the lives of over 2 million people. These civil society organised demonstrations have been met consistently by shocking military force. More than 200 people have been killed, while over 7,000 have suffered gunshot wounds, many of them devastating injuries to the lower limbs.

Even before the protests began, we were deeply concerned about the potential collapse of Gaza’s health sector. Now, hospitals are hanging on through international support, amid the severe strain of so many injuries.

MAP’s work is therefore more vital than ever before. Local services for the treatment of complex limb injuries, developed through MAP and IDEALS’ surgical missions since 2013, are essential to preventing amputations and a larger disability crisis for those who have been shot in Gaza. MAP has also been one of the biggest international contributors to restocking dwindling medical supplies.

The scale of the healthcare emergency one year on is unthinkable, but thanks to the generous support of people like you we are helping to avert catastrophe. Meanwhile, with a necessary eye to the future, we continue to develop new programmes of local support, including a neurosurgery project that you can read about in this edition of *Witness*.

Unfortunately, the crisis in Gaza has also deflected international attention away from deteriorating conditions in other areas. Massive US aid cuts are undermining the rights and wellbeing of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. MAP continues to stand proudly with these communities, and to empower young refugees to develop life skills and resilience despite their dire living conditions.

In the West Bank, life under perpetual occupation is compounding common healthcare challenges. So, one of MAP’s key projects is working to develop a system of family medicine to improve efficiency and patient outcomes for Palestinians throughout their lives.

We also continue to speak out at the highest level against the injustices Palestinians face, and the violations of Palestinians’ right to health. This has recently taken MAP to the UN in Geneva to highlight such breaches, including attacks on health workers in Gaza. You can read about this important work in this magazine.

I am so proud of our teams across Lebanon and the occupied Palestinian territory for their steadfastness and dedication in the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges. I am also immensely grateful to you, our supporters, for making our work possible.

In hope of better times ahead and the realisation of the right to health everywhere.

Aimee Shalan

AIMEE SHALAN
Chief Executive Officer
Medical Aid for Palestinians

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 EDITORIAL
Aimee Shalan, MAP CEO
- 2 SITUATION UPDATE
A round-up of what is happening across MAP’s areas of operation
- 3-4 GAZA
Teaching life-saving techniques
- 5-6 LEBANON
Helping to bring a brighter future for young palestinian refugees
- 7-8 PHOTOSTORY
- 9-10 WEST BANK
How MAP is helping to bring family medicine to Palestine
- 11-12 CAMPAIGNS
- 13-14 SUPPORTING MAP
- 15 MAP NEWS



Front cover photograph:
A medic seen carrying an injured Palestinian child during the ‘Great March of Return’ protests in Gaza.

GAZA
UN Commission of Inquiry finds ‘potential war crimes and crimes against humanity’ at Gaza protests

A UN Commission of Inquiry found that 189 Palestinians were killed by Israeli forces at demonstrations in Gaza in 2018, 183 by live ammunition. The Commission also found that more than 6,100 individuals were injured by live ammunition, many receiving catastrophic, life-changing injuries, with the result that “[m]ore people lost limbs during the demonstrations than during the entire Israel-Gaza conflict of 2014”.

The Commission further found that, “while not all demonstrators were peaceful”, there are reasonable grounds “to believe that the excessive use of force by Israeli security forces violated the rights of the thousands who were,” and “that some violations constitute international crimes”, including potential war crimes and crimes against humanity.



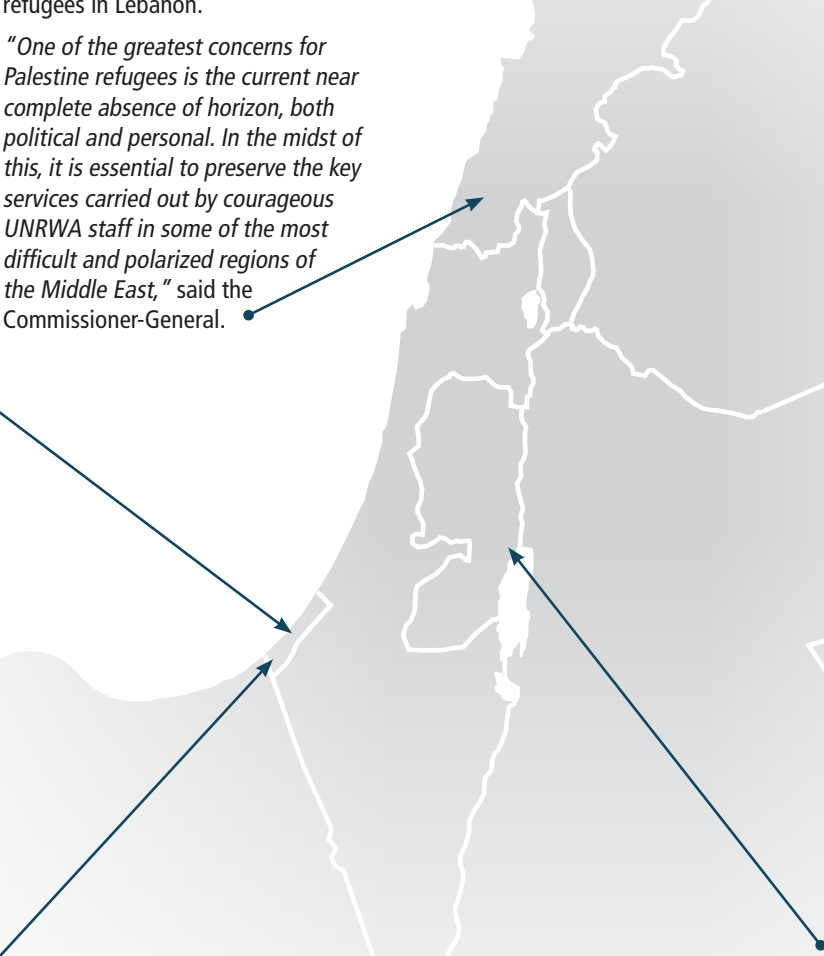
GAZA
Continued barriers to healthcare access

In 2018, the approval rating for exit permits issued by Israeli authorities to Palestinians seeking medical treatment outside Gaza was the second lowest since 2006, when the World Health Organisation (WHO) began collecting and reporting data. Israeli authorities approved just 61% of travel permits on time, with the rest either denied or delayed. Palestinians from Gaza missed at least 10,000 scheduled medical appointments in 2018 as a result.

LEBANON
UNRWA announces US\$1.2 billion funding needs

In January Commissioner-General of UNRWA, Pierre Krähenbühl, announced that the UN Agency responsible for humanitarian support for Palestinian refugees, including health services, needed around US\$1.2 billion to continue providing vital core services and life-saving humanitarian aid in 2019, including for some 450,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

“One of the greatest concerns for Palestine refugees is the current near complete absence of horizon, both political and personal. In the midst of this, it is essential to preserve the key services carried out by courageous UNRWA staff in some of the most difficult and polarized regions of the Middle East,” said the Commissioner-General.



WEST BANK
Increased risks to Palestinians in Hebron

In January, Israel rejected the renewal of the mandate of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron, an international observer force that has played an important role in reducing conflict in the city which has a particularly heavy Israeli military and settler presence. Oxfam, the Norwegian Refugee Council and Save the Children warned that their removal “threatens the already fragile security situation and risks contributing to a rapid decline in the city’s stability.”

WHAT IS NEUROSURGERY?

Neurosurgery is a medical specialism looking to treat diseases and conditions affecting the nervous system, including the brain, the spine, spinal cord and peripheral nerves.



TEACHING LIFE-SAVING TECHNIQUES

HOW MAP SUPPORTERS ARE HELPING TO IMPROVE PATIENT SAFETY

The ongoing closure and movement restrictions imposed on Gaza's population by Israel and Egypt present serious challenges to medical professionals seeking to access the training and professional development they need to provide quality care to their patients.

MAP has been working for many years to bridge this gap and ensure Gaza's health workers can stay connected to updates and technical developments in the outside world. Where medical professionals struggle to get out for training, we bring training opportunities

into Gaza instead, with the aim of sustainably improving the capacity and self-reliance of Gaza's health system.

In Gaza the need to develop neurosurgical services is crucial. Israel's repeated military offensives on the territory and, most recently, violence against Palestinians at the ongoing "Great March of Return" demonstrations have resulted in high numbers of severe head trauma and complex spinal cord injuries. Without appropriate surgical management such trauma cases will result in lifelong disabilities or even death.

Two neurosurgical units can be found in Gaza, at Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza City and European Gaza Hospital in the south. Back in 2015, a MAP-supported assessment identified that neurosurgeons working in the two units lacked the skills to conduct complex neurosurgery and, as a result, often refer patients with complex cases outside of Gaza, without guarantee that they will get a permit to exit, and risking their safety during their transfer if they do.

With support from high-profile surgical experts from Birmingham and Cardiff in the UK, MAP is now helping to develop neurosurgery in Gaza.



Dr Nidal and Dr Tsermoulas review scans ahead of surgery

NEUROSURGERY MISSION FEBRUARY 2019

31
PATIENTS
EXAMINED

5
SURGERIES
PERFORMED

INCLUDING
2 LIFE-SAVING
SURGERIES

Dr Nidal, Head of the Neurosurgery Department at European Gaza Hospital and the only certified Neurosurgeon in Gaza, described the work we have supported so far:

"When I started working [in 2010], there was no equipment or resources to work with. We were able to do some types of surgeries but we couldn't do any cervical ones (operations on the neck). Then MAP started working with us.

"Before, we used to refer the cases with cervical medical problems or do very few cases. However, during the two missions [in 2018] I was able to assist the surgeons from UK in two cases and do a third one under their supervision. I believe that with MAP's support we will be able to do these types of surgeries independently which means that the cases will no longer need to be referred and go through a hard process of getting permits, cost of transportation and long exhausting trips.

"I would like to emphasise that this type of support not only helps local medical team to learn and gain new skills; but benefits the community as well through reducing the number of referrals outside Gaza and saving the lives of Palestinians. This project could be considered a lifeboat for our patients."

In February 2019, a group of UK neurosurgeons were again in Gaza with MAP. Consultant Neurosurgeon, Dr Georgios Tsermoulas, spoke from the European Gaza Hospital about the operations they performed alongside local Palestinian health workers:

"This was my second mission to Gaza and our focus was on training medics on spinal operations and complex brain tumour surgeries. We operated on a young man who was becoming paralysed due to compression of the spine. We were in surgery for three hours. Another patient was a man

"This project could be considered a lifeboat for our patients."

Dr Nidal, Head of the Neurosurgery Department at European Gaza Hospital



Instagram @
medicaidpal

SHATTERED LIVES, SHATTERED LIMBS

The injuries sustained by Palestinians at the "Great March of Return" demonstrations in Gaza have been devastating and debilitating. At the time of writing, the demonstrations are ongoing and the number of casualties continue to grow. More than 29,000 protesters have been injured in the past 12-months, with more than 7,000 shot with high velocity bullets.

Gaza's two specialist limb reconstruction units supported by MAP, at Al Shifa in the north and European Gaza hospital in the south, have been saving lives and limbs and ensuring that people receive the specialised rehabilitation needed.

By the end of April 2019, an estimated 1,300 Palestinians are in need of multiple complex surgeries to reconstruct their damaged limbs. MAP's Limb Reconstruction project, established with our partner IDEALS, is the only programme dedicated to managing the most complex reconstruction surgeries in Gaza; utilising vital but costly equipment and supporting the Ministry of Health to coordinate efforts.

Along with IDEALS, MAP has sent several missions of surgeons and rehabilitation specialists to Gaza.

The UK team has provided training and support to the local teams and performed surgeries on some of those injured during the protests. These medical missions, and the equipment and resources needed, have only been possible thanks to the support we receive.

MAP has already spent more than £1 million on limb reconstruction supplies, as of December 2018. But there continues to be enormous need for surgeries and rehabilitation for those injured, which is very expensive.

Some of the limb reconstruction supplies urgently needed in Gaza include:

- External fixators – to help support damaged limbs
- Orthopaedic putty – to replace missing bones
- Dressings and antibiotics – to help keep wounds free of infection
- Analgesics – to help manage pain

Thank you to everyone who has already helped. But there is still more to be done. Please donate today to help us save even more lives and limbs in Gaza.



suffering from a large brain tumour which was causing behavioural changes. This operation lasted well above six hours, during which time we taught the local team skills and techniques so they can perform surgeries like this on their own in the future."

Dr Tsermoulas and the rest of the multidisciplinary team will be returning to Gaza later this year, with three more missions planned. With your continued

support, MAP is confident that these interventions will lead to long-term improvements in patient care and safety.

MAP would like to thank the visiting expert volunteers for their time and energy.

Please donate today to help MAP continue to support training and development for Palestinian medical professionals in Gaza.



Developing skills in Palestine



HELPING TO BRING A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR YOUNG PALESTINIAN REFUGEES



By Wafa Dakwar,
MAP's Senior Programme
Officer in Lebanon

Seventy years have now passed since the Nakba, or 'Catastrophe', when over 750,000 Palestinians were expelled from or fled their homes before and during the creation of the State of Israel. Around 100,000 of them found shelter in Lebanon.

Despite living in Lebanon for seven decades, Palestinian refugees continue to suffer from social and economic exclusion, discrimination, and extreme poverty. We are prohibited from owning property and working in 39 professions, including most medical jobs. Restrictions on employment and access to public services leave many of us dependent on aid and services provided by the chronically-underfunded UNRWA.

Our 'Adolescents Health and Life Skills Education' programme, run in partnership

Thank you
to our
supporters

with local NGO the National Institution of Social Care and Vocational Training (NISCVT), provides free health and life-skills education to young people living in the 12 official Palestinian refugee camps. People in the camps suffer from abject poverty, overcrowding, unemployment, poor housing and lack of infrastructure.

The programme's activities aim to support mental health and provide psychosocial support for young people and their communities. It also aims to empower young people to advocate for their rights with confidence in a context of many political and social restrictions.

The programme's activities are run by volunteers who receive training and support from specialists. I met with one of these young volunteers, Mohamad, to discuss his experience of being involved in the project.

You can read his story
on the next page.



Children in Lebanon



Activities are run by volunteers who receive training and support from specialists

"I became
able to face
challenges
and solve
problems in a
reasonable
way."

Mohamad,
peer educator
volunteer

MOHAMAD'S STORY:



Mohamad, 17, is a peer educator volunteering in the 'Adolescents Health and Life-skills Education' project. He lives in one of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon with his mother and older brother. His father passed away last year after a long battle with illness.

Three years ago, Mohamad's older brother, Samer, was participating in a cycle of peer education sessions. One day, while their mother and father were at hospital, Samer had to attend a peer education session but couldn't leave Mohamad alone at home. Samer asked the social worker at NISCVT if Mohamad could join the session, and she accepted.

"I was the youngest person in the session. I found the session very enjoyable and the information very useful. After the session, I went to the social worker and told her that I wanted to volunteer in the project. I wanted to join the project desperately!" said Mohamad.

In the following months, Mohamad attended peer education sessions on many topics, as well as training workshops, until he was ready to conduct sessions independently.

During that period the project team were supporting him, encouraging him, and helping him acquire the needed knowledge and skills for conducting sessions. "They helped me become a confident and dependable peer educator," Mohamad added.

Mohamad observed a positive change in his character and behaviour since he first joined the project. "I became able to face challenges and solve problems in a reasonable way," he explained. Through volunteering in the project, Mohamad wanted to help other youth the same way the project team has helped him.

Mohamad feels that participating in the theatre performances during open days organised by the project helped improve his self-confidence the most. The sessions on countering bullying, positive decision-making, communication skills, and avoiding risky behaviours are his favourite. These sessions were not only useful to him, but to the whole family. He used to discuss messages from the sessions with his mother and older brother.

Mohamad wishes that this project continues for many years to support as many young Palestinian boys and girls in Lebanon as possible.

Thanks to our supporters, MAP is able to continue projects like these supporting young Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

MEDICAL MISSIONS

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 teams of British and international experts to visit Palestine 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.



"The Core Surgical Skills course is great, I'm happy that I finally practiced the technical surgical skills with my hands because usually we attend real surgeries as observers, and I noticed my improved performance between the first and the third day."

Rami Alhindi, Surgical Resident at Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza

"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 two 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, from the Royal London Hospital, UK



"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 from Cambridge University Hospital, UK



"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 at Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza

465 DAYS OF SPECIALIST VOLUNTEER TIME IN 2018

VALUE OF THE SPECIALIST VOLUNTEER TIME IN 2018

£167,000

HOW MAP IS HELPING TO BRING FAMILY MEDICINE TO PALESTINE

The West Bank's 2.8 million population faces many of the same 21st century health challenges as other populations around the world, including growing rates of chronic diseases, and increasing costs of hospital-based services. Heart disease and stroke are the main causes of death among Palestinian adults, and approximately 12% of adults have diabetes (compared to roughly 5% in the UK).

Life under Israel's occupation also exposes Palestinians to additional threats to their mental wellbeing. This includes exposure to regular and often deadly violence, restrictions on free movement, harassment by Israeli settlers, regular contact with a foreign occupying military force and demolitions of homes and livelihoods. According to UN agency OCHA, settler violence has continued to increase in 2019, with a weekly average of seven attacks against Palestinians in the West Bank resulting in injuries or damage to property, compared with five in 2018 and three in 2017.

Developing the speciality of 'family medicine' can be key to addressing these challenges.

In countries like the UK, when someone has a health problem, they will usually first visit their GP, who can, if necessary, refer them on to specialists for tests or treatment. This is part of the 'family medicine' model, a patient-centred approach to providing continuous and holistic approach to care across the lifetime of a patient and to all members of a family.



Dr Tasneem Yahya meets with a family at her clinic in Tulkarem in the West Bank

MAP is helping to adapt the family medicine model of healthcare for the Palestinian health system. Among the many benefits of this model is its ability to improve the management and care of chronic diseases and the health challenges that ageing populations face. Developing this specialism in Palestine is also important to ensuring all people have access to high-quality primary care which is equitable, efficient and affordable.



Supporting families in Palestine



With our partners, the Foundation for International Development of Family Medicine in Palestine (FIDFMP), and with the support of the Palestinian Ministry of Health, MAP is helping to increase the number and quality of family medicine specialists in the West Bank. Together, we are supporting An Najah National University (ANNU) in Nablus, northern West Bank, to teach Palestinian GPs the key skills needed for applying the family medicine model in their work.

One strand of this is a residency training programme to teach Palestinian doctors the speciality of family medicine, hosted at ANNU. Through this programme, Palestinians doctors work and train in new family medicine training centres, the first of their kind in the West Bank, developing core competencies against a curriculum that MAP, FIDFMP and ANNU have helped restructure to meet international standards.

At the end of 2018, we received excellent news. All family medicine residents passed the first part of their specialist exams, sat half way through the residency programme.

Dr Andy Ferguson, MAP's UK Director of Programmes, reflected that "this a fantastic and almost unprecedented achievement!"

To help improve the knowledge and skills amongst all members of the family healthcare teams, MAP has also supported the development of a learning management system and integrated online classroom. This offers unique opportunities to deliver the training programme and is particularly important in areas where there are restrictions on freedom of movement for Palestinians. It includes online case-based clinical tutorials and an online mentorship programme for key individuals and groups of health professionals. The required bandwidth is deliberately light to enable it to function in Palestine with limited internet connectivity, and to enable participants to use it on their mobile phones.

With ongoing support, MAP will continue to work towards firmly placing family medicine as an integral part of the Palestinian healthcare system, with the potential to address many of the country's health needs now and in years to come.

"FAMILY MEDICINE MAKES ME A BETTER DOCTOR"

Dr Tasneem Yahya, a GP from Tulkarem is involved in the residency training and describes the impact the family medicine approach is having on her work:

"Today I am on call in the Internal Medicine Department. A 50-year-old woman arrived complaining of chest pain. I went to her and started to take a history. The pain was not caused by a medical or physical condition, so I asked her if there is anything that causes her distress.

She told me about her problems. I tried to calm her down and find solutions. Of course, I did not forget to do medical checks to reassure her.

She came out of the emergency and smiled. She told me that she had not met a doctor like me before, so I told her that this is what makes family doctors unique.

Thanks to family medicine, which offers me the opportunity to provide a better health service in a different way from others.

Thanks to family medicine which allows me to see satisfied smiles on the faces of my patients after including them in their treatment plans.

Thanks to family medicine, which gives me my own unique glasses in which I see my patients in a holistic approach, taking into account biological, psychological and social factors.

Thanks to family medicine, which has helped me to modify my patients' life styles and support them to adopt healthier ways of life.

Thanks to family medicine which has improved my knowledge in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases.

And finally, I thank God who gave me the opportunity to specialise in family medicine. Soon I hope family medicine will benefit all primary health services in Palestine."

"Thanks to family medicine, which offers me the opportunity to provide a better health service in a different way from others."

Dr Tasneem Yahya

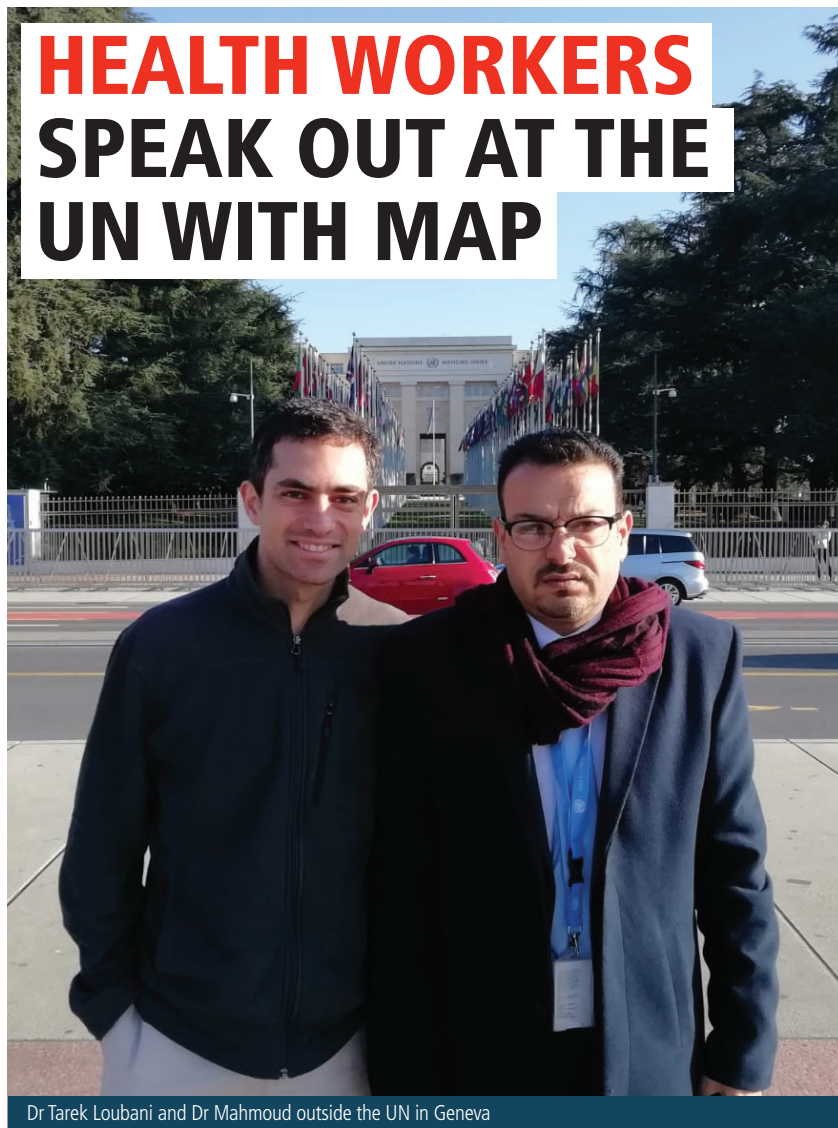


Working to improve the health and well-being of Palestinians



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HEALTH WORKERS SPEAK OUT AT THE UN WITH MAP



Dr Tarek Loubani and Dr Mahmoud outside the UN in Geneva

MAP has been working to ensure that the call for global action in support of Palestinians' rights to health and dignity is heard at the very highest levels, including at the UN. In March our Advocacy and Campaigns Team travelled to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva to engage in the discussions surrounding the findings of a UN Commission of Inquiry investigation into the "Great March of Return" protests in Gaza, and to highlight the devastating effects of Israel's use of force on Palestinians' health and access to healthcare.

The Commission's report described the "enormous burden of injuries from the protests" and outlined how this has affected healthcare for all people in Gaza:

"Hospitals were forced to divert resources away from ordinary medical needs, such as cancer treatment, obstetrics and routine operations ...

Approximately 8,000 elective surgeries were cancelled or postponed, resulting in a backlog that will take years to address."

It found that "the use of live ammunition by Israeli security forces against demonstrators was unlawful" in all the cases it investigated – all 189 fatalities and over 300 of the 23,000 injuries – with the possible exception of two incidents. It described the occupied Palestinian territory as "one of the most dangerous places in the world to be a health worker", and found "reasonable grounds to believe that Israeli snipers intentionally shot health workers, despite seeing that they were clearly marked as such."

We were joined in Geneva by Dr Mahmoud Matar, a senior orthopaedic surgeon treating protestors' complex limb injuries at Gaza's largest hospital, and Dr Tarek Loubani, an emergency physician who was shot in the legs while working to save lives at the protests.

DR LOUBANI, MEDIC SHOT IN GAZA, ADDRESSES UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL



On our first day in Geneva, Dr Tarek Loubani addressed the Council to speak directly to states and share his testimony of being shot while providing medical care to wounded protestors taking part in the "Great March of Return" demonstrations. His case was featured in the Commission of Inquiry's report as an incident of attacks on health workers in Gaza:

I am here with Dr. Mahmoud Matar on behalf of our colleagues from the hospitals of Gaza. I am an emergency physician in Canada and Gaza and associate professor of Medicine at Western University in Canada.

On 14 May 2018, I was at the protests delivering trauma care on the field. I saw only peaceful protestors, and none posed any threat to the soldiers. When protestors were shot, me and my team of medics would treat and evacuate them. Due to the blockade I did not have the materials or medics to care for my patients.

I was one of the 19 medics shot that day. I wish I could tell you I was in the midst of some chaos when it happened. I was not. The skies were clear, with no gas and no burning tires. I was standing among a group of medical professionals away from the main protest area wearing full hospital green uniform.

We were not close to protestors and there was no Israeli gunfire at the time. I heard a loud bang, felt an incredible pain and found myself on the ground.

I was treated, stabilized and discharged within an hour. I sewed my own legs because of the number of wounded. Like hundreds of others that day, I did not receive the care I needed. Still, I was lucky.

When I was shot, paramedic Musa Abuhassanin treated me. He was my rescuer. About an hour after, he was shot in the chest during a rescue.

Musa died. Medical teams are not political actors, but humanitarians. We simply want to ensure that if people get into trouble, we're there to help them.

Some 600 health workers have now been wounded at the protests and three killed. Thirty-nine were killed between 2008 and 2014. We are still under fire. Four paramedics were wounded last week. International law is clear on the duty to protect health workers, and to facilitate our life-saving work.

When I return to my work in Gaza, I should not worry that next year I will have to speak to you again about what I saw. I should not worry that my name will be added to the list of dead health workers doing their jobs. When you here do not act meaningfully, it is more likely that injuries and deaths to medics occur – more likely that I will be injured or killed. Madam Vice President, I ask you and members of the Council to do all you can to ensure we are protected in line with international law.



DR MATAR, SENIOR ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEON, DESCRIBES DEVASTATING LIMB INJURIES IN GAZA



On our second day at the UN, Dr Matar described the difficulty of treating the many complex limb injuries caused by Israeli forces' use of live ammunition against demonstrators at the protests. At a side event organised by

MAP and its partners, he shared the following testimony:

I am the Head of the Limb Reconstruction Unit at Al Shifa Hospital, the largest hospital in Gaza. It is an honour to speak to you today. I speak also for my patients and colleagues in Gaza.

On the first day of the "Great March of Return", I thought that most of the injuries will be from gas inhalation. I was wrong. I never imagined so many serious gunshot injuries.

On 14 May Al Shifa received 1,700 patients with gunshot injuries to their limbs between 2pm and 8pm. 270 out of them need complex limb reconstruction. These patients should all be treated within a few hours, but it took us three days to treat them all.

On that day we ran out of everything. I went from operation to operation only changing my gloves because there were no clean scrubs.

We ran out of antibiotics, wound dressings and painkillers, leaving many at risk of complications.

Many limbs are at risk of amputation because there is significant bone loss and damage to blood vessels, nerves and soft tissue. Across Gaza, we estimate 1,300 need major limb reconstruction treatment, taking up to two years and on average need three surgeries as well as extensive rehabilitation. In the UK, colleagues estimate that this would cost £30,000 per patient.

After 12 years of blockade our health system is very close to collapse. We have shortages of electricity, medicines, equipment, clean water and hospital bed capacity. 8,000 elective surgeries have been postponed. Many doctors only received 50% of their salaries since 2015, and it is difficult for us to exit Gaza for conferences and training.

I hope that the international community will support Palestinians' right to health and to life. Thank you.



IN GAZA
30 MARCH –
31 DEC 2018

3
HEALTH
WORKERS
KILLED
560
INJURED



Health workers in Gaza have been killed or injured whilst doing their job

A DERELICTION OF RESPONSIBILITY: UK FAILS TO SUPPORT UN COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

Upon return from Geneva, MAP received alarming news that the UK had abstained on a resolution at the Council welcoming the Commission of Inquiry's report and urging action to implement its recommendations relating to accountability for potential violations of international law, the protection of healthcare, and international support to Gaza's health system.

The abstention represents a serious dereliction of the UK Government's responsibility to uphold respect for the rule of international law and the rights to health and dignity of Palestinians. MAP's work to speak out for these rights continues.

You can get involved at:
www.map.org.uk/campaigns

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Palestinians](https://www.facebook.com/MedicalAidforPalestinians)



THE MAP COMMUNITY

HOW SUPPORTERS ARE HELPING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Our supporters are the ones who make MAP's work possible. We are very grateful for all those who get involved to help make a difference for Palestinians in need.

If you, your community or company would like to support MAP's work, get in touch with our fundraising team today.

Contact us

Telephone: 020 7226 4114
Email: fundraising@map.org.uk
www.map.org.uk/get-involved



IN 2018
MOBILE HEALTH
CLINIC MADE

536
VISITS
TO HOUSEHOLDS
IN BEDOUIN
COMMUNITIES

9,486
CONSULTATIONS

Thank you

LIGHT UP GAZA

We are always grateful for our fantastic support in Scotland, especially from Naomi Junnor who every year organises *Light up Gaza* in aid of MAP in Glasgow. This February another successful event including the local MP and featured a local chef that explained to a hungry queue what each dish is and its cultural significance. Looks like it worked because they raised over £2,000. Well done, Naomi!

TAKING ON EVEREST FOR MAP

A huge thank you and congratulations to Safa Seedat who in March trekked for 15 days and climbed a whopping 18,000 feet to the Everest Base Camp to raise vital funds for MAP. Safa said: *Medical aid is of utmost importance for Palestinians, something we are lucky enough to not think twice about here in the UK. MAP not only provides medical aid but also helps train local medical professionals which helps create long term solutions. It is for this reason that I feel passionately about supporting MAP.*

Safa raised over £15,000 and even organised an afternoon tea fundraising event. Thank you, Safa!



HERE WE TREK AGAIN FOR PALESTINE

Due to the huge popularity of the first *Trek Palestine*, we have decided to host a second Trek in October 2019. Once again, this sponsored challenge event for experienced walkers will include ancient trade routes and historical landmarks. The trekkers will also help raise money to support MAP's work.

Hurry and register your interest today to receive an application form and info pack. We expect this event to sell out fast! www.map.org.uk/trek2019

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR PIONEERING TREKKERS

This March, twenty-nine of our supporters walked across the West Bank for 6 days in our first ever *Trek Palestine* event. The trekkers got to witness the challenges Palestinian communities face living under occupation and visit MAP projects like our Mobile Health Clinic.

Everyone who took part was exceptional at fundraising and helped MAP raise over £100,000 for our vital work. Thank you, Trekkers!



LET THEM EAT HUMMUS

Joan Phelan and friends put on a spectacular *Come Dine for Palestine* event for us in Melksham this year, raising £1,000! Joan said, *"Everyone enjoyed it and some want to know when I will be doing another one!"*

COME DINE FOR PALESTINE



Register online today to receive your special dining fundraising pack, which includes recipes from Palestinian chefs and show your guests just what Palestine is made of.

You can register your interest today:
map.org.uk/comedine



Instagram @
medicalaidpal

TAKE ON A CHALLENGE HELP RAISE MONEY AND MAP

Here are just a few of the many challenge events you can get involved in to help raise money for MAP's work.

RUN HACKNEY HALF 19 May 2019

LONDON 10K 21 May 2019

EDINBURGH HALF/ FULL MARATHON
26 May 2019

BRITISH 10K 14 July 2019

LONDON TRIATHLON August 2019

PEDAL FOR SCOTLAND
8 September 2019

CYCLE PALESTINE 15-23 September 2019

ROYAL PARKS HALF MARATHON
13 October 2019

MANCHESTER HALF MARATHON
13 October 2019

TREK PALESTINE 23-30 October 2019



OUR FUNDRAISING TEAM IS
HERE TO HELP. GET IN TOUCH TODAY.

fundraising@map.org.uk or 020 7226 4114



MAP NEWS

MAP'S TEAM SADDENED BY DEATH OF UK COMEDIAN AND LONG-TIME MAP SUPPORTER, JEREMY HARDY

"Jeremy made jokes about his height," Aimee Shalan, MAP's CEO, "but as one of our trustees declared when they heard the news, he was a moral giant. Always ready to challenge injustice with a perfect combination of mischievous wit, his support for the rights of Palestinians was unflagging. He revelled in the implausible extent of Palestinian hospitality and managed to speak about the daily grind of the occupation without belittling the immense impact of its routine indignities. We've lost a wonderful friend."



READ MORE:

map.org.uk/JeremyHardy

MAP DELIVERS 7,000-SIGNATURE PETITION TO UK GOVERNMENT CALLING FOR PROTECTION OF HEALTH WORKERS

In March, MAP CEO Aimee Shalan delivered a petition with more than 7,000 signatures to 10 Downing Street, calling on the UK Government to support Palestinian healthcare and the protection of health workers. Thank you to all who signed and shared our campaign.



MAP LAUNCHES BRAND NEW MOBILE CLINIC IN THE WEST BANK

MAP was delighted to launch the brand-new mobile clinic in January 2019. The old mobile clinic has been serving the Bedouin communities in the Jordan Valley for the past 10 years. But so much driving off-road and over rocky tracks to reach these communities damaged the van and it was in urgent need of replacement. Thanks to the generosity of MAP supporters, who raised £140,000 to save the service, a new mobile clinic has now been procured and kitted-out.

READ MORE:

map.org.uk/newclinic

REMEMBERING MAP'S FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE JOHN BEAVIS



"John was a much-loved friend, founder and chairman of our partner IDEALS and a former trustee of MAP. He worked as a trauma and orthopaedic surgeon, teacher and clinician in Bosnia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Iraq, Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza and was hugely committed to the Palestinian cause. He always had a good tale to tell at the ready and had an indefatigable sense of humour. He was a joy to work with and he will be very sorely missed." Aimee Shalan, MAP's CEO

READ MORE:

map.org.uk/JohnBeavis

SOCIAL MEDIA



Darren Darby

@darby_darren



World NGO Day - today we celebrate NGOs (non-governmental organisations) worldwide and the individuals behind them, their work and it's positive impact on society. I've been privileged and proud to have been involved @MedicalAidPal @NursingNow2020



Rachael Moses

@rachaelmoses



Since our last visit to #Gaza the #respiratory #physiotherapy team have implemented new services using EBP including @BTSrespiratory & @NICEcomms guidance in #Palestine

Here's the new twilight physio service for resp/ICU/trauma. LOVE this country, their determination & courage



Dr Philippa Whitford

@Dr_PhilippaW



Working with @MedicalAidPal & Scottish specialists to improve #BreastCancer Care in Gaza while....

Trump's Cuts To USAID Funding Have Palestinian Women Scrambling To Treat Their Breast Cancer

Donate online at

www.map.org.uk

Or call today on

020 7226 4114



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