

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

MAP
MEDICAL AID FOR PALESTINIANS

WITNESS



SAVING LIFE AND LIMB **IN GAZA**

1000s OF LIMB INJURIES AMONG GAZA'S PROTESTERS

How MAP is supporting their long-term recovery

PROTECTING NEW-BORN BABIES IN LEBANON

The only home-visiting midwifery service for Palestinian refugees

BEDOUIN COMMUNITIES UNDER SEVERE THREAT

Providing vital services to help communities hold onto health

GAZA'S HEALTH WORKERS UNDER FIRE

Time for the UK government to address attacks on Palestinian health workers.

WINTER 2018



DEAR READER

I am writing during a time of acute crisis in Gaza, where two million people live under occupation, closure and blockade. Two thirds are children.

Working in the humanitarian sector, I've had the privilege of visiting Gaza for over a decade, while Palestinian friends from Gaza here in the UK have been unable to return home due to the closure – missing family weddings, births and even parents' funerals.

During this time, everyone I've met in Gaza, young and old, have simply wanted the life and fundamental freedoms enjoyed by others around the world.

I've met students dreaming of a better future; families living in makeshift tents or school rooms, their homes destroyed, relatives killed; doctors trying to figure out how to ration fuel to keep critical services going; nurses struggling to keep babies alive in intensive care units when emergency generators fail and medical workers who have come under attack while trying to carry out their work.

This is the context in which the "Great March of Return" demonstrations began on 30 March, during which more people have been injured by Israeli forces than during the major military offensive on Gaza in 2014. It is why, nine months on, despite scores of people killed and thousands injured, people continue to protest.

In this edition of *Witness*, you can learn how MAP has been responding to the humanitarian emergency in Gaza and, in particular, how we are helping the health sector to treat complex and horrific limb injuries. I am incredibly proud of all that has MAP has achieved amid such bleak circumstances and want to thank our supporters for their generosity and kind support – making MAP's essential and lifesaving work possible. I also want to thank and praise our staff in Gaza, who have worked tirelessly to support the struggling health system there. This issue includes words from our colleague Wafa Kanan, who describes the difficulties of delivering our emergency response.

Aimee Shalan

AIMEE SHALAN
Chief Executive Officer
Medical Aid for Palestinians



APPEAL UPDATE

MAP would like to say a very special thank you to everyone who responded to our **Gaza Emergency Appeal** this year. With your support, MAP has been able to respond to the events following the 'Great March of Return' protests along the perimeter fence. We have been able to provide medical teams with the resources and support they needed to respond quickly and effectively. Along with our partners 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. Thank you from all of us at MAP. We continue to remain committed to helping those injured in the coming months and years and we greatly appreciate your ongoing commitment and support.

Thank you!

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Front cover photograph:
UK medical teams visited Gaza in October 2018 to help local colleagues to save limbs of those injured during the year's protests.

SITUATION UPDATE

LEBANON
US cuts to UNRWA endanger Palestinian refugees' health and wellbeing

In August, the US administration cut all funding to UNRWA, the UN agency responsible for humanitarian support, including health services, to Palestinian refugees, 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, particularly in Lebanon where the poverty rate is 60% among Palestinian refugees and 90% among those double-displaced from the war in Syria.

GAZA
Israeli forces continue to kill and injure demonstrators in Gaza

Since 30 March 2018, Palestinians in Gaza have been participating in widespread civil society-organised demonstrations, known as the "Great March of Return".

Israeli forces have responded with shocking violence, killing scores of Palestinians, including over 40 children, and injuring more than 20,000. Thousands of patients have sustained gunshot injuries, mainly to the limbs, and an estimated 1,500 have devastating, disabling wounds and need specialist limb reconstruction treatment and long-term rehabilitation. That number continues to rise every week.

WEST BANK
US cuts to East Jerusalem hospitals threatens vital healthcare services

In September, the US State Department withdrew \$25 million budgeted for Palestinian hospitals in East Jerusalem.

The six hospitals affected provide medical specialities that the Palestinian Ministry of Health is unable to provide in the West Bank and Gaza, including radiotherapy, cardiac and eye surgeries, neonatal intensive care, children's dialysis and physical rehabilitation for children.

GAZA
"Gaza health sector is collapsing"

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has warned of growing despair in Gaza amid deepening crisis:

Gaza's health sector is collapsing in the wake of the now 11-year blockade, the deepening intra-Palestinian political divide, the energy crisis, inconsistent and reduced payment of public sector staff, and growing shortages in medicines and disposables.



WEST BANK
Khan al Ahmar among 46 Bedouin communities at risk of forcible transfer

46 Palestinian Bedouin villages, home to some 8,000 people, have been targeted by the Israeli authorities for "relocation" to a number of designated sites. This includes 18 communities Israel reportedly intends to demolish as part of the E1 settlement plan, aimed at creating a continuous built-up illegal settlement area between the Ma'ale Adumim settlement and East Jerusalem.

Recently Israel's Supreme Court rejected appeals against the demolition of Khan Al Ahmar, a village east of Jerusalem that is home to 180 Palestinian Bedouin.

SAVING LIVES AND LIMBS IN GAZA

MAP's medical missions to Gaza are helping to save limbs of those injured during this year's protests

Gaza's hospitals are overwhelmed by mass trauma casualties.

Since 30 March, 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 realisation of their right to return to the lands they were expelled from or fled in 1948, and the wider realisation of their rights after 11 years of unlawful closure and blockade. The protests include cultural, educational and entertainment events.

IN GAZA
NEARLY 50% ZERO STOCK LEVELS IN ESSENTIAL DRUGS WERE REACHED
↓
MEANING THAT LESS THAN ONE MONTH'S SUPPLY REMAINED ON SHELVES

Israel's shocking – and often lethal – use of force against protestors has resulted in the deaths of scores of Palestinians, and thousands have been injured by live ammunition, rubber bullets and tear gas. Thousands of patients have sustained gunshot injuries, mainly to the limbs, and an estimated 1,500 people have devastating, disabling wounds that need specialist limb reconstruction treatment and long-term rehabilitation. That number continues to rise every week.

Dr Andy Ferguson, MAP's Director of Programmes was present at Gaza's largest hospital, Al Shifa, on 14 May, the deadliest day in Gaza since 2014:

"Any hospital in the UK would be utterly overwhelmed by such a massive influx of injuries as we saw in Gaza. Amid dwindling supplies of medicines and equipment and Gaza's chronic electricity shortages, hospitals in Gaza were in crisis even before the protests began. It is testimony to the motivation and skills of medical teams in Gaza that, despite this, hospitals were able to keep receiving, triaging, referring and treating patients – both the newly-wounded and the hospital's standard patient workload.

On Monday 14 May, despite 12 theatres working flat out throughout the

afternoon and evening, at 10pm there were still 70 major orthopaedic cases waiting for surgery – most of those with gunshot wounds. By 8am the following morning, 40 of these were still waiting, many in agony due to the unavailability of sufficient pain medications. Even basic supplies – gauze, syringes, surgical gowns – were running out.

MAP is doing all it can to respond to the needs, but it is up to the international community to ensure this bloodshed is not repeated, and that Gaza's health sector is supported to finally develop in line with the needs of its 2 million residents."

MAP has been supporting Gaza's health service in preparation for such complex injuries since 2014, when thousands of people were injured as a result of Israel's military offensive. With our partner IDEALS, we sent a team of orthopaedic surgeons from King's College Hospital in London to Gaza. There, they began conducting vital operations for patients, and training a local team of limb reconstruction specialists, including surgeons, theatre technicians and nurses.

Their regular visits led to the establishment of Gaza's first dedicated Limb Reconstruction Unit at Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, with more

recent support for a second unit at the European Gaza Hospital. Through this project, we have also helped to train Palestinian physiotherapists, who are playing an essential role in helping people to recover better from their injuries and regain mobility and functioning. This ongoing support is vital to treating the high number of Palestinians suffering shattered bones.



Injured protester

"I was shot in my calf. Everyone told me that my leg would be amputated. I underwent 12 surgeries. My latest surgery was to shorten my leg. The British mission and Dr Mattar performed this surgery. After a year, I will undergo a surgery to lengthen my leg."



SUPPORT MAP TO CONTINUE SAVING LIMBS

Wafa Kanan, MAP's Project Officer in Gaza, describes MAP's emergency response. She agrees with the description of the UN Coordinator for Humanitarian Aid and Development in Palestine, Jamie McGoldrick, that the humanitarian situation in Gaza is "a crisis on top of a catastrophe"

Responding to the mass casualties in Gaza has been a hard and incredibly busy time for our team. I am proud that we were one of the first responders, providing essential drugs and medical disposables needed by the emergency services as well as limb reconstruction equipment. We have supported several medical missions from the UK who have worked alongside local medics to treat patients with complex limb injuries. I am very proud to be supporting MAP's emergency response, everybody in the Gaza office is.

In Gaza, the health system suffers from major fuel and drug shortages. This is an issue which started many years ago but now has reached an unbearable level. In 2018, we reached almost 50% zero stock levels in essential drugs, meaning that less than one month's supply remained on shelves. Many patients cannot receive the medication or treatment they need, including those with kidney failure and cancer. This poses a direct threat to their lives. I had a meeting with the Director of the Central Drug Store and he explained that, for chemotherapy to work, patients need a treatment protocol that could include three to four types of medications. But recently at least one or two of these drugs have been out of stock, so their treatment will not work.

Shortages in drugs mean that more patients need to be referred outside of Gaza for treatment. But it is not easy to get a permit from the Israeli authorities.

In 2017, just 54% of exit permits for patients were approved and the rest of patients were left with no hope. Access to healthcare is every patient's right, but many people in Gaza are being denied this.

Working in the medical sector can be challenging, observing all this suffering each time. I am constantly praying that my friends and family do not fall sick because I fear they will not receive the needed treatment, and so, I believe what we are doing, supporting Gaza's health care system, is really crucial. I couldn't imagine such a dire situation being ignored or left with no support.

Life in Gaza is not easy. In some ways it is impossible. It is very hard to live in a place where you cannot freely move. We are living in the same small place all the time, the same area. Often in the office when we have a holiday, for example Eid, we cannot go anywhere, we just move from our house to our relative's house. In another place, you'd be able to travel, you could go outside. Children in Gaza do not know what it means to travel. They have never experienced 24 hours of electricity. I am so sad to have my children in such a place. During the day we can be fine, but at night something could happen suddenly and there could be bombing and airstrikes and we would fear for our lives, again. So, knowing how to be a mother in Gaza is not easy. I cannot protect my children, all I can do is take them in my arms and pray.



MAP

THE OUTSTANDING WORK OF MAP'S COMMUNITY MIDWIVES



The health of women and children is a major cause for concern for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

The country's refugee camps and Palestinian gatherings are beset by overcrowding, poverty, and a chronic lack of opportunities. These conditions are set to deteriorate further following the US administration's decision to cut all funding to UNRWA, the UN agency responsible for humanitarian support to Palestinian refugees. The cuts represent a dangerous politicisation of aid. They amount to a reduction of nearly a third



Refugee children

of UNRWA's operating budget, jeopardising vital services, including health clinics, social services and education and undermining the protected status of Palestinian refugees.

The impact of US cuts is felt particularly keenly in Lebanon where the poverty rate is 60% among Palestinian refugees and 90% among those double-displaced from the war in Syria. Amid this context, rates of maternal and child mortality and morbidity remain high.

Determined to help support the latest generation of Palestinians being born into exile, MAP provides an essential community midwifery and perinatal outreach service. It is the only home-visiting midwifery service in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. Working in Nahr el Bared, Beddawi, Mieh Mieh, and Ein el Helweh refugee camps and surrounding gatherings, the community midwives complement the clinic-based services provided by UNRWA.

For the past ten years, MAP's midwives have helped to enhance the care offered to pregnant women and their new-born



MAP's community midwives check the health and wellbeing of Lebanon's refugee mothers

PALESTINIAN REFUGEES' MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO



LEBANON
42.1
PER 100,000
LIVE BIRTHS

JORDAN
24
PER 100,000
LIVE BIRTHS

WEST BANK
15.8
PER 100,000
LIVE BIRTHS

babies. They visit mothers who are most in need, including those not registered with UNRWA; with a mental illness or disability; young or pregnant for the first time; double-displaced from the war in Syria; and suffering domestic violence.

During their visits, the midwives measure their weight, blood pressure and urine for protein, and listen to the babies' heart rate with the mother. They also offer advice about serious signs and symptoms to look out for during pregnancy as well on diet, sleep and physical activity.

Once the baby arrives, a mother is visited, on average, once a month for up to a year. The health of the baby and the mother are carefully monitored, and the midwife also provides contraception, breast feeding and well-being advice.

Both before and after giving birth, mothers can contact the midwives with any queries they have. One mother reflected, "[the midwife] would answer me whenever I called. If she couldn't, she would call back. She never neglected me".

MAP's community midwives have had remarkable success in extremely challenging circumstances. In 2018, the American University of Beirut (AUB) assessed the impact and added benefit of MAP's maternal and child health programme to the existing UNRWA services and found "MAP has significantly contributed towards a positive shift in its impact on maternal and neonatal health outcomes."

The community midwives have helped to increase breast-feeding rates, significantly reduce anaemia among pregnant women and new-borns, reduce high-risk pregnancies, pre-term births, and the rates of caesarean section deliveries among Palestinian refugees.

The midwives are highly trusted amongst the women they support. Descriptions such as "compassionate", "supportive", "comforting", "knowledgeable" and "patient" were used by the mothers to describe the midwives.

APRIL AND JUNE 2018

MAP MIDWIVES SUPPORTED
2,279
MOTHERS &
1,477
BABIES



89
WOMEN WITH UNDIAGNOSED PREGNANCY COMPLICATIONS REFERRED FOR IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE

12
MOTHERS AFFECTED BY POSTNATAL DEPRESSION IDENTIFIED AND OFFERED SUPPORT



ZEINA'S* STORY

Zeina is a 37-year-old and lives in Ein el Helweh camp, the largest Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon. She has five children.

Zeina learned about MAP's Maternal and Child Health (MCH) project six years ago when she was pregnant with her daughter Lina. Abila, a MAP midwife, visited her and supported her during the pregnancy and after childbirth. According to Zeina, the midwife's help was vital at that time, as Lina suffered from a congenital heart defect.

In the last three years, Zeina had four miscarriages which caused her great distress. Then, nine months ago, when Zeina discovered that she was pregnant again, she contacted Abila and sought her support. She received regular home visits throughout her pregnancy, with Abila helping her through multiple pregnancy complications, listening to her concerns and reassuring her.

Last month Zeina gave birth to a healthy baby boy, Mohammed, and waited eagerly for the midwife's visit. As Abila entered her house, Zeina

handed over her baby Mohammed and asked her if he was doing well.

Zeina was particularly concerned about baby Mohammed's umbilical cord stump and skin colour. Abila explained umbilical stump care to Zeina and showed her the steps for cleaning the area. She also examined baby Mohammed carefully and recorded his weight and measurements.

Abila gave Zeina breastfeeding and baby care advice. Zeina said that the doctor at the hospital had prescribed baby formula milk and encouraged her to use it instead of breastfeeding. She proudly told Abila 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," Abila added in agreement with her.

Zeina asked Abila's advice about suitable family planning methods and about food to help maintain a good breastmilk supply. At the end of the visit, Zeina expressed her gratitude to Abila for helping her and her children.



Checking the health of Palestinian babies in Lebanon

FIXING GAZA'S SHATTERED BONES

Demonstrators at the "Great March of Return" in Gaza are demanding the right of return for Palestinian refugees displaced between 1947-9 and the lifting of Israel's 11-year unlawful closure.

The Israeli military's shocking use of force against protestors has caused scores of deaths and left thousands of Palestinians injured, many with horrific limb injuries.

Teams of surgical specialists visiting Gaza with MAP's support estimate that some 1,500 people will need up to two years of painful limb reconstruction treatment to recover.



Health workers trying to reach, treat and evacuate wounded demonstrators have also come under fire.

HALLA ALSAFADI



The number of patients in Gaza with devastating, disabling wounds requiring specialist limb reconstruction treatment and long-term rehabilitation continues to rise every week.

HALLA ALSAFADI

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HALLA ALSAFADI

MAP has also supported several limb reconstruction missions to Gaza. The teams of UK medics have helped assess and plan treatment pathways for patients with complex limb injuries.



HALLA ALSAFADI

MAP also delivered Tailor Spatial Frames to Gaza's hospitals, a second frame used in later treatment. They allow deformed or shortened bones to be remodelled and straightened.



HALLA ALSAFADI

External fixators give stability to wounded limbs and significantly reduce pain for patients.



HALLA ALSAFADI

This year, MAP delivered urgently needed limb reconstruction equipment to Gaza worth over \$1 million thanks to the response we received to our Gaza Emergency Appeal.

LIFE IN THE SHADOW OF THE SETTLEMENTS



MAP-funded mobile clinic regularly visits the Bedouin communities in the Jordan Valley

Demolitions are a day-to-day reality for many Bedouin communities living in 'Area C', where Israel maintains full civil and military control.

Previously individual homes and buildings such as schools were subject to demolition; now entire villages are threatened with the same fate, including Khan Al Ahmar, Abu Nawwar and Susiya. 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.

With permission to build routinely denied, there is no meaningful development of permanent health infrastructure. There is not a single permanent Palestinian health centre in Area C, whereas Israeli settlers have access to modern hospitals and clinics. This, along with poverty and restrictions to water and livelihoods, dangerously undermines health.

Amongst Bedouin children, anaemia and malnutrition are rising rapidly, with 20% of under five year olds now showing

84% OF BEDOUIN FAMILIES CANNOT AFFORD THE TRANSPORT COSTS TO ACCESS HEALTH AND EDUCATION

symptoms that could have long-term implications, including stunted growth.

The MAP-funded mobile clinic, run in partnership with the Islah Charitable Society, is a vital provider of primary health services, first aid training and maternal health to many Bedouin communities. For over 10 years, our clinic vehicle has driven across the Jordan Valley, making monthly visits to communities and delivering medication to patients situated hours from the nearest hospital or health clinic.

As we go to publication, one of the communities served by MAP's mobile clinic, Khan al Ahmar, is at imminent threat of demolition and forcible transfer. This summer Israeli bulldozers arrived to secure the road, ready for demolition. The mobile clinic treated Bedouin Palestinians injured defending their homes. Without this service, they would have faced lengthy and expensive journeys to hospital to access care. The mobile clinic is currently visiting the community twice a week to provide extra support.

Thanks to the generosity of MAP supporters, we raised £140,000 for a brand new mobile clinic. The van is being renovated to include the amenities of an entire GP clinic and will be ready and on the road in early 2019.



The Israeli settlements look down from the hill onto the Bedouin communities



Razzan Quran, a trained counsellor and MAP's

Advocacy and Communications Officer in the West Bank, outlines psychological suffering in a Bedouin community under threat.

On the outskirts of East Jerusalem in the occupied Palestinian territory, lies the Khan al Ahmar Bedouin community.

The community of Khan al Ahmar – Abu al Helou, is one of 18 communities located in or next to an area slated by Israel for the E1 settlement plan, which aims to create a continuous area between the Ma'ale Adumim settlement and East Jerusalem.

Abu Khamis, a representative of the Khan al Ahmar – Abu al Helou community, explained:

"Listen, I once had 40 sheep and 20 camels, today I only have 10 sheep and no more camels [he sold them to pay court costs]. I am unable to support my family in the way I was taught and was passed down generationally. With the few livestock I have left, my kids are afraid to herd, because we are constantly under settler violence. They have guns. We want to live an economically independent life. Unfortunately, the sides aren't equal."

When speaking with mothers from the community and reflecting on the benefits of the MAP supported mobile clinic, which I have accompanied on its visits to the community, a mother told me: *"The mobile clinic is essential to our steadfastness given the daunting*

KHAN AL AHMAR – ABU AL HELOU COMMUNITY: A MENTAL HEALTH PERSPECTIVE

restrictions imposed by Israeli forces. You know, when my child has a fever I can pull out the paracetamol provided by the clinic or use methods shared by the social health worker, rather than figure out transportation to the nearest hospital, some 15 km away.

"But tell me this, is there medication I can give my child for his constant night terrors? Is there something that can be prescribed for my daughter who won't leave my side for fear that she will be shot at by an Israeli settler?"

Questions like these are key to understanding the community's mental health situation.

The everyday practices of Israel towards the Bedouin has impacted not only their socioeconomic well-being and physical health, but their mental health too. Particularly at risk are children, who represent half of the community.

The children are inheriting a life forged by their families in the Naqab, from where they were displaced by the new Israeli state's military forces in the 1950s. The land they made home for themselves and their livestock in the West Bank has been increasingly encroached upon by Israel's occupation and illegal settlements, often with violence and threats.

Such violence, threats and fears are a palpable day to day reality and cause distress. The impact of prolonged exposure to trauma, fear of being killed, obstacles to self-determination, the erasure of Bedouin cultural practices, and restriction of movement

has begun to impact the quality of life and health experienced by the community.

Sustainable and proactive interventions are needed to ensure the safety and dignified living of an occupied population. Unless addressed, there will be a generation of youth that has been exposed to physical violence and childhood trauma. It has been noted that exposure to trauma in childhood has direct links to long term chronic illnesses. Research suggests that higher socioeconomic status can be a potential protective factor for those with a history of trauma. Unfortunately, both access to improved socioeconomic conditions, and an end to exposure to trauma have been curtailed for the Bedouins of Khan al Ahmar.

As any visitor to the community can see children are being marked with high rates of malnutrition, night-terrors, bed-wetting, aggressive behaviours, hyperactivity and attentional deficits. These children are bearing the brunt of widespread and grave injustices, mostly committed with impunity.

It is vital to speak up against the infringements of human rights that take place on a daily basis in the Khan al Ahmar community. This community needs support to remain where they are and where they want to stay, on Palestinian land, thriving once again as Bedouins living their traditional lives with dignity and in good physical and mental health.

"But tell me this, is there medication I can give my child for his constant night terrors? Is there something that can be prescribed for my daughter who won't leave my side for fear that she will be shot at by an Israeli settler?"

This year, the critical services provided by the mobile health service have been jeopardised by the US administration's cuts to UNRWA, the UN agency responsible for humanitarian support to Palestinian refugees, which was contributing medicines to the clinic. This has led to a shortfall of £18,550 for medicines needed by the clinic. This winter, with your support, we are urgently raising these funds so we can continue to support Palestinian Bedouin communities to hold on to their health and their way of life in the face of increasing restrictions.



The MAP-funded Mobile Clinic makes monthly visits to Bedouin communities



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TAKE ACTION: THE UK MUST ADDRESS ATTACKS ON PALESTINIAN HEALTH WORKERS

Relative of the deceased seen carrying a picture of 22-year-old first responder Abdallah al-Qutati during the funeral.

Since 30 March 2018, Gaza has seen widespread civil society-organised demonstrations, named the "Great March of Return". Two thirds of Gaza's two million-strong population are refugees and protesters are demanding their right to return to the lands from which their families were expelled or fled in and around 1948, as well as their wider rights relating to Israel's unlawful 11-year closure of Gaza.

The Israeli military's repeated use of shocking and often lethal force against protesters has resulted in scores of deaths, and many thousands of injuries.

Health workers trying to reach, treat and evacuate wounded demonstrators have also come under fire. Scores have been shot with live ammunition, directly hit with teargas canisters or have suffered teargas inhalation. Dozens of ambulances have also been damaged. By September, three health-workers had been killed and 428 injured by Israeli forces while carrying out vital and often life-saving work.

MAP is imploring the UK authorities to do more to ensure protection and support for Palestinian health workers.

THE TRAGIC STORIES OF THE THREE PARAMEDICS KILLED IN GAZA DEMONSTRATE WHY SUCH ACTION IS SO URGENT

MUSA

On 14 May, 34-year-old field paramedic Musa Abu-Hassanin was fatally shot while trying to evacuate wounded demonstrators east of Gaza City. Witnesses said Musa was about 200 meters from the perimeter fence at the time.



RAZAN

On 1 June, 21-year-old medical volunteer Razan al-Najjar was fatally shot while trying to reach injured demonstrators close to Israel's perimeter fence in Khuza'a in the south of Gaza. Witnesses said Razan approached the fence wearing a white medic's vest with both of her arms raised to show Israeli forces about 100 meters away that she posed no threat.



ABDALLAH

On 10 August, 22-year-old first responder Abdallah al-Qutati was fatally shot while providing care to a 55-year-old man who had been shot by Israeli forces east of Rafah, south Gaza. One of many short films produced by MAP in Gaza in 2018 shows the family, colleagues and friends of Abdallah al-Qutati describing the circumstances of his killing and the need for protection and accountability.



To join our call visit
map.org.uk/gazaaction

These deaths only tell part of the story. Over the past decade, health workers and facilities have repeatedly been attacked or impeded by Israeli forces. In total, 39 health workers were killed and 106 injured during Israel's 2008/9, 2012 and 2014 military offensives on Gaza. 147 primary health clinics and 80 ambulances were also damaged or destroyed.

Attacks on healthcare have impacts far beyond the initial pain and damage. Impunity fuels further killings and injuries and such attacks also reduce the capacity of the health system to care adequately for the population, particularly during emergencies, undermining Palestinians' right to health in the long-term. Failing to ensure accountability increases the likelihood of recurrence and further erodes the international norms which ensure the protection of health professionals and infrastructure in conflicts around the world.

A DANGEROUS DOUBLE STANDARD

In 2016, the UK Government championed UN Security Council Resolution 2286, condemning attacks on health services in conflict, demanding that states comply with international humanitarian and human rights law which prohibits such violations, and urging states to take proactive steps to hold perpetrators to account.

Yet, in the context of Israel's use of force against protesters and health workers in Gaza, the UK has failed to put its principles into practice. In May 2018, the UK abstained on a resolution establishing an independent Commission of Inquiry to investigate violations of international law in Gaza at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.

The Government has instead called on Israel to investigate its own violations by carrying out an "independent and transparent investigation" which they insist should include "international members". This is despite warnings from the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights of Israel's "failure to consistently prosecute violations committed by members of security forces" and the "deficit in accountability for alleged extrajudicial killings and other violations [which] undermines confidence in Israeli justice".

By the admission of Foreign Office Minister Alistair Burt MP, the UK has "yet to have a full response" to their suggestion to Israel that their internal investigation should have an independent element. Israel is clearly unwilling to adequately and promptly investigate the killing and injuring of Palestinian health workers, and it is time for the UK to revise their position.

Sign our petition calling on the UK Government to protect Palestinian health workers: map.org.uk/gazaaction

MPs WITNESS OCCUPATION FIRST-HAND IN THE WEST BANK

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 Palestinians, including tabling questions and promoting debate.

In September, MAP and Caabu were in the West Bank with Richard Burden MP, Catherine West MP and Brendan O'Hara MP.

PICTURE 1 Visited a women's Committee at Abu Nuwwar, a Bedouin community living in the shadow of a settlement. Their primary school was demolished in July.

PICTURE 2 Heard that their children fear bulldozers coming to destroy their homes. They are one of 46 communities at risk of forcible transfer.

PICTURE 3 When asked their expectation of the future? If Khan al Ahmar goes, they will be next. Their hope? Simply to stay on their land.

PICTURE 4 Followed the MAP-supported mobile clinic to the Trefaat Bedouin community. They, and communities like them in Area C, are denied the right to build permanent structures including clinics by Israel.

PICTURE 5 A visit to Sakkout in the northern West Bank with the Palestinian Farmers Union and Oxfam. Told about confiscation of water, appropriation of land, vast denials of Palestinians' economic rights.

PICTURE 6 A meeting with civil society from Gaza in Ramallah. Could only speak to human rights organisations via Skype as MPs cannot enter Gaza. Told humanitarian situation worse than ever.

PICTURE 7 A visit to Al Makassed, a Palestinian hospital in East Jerusalem. Heard about challenges the hospital faces under occupation: permits for patients and staff, raids by Israeli forces, and the US cut of \$25 million funding for hospitals in East Jerusalem.

PICTURE 8 Met a two-month-old baby from Gaza, at the hospital for a bowel operation unavailable back home. He was there with his grandmother because his mum was denied a permit to leave with him. In the paediatric ward, there were many sick children separated from parents by refusal of permits.



THANK YOU!



MAP is extremely grateful to everyone who has made a contribution to our work this year. Our response and the support we provide to Palestinians living under occupation and as refugees is only made possible thanks to the kindness and generosity of people like you.

Contact the MAP fundraising team on 020 7226 4114.

E-mail us at fundraising@map.org.uk

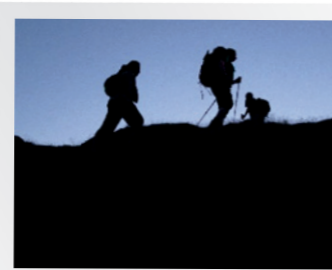
Visit our website at www.map.org.uk/get-involved to learn more.

32,612
YOUTH & CHILDREN
BENEFITTED FROM
PSYCHOSOCIAL
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SERVICES AND
OUTREACH

A TRILOGY OF CHALLENGES

Tariq Razzaq and MC Events organised three amazing challenge events for MAP this year: London to Paris Bike Ride, Skydive for Palestine and the O2 Challenge. All three events raised over £75,000.

Thank you to all our supporters who took part and to Tariq Razzaq and MC Events for organising.



MOONWALKING IN FAIRFIELD

Supporter Paul Speight said: "Our third occasion of doing the Fairfield Horseshoe at night resulted in a magical experience. We owe a huge thank you to the many generous donors. Together we have once more been able to support the truly amazing work of MAP". Fairfield Horseshoe Moonwalk raised over £1,200. The walk will take place again 15 June 2019 so get in touch with the fundraising team if you want to take part.

ZAHRA'S SCOTTISH DIARIES

MAP's Community Fundraiser, Zahra Yassine, travelled to Scotland this September to meet our wonderful supporters there.

My journey started in Edinburgh where I greeted the 26 fantastic cyclists who took part in Pedal for Scotland. Our cyclists managed to raise well over £7,000.



The second leg of my journey took me to Glasgow to attend 'An Evening with Medical Aid for Palestinians at Sloans'. Around 70 of our supporters attended and got to learn more about our work and find out how they can help support us. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the evening such a success.



MAP LIKES YOUR POST

Since April, we have had thousands of our generous supporters set up Facebook fundraisers and Facebook birthday fundraisers for MAP.

A HUGE thank you to everyone who has set up Facebook fundraisers for us, and Happy Birthday!

If your birthday is coming up and you are on Facebook, why not set up a fundraiser and support the work of MAP while celebrating your special day.



Instagram @
[medicaidpal](https://www.instagram.com/medicaidpal)



COME DINE FOR PALESTINE

This year we launched our community supper club, Come Dine for Palestine, which gives you the opportunity to try out Palestinian recipes for your friends and family and fundraise for MAP by charging an attendance fee. Supporters who register to host 'Come Dine for Palestine' will receive recipes by chefs Joudie Kalla and Nisrin Abuorf.

You can register your interest today:
map.org.uk/come-dine-for-palestine



TREK PALESTINE 2019

In March 2019, 30 trekkers will take part in the first ever MAP Trek Palestine. Their 6-day adventure will take them across ancient footpaths in the West Bank where they will get to witness the occupation for themselves and meet with the local people. Best of luck to all our trekkers and keep up the good fundraising!

PALESTINE CHALLENGE

We will be holding another two sponsored challenge events in Palestine in 2019. You can register your interest via our website.



TAKE ON A UK CHALLENGE WITH MAP

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

HAMPTON COURT PALACE HALF 17 March 2019

LONDON LANDMARKS HALF 24 March 2019

MANCHESTER HALF/MARATHON 7 April 2019

RUN HACKNEY HALF 19 May 2019

EDINBURGH HALF/ FULL MARATHON
26 May 2019

BRITISH 10K 14 July 2019

LONDON TRIATHLON August 2019

GLASGOW TO EDINBURGH BIKE RIDE
September 2019

CYCLE PALESTINE 15-23 September 2019

SECOND TREK PALESTINE 23-30 October 2019

ROYAL PARKS HALF MARATHON
October 2019

WHATEVER YOU CHOOSE TO DO,
OUR FUNDRAISING TEAM CAN HELP
YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.



MAP NEWS

DEVELOPING PHYSIOTHERAPY CARE FOR GAZA'S YOUNGEST GENERATION

This summer Sioned Davies, Senior Paediatric Physiotherapist at the Countess of Chester Hospital, and Colin Hamilton, Senior Paediatric Physiotherapist at Cambridge University Hospitals, joined MAP in Gaza to provide training to 32 local physios working with children and new-born babies.

READ MORE:

map.org.uk/physiotherapy



FIRST COHORT OF PALESTINIAN ONCOLOGY AND PALLIATIVE CARE NURSES GRADUATE IN BETHLEHEM

University Faculty of Nursing and Health Sciences Oncology and Palliative Care Nursing Higher Diploma – the first course of its kind in the occupied Palestinian territory.

To support MAP's work improving cancer care in Palestine, go to: map.org.uk/donate



WATCH: MAP SUPPORTED SURGEONS TREAT GAZA'S WOUNDED

Our film shows how UK medics on a MAP limb reconstruction mission to Gaza supported local health workers in the treatment of protesters injured by Israeli forces.

WATCH:

map.org.uk/limbreconstruction

MAP'S DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMES IN GAZA AT LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE 2018

MAP's Director of Programmes in Gaza, Fikr Shalltoot, was at the Labour Party Conference in Liverpool speaking to Parliamentarians, delegates and the public about the humanitarian emergency in Gaza, and barriers to the right to health of Palestinians living under occupation and as refugees.

READ MORE:

map.org.uk/labourconference2018



MAP FILM: GAZA HEALTH WORKERS RISKING LIFE AND LIMB

Health workers describe being injured by direct hits from tear gas canisters whilst carrying out their crucial, life-saving work at the "Great March of Return" demonstrations.

WATCH:

map.org.uk/riskinglifeandlimb

NEW REPORT: HEALTH IN EXILE

MAP released a new 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 under-resourced and jumbled system of healthcare is struggling to deliver adequate services.



"If new funds are not received immediately, we will be facing a potentially catastrophic breakdown in essential service delivery"

Jamie McGoldrick
UN Humanitarian Coordinator for oPt

READ MORE: map.org.uk/nakba70

SOCIAL MEDIA



Brendan O'Hara
[@BrendanOHaraSNP](https://twitter.com/BrendanOHaraSNP)



Fikr Shalltoot, spoke at the Labour Party Conference in Liverpool, highlighting the devastating impact of Gaza's humanitarian emergency on the health and welfare of its youngest residents. www.map.org.uk/news/archive/post/913-mps-visit-the-occupied-west-bank-with-map-and-caabu-amid-growing-crisis



Brian Roy
[@BrianFrancisRoy](https://twitter.com/BrianFrancisRoy)



Very moving first-hand accounts of #Gaza and the #GreatReturnMarch from @MedicalAidPal tonight at an event in Glasgow. What incredible work they do in such difficult circumstances www.map.org.uk give them a follow.



Colin Hamilton
[@Colinthephysio](https://twitter.com/Colinthephysio)



Had the most amazing day of my working life. I have had the privilege of meeting and promoting #CPD and #EBP with some amazing physios working in a very challenging environment in the Gaza Strip. All children should be able to access high quality physio. @MedicalAidPal @CambGHP

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

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MEDICAL AID FOR PALESTINIANS