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

GAZA UNDER FIRE

WITNESS

AUGUST 2014
SITUATION OVERVIEW AND MAP’S RESPONSE

1. Al Shifa hospital:
   - MAP supplies delivered.

2. Al Karama hospital:
   - MAP supplies delivered.

3. Al Nasser hospital:
   - MAP supplies delivered.

4. Al Wafa:
   - The Al Wafa rehabilitative hospital in Shuja’iyyeh is severely damaged after being attacked twice by Israeli forces. This hospital is the only one in Gaza that specializes in providing care for people with severe and complex impairments.

5. Al Awda hospital:
   - MAP supplies delivered to the blood bank.

6. Central Drug Store:
   - Receiving and distributing MAP supplies to Gaza’s hospitals.

7. Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS):
   - MAP is working with PRCS to distribute mattresses, blankets and hygiene kits in Gaza.

8. Al Aqsa hospital:
   - On 21st July, reported shelling killed 5 patients and 2 doctors and injured at least 70 people at the hospital.

9. Beit Hanoun hospital:
   - The hospital had a direct hit. By the end of July, 6 hospitals and 10 primary health care clinics have been damaged in attacks.

10. Israeli military attack on disability centre:
    - A missile attack on Mebarek Palestine for the Disabled Centre on 12th July killed 2 women. The centre, for people with complex disabilities has been destroyed. Another 3 women with disabilities and a staff member were injured.

11. Hospital director’s house destroyed:
    - Al Shifa’s director’s house is destroyed by Israeli forces. The director said, “I got my family out with seconds to spare.”

12. Attack on children going to shop:
    - On 8th July, a drone fires a missile at 3 children on a street in Jabalia. One of the children is killed on the spot; the other 2 are injured. The boys were on their way to buy ingredients for a hummus dish for Iftar.

13. Nine killed watching World Cup:
    - On 9th July, a military attack on a beachside coffee shop killed 9 people watching a World Cup football match. Another 3 people are injured including one child.

14. UNRWA Shelter:
    - On 24th July, UNRWA, Beit Hanoun Elementary School, serving as a shelter for displaced families, was hit by explosive projectiles, causing 15 fatalities and 200 injuries. The attack followed three previous incidents over 4 days of UNRWA shelters being hit by explosives.

15. Playing children killed by Israeli:
    - 4 children are killed while playing on the beach next to Gaza City port on 16th July. Another 2 are injured.

16. Children killed while feeding chickens:
    - On 17th July, 3 children, who were feeding the family chicken on the roof of their home, were killed. 2 children were injured.

17. Brutal Ground Invasion in Shejaiya:
    - The north eastern town of Shejaiya has been the site of relentless attacks by Israeli forces and a ground invasion that killed dozens of people. Medical personnel were apparently targeted and prevented from accessing the injured.

18. Attack on Shelter:
    - An UNRWA school operating as an emergency shelter for approximately 1,000 forced out of their homes, was attacked by Israeli.

19. Al Jazeera attacked:
    - On 22nd July, Al Jazeera staff report attacks on their office by Israeli forces. Operations transferred.

20. Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) office move:
    - A PRCS operation’s office was hit by Israeli forces on 9th July, injuring 3 medics and the director.
Thousands have been killed and injured in the full-scale Israeli military offensive on Gaza which began on 7th July. Many are children and most are civilians. Over 215,000 people have been displaced from their homes. The attacks on Gaza’s homes, schools, emergency shelters and hospitals mean that no one and nowhere is safe. As Witness went to press at the end of July, international efforts to prolong a 12-hour ceasefire had failed and the already critical situation was becoming even more desperate.

follows:

**ORIGINS OF THE ATTACKS**

After President Sisi seized power in Egypt, there was a breakdown in relations between Hamas and the Egyptian Government and most of the tunnels from Egypt into Gaza, which had acted as a lifeline for the blockaded population, were closed. This put further pressure on Hamas to reach an accord with Fatah. On 23rd April, the two parties signed a landmark reconciliation agreement. In June, President Abbas formed a government of ‘technocrats’ without representatives of either party. The US, EU and UN announced they would work with the Unity Government – but this prompted angry condemnation by the Israeli government who objected to the reconciliation deal.

Not long after this, three Israeli teenagers disappeared in the West Bank and were found murdered after 10 days. The Israeli Government and most of the world, the political split between Hamas and the West Bank, the lack of training, maintenance and investment, had all taken a heavy toll. MAP staff on the ground reported that 28% of essential medicines were at zero stock and another 16% were at less than 12 weeks supply. Shortages of disposable medical equipment were reported at 54% of needed items, including basic items such as sutures and materials for bone injuries.

With the thousands of casualties from Israel’s bombardment of Gaza, hospitals were placed under impossible strain. The Ministry of Health (MOH) put out a call for help, particularly for essential medicines and disposables. For the first five days of the conflict, MAP was the only UK charity to respond to the urgent needs on the ground. We immediately activated our coordinated and carefully planned emergency response to provide desperately needed support and supplies. MAP has continued to be a key responder to the crisis. At the time of writing MAP had delivered more medical aid to Gaza’s hospitals than any international aid agency.

MAP’s response included supplying urgently needed equipment, such as breathing tubes, surgical gauze and needles to the Gaza’s hospitals. Within hours of an urgent request from Al-Shifa, the largest hospital in Gaza, MAP supplied anaesthetics and antibiotics, as well as surgical disposables. MAP also responded swiftly to a call from Al-Awda hospital in the north of Gaza for emergency supplies, providing essential drugs and disposables including syringes, sterile gloves and saline.

Since the start of the emergency situation, MAP has released over 200,000 items of essential medicine and disposables medical equipment across Gaza. MAP continues to react to the emerging crisis by releasing additional funds for the procurement and delivery of medicines and supplies.

**HEALTH SYSTEM UNDER IMPOSSIBLE STRAIN**

The health system in Gaza was in a dire state after eight years of blockade even before the escalation of hostilities. The isolation of Gaza from the rest of the world, the political split between Gaza and the West Bank, the lack of training, maintenance and investment, had all taken a heavy toll. MAP staff on the ground reported that 28% of essential medicines were at zero stock and another 16% were at less than 12 weeks supply. Shortages of disposable medical equipment were reported at 54% of needed items, including basic items such as sutures and materials for bone injuries.

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**STATISTICS**

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<th>MEMBERS</th>
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**1 child was killed in Gaza every hour during 2 days of heavy fighting in July**

**BLOOD BANK CAMPAIGNS**

The increasing number of casualties has led to a severe shortage of blood and blood products in the hospitals and health clinics. MAP is facilitating much needed blood transfusions and resupply of blood stocks to stabilise and treat the injured population. MAP has supported the blood bank of Al Shifa and Al Awda hospitals to collect blood donations. Brave members of the public in Gaza are queueing up to donate blood to help with the hospitals’ emergency response.

**PROVIDING SHELTER TO DISPLACED FAMILIES**

The Israeli air, land and sea bombardments have displaced hundreds of thousands people from their homes, the majority of whom are hosted at UNRWA shelters and are in need of emergency food assistance, water, mattresses and blankets.

Water supplies have also been severely affected as a result of damage to water facilities and the inability to carry out repairs due to attacks on staff. Damaged water and sewage pipes pose a high risk to public health. With the destruction of infrastructure escalating from Israel’s ground invasion, the threats to public health are getting worse by the day. MAP has released hygiene kits including sanitary and cleaning products which had been prepositioned in four warehouses across the Gaza Strip, half of whom are children, it is vitally important that doctors and nurses at hospitals across Gaza receive the supplies they so urgently need.

**STATISTICS**

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<th>GAZA</th>
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**1.2million people in Gaza have either no or limited access to water or sanitation**

**We have only been able to respond so quickly to the needs in Gaza because you support us.**

**Thank you.**
PHOTOSTORY

GAZA UNDER FIRE

Here are brief accounts from our team in Gaza during the military offensive.

“It’s 2:30 am and I doubt anyone in Gaza is sleeping. They are completely exhausted but they are not being allowed to sleep. Heavy bombardments are taking place everywhere, airstrikes have been intensified and there is tank and naval firing attacking the east and west of the Gaza Strip.

It’s unfair that the international community is closing its eyes to all these crimes against civilians. I can’t understand how killing and terrifying civilians is seen as an act of defence. Strange world.”

Fikr Shaltoot

“I’ve just come back from Al Shifa hospital, I saw some horrible things. People cut to pieces and injured kids. There are a lot of civilians, who have been attacked while they were in their home. I saw some people receiving news of their dead son or daughter. People are crying over the death of their loved ones. It’s so sad, so heart breaking.”

Mohamed Askari

“It’s just another day. We woke up to the sound of drones and artillery bombs. The new thing today is that a school opened its doors for people who were displaced from eastern Khan Younis. We went to the school to distribute 150 hygiene kits and 160 mattresses. A girl said to me that “today is my fourth birthday but I don’t want to celebrate it because there are a lot of dead people and destroyed houses.”

Hilham Al Saqqa

A child whose family has been displaced by the bombing in Khan Younis with one of MAP’s hygiene kits

Hundreds of children are amongst the injured

“A child whose family has been displaced by the bombing in Khan Younis with one of MAP’s hygiene kits

Hilham Al Saqqa

This afternoon, while contacting the CDS (Gaza Central Drug Store), my two-year-old son went out to the balcony. Within a moment I realised that he was outside and I called him to come back. I ran towards the balcony, and at that very moment there was a huge explosion very close. I could hear the sound of smashed glass everywhere.

I grabbed my son who was very terrified. My heart stopped for a moment and I was shivering for the next 15 minutes. There are only seconds between safety and danger here.”

Huda Anan

Airstrikes over Gaza light up the night sky

MAP aid worker Mohamed met MAP supporter, Jon Snow, at Al Shifa hospital

Homes have been destroyed across Gaza

The MAP supported Gaza blood bank with volunteers donating their blood for the injured
SITUATIONAL UPDATE

The attacks on Gaza have provoked outrage around the world. Nowhere has this been felt more acutely than in the West Bank, so geographically close to Gaza yet unable to act to bring comfort to their Palestinian brothers and sisters living under the bombs only a few miles away.

During July, protests against Israel’s actions in Gaza were continuous and widespread in the West Bank. Demonstrations which were originally directed towards the large-scale search and arrest operations which took place following the kidnapping and killing of three Israeli youths, moved on to focus on Israel’s strikes in Gaza.

Access to al Aqsa Mosque to Muslim worshipers was also increasingly restricted during the holy month of Ramadan. The UN indicated that the number of worshippers who had gained access to the mosque for Friday prayers during Ramadan had been significantly lower than the previous year. This only served to fuel protests which were already increasing in size and hostility as attacks continued in Gaza.

With the numbers of those killed and injured in Gaza rising steadily and no sign of an enduring ceasefire, protests came to a head on Thursday 24th and on Friday 25th July as a Day of Rage was declared in the West Bank. On Thursday night, 20,000 Palestinians marched from Ramallah to Qalandia checkpoint in solidarity with Gaza. Friday night saw similar scenes as thousands took to the streets in Hebron, Bethlehem, Jenin, Nablus and other cities. Protesters burned tyres in the streets and hurled stones and molotov cocktails in scenes reminiscent of the second intifada some ten years ago.

Israel’s crackdown on protests in the West Bank was swift and often violent. During protests in July, hundreds of people were injured including large numbers of children. In one 24 hour period, nine were killed by Israeli forces. One teenager was killed on his 17th birthday as well as another 18-year-old on the same day. The overwhelming majority of injuries were caused by live ammunition and rubber-coated metal bullets, while tear gas inhalation and physical assault accounted for the remainder. On Thursday 24th July alone, 120 people were treated for gunshot wounds.

GAZA CRISIS: MAP’S RESPONSE FROM THE WEST BANK

We couldn’t have responded as we have to the Gaza crisis without the hard work of the team in our Ramallah office. As the Gaza Strip continues to experience daily attacks from the land, air and sea, the Palestinian Ministry of Health and international aid agencies in the West Bank have stepped up efforts to transfer desperately needed medicines and disposables to hospitals and clinics. Trucks carrying urgent medical supplies have been making trips to the Gaza Strip during this latest outbreak of violence. The Kerem Shalom crossing has been kept open for the transfer of urgent humanitarian supplies. However, some vital aid deliveries have been delayed either at the crossing or within Gaza due to the continued bombardment.

By the end of July 18 hospitals and health centres had been damaged in Gaza.

Statistics

The Gaza power plant was shelled 3 times by 25th July.

NEWS

GAZA CRISIS: RESPONSE FROM THE WEST BANK

A Palestinian flag flies over Balata refugee camp in the West Bank

The Gaza crisis has provoked a grim sense of déjà vu. Lebanon is home to 1.3 million Syrian refugees who have fled fighting in their own country. This is placing untold strain on the country whose population was only 4.4 million before the crisis. Palestinian refugees living in Syria have been seriously impacted by the violence and 63% have been displaced. Over 50,000 are now seeking refuge in Lebanon, the majority in the existing Palestinian refugee camps. This has exacerbated existing overcrowding and the appalling living conditions.

Our team in Lebanon have been working hard to respond to the crisis this influx has caused. The majority of Palestinian refugees from Syria arrive in Lebanon with very few possessions and are often carrying the heavy emotional burden of all that they have witnessed in Syria. Many children arriving have been seriously impacted by the conflict. MAP has caused. The majority of Palestinian refugees living in Syria have been seriously impacted by the violence and 63% have been displaced. Over 50,000 are now seeking refuge in Lebanon, the majority in the existing Palestinian refugee camps. This has exacerbated existing overcrowding and the appalling living conditions.

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Since the air strikes started on Gaza we have been overwhelmed by the response from MAP supporters. From personal appeals to friends and family, to bake sales, to fundraising dinners, to mountain climbs, to concerts and netball tournaments, all of the fundraising activity has been incredible.

And we have had a global response with supporters in Ireland, Germany, USA, Pakistan, UAE, Canada, Brunei as well as the UK.

We have had so many wonderful supporters that we simply don’t have room to thank everyone on these pages. Because our supporters were so quick to start raising money for us, we were able to respond quickly to help people in Gaza. MAP was the only UK charity to respond in the first five days of the crisis. In the first two weeks of the crisis over 200 people had set up online sponsorship pages to fundraise money for MAP.

But there is still more work to be done, and we need your help. With your fundraising efforts we can support the people of Gaza as long as they need us.

Whether you are the next Mo Farah or more of a couch potato, there is always a way you can fundraise. You can do a 5km run (or even walk) or you can take on a cycle ride covering hundreds of miles. You can host a fundraising coffee morning or a quiz night or organise a bring and buy sale.

If you want to do something active, you can find races, swims and cycle rides near you to take part in. For those living in or near London, there are lots of events – including the London to Windsor bike ride. If you are on the South Coast, there is the Bournemouth marathon, or if a marathon is a bit too much there are 5km and 10km races. In Scotland there is the Edinburgh marathon, Scottish half marathon and the shorter Kilomarathon running race in Edinburgh. The list of possible events is endless.

On the opposite page is a list of sporting challenge events in which MAP has places for runners and cyclists. But you can fundraise for MAP in any event which you take part.

We are currently looking for runners and riders to take part in these events. If you are interested please email us: info@map.org.uk or go to our website www.map.org.uk
MAP NEWS

MAP responded within hours of the escalation by releasing prepositioned emergency medical supplies to the hospitals. There is more detail on how MAP helped lead the response inside.

THANK YOU
The response from MAP supporters in July to the conflict in Gaza was incredible. In the first 3 weeks we raised £1 million in donations. Because of your rapid response MAP was able to get more medical supplies delivered during this time than any other organisation. You provided a vital lifeline to the people of Gaza when the most needed it. Thank you.

MAP AT THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
In May, MAP went to the 67th World Health Assembly, in Geneva and participated in a panel discussion about the health crisis facing 5 million Palestinian refugees in Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. The event was organised by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), with the help of the World Health Organisation (WHO), and was chaired by Richard Horton, editor-in-chief of the Lancet.

CAMPAIGNING FOR PEACE
Right from the start of the conflict in Gaza, MAP has been working for the people of Gaza including for an end to the blockade. We have been campaigning for a ceasefire and a longer term solution. We have joined a briefing in Parliament and have met with the Foreign Office. We have also collected signatures from the public and notable figures for an open letter to David Cameron. The letter has been signed by Lord Patten, Primal Scream, Roger Waters, Julia Sawalha, Michael Mansfield QC, Mark Thomas, Lord Steel, Caryl Churchill, Ricky Tomlinson, Brian Eno, Glenda Jackson MP, Ken Loach and John McCarthy, just to mention a few. You can add your name at www.map.org.uk

NEW STATESMAN ROUNDTABLE
In April, the nine-month deadline of US-sponsored peace talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority passed, without progress being made. Whether this diplomatic failing indicates the end of a viable two-state solution to the conflict was the subject of a New Statesman roundtable discussion, in partnership with MAP. Participants included Jack Straw, Richard Burden, Ghada Karmi, Ian Poppe and Tony Laurance. It took place shortly after the deadline had passed. The New Statesman published a supplement summarising the discussion in June, which can be downloaded from our website: www.map-uk.org

NEW MAP STAFF
James Denselow was recently appointed as our new Director of Advocacy and Communications. James rejoins MAP from Crisis Action where he was Media and Campaigns Co-ordinator for the past two years. He previously worked as MAP's Media Officer. James has worked extensively across the Middle East, including for Chatham House, the United Nations and King's College London. He has written for the Guardian, the Huffington Post and the New Statesman and has appeared regularly on all forms of international media discussing events in the region.

MAP GIVES EVIDENCE
MAP was invited to give oral evidence to the International Development Committee Inquiry into the UK’s development work in the Middle East, with particular reference to the delivery of essential health services in occupied Palestine. MAP's key message was that UK aid should be accompanied by more effective action to address the economic and political barriers to development. Visit our website to view the evidence
MAP gave: www.map-uk.org

DIARY DATES

MAP AT THE LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE NEW STATESMAN
Date: TBC September 2014
Venue: Jury's Inn Manchester, 56 Great Bridgewater Street, Manchester
Panel discussion: ‘Failed Diplomacy: Is it time to reframe the debate on Israel-Palestine?’

MAP AT THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE NEW STATESMAN
Date: TBC September 2014
Venue: Jury’s Inn Birmingham, 245 Broad Street, Birmingham
Panel discussion: ‘Failed Diplomacy: Is it time to reframe the debate on Israel-Palestine?’

RIPON CATHEDRAL
Come and sing Handel’s Messiah with orchestra. Saturday 18th October 2014
Singers pay £14, arrive 12.30pm for rehearsal. Concert begins at 7pm, tickets £12.
To book your place and help promote this event please contact Sue Cooke by email: sue@j-cooke.net. You can donate today at www.justgiving.com/sue-cooke3

M A P’S GA L A D I N N E R
Palestinian-American comedian, Maysoon Zayid joined us for an exclusive and rare UK performance together with the contemporary band Karama at our Gala Dinner. The event, which was hosted by our President, Baroness Morris of Bolton, brought together MAP friends from the past and present to celebrate a vibrant Palestinian culture that has survived decades of oppression and to raise funds for MAP’s projects serving Palestinians living under occupation and as refugees.

Donate online at www.map.org.uk or call today on 020 7226 4114