

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

**MAP**  
MEDICAL AID FOR PALESTINIANS

# WITNESS

# 50 YEARS OF OCCUPATION



## DEAR READER

This will be my last editorial for MAP. I will be retiring at the end of the year after four years at the helm.

MAP has achieved a huge amount over the past four years, thanks to your support and the efforts of the whole, brilliant MAP team. Our generous supporters have enabled us to expand our programmes in Palestine and Lebanon, delivering almost twice as many projects now than we were three years ago. We have established many new partnerships too, enabling us to provide specialised health expertise to Palestine: specialists in limb reconstruction, trauma care, family medicine, physiotherapy and so on. And we have built up our campaigning to speak out for the rights of Palestinians – to health, dignity, freedom and justice. You can read about some of our recent achievements in this issue of Witness.

I wish I could report that we have made as much progress towards our campaign objectives as on other fronts. In reality, there is barely a glimmer of light down that particular tunnel – and we are struggling against further deterioration to the conditions on the ground. Some 600,000 Israeli settlers now live in more than 200 Israeli settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, while checkpoints, military patrols and raids, and wanton demolition of Palestinian homes and structures provide ever-present reminders of the daily realities of life under military occupation.

The blockade and closure of Gaza are tighter than ever. Chronic fuel and electricity shortages, dreadful water pollution, conflict-devastated infrastructure, massive unemployment and aid dependency – these are the daily realities. There is little hope and no escape for the two million people living there. Half of them are under 18. It is intolerable and untenable for such a situation to continue.

In Lebanon, hope for Palestinians living as refugees seems more distant than ever. The Syrian crisis has swelled the numbers of refugees in the country and taken attention away from the Palestinians living in already overcrowded camps. The conditions for Palestinians there are as bad as anywhere, and most of the families have been there since 1948, 68 years. Palestinians have been refugees far longer than any other group.

Next year marks a series of anniversaries that remind us of the continued plight of the Palestinian people. In June, it will be fifty years since the 1967 war, the start of Israel's military occupation of Palestinian lands. The same month also marks a decade of Israel's blockade of Gaza. Later in the year, it will be the 100-year anniversary of the signing of the Balfour Declaration, an apt reminder if ever there was one of Britain's role in creating the conflict and of our responsibility for helping to resolve it.

When I first started working in Palestine in 2008 as head of the WHO office in Jerusalem, I had high hopes that a solution to the conflict was just around the corner. I am wiser and sadder now. The conflict is deep and complex, and none of us should imagine that a solution will be easy. But there will be a solution, providing peace, freedom and security for both peoples, whether next year or in decades to come.

We all have to keep pressing for that. In the year ahead, with your help, MAP will be doing all we can to mark these anniversaries and draw attention to the need to find a just resolution. With a series of events and campaigns and with your support, we hope we can build the momentum for change and bring hope as well as medical aid to the Palestinian people.

**TONY LAURANCE CBE**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Medical Aid for Palestinians

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## 2017

### A Year of Troubling Anniversaries for Palestine

As the New Year approaches, the Palestinian community will be marking three troubling anniversaries: 10 years of the blockade of Gaza, 50 years of military occupation and 100 years since the signing of the Balfour Declaration.

These events have shaped the landscape in Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon. Palestinians continue to be displaced, to lose land, and suffer increasing restrictions on their basic rights to health and movement. A recent UN report predicted Gaza will be 'uninhabitable' by 2020.

Throughout 2017, MAP will be marking these milestones with a series of campaigns and events highlighting the impact of prolonged military occupation on Palestinian health.



## GAZA

### Number of Medical Permit Approvals Fall

According to the latest figures from the World Health Organisation (WHO), the approval rate for patients' permits in the first half of this year was 11.7% lower than over the same period in 2015.

In July, three out of every 10 medical patients seeking to leave Gaza for treatment had their permits to travel out via the Erez crossing denied or delayed by the Israeli authorities. The WHO also noted that humanitarian health workers faced restrictions on their entrance to or exit from Gaza in July, with only three of 17 requests submitted by the WHO approved.

## LEBANON

### Increasing Tensions in Palestinian Camps

Recent violence in two Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon – Ein el Helweh and Beddawi – resulted in armed clashes and the death of a 32-year-old taxi driver.

Both incidents led to protests and road closures as residents denounced the ongoing assassinations in the southern camp and strict army measures in the north.

Tensions and inter-factional violence continue in Lebanon's camps, despite the agreement between Lebanese security forces and Palestinian factions to maintain stability.



## GAZA

### Ongoing Water Shortage and Contamination in Gaza

Gaza's water supply infrastructure is still suffering as a result of repeated assaults and almost a decade of blockade. The high concentration of chemical impurities means that the water is undrinkable and the population has to rely on bottled water and supplies from tankers. The UN estimates that contamination and over-extraction from Gaza's only aquifer could make it unusable by the end of this year.

40% of the equipment needed for operating water and waste-water facilities has not been able to get into Gaza through the blockade. MAP has joined with other aid agencies working in the region to call for reconstruction of the water supply infrastructure to be accelerated and for Gaza to be opened.

# PALESTINE'S BEDOUIN COMMUNITIES AT THE SHARP END OF 50 YEARS OF OCCUPATION



The mobile clinic visits a Bedouin community in the Jordan Valley

On 5 June 1967, Israel's military occupation of Palestine began with the Six Day War. Palestinians refer to this date as the 'Naksa' or 'setback'. As the 50-year anniversary of this day arrives in 2017, settlements, checkpoints and barriers carve up the West Bank, violent clashes and raids by Israeli security forces are a daily reality, and the separation of the West Bank from Gaza continues to deepen. The past half-century under the control of Israel's military has brought ever-worsening dispossession and trauma for the Palestinian people.

The Bedouin communities which reside in the 60% of the West Bank which is under Israeli military and civil administrative control, known as 'Area C', are at the sharp end of the world's longest ongoing occupation.

Nearly all of these communities are refugees originating from the Jahalin tribe in the Negev desert, who were expelled

from their lands following the creation of the state of Israel in 1948. They leased land from Palestinian landowners to settle down in the West Bank. The basis of their livelihood has largely remained the same since then. They are either herders that roam the area to graze the livestock or farmers that need land to domesticate animals.

Since 1967, the policies of the Israeli government have seriously restricted Bedouin freedom in the West Bank and strangled livelihoods. Movement is constrained by settlements and outposts, closed military zones and checkpoints. The Bedouin face frequent harassment and violence from settlers. They are also routinely prevented from building permanent structures, including homes, schools and clinics. Those structures which have been built are liable to be demolished or confiscated by the Israeli military making entire families homeless.

As Israel's settlements – illegal under international law – continue to expand across the West Bank, it is these Bedouin communities who suffer most. Demolitions escalated dramatically in 2016, with more structures demolished



IN THE FIRST  
NINE MONTHS  
OF 2016, THE  
MOBILE CLINIC  
HAS MADE

**268**  
VISITS

TO **31**  
COMMUNITIES  
IN THE JORDAN  
VALLEY.

IT HAS  
PROVIDED

**6,933**  
CONSULTATIONS

**757**  
HYGIENE KITS

AND **268**  
HEALTH  
EDUCATION  
SESSIONS



EAPPI/J. Svanelind

A demolition in Jabal al Baba

and people displaced in the first four months than the whole of the previous year.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called settlements an 'affront' to both the Palestinian people and the international community, and in September said:

***"Let me be absolutely clear: settlements are illegal under international law. The occupation, stifling and oppressive, must end."***

Despite international shock and condemnation, however, the pattern of demolition and displacement has shown no sign of ending.



## PALESTINIAN RESILIENCE

Life in the Jordan Valley presents many health risks, including exposure to the elements, high rates of malnutrition, and bites and stings from snakes and scorpions. Without easily-accessible local health infrastructure such as clinics and hospitals, Bedouin in Area C face difficult journeys even for the most basic medical treatment.

With travel to clinics difficult, MAP brings care to these communities through two mobile clinics. One, a mobile eye clinic provided in partnership with the St John's Eye Hospital, visits 16 communities a month across the West Bank, including the Jordan Valley. It has served over 2,700 people since the project began in 2016, referring on those identified with serious eye conditions for specialist treatment.

The other, a mobile health clinic MAP runs in partnership with the Islah Charitable Society (ICS), regularly visits 31 Bedouin communities to provide primary healthcare services and health advice. In the first nine months of this year alone, it has provided over 6,900 medical consultations, including hundreds to pregnant women.

But without the ability to build permanent health infrastructure, how do these communities get care on those days the mobile clinic isn't visiting? Some health issues are urgent, and need immediate attention. Umm Raed, a woman from the community of Ara'rah, explains this problem during a recent MAP visit from the mobile clinic:

*"Most accidents that happen in our community are minor, but they could cause bigger problems because we do not have easy access to health care. Most common injuries happen to the children, like cuts to feet caused by pieces of glass, or insect bites."*

Ara'rah lies along the side of Road One, between Jerusalem and Jericho. Its remoteness adds a layer of risk even for common medical complaints, especially since a nearby settlement installed a fence which now cuts the community off from the highway. It can take an ambulance more than an hour to reach their homes.

Recognising the need to ensure people have access to some form of immediate medical care at all times, MAP and ICS ran first aid training courses for women from these communities. During the course a specialised trainer, Nawwal, guided them through the details of most common injuries and accidents. The main topics were treatments for burns, heat stroke, broken bones, respiratory blockages and insect bites.

*"It was nice to see a mix of young and old," says Nawwal. "The youngest participant was 14, the oldest almost 60. None of the students missed a single class."* During the hands-on training, all the participating women had to take an exam before they received their certificate and, most importantly, their own personal first aid kit.

Umm Raed describes some of what they learned: *"The most difficult topic we learned about was treating heart attacks,"* she says. *"It is scary to think about it. Anata is the closest hospital to us, but I guess Al Azariyye would be easier to reach if there are no closed checkpoints."*

Despite the challenges they face, Umm Raed says the course has not only given her potentially life-saving skills, but also built her self-reliance in case of emergency. *"The course was very helpful because a lot of it was new for me,"* she said. *"I feel more confident now having the kit to solve those problems on my own. I will be able to act myself."*



A mobile clinic nurse assessing a newborn in a Bedouin community



Women receiving first aid training from the mobile clinic staff

The resilience of these communities in the face of so many challenges is remarkable. Thanks to you, MAP is able to stand beside those living in the harshest of conditions in Palestine both through projects like the mobile clinic, and through our campaigning in the UK and abroad. As the fifty-year anniversary of the occupation arrives, and the threat of demolitions and displacement continues, your support is more vital than ever.

*"Most accidents that happen in our community are minor, but they could cause bigger problems because we do not have easy access to health care. Most common injuries happen to the children, like cuts to feet caused by pieces of glass, or insect bites."*

Umm Raed

## PROJECT UPDATE

According to the UN, more than 2,000 Palestinians in the Jordan Valley were affected by Israel's demolitions of homes and other Bedouin structures during the first nine months of 2016. Against this fragile context, the mobile clinic continues to be a lifeline. MAP has pledged a further two years of funding and support to the clinic, to ensure continued access to healthcare for communities in Area C.

# GAZA'S LIMB RECONSTRUCTION HEROES

**"It is as if we have to die for them to keep us alive."**

These were the words of one doctor speaking to MAP earlier this year, reflecting a feeling shared by many in Gaza that attention and support of international governments has declined since the end of Israel's 2014 attacks. For much of the world, the conflict has faded from memory as the focus of attention has shifted to Syria and other parts of the Middle East. But for Gaza's residents, the devastating impact of that summer's conflict, and nearly a decade of blockade, are still felt every day.

Those 51 days of sustained military assault left 11,000 people wounded in Gaza. Many of them continue to need medical care, including more than 1,000 people with severely damaged limbs, among them 300 children. A further one hundred people have received amputations. All struggle to receive adequate treatment from a health service which is stifled by the blockade.

The conflict continues to cause fresh casualties more than two years on, due to the ever-present threat posed by unexploded munitions lying among the rubble of destroyed homes and on agricultural land. In the first 18 months after the attacks ended, there were 16 deaths and 48 injuries as a result of these explosive remnants of war.

Restoring mobility and raising the quality of life for people with complex limb injuries, both recent and old, requires specialist skills. Living behind Israel's nearly decade-long blockade, medics and surgeons face restrictions on their ability to travel out to enhance their skills in the West Bank and abroad. This, along with Gaza's dire economic situation, severely undermines the ability of Gaza's health sector to provide the complex treatment needed by these patients.

Since the first weeks of the 2014 assault, MAP and its sister charity IDEALS have been in Gaza working hard to respond to the large number of patients with complex limb injuries. Initially, this involved monthly medical missions led by some of the UK's leading orthopaedic surgeons. The surgeons not only carried out operations and took with them vital equipment, but also provided on-the-job training to Palestinian medics at one of Gaza's largest hospitals, Al Shifa.

This team continues to visit Gaza regularly, but this year the project has entered an exciting new phase with the establishment of a permanent, Palestinian-run Limb Reconstruction Unit at Al Shifa. This Unit comprises a dedicated local team of surgeons, nurses, physiotherapists and technicians. They continue to be supported by



MAP-IDEALS surgeons working alongside their Palestinian counterparts



An orthopaedic clinic at Al Shifa Hospital

MAP and IDEALS with equipment and training, but are set to provide sustainable care to wounded patients in Gaza for years to come.

This inspirational team has been the main driving force behind the improvement in care for those with limb injuries, performing complex surgeries and supporting lengthy rehabilitation programmes. Thanks to their efforts, Palestinians with severe limb injuries will have a much better chance of recovery both in times of conflict and peace.

Many of the Gaza surgeons have young families and have to balance their duties at Al Shifa with private clinic work. MAP spoke to the Al Shifa Limb Reconstruction Team to learn more about their lives, the challenges of working in Gaza and what motivates them.

**"The suffering of Palestinians in Gaza as a result of the 2014 attacks has not faded. The only way to end this crisis is for the international community to ensure that all unexploded ordnance is safely removed, vital infrastructure rebuilt, and Gaza opened."**

MAP Gaza Director, Fikr Shalltoot



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## THE TEAM

### WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR WORK?



**Dr Mahmoud Mattar, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon and Head of Orthopaedic Department**

*"Each case I deal with is a challenge for me. It feels like doing an exam each time. Our work is even more challenging because of the blockade, the circumstances are not like anywhere else. We deal with chronic shortages of essential equipment and supplies."*

**Nisreen Naeem, Physiotherapist**

*"The most challenging thing is the shortage of machines and materials. We don't have the therapeutic beds and we don't have a separate room to do physiotherapy. The hospital is crowded, which affects our work because there is not enough space for the patients. But today, with the new unit established with the help of MAP, we are better off than before."*



**Ahmed Al Qanou, Physiotherapist**

*"Shortage of materials are a big challenge for me especially working in the orthopaedic department which needs a unit to make splints and casts for patients. Some patients have complications like foot drop, which causes the leg to shorten if we don't put a splint on it."*



### WHAT INSPIRES YOU TO CONTINUE YOUR WORK?

**Nasser Al Madhoun, Theatre Nurse**

*"The situation is hard for us because we don't get paid due to political issues. However, this doesn't prevent me from giving all patients their right to health, I feel responsible for them."*



### IS THERE A PATIENT YOU TREATED WHO LEFT AN IMPACT ON YOU?

**Dr Adnan Al Borsh, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon**

*"Children always affect me the most. When I treat them I feel like they could be my own children. When I see a child crying, it feels like it is my own child that cries. Our children don't have a normal childhood as I saw they do abroad, outside of Gaza."*



**Dr Essam Al Haddad, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon and Head of Spine Surgery**

*"I remember one man who had explosive injury and was in a very precarious condition when he entered the intensive care unit. The only solution was to amputate his leg, but his family initially refused. I knew that without an amputation, the infection would kill him."*



*"With the help from the IDEALS team that support us through MAP, we managed to convince them that this was indeed the best solution. We conducted the surgery and his health became much better, he was smiling again and he gained weight. He even got married and had children."*

### WHAT'S YOUR MOST POSITIVE MEMORY?

**Mohammed Aslan, Nurse**

*"There was an amputation case and we feared for the worst for this patient. I was surprised when I saw him in a wheelchair, after a while he even retained the ability to walk again."*



**Nisreen Naeem, Physiotherapist:**

*"The best thing that can happen to physiotherapists, is when a patient gets better and wishes you all the best in your work. Building this limb reconstruction team is one of the best things that happened to the hospital. The cooperation between doctors, nurses and physiotherapists is the only way forward to be successful."*



### DIAGNOSIS

In the UK, **over 70%** of women aged 53-70 screened for breast cancer, meaning most cancers are caught earlier.

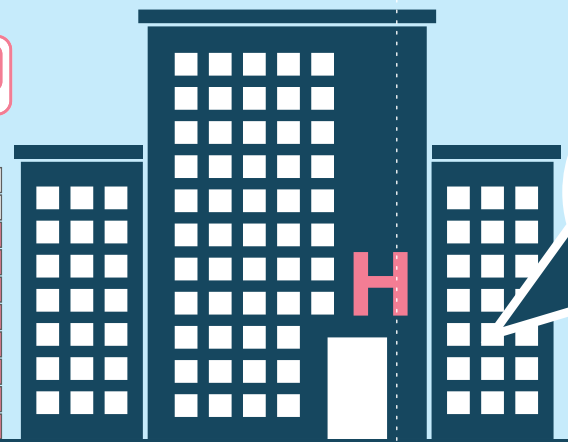
### CHEMOTHERAPY

Chemotherapy readily available for patients through the NHS.

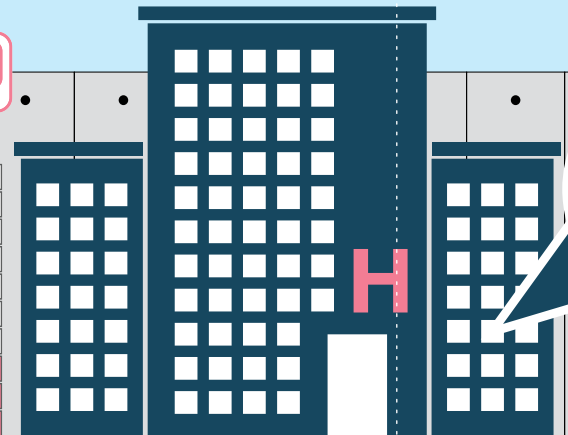
### SURGERY

World-class surgeons and surgical options, including reconstruction after is removed.

# UK



# GAZA



In Gaza, there are **only three mammograms** available for screening, and one is out of order. Limited services and cultural factors mean diagnosis is often late.

Chemotherapy medications often run out of stock, meaning treatments are interrupted and less effective. **17%** of cancer drugs were at 'zero stock' (less than one month's supply on shelves) in August 2016.

Many surgeons are leaving Gaza to update their skills. The rate of mastectomy and lymph node surgery is higher due to radiotherapy treatment.

Take action and support Palestinian women with breast cancer living under occupation and blockade: [www.map.org.uk/breastcancer](http://www.map.org.uk/breastcancer)

# CANCER IN GAZA

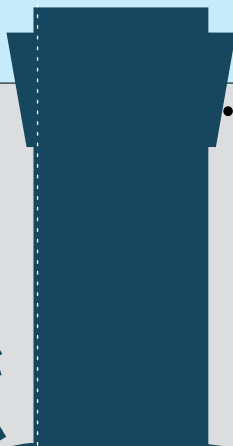
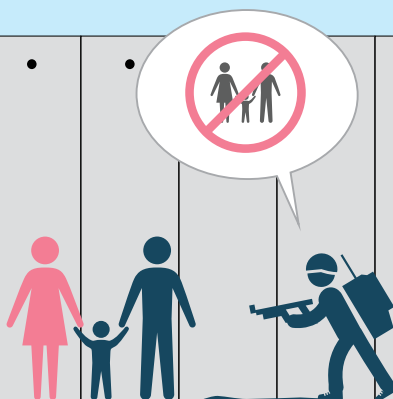
## THE JOURNEY TO RECOVERY FOR WOMEN LIVING UNDER OCCUPATION

### RADIOOTHERAPY

Radiotherapy available across the UK. Over **90%** of patients start treatment within 31 days of a decision to treat breast cancer.

### RECOVERY

**4 out of every 5** women live longer than five years after being diagnosed



prevented from  
ate and specialise  
of precautionary  
ph node clearance  
e to frequent  
ent delays.

Only available in East Jerusalem. Patients must apply to Israel for permission to exit Gaza, risking interrupted care. **30%** of patient permits were denied or delayed in first half of 2016. **42%** of permits for family members accompanying patients were denied or delayed in July 2016.

As few as **2 out of every 5** women may survive for five years after being diagnosed.



You may adapt the artwork, so long as you attribute us and share alike on a non-commercial basis.

Sources: Cancer Research UK, Palestinian Ministry of Health, WHO, Physicians for Human Rights - Israel

# DISABILITY IN LEBANON'S CAMPS: PROJECTS GIVING HOPE TO PALESTINIAN CHILDREN

**With their uneven streets and tight, twisting alleyways, Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps can be tricky enough for anyone to traverse. But for Palestinian refugees with disabilities, these walkways present one of an array of barriers to their inclusion in the day-to-day life of the communities of the camps.**

With scant resources available to adapt the camp environment to make it more accessible to people with disabilities, public and private spaces are all but closed to them. In 2013, UNRWA estimated that only 8% of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon with disabilities are receiving adequate treatment, and that 88% of those requiring assistive devices do not have them.

This means that people with disabilities are among the most vulnerable groups in Lebanon's Palestinian communities. Many struggle to access education, employment, or social opportunities. Getting adequate healthcare or social services is also a challenge, as Palestinians are excluded from Lebanese governmental services, and must instead rely on what UNRWA and a few local and international NGOs can provide.

Children with disabilities are more vulnerable still, lacking an equal chance to learn and play with their peers. In the area around Lebanon's southern city of Sour alone, there are an estimated 1,200 Palestinian children living with disabilities, half of whom are under 15 years old.

MAP has been helping children with disabilities in south Lebanon claim their rights for a number of years. At the Early Intervention Centre in El Bass camp, MAP supports specialised staff to provide rehabilitation services, occupational therapy and special education. The young children who come to the centre are coping with a range of disabilities and developmental disorders. Receiving care like this in their early years is essential to ensuring better inclusion in education and social activities as they grow. The centre also extends a helping hand to families and caregivers, who can access guidance, counselling, and peer-to-peer support group sessions.

The impact of this work on children and families is clear. Amal (pictured), seven, suffered a stroke soon after her family arrived in Lebanon after fleeing the war in Syria three years ago. This affected her mobility and delayed her development, causing her to become shy and withdrawn. Her mother blamed herself for her daughter's stroke, believing her depression had caused it. *"I think Amal was very affected by the war in Syria,"* her mother recently told MAP. *"She is still scared of loud noises and I feel this might be affecting her condition."*



Alleyways in the Palestinian refugee camp of Bourj al Barajneh

Through the occupational therapy and physiotherapy care provided at the centre and at home, Amal's condition has improved considerably. She has now joined a kindergarten, something her mother feels would have been impossible without this support. The staff also reassured Amal's mother that she wasn't responsible for the condition. *"We love coming here,"* says Amal's mother. *"The staff don't only care for the child but also for the parents too. We get psychological support. Whenever I feel sad, I come to the centre."*

Close by the Early Intervention Unit, MAP also supports the Sour Community Disability Project rehabilitation centre. Here, persons with disabilities can access centre- and home-based rehabilitation services. In recent months the centre has provided 102 persons with assistive devices to help their day-to-day life, and conducted home adaptations for eight families. The centre also works in the community to ensure that children with disabilities are included in educational and social activities, breaking down barriers of stigma and marginalisation.



ACCORDING  
TO THE UN,  
**1 IN 10**  
**PALESTINIAN**  
**HOUSEHOLDS**  
**IN LEBANON**  
**HAS AT LEAST**  
**ONE FAMILY**  
**MEMBER WITH**  
**A DISABILITY.**



**CHILDREN WITH**  
**DISABILITIES ARE**  
**PARTICULARLY**  
**VULNERABLE TO**  
**DISCRIMINATION,**  
**EXPLOITATION**  
**AND VIOLENCE.**



JAIPREET KAUR

## APPEAL UPDATE

### PALESTINIAN CHILDREN FROM SYRIA

Last spring, we appealed for donations to help support Palestinian children who had fled the war in Syria. We received a fantastic response, receiving nearly £78,000 to support our projects in Lebanon.

This will allow us to continue our psychosocial and relief programmes in Palestinian refugee camps, providing young people with the opportunity to heal and regain their childhood after the horrors of war. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported the appeal.

# HELP THEM HEAL APPEAL

*"We love coming here. The staff don't only care for the child but also for the parents too."*

*Amal's mother*

Here another Palestinian refugee who fled the war in Syria, Zuleikha, has brought her two sons, Aayan (2) and Hamad (4). Both boys have cerebral palsy, a disorder that causes their muscles to weaken. Both were born in Lebanon, and had to stay in the hospital's intensive care unit after birth, though when the family's money ran out, the elder boy had to return home, so his condition is worse.

Something as simple as sitting up unassisted is a struggle for Aayan and Hamad, though with the help of the centre, the younger boy is now able to do so. The physiotherapists

say that if they continue their course of physiotherapy both boys will eventually be able to work.

Zuleikha told MAP how pleased she is with the support they have received: *"Without the centre here, we wouldn't know what to do,"* she says.



Inside the Early Intervention Unit, El Bass camp, Lebanon

*"The staff always explain what they are doing, and why they are doing it."*

For the children at these centres, the impact of the care they receive goes beyond healthcare; it also provides hope for the future. Amal, the girl at the Early Intervention Unit, wants to be a teacher when she grows up. Now she is able to go to kindergarten, she is a step closer to that dream.

## PROJECT UPDATE

MAP has just pledged a one-year, US\$107,000 extension to the physiotherapy centre programme so that it can continue to offer these vital services to Palestinian children with disabilities.

# PICTURES FROM PALESTINE

## RICHARD GRAY

Richard Gray is a professional photographer who can most typically be found shooting some of the world's most famous musicians at gigs and festivals in London. But on a visit to occupied Palestine this year with MAP, he had the opportunity to tell an entirely different story, that of life under military occupation.

Here, Richard selects some of his favourite photos from his visits to MAP's projects in the West Bank and Gaza:

**"MAP asked me to take some photos of their projects in the West Bank and Gaza. Wearing a MAP jacket, and with a camera over my shoulder, heads turned immediately whenever we entered the door. But the jacket was important as it showed I was visiting with a partner whose name many in the projects recognised and trusted. I think it is testament to MAP's reputation that so many patients gave permission for me to take their photos."**

Richard Gray  
[www.rugfoot.com](http://www.rugfoot.com)



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Boys in Gaza playing football in a bomb-damaged sports hall



A Palestinian woman passes through a turnstile at the Qalandia checkpoint

Richard Gray



Richard Gray



Richard Gray

A newborn baby receives UV treatment at the neonatal unit in Al Shifa Hospital, Gaza



Richard Gray

An ambulance waits outside the Qalandia checkpoint which separates East Jerusalem from the West Bank



Richard Gray

A toddler is weighed to monitor his progress at a malnutrition clinic in Gaza

# CYCLE PALESTINE 2016

## RAISES £100,000 FOR MAP



Richard Gray

This September, a group of 24 cyclists once again braved the heat and hills of the West Bank for the 230km Cycle Palestine 2016 ride. The trip was a huge success, smashing fundraising targets for the second year in a row by raising over £100,000 for MAP's medical projects across the region.

The route took the group from the northernmost point in the West Bank to the lowest point on earth, the Dead Sea. Along the way, they passed the Separation Wall, enjoyed meals with local families and visited MAP's mobile health clinic in the Jordan Valley.



Richard Gray

Here's what some of the cyclists had to say about their journey:

*"There are a few things I have done in life which I put on top of my list. Cycle Palestine 2016 is one of them. It has been an amazing experience with amazing people organised with such care by an amazing charity who truly care about what they do. There are no highlights, the entire week has been a highlight."*  
**Gabriella Luethin-Zeitouni**

*"What an amazing group! So pleased to have had the privilege of cycling with you and sharing unforgettable experiences. Appreciating all our freedoms and hoping that our friends in Palestine will one day be free from occupation."*

**Celia Richardson**



Richard Gray

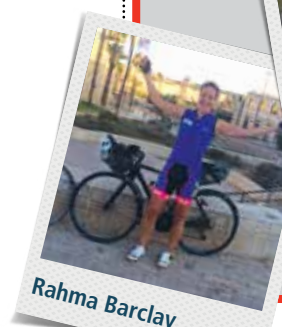


Richard Gray

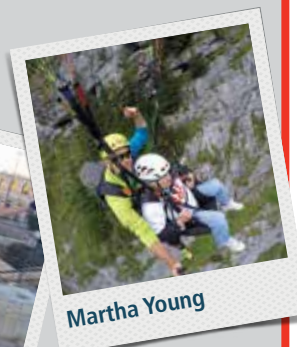
*"What a trip! I feel like I've been away for a year not a week. I felt peculiarly moved every day, from Jenin to the Via Dolorosa. I guess it was the plight of the Palestinians, the joy on the kids' faces when we rode into town, the tragedy of so much mistrust and strife in the land whose history, myth and culture has shaped so much of the world. But above all I think, it was being united in a common cause with such a great peloton of people. There was no in-crowd, no cliques. Just a spontaneous, highly addictive spirit amongst us. Thanks me hearties! And thanks to the MAP team and Siraj for making it so diverse and inspiring."*  
**Adrian Cross**

*"Deciding to go on the ride was one of the best decisions I have made."*

**Nuil Dillon-Hatcher**



Rahma Barclay



Martha Young

## OUR SUPPORTERS

*Thank you!*

We are extremely grateful to each and every one of our supporters, who organise fundraising events and take part in sponsored challenges all to raise funds and show their support for Palestinians living under occupation and as refugees. Here's just some of the ways people are helping make a difference:

- **David Robinson** who continues to support MAP by preparing, valuing and selling postage stamps. This year alone, David has raised £800, and over the years David has raised thousands of pounds for MAP.
- **Rahma Barclay**, who took on a self-organised, epic cycling adventure from London to Jerusalem to raise funds to support MAP's physiotherapy project in Gaza. Rahma's incredible journey covered 3,500 km, 13 countries and took over 6 weeks.
- **Team McCrossan-Evans** for taking part in a series of walking, cycling and swimming challenges throughout this summer.
- Great-grandmother **Martha Young**, who took on an adrenaline-filled paragliding challenge near Mount Pilatus in Switzerland to raise funds for MAP. As Martha says, 'You're never too old to help the Palestinians'.
- **David McNeish**, who has raised a whopping £2,818 by shaving his hair. It was his first hair cut in over 5 years!
- **John O'Connell** who has raised over £1,000 this year through fundraising activities, including a fundraising stall at the Tolpuddle Martyr Festival this summer.

# 2017 END THE OCCUPATION

10 years of Gaza blockade

50 years of occupation

100 years since the Balfour Declaration

MAP will be observing 2017's year of painful anniversaries for Palestinians with special events and activities aiming to draw attention to their ongoing plight, as well as helping to raise funds to continue our work. We hope you will join us in remembering the Palestinian people during this critical year and in our call to **End the Occupation**.



www.facebook.com  
/MedicalAidforPalestinians



@MedicalAidPal

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please check out our website, Facebook and Twitter for further information and updates.

| DATE             | EVENT  |
|------------------|--|
| 20 FEBRUARY      | 'Give It Up for Palestine' comedy night in London  |
| 23 APRIL         | Virgin Money London Marathon   |
| 15 MAY           | Nakba Day (1948)   |
| 27 MAY – 25 JUNE | Remember MAP during Ramadan  |
| 5 JUNE           | 50 year anniversary of the Occupation (1967)   |
| 14 JUNE          | 10 years of the blockade and closure of Gaza (2007)  |
| 17 SEPTEMBER     | Sabra and Shatila Massacre in Lebanon (1982) in response to which MAP was formed                             |
| 5 – 9 JULY       | London to Glasgow Cycle for Palestine event  |
| 2 NOVEMBER       | 100 years since the signing of the Balfour Declaration   |
| 29 NOVEMBER      | 70 years since the UN Partition Plan (1947), and International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People |
| NOVEMBER         | MAP Parliamentary reception in London  |
| 11 DECEMBER      | UN Resolution 194 is signed (1948), guaranteeing Palestinian refugees the right to return                    |



## 1967: War, Displacement, Occupation

Israel launched a pre-emptive war in 1967, seizing the Golan Heights from Syria, the Sinai from Egypt and occupying East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza. In the course of the war some 300,000 Palestinians were displaced, half of them for the second time.



*"The 1967 War made Israel into an occupier, which more than anything is why it still matters. Overnight it gained control of the lives of more than one million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza... the occupation has created a culture of violence that cheapens life and brutalises the people who enforce and impose the occupation and those who fight it."*

**Jeremy Bowen**

## REMEMBERING THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

The work of MAP is only made possible thanks to the generosity and kindness of people like you. Over half of the money we need to run as an organisation and create positive change for the Palestinian people comes from individual donations. This is why your support is so vital to everything we do.

Mr Sean Wood is one supporter who contacted us recently to make a special pledge to the Palestinian people by leaving a gift to MAP in his will. Waking up in hospital this summer after surgery, Mr Wood thought what it must be like to go through a similar situation as a patient in a hospital in Gaza; with basic resources like medicines, water and electricity in short supply behind a blockade.

Here at MAP we understand that making a will can be a very personal matter and that loved ones will always come first. But once they are taken care of, we ask you to consider leaving a gift to support the health and dignity of the Palestinian people and the work of MAP.

**If you are considering leaving a gift in your will and wish to speak with somebody about the process then please do not hesitate to call us on 020 7226 4114, email at [info@map.org.uk](mailto:info@map.org.uk). **THANK YOU.****

*My thoughts turned to the Palestinian people and the terrible conditions they have to live under. That's why I felt it important to do something, to leave a legacy that would make a positive difference for them well into the future."*

**Sean Wood**

# MAP NEWS

## ■ LONDON TO GLASGOW: CYCLE FOR PALESTINE

In July 2017, MAP will be holding a new UK-based cycling event. We are hoping the event will attract hundreds of supporters from across the UK and further afield. Keep an eye on the MAP website for further details as they are announced.

**Pre-register your place today,  
email fundraising@map.org.uk**



## ■ SUPPORTING PALESTINIAN WOMEN WITH BREAST CANCER

In October, MAP highlighted the obstacles to care faced by Palestinian women diagnosed with breast cancer living under occupation. In occupied Palestine, breast cancer mortality rates are high, due in part to restrictions on movements, the de-development of the health sector in Gaza and shortages of medicines.

Throughout the month, MAP called for an end to the restrictions these patients face on their journey to recovery. We were joined by breast cancer surgeon and MP Dr Philippa Whitford, who spoke to delegates at the Scottish National Party Conference about her recent trip to Gaza.

**Take action to support  
Palestinian women with  
breast cancer at:  
[www.map.org.uk/  
breastcancer](http://www.map.org.uk/breastcancer)**



## ■ MPS VISIT WEST BANK IN LEAD-UP TO 50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF OCCUPATION

In September, MAP once again partnered with Caabu to take a cross-party delegation of British MPs to the occupied West Bank. The delegation included Kit Malthouse MP (Con), Matthew Pennycook MP (Lab) and Alan Brown MP (SNP).

The group visited a number of vulnerable communities living under the constant threat of Israeli home demolitions, and took a tour of Hebron with 'Breaking the Silence', a group formed by former Israeli soldiers to raise awareness of the consequences of military occupation on Palestinian lives. The MPs also witnessed MAP's impact on communities, visiting our mobile health clinic serving Bedouin communities in the Jordan Valley.

## ■ FILM LAUNCH: SYRIA'S DOUBLE REFUGEES

One in five of Syria's 560,000 Palestinian refugees have now fled the war. The approximately 45,000 who have arrived in Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps are facing extreme hardship, with limited opportunities for work, education and healthcare. Despite their vulnerability, Palestinians from Syria are excluded from the UK's humanitarian resettlement schemes for refugees from Syria.

In our latest film, you can hear directly from some of these 'double refugees' now living Lebanon. They told us why so many Palestinians are willing to risk their lives crossing the Mediterranean in search of safety in Europe.

**Watch now and take action:  
[www.map.org.uk/syria](http://www.map.org.uk/syria)**



***Congratulations  
to MAP's Gaza  
Director, Fikr  
Shalltoot, who  
was awarded  
joint Second  
Place in this year's  
International  
Medical Peace  
Work Awards for  
her courageous  
work during and  
since the 2014  
attacks on Gaza!***



## ■ #MATCHTHEFINEFORPALESTINE: EPIC FUNDRAISING FOR MAP



In August, European football governing body UEFA threatened to fine Celtic FC after their fans displayed Palestinian flags at a match against an Israeli football team. In response, a supporter group set up a crowdfunding campaign to '#MatchTheFineForPalestine', with the proceeds going to support charities in Palestine.

They smashed their initial £15,000 target in just 48 hours, and by the end of September had raised over £170,000. Half of the money raised will be donated to MAP, helping fund medical care for those worst affected by conflict, occupation and displacement.

**#MatchTheFineForPalestine**



**Follow MAP  
on Twitter @  
MedicalAidPal**

**Donate online at**

**[www.map.org.uk](http://www.map.org.uk)**

**Or call today on**

**020 7226 4114**



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

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