

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

MAP
MEDICAL AID FOR PALESTINIANS

WITNESS

SUPPORTING PALESTINIAN HEALTH IN THE FACE OF NEW INJUSTICES

GAZA

Providing hospitals with urgently needed medicines and supplies

LEBANON

Caring for mothers and babies in the Palestinian refugee camps

WEST BANK

Creating a brighter future for the children of East Jerusalem

CAMPAIGNS

Supporting Palestinians' right to travel freely for medical care

SPRING 2020



DEAR READER

This year serves as a stark reminder of how important MAP’s work continues to be. Since 2012, the UN has warned that Gaza would be unliveable by 2020. Under illegal blockade and closure, it has a collapsing economy, a de-developed health sector and scarce drinkable water. Palestinians in Gaza are cut off from the rest of the world, while many patients are denied exit permits for treatment and health workers are prevented from traveling outside for training.

At MAP, we believe Gaza is indeed unliveable. For every family without nutritious food, every patient denied access to adequate treatment, every young person denied the opportunity to work and shape their own destiny, there is a gaping lack of health and dignity. As one UN expert recently reflected:

“The prediction of unliveability has already arrived. The common measuring stick used by the UN or any other international organisation to be able to evaluate how people live is human dignity, and Gaza has been without human dignity for years now.”

Life for Palestinians in the West Bank and in Lebanon is similarly harsh. Poverty rates soar across Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and Bedouin communities in the Jordan Valley. House demolitions, settler attacks and movement restrictions undermine basic well-being throughout the West Bank and there is scant redress through justice systems. Against this backdrop, President Trump released his so-called ‘peace plan’ in January. MAP joined 15 organisations warning there is a major risk that it will lead to the formal annexation of Palestinian land, perpetual Israeli occupation, and the negation of Palestinians’ collective right to self-determination.

As one decade ends and a new one begins, we are re-focusing on our central mission. The needs have never been greater and MAP has an ambitious three-year strategy to expand our programmes and partnerships across five core areas: women and child health; mental health and psychosocial support; disability; emergency response; and advocacy.

In this edition of *Witness*, you can read about our vital work, including how we are providing Gaza’s hospitals with urgently needed medicines and supplies, supporting community midwives to care for Palestinian mothers and babies in Lebanon and helping to bring a brighter future for the children of East Jerusalem. You can also read how we are highlighting the root causes of the needs that our programmes seek to address, and advocating for political action to tackle them.

Even in these bleak times, we believe a hopeful future lies ahead. This hope is fueled by the unceasing support of people like you. With your help, we can reach yet more individuals and communities across Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon, and raise our voice louder still in the UK and internationally in support of the rights of Palestinians to live in health and dignity.

Aimee Shalan

AIMEE SHALAN
Chief Executive Officer
Medical Aid for Palestinians

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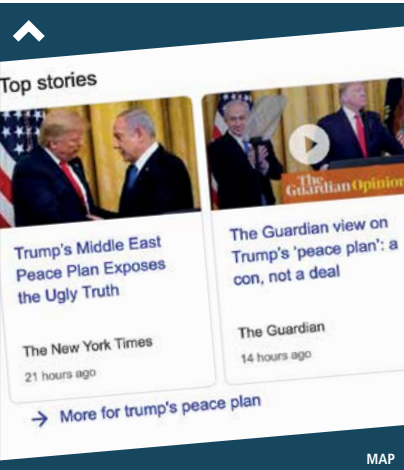


Front cover photograph:
A Palestinian boy rides a bike past graffiti of President Donald Trump on Israel’s separation wall in Bethlehem, West Bank.
Photo by Debbie Hill/UPI

NEWS UPDATE

President Trump releases so called ‘Peace Plan’

In January President Trump’s released his so-called ‘peace plan’. There is a major risk that it will lead to the formal annexation of Palestinian land, perpetual Israeli occupation, and the negation of Palestinians’ collective right to self-determination.



GAZA

34 Palestinians killed during dangerous escalation



In November, 34 Palestinians were killed, including eight children, and at least 111 injured during a violent military escalation. It began when an Israeli airstrike killed a senior commander of militant group Islamic Jihad and his wife on 12 November. Further Israeli airstrikes and rocket fire from Gaza were ongoing until a ceasefire was reached on 14 November.

MAP responded by helping emergency departments treat the critically injured through the provision of essential medical supplies.

LEBANON

Largest protests in 14 years



In October mass demonstrations began in Lebanon against the Government. Prime Minister Saad Hariri resigned on 26 October, and Hassan Diab was selected as the new Prime Minister. Protesters continue to demand a transformation of the political system.

WEST BANK

Coercive environment intensifies amid increased demolitions



The Israeli demolition of Palestinian homes and property reached an alarming high in 2019. By the end of November 2019, 815 Palestinians, half of them children, were displaced as a result of demolitions, almost double the figure in 2018.

PROVIDING GAZA'S HOSPITALS WITH URGENTLY NEEDED MEDICINES AND SUPPLIES



The MAP-team in Gaza work with local hospitals and partners to ensure the delivery of essential medical supplies

Due to the blockade and closure, hospitals in Gaza regularly do not have the medicines and medical supplies they need. Wafa Kanan, MAP's Programme Officer in Gaza, describes how MAP is helping to fill the gaps and provide the urgently needed supplies.

One of the most fundamental problems we face in Gaza is the unavailability of certain essential medicines and medical disposables, many of which are at 'zero stock', meaning that the Ministry of Health (MoH) has less than one month's supply – and in many cases, none at all.

The severe shortages put patients at high risk, especially new born babies in intensive care and those with cancer, autoimmune or kidney diseases.

In 2019, we regularly saw half of all essential medicines at zero stock, with shortages between 45% and 51%. Here in Gaza, we have a population of two million, and the majority depend on the MoH for much of their essential healthcare. With extremely high poverty and unemployment rates, most people can't afford private health care so have no alternative for accessing vital, life-saving care.



USD 809,000
ESSENTIAL MEDICINES
PROCURED
IN 2019

BENEFITTING
APPROXIMATELY
259,000
PATIENTS

We often hear from staff working at the Central Drug Store about how hard it is to decide which patient they should and shouldn't give a life-saving drug to when there is very little of it left.

But the problem is not just for medicines. We also have severe shortages of medical disposables, with zero stock levels in 2019 reaching between 22% and 28%. These are items essential for hospital care such as needles, bandages and cannulas.

In Gaza there are at least 1,000 patients with chronic kidney disease, and they are always at high risk. Without the essential disposables needed to provide kidney dialysis patients can die. Medicine shortages also affect patients undergoing kidney transplants. Patients have found donors, travelled out of Gaza for surgery, but when they return there are no medicines available to prevent their body from rejecting the new kidney, putting their lives at risk.

Medicine shortages are also very risky for cancer patients. Many chemotherapy medicines are always at zero stock and paying for them privately is not an option for most families in Gaza as they are very expensive. Patients need the right course of treatment, but often

the Ministry only has two out of four of the necessary medicines, increasing their risk of death or, at the very least, causing their health to deteriorate.

I recently met a pharmacist responsible for preparing chemotherapy medicines at Rantisi Children's Hospital. He said one of the most difficult parts of their work is telling patients and their families: "We don't have the treatment. We are so sorry, you have to wait." It is very hard for the family, they are already suffering and then, on top of this, they are concerned about the availability of chemotherapy, which is a basic right. The right to get medicine is an essential part of the right to health – a right many don't enjoy in Gaza.

The lives of new-born babies in intensive care – including many who are born prematurely – are also dangerously affected. They are already at high risk during this early period of life.

"There is no stability in the provision of medicines. The medicines we have are zero stocked. This means that we have just a few weeks' supply of some medicines, while others are depleted entirely. MAP has helped to provide medicines in times of emergency without problems or delays and we are all thankful for this support."

Saja Al Kirim, Central Drug Store Pharmacist

If medicines are not available on time, sometimes we are talking about hours, a new-born baby could die.

At MAP, we are giving patients a chance to live and get back to their everyday lives. We regularly deliver essential, life-saving medical supplies to the Central Drug Store, which then distributes them to the hospitals that urgently need them. These include neonatal medicines, cancer medications, medicines for treating kidney diseases and medicines for patients with autoimmune and degenerative diseases. We also supply medicines and equipment for burns units, intensive care units and operating theatres.

Our zero stock programme is a regular programme implemented each year, under our emergency budget. The amount we supply can be increased if there is a military offensive or escalation, such as in 2018, when we responded to the high number of casualties from the "Great March of Return".

We have pre-positioned essential medicines and items needed during emergencies that we can quickly release so hospitals can treat the critically injured. We have a good stock, with items such as pain killers, IV fluids, antibiotics and anaesthetic agents, and these are replenished regularly after deliveries are made to the Central Drug Store.

In 2018 MAP was the third largest provider of emergency medicines and supplies to the Ministry of Health in Gaza. The Ministry considers MAP to be one of the best emergency responders. We're there when any escalation or military offensive happens.

MAP tries as best as possible to provide the items desperately needed by hospitals, but we cannot solve this chronic problem. We will continue monitoring the severe shortage of medicines and disposables and do our best to save the lives of patients in Gaza.

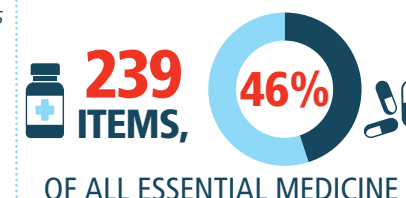
You can help support MAP's work to supply hospitals in Gaza with the medicines and supplies by making a donation today.
www.map.org.uk/gaza

"We don't have the treatment. We are so sorry, you have to wait."

Pharmacist at Rantisi Children's Hospital.

ZERO STOCK
GAZA DECEMBER 2019

MEDICINE SHORTAGES



SHORTAGES OF MEDICATION USED FOR:

MOTHER & CHILD HEALTH:	55%
PRIMARY HEALTH CARE:	66%
HEMATOLOGY & ONCOLOGY:	58%
IMMUNITY, EPIDEMIOLOGY & GENETIC DISEASES:	51%
MENTAL HEALTH & NEUROLOGY:	41%
KIDNEY & HEMODIALYSIS:	41%
RADIOLOGY & DIAGNOSTIC ITEMS:	33%
EMERGENCY, SURGERIES & ICU:	20%

MEDICAL DISPOSABLE SHORTAGES



SHORTAGES OF MEDICAL DISPOSABLES USED FOR:

OPEN HEART SURGERY & HEART CATHETERIZATION:	60%
ICU & OR & ER:	21%
STOMA SURGERY:	33%
ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY:	11%
KIDNEY & HEMODIALYSIS:	30%
OPHTHALMOLOGY:	39%



Instagram @
medicalaidpal

HOME VISITS: MAP'S COMMUNITY MIDWIVES CARING FOR MOTHERS AND BABIES IN LEBANON

For Palestinian women living as refugees in Lebanon, pregnancy, childbirth and caring for a new baby can be a particularly worrying ordeal.

The country's 12 Palestinian refugee camps and other gatherings – marginalised and separated from wider society in Lebanon – are beset by overcrowding, poverty, and a lack of adequate sanitation. More than 70 years on from the Nakba, when their displacement from historic Palestine began, each new generation of refugees is born into a perpetual humanitarian crisis.

Given the well-documented links between poverty and ill health, it is little surprise that rates of maternal and child mortality and illness remain worryingly high in this challenging context. Access to quality perinatal health services – care before, during and after birth – can therefore be essential to reassuring new mothers and ensuring the best possible start in life for their babies.

This is where our community midwives come in. For more than 10 years, MAP has provided the only home-visiting midwifery service in the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. The community midwives work in and around four camps; Beddawi, Nahr el Bared, Ein el Helweh and Mieh Mieh. Each year they reach at least 2,500 pregnant women and new mothers and their babies. This amounts to more than 60% of all such cases in the four camps.

"When we understand her needs and tailor the advice accordingly, the woman gives us all of her attention as the information is relevant and of interest to her. This way the benefit is maximised."

Amneh, MAP's community midwives

One of MAP's community midwives, Amneh, explained why being a member of this team is so important to her: "Since a young age, I knew that I wanted to be a midwife. At one point when I was growing up, my mother had a reproductive health problem and she suffered a lot. The problem was a very simple one that could have been prevented through a family planning counselling session with a midwife. Since then I decided to be a midwife in order to help women like my mother. I believe that a healthy mother means a healthy family."

For pregnant women, the limited contact time they get with overloaded doctors at UNRWA clinics means that they are often unable to get the level of support they need. Amneh says she and her team are helping bridge the gap in services: "MAP midwives visit pregnant women at their homes at a time that is suitable for them and give them the time that they need."



The MAP team is helping to keep Palestinian babies healthy in Lebanon.

"We do not just give the information and leave – we have a discussion with each woman focusing on her needs and what suits her situation best."

"When we understand her needs and tailor the advice accordingly, the woman gives us all of her attention as the information is relevant and of interest to her. This way the benefit is maximised."

After giving birth, mothers registered with the programme receive at least five visits until the child is six months old. Mothers and families identified to be particularly vulnerable or at-risk may receive visits for up to a year. "We visit the new mother a few days after her discharge from the hospital, and give her information related to newborn care, provide her with breastfeeding counselling and support, and describe danger signs to her," Amneh explains.



THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY HAS DESIGNATED
2020

THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE NURSE AND THE MIDWIFE

"Home visits during this period are very important as, in our community, there are many misconceptions and traditional practices related to newborn care that should be addressed. For example, many women believe that they should stop breastfeeding and instead give sugared water to newborns who have jaundice. We give them evidence-based information in a simplified way."

The midwives also conduct monitoring check-ups on babies, checking weight and development and looking for signs of problems that may need to be referred for additional specialist support. Psychological support is also an essential aspect of the team's work. "The first visit after childbirth is critical as we can identify and support women affected by 'baby blues'," explains Amneh. "They think that what they are going through is shameful and feel embarrassed to even speak about their feelings and thoughts. I see women open up to us when I explain to them about baby blues and that it is common among new mothers."

Working as a community midwife requires sensitivity and a listening ear. "With every woman, I need to use the approach that will be most effective," Amneh says. "I need to work with different people who have different backgrounds, personalities, ways of thinking and communicating. You should respect all people and their experiences, and work to correct their misconceptions in a smart and polite manner."

The work of the community midwives has helped to increase breast-feeding rates, and to significantly reduce anaemia among pregnant women and newborns, high-risk pregnancies, pre-term births, and the rates of caesarean section deliveries among Palestinian refugees. A 2017 assessment by the American University of Beirut found that the programme has complemented UNRWA's clinic-based maternal and child health services, reporting that MAP's programme has "significantly contributed towards a positive shift in its impact on maternal and neonatal health outcomes."

"When we help, women have healthy pregnancies," Amneh says, reflecting on the impact she has seen from her own work. "We are contributing to reducing complications and hence morbidity and mortality, as well as physical, psychological, and financial burdens on women and their families."

Though Amneh says the role of a community midwife is physically and mentally challenging, she finds it very rewarding: "Feeling that I have helped a mother or saved a baby's life is totally worth all the hard work."

By supporting MAP, you are helping us keep this essential service running, and giving Palestinian babies in Lebanon a better chance of a brighter future.

Thank you



When problems are identified, MAP's midwives can refer pregnant women, children and mothers for specialist care

PHOTOGRAPHING DISABILITY RIGHTS IN GAZA

In 2019, MAP embarked on an exciting photography project with Palestinians with disabilities in Gaza.

The project supported people with disabilities to tell their own stories through photography, raising awareness locally and internationally of disability rights and the barriers to them in Gaza.

Here are some of the photos the group took, and the messages they sought to convey to the world through their pictures. These were showcased at a photography exhibition held jointly in Gaza and London in December to celebrate International Day for People with Disabilities.



Women in my society face all types of violence, including sexual abuse. Imagine the situation of a woman with disability, we face twice the violence and abuse. Mageda Farjallah

"I was born unable to express myself in words, but thanks to this project I can express myself by taking photos. I am truly happy that I got the chance to learn basic photography skills in order to reflect my daily hardships and dreams through photos. I feel empowered. I can speak my mind, and I have the freedom to choose my photos and write my own captions. I finally feel heard. I hope that I can be a professional photographer one day."

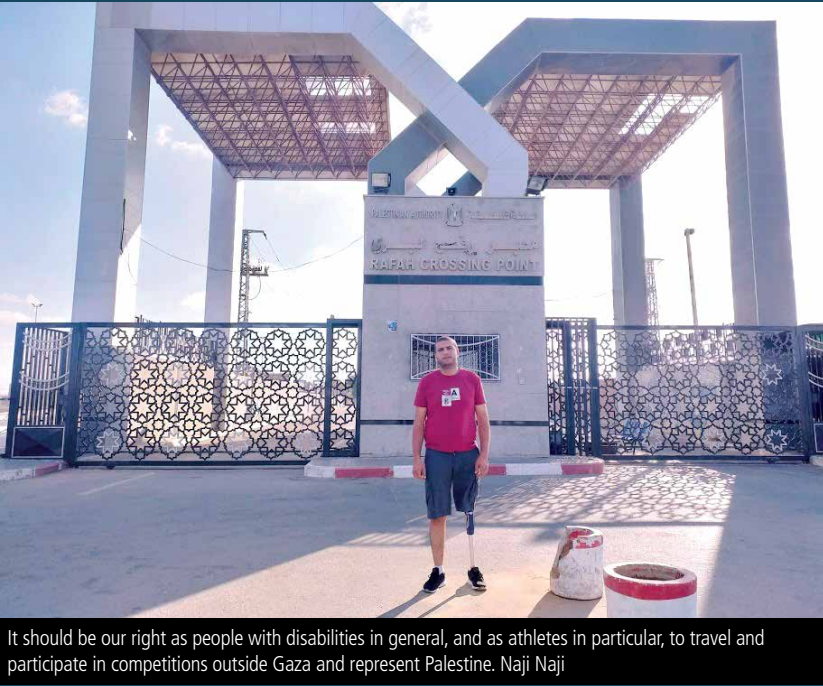
Ahmad Shareh



Even though the sea and sand are inaccessible for my wheelchair, it still manages to make me feel better, as a butterfly flying over the water but I am incapable of touching it. Abeer Qashlan



I wish to play like everyone else. Arhaf Abu Elros



It should be our right as people with disabilities in general, and as athletes in particular, to travel and participate in competitions outside Gaza and represent Palestine. Naji Naji



During the Israeli military offensive on Gaza, I lost my home and my white cane, my only guide to see. When will these offensives stop? Samar Farajallaj



To see more photos and hear from the participants, visit: [map.org.uk/disabilityrights](https://www.map.org.uk/disabilityrights)



Like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/MedicalAidforPalestinians](https://www.facebook.com/MedicalAidforPalestinians)

PROMOTING CONFIDENCE AND DIGNITY AMONGST EAST JERUSALEM'S PALESTINIAN YOUTH

Growing up in occupied East Jerusalem does not allow a chance at a 'normal' childhood. The constant presence of an occupying military force means that young Palestinians are exposed daily to the threat of violence and arrest, harassment, and even the seizure or destruction of their homes.

Last year, these daily challenges to the psychological wellbeing and basic rights and dignity of Palestinian youth in East Jerusalem only increased. More demolitions of Palestinian homes and other structures in East Jerusalem were recorded in 2019 than in any other year in the last 15 years. Violent clashes over the summer resulted in 138 Palestinians being injured and one killed by Israeli security forces between June and August in the community of Al 'Isawiya alone, amid what Israeli human rights organisation B'Tselem called "daily law enforcement and collective punishment raids." Terrifying armed raids on homes – usually in the middle of the night – often result in the arrest and interrogation of young people and children, in some case enduring physical and verbal threats and abuse.

More widely, restrictions on Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem imposed by the Israeli authorities erodes the Palestinian social and cultural fabric of the city, while the Separation Wall built around it fractures ties with residents of the rest of the West Bank. In the Old City of East Jerusalem too, home seizures and harassment by settlers create a tense environment for young people.



Children of East Jerusalem learn new skills at the Al Saraya Centre

Surrounded by these threats and tensions, it is essential that Palestinian youth have safe spaces where they can express themselves, grow their confidence, and release stress. Thorough our partnership with Al Saraya Centre, MAP is providing just that.

The Saraya Centre, nestled in the heart of the Old City, provides a range of activities for Palestinian children from East Jerusalem, from ages 6 to 17.



Getting creative at the Saraya Centre

IN 2019
ISRAEL
DEMOLISHED
169
HOUSING
UNITS
IN EAST
JERUSALEM,
THE HIGHEST
RECORDED
SINCE 2004

These activities aim to help young people develop life skills, safely discuss the daily challenges they face, and learn about Palestinian culture and heritage in a safe and welcoming environment. The Centre's Director, Hiyam Elayan, told us about their work.

"Here in the centre we work with between 50 and 80 children every day. We divide them into different age groups and run activities to support their creativity and to help them to develop essential life skills. We work in a fun way, which the children enjoy. They play, read and discuss stories, create music, dance – there is always something new for them to try."

"Importantly the centre is a safe place for the children. We support them to come together to meet and talk through their problems."

"It is hard for many of the children to truly understand themselves and their heritage because of the situation of occupation. For instance, talking about Palestinian history in schools in East Jerusalem is not allowed, and this greatly affects children's self-esteem, particularly teenagers."



Children having fun



Smiles at Saraya

"It is very important for children to develop a sense of who they are, both in terms of their self and national identity. We give children the opportunity to know more about themselves and to understand their Palestinian identity."



Learning about Palestinian culture and heritage



There is always fun during the group dance class

"Each year we run summer camps. We focus on giving the children new experiences. Last summer, the children visited different professions to help inspire their ambitions for the future. They went to a bakery, tried making mosaics and Palestinian sweets, practiced photography skills and attended writing courses. They also visited different Palestinian industries in the West Bank, to learn about other job opportunities after school, and to encourage them to be really proud of their Palestinian identity and to better understand the situation of Palestinians outside of East Jerusalem. We also ran dabke dancing workshops, drama activities, made handicrafts and went on a swimming trip. They had many experiences they don't get in schools, like taking part in a chemistry experiment they hadn't seen before. The children have a lot of fun during the month-long summer camps. We make sure every day there is something new for them to experience and try."

"Part of our work is also in schools to help tackle the extremely high dropout rates of students in East Jerusalem, which has reached more than 40% and sometimes is as high as 50%."

"One issue we help to address is that a lot of students don't know how to read and write. By working on education, we're helping to keep children in schools."

"I'm really proud of our centre's work. We see our older children making a lot of initiatives, both inside schools and in their community, to help support other children. It's great to see that after spending time here, the children become more aware of what they want to do to help others."

Through our partnership with the Saraya Centre, MAP is helping to support the psychological wellbeing and dignity of Palestinian children in East Jerusalem, encouraging them to develop a sense of confidence and pride as individuals, respect and support for each other, and a sense of belonging as members of the Palestinian community.

Please consider making a donation today to help MAP continue to support the mental health and psychological wellbeing of young Palestinian children living in East Jerusalem.

"I'm really proud of our centre's work. We see our older children making a lot of initiatives, both inside schools and in their community, to help support other children"

Hiyam Elayan



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JOINT PALESTINE-UK PHOTO EXHIBITION

PHOTOGRAPHING DISABILITY RIGHTS IN GAZA

In Gaza, more than 100 people visited the exhibition

On 3 December, MAP and our Gaza-based partners the Nuseirat Rehabilitation and Social Training Association (NRSTA) and the Social Developmental Forum (SDF), were delighted to celebrate International Day for People with Disabilities with a photography exhibition held jointly in both Gaza and London.

The exhibitions showcased the work of a group of people with disabilities in Gaza, supported by an exciting 'participatory photography' project run by MAP and our partners, telling their own stories through photographs. They shine a light on the multiple challenges they face in their daily lives, including high unemployment, the impact of Israeli military offensives, inaccessible spaces, the lack of assistive devices, discrimination and sexual violence towards people with disabilities, and limited access to sports and entertainment.



You can see the photographers' work on the photostory page (page 7-8)

To see more photos and hear from the participants, visit: map.org.uk/disabilityrights

In Gaza more than 100 people visited the exhibition and heard from participants about their photographs and the important issues they raise.

International and local media covered the exhibition and interviewed the photographers and the team involved, including BBC Arabic, Al Arabiya TV, and Palestinian news agency An-Najah NBC.

Samar, one of the photographers, explained some of the messages the group wants to share through their photographs:

"As people with disabilities we suffer from the Israeli occupation and the blockade, but we also suffer from Palestinian society that refuses to see us as citizens with full rights with the potential to be productive."

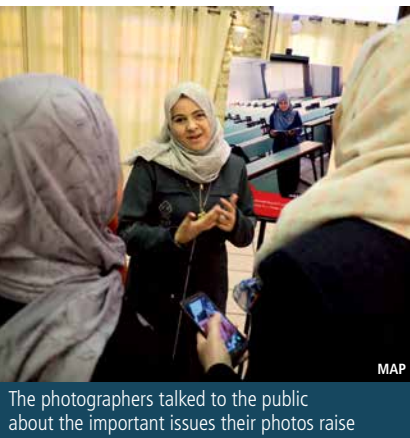
"Due to the Israeli occupation, we are unable to leave Gaza and we are unable to receive the needed medical treatment and assistive devices. Due to our harsh society, we are unable to be employed, or get married or have a chance to participate in recreational activities. We are sentenced to imprisonment in our houses. Society perceives us, women with disabilities, as disqualified from being wives, mothers or colleagues. It is true that we have disabilities. But with the right adaptations we can be as productive as anyone else in society."

"It is true that we have disabilities. But with the right adaptations we can be as productive as anyone else in society"

Samar Farajallaj, one of the photographers



People with disabilities in Gaza launch joint Gaza-London photography exhibition



The photographers talked to the public about the important issues their photos raise

"I want this photography project to be the start for people in and outside Gaza to see us and understand our struggles. With an inclusive society, we have a lot of potential to prosper and make a positive change in our society."

The exhibition in London at the P21 Gallery was also well-attended. Many people were clearly moved by the photographs and their captions, and from hearing from participants through short videos made with the help of the SDF. MAP staff from Palestine and the UK outlined the project and the important next steps for ensuring that the participants' voices are heard by people with influence in Palestine and the UK.

MAP team would like to congratulate and thank the photographers, our partners at NRSTA and the SDF for all their hard and brilliant work.

MAP is producing a resource pack for supporters so that they can hold their own exhibitions. If you are interested in hosting the photos in your local community or would like to learn more, please visit map.org.uk/disabilityrights

SPEAKING OUT AGAINST CHILD-PARENT SEPARATION

Another important area of MAP's work is highlighting the restrictions which harm patient care in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), including vital medical care for children.

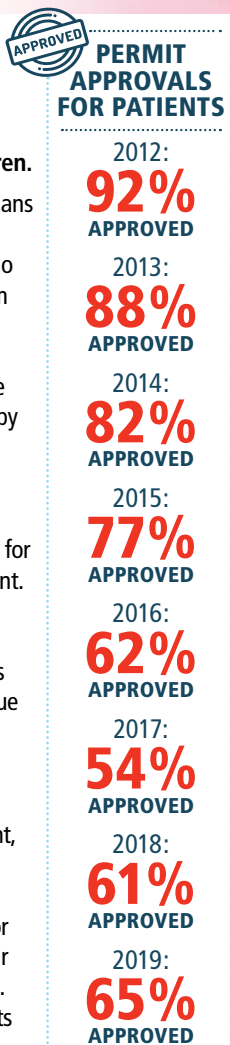
Israel controls the movement of Palestinians between the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza. Any Palestinian who does not have an Israeli-issued Jerusalem ID must apply for a permit to access hospitals in East Jerusalem where many specialties – including neonatal intensive care, open heart surgery and radiotherapy – are located.

According to the World Health Organization, in November 2019, 1,907 patients applied to the Israeli authorities for permits to exit Gaza for medical treatment. Two-fifths (41%) of patients, including 232 children, who applied to leave Gaza via the Erez Crossing were forced to miss their scheduled medical appointments due to excessive delays and denials by the Israeli authorities.

Even for patients who are permitted to travel outside Gaza for medical treatment, many have to make this journey alone, including young children. In November, over half (55%) of permit applications for companions were unsuccessful after their permits were denied or delayed by Israel. This is particularly problematic for parents accompanying very sick children and for companions of the elderly and those with disabilities.



A young baby travels alone for medical treatment



PARENTS SEPARATED FROM CHILDREN RECEIVING MEDICAL CARE OUTSIDE GAZA



"This premature baby's mother had to return to Gaza after giving birth to triplets. Sadly, two of the babies died in hospital – their parents were told over the phone" – Dr Rosena Allin-Khan MP

In 2019 MAP supported Dr Rosena Allin-Khan MP to visit the West Bank to learn about Palestinian health and healthcare under occupation.

Dr Rosena also visited the Children's Chemotherapy ward at Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem. On social media she shared the stories of the children she met from Gaza, including those undergoing cancer treatment without their parents by their side:

"I visited Palestine recently, there is a cruel and inhumane permit system which means children in hospital can't be accompanied by their parents. The first time this little girl had to undergo chemotherapy – her mum wasn't allowed to travel with her from Gaza. This isn't unique – this ward had a room setup with computer tablets so children could have an online phone call with parents."

This is the only way some children can speak to their parents. We would not find it acceptable for children in the UK to suffer and endure cancer treatment alone, so why do we accept it in Palestine?"

There are significant negative health impacts in separating new-born babies from their mothers, as well as all children and their caregivers. Not only is such separation physically and mentally damaging but entirely avoidable too.

This year MAP will be redoubling efforts to call on the UK and other governments to demand that Israel allows patients from Gaza and their companions to travel freely for medical care.

You can read more about barriers to Palestinians' access to healthcare in our report **Health Under Occupation**. To read, visit map.org.uk/huo.

THE MAP COMMUNITY

HOW SUPPORTERS ARE HELPING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



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

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

Contact us

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



IN 2019
MAP'S MOBILE
HEALTH
CLINIC MADE
536
VISITS
TO HOUSEHOLDS
IN BEDOUIN
COMMUNITIES

9,486
CONSULTATIONS

THANK YOU

NEWCASTLE DISTRICT METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN

A huge thank you to the Methodist Women in Britain, Newcastle District, who selected MAP as their charity of the year. The group organised various fundraising events, including MAP's *Come Dine for Palestine* culinary fundraiser and raised over £9,600! Thank you all for your outstanding support.

You can host your own *Come Dine for Palestine*. Learn more here: www.map.org.uk/comedine



MAP ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DAY

Scottish Medical Aid for Palestinians (SMAP) organised an annual fundraising day for MAP in October, selling Palestinian food, arts and crafts and guest speakers. The event was a huge success and they raised over £5,300. Thank you SMAP!

For more details on SMAP's 2020 Fundraising Day, or to hold your own event, contact our fundraising team fundraising@map.org.uk



PALESTINE EVENTS



In 2019, 77 supporters went to the West Bank with MAP as part of our challenge events; Cycle Palestine and Trek Palestine. Together they raised over £250,000! Huge thanks to all our amazing champions who took part.

You too can take on the challenge of a lifetime. Join us in 2020 for *Cycle Palestine* (www.map.org.uk/cp2020) and *Trek Palestine* (www.map.org.uk/trek2020).

Thank you

Also introducing this year our brand-new challenge event – *Cycle Jordan*. For more information visit www.map.org.uk/jordan2020



FOMAP UNIVERSITY SOCIETY



Huge thanks to Friends of Medical Aid for Palestinians (FOMAP) society at Glasgow University. The society continues to grow and to put on fundraising and awareness events. Last year they hosted *Come Dine for Palestine*, a karaoke night and published a Zine about MAP's work.

Contact fundraising@map.org.uk to find out how you can support MAP at your university or school.

LIFE CHANGING GIFTS FOR PALESTINE

Help change the lives of Palestinians in need by donating a gift card to your friends and loved ones. Select one of our projects and a donation amount, and we will send a gift card to the recipient of your choice.

Visit www.map.org.uk/giftcard and give a life changing gift for Palestine.



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

CHALLENGE EVENTS CALENDAR

TAKE ON A CHALLENGE FOR MAP IN 2020

Thank you to everyone who took part in challenge events in 2019 to help raise money to support our vital work in Lebanon and the occupied Palestinian territory.

Whether its taking part in a fun run or cycling across the West Bank, there are loads of ways to help make a difference.

Check out our 2020 Challenge Events Calendar, contact our fundraising team on fundraising@map.org.uk or visit www.map.org.uk/challenge for more information.



CHALLENGE EVENTS CALENDAR 2020

You can choose an event from the list below, or find your own challenge. We are here to help you raise vital funds to help Palestinians.

PALESTINE MARATHON 27 March 2020

CYCLE PALESTINE
29 March – 6 April 2020

HACKNEY HALF MARATHON
17 May 2020

LONDON 10K 5 July 2020

LONDON TRIATHLON 8 – 9 August 2020

CYCLE JORDAN 20 – 28 September 2020

ROYAL PARKS HALF MARATHON
11 October 2020

TREK PALESTINE 18 – 26 October 2020

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

fundraising@map.org.uk or 020 7226 4114



MAP NEWS

NEW WEST BANK PROJECT: TIGHTROPE, JUGGLING AND CLOWNING ABOUT

In 2019, MAP was delighted to begin an exciting new partnership with the Palestinian Circus School in the West Bank. Together, we are promoting the rights of Palestinian children with learning disabilities to effective and full participation in public life.



READ MORE:
map.org.uk/circus

MPs PRESS GOVERNMENT ON PROTECTION OF PALESTINIAN HEALTH WORKERS

We had a fantastic response to our 'Protection for Palestinian health workers' email campaign, with more than 780 supporters taking part, reaching more than two thirds of UK Members of Parliament. Supporters urged their MPs to call on the UK government to outline what action it will take to help protect Palestinian health workers, and to redouble its efforts to ensure that there are prompt, effective, independent and thorough investigations into attacks and that the perpetrators are held accountable, when they occur. Following our campaign, several MPs tabled written questions to the government on the issue. Thank you to everyone involved.

READ MORE:
map.org.uk/emailaction



MAP'S GAZA TEAM SHARE EXPERTISE IN TREATING GUNSHOT WOUNDS AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Last Autumn, Shahd and Mohammed, MAP's Limb Reconstruction Project Assistants from Gaza, travelled to Liverpool to join limb reconstruction specialists from around the world at a conference hosted by the British Limb Reconstruction Society. There they discussed the latest developments in treatment and shared key learnings from the MAP-supported limb reconstruction project in Gaza.

READ MORE:
map.org.uk/gazatoliverpool

MAP-SUPPORTED BURNS SURGEONS COMPLETE TRAINING IN INDIA AND NEPAL



MAP recently supported Palestinian surgeons Dr Sulaiman Fakhouri and Dr Ahmad Sokkar to undertake four months of intensive training in India and Nepal to deepen their knowledge and skills in burns treatment and reconstructive surgery.

READ MORE:
map.org.uk/burnstraining

SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Abier Almasri**
 @abier_i



I had the honor of attending the Participatory Photography Gallery in Gaza. This great project by @MAPCampaigns aims to raise awareness about the ambitions of people disabilities in Gaza and the barriers they face. Congratulations for bringing it to light!

 **Claire Lynch**
 @clairelynch84



Really proud to take part in another Symposium as part of the @MedicalAidPal Neurosurgery project in Gaza. Fantastic to continue to share knowledge & strengthen our relationships with the amazing local teams!



 **Brian Roy**
 @BrianFrancisRoy



Delighted that my total raised for @MedicalAidPal after a gruelling 240km across the West Bank was well over £6,500 with some funds being paid direct to the charity. A sincere and heartfelt thanks to every single person who donated and helped me in this life-changing journey 🇵🇸❤️



Donate online at

www.map.org.uk

Or call today on

020 7226 4114



Follow MAP on Twitter @MedicalAidPal, Instagram @medicalaidpa and Facebook www.facebook.com/MedicalAidforPalestinians

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