



MAP

MEDICAL AID FOR **PALESTINIANS**

'MAP's health-focused projects provided me with the opportunity to support programmes designed to make a real, tangible difference to Palestinians.'

Lawrence Waterman,
MAP Supporter





A MESSAGE

FROM MAP'S CEO MELANIE WARD

Palestinians are facing unprecedented threats to their health and dignity which makes MAP's work – and your support – more important now than ever. I am extremely proud to be MAP's new CEO and to be driving forward our profoundly practical and optimistic mission.

Our work is deeply practical in its clarity and focus. At MAP, we are clear about who we exist to serve. Our programme teams are strongly rooted in their communities, and able to understand and respond to local needs. We deliberately prioritise support for the most vulnerable across emergency response and complex hospital care; women and children's health; disability; and mental health and psychosocial support. When crisis erupts, MAP is always ready to respond – often within 24 hours – getting drugs and other essential supplies into the hands of medical teams who need them.

We believe that all Palestinians deserve access to excellent health services, and our focus on high-quality service delivery means that you can be confident your support will make a real difference.

Last year was the deadliest on record for Palestinians living under occupation in the West Bank, as Israeli military and settler violence escalated. Palestinians locked away in Gaza face a mental health crisis, growing food insecurity, and the steady collapse of a health system beset by blockade and conflict. Lebanon's economic and political catastrophe makes life even harder

for Palestinian refugees whose lives are already highly constrained by perpetual displacement.

Despite these many challenges, MAP's mission remains hugely optimistic. Recognising the immense talent and potential that exists in the communities we serve; we work for a future where Palestinian healthcare is sustainable and locally-led. This is why we work in true partnership with local organisations wherever we can, and directly implement only where we must. Our approach fosters collaboration between leading international experts and their Palestinian counterparts. Together, we are helping to build systems, skills, and expertise – from neurology to oncology, from limb reconstruction to burns treatment and trauma care – that will sustain the Palestinian health system long into the future. We also uplift Palestinian voices to the highest levels, ensuring policymakers and the public know the reality on the ground, and strive together for a just future.

Most importantly, our optimism is grounded in the remarkable passion and solidarity of our many supporters. We face many challenges ahead, but I know that – with your help – MAP will be ready to meet them. My team and I would welcome the chance to discuss how we can work together.

Yours,

Melanie Ward, CEO - MAP

MAP IN ACTION

WHERE WE WORK



**MAP WORKS IN FOUR
PROGRAMMATIC AREAS
WHICH RUN ACROSS
THESE ISSUES**

**MENTAL HEALTH
AND PSYCHOSOCIAL
SUPPORT**



**WOMEN AND
CHILDREN'S
HEALTH**



**EMERGENCY
AND COMPLEX
HOSPITAL CARE**



DISABILITY



ADVOCACY AND CAMPAIGNS

We also work on advocacy and campaigns for the realisation of the right to health for Palestinians.

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT WE DO

GAZA NEUROSURGICAL PROGRAMME

The ongoing closure and movement restrictions imposed on Gaza's population present serious challenges to the ability of medical professionals to access the training and professional development they need to provide quality care to their patients. MAP has been working for many years to bridge this gap and ensure Gaza's health workers can stay connected to technical developments in the wider world.

The need to develop neurosurgical services in Gaza is crucial. There are two neurosurgical units, at Al Shifa Hospital, in Gaza City, and the European Gaza Hospital, in the south. With support from high-profile surgical experts from the UK, MAP has been helping to develop the capacities of the two units.

Dr. Nidal, Head of the Neurosurgery Department at the European Gaza Hospital and the only Arab Board-certified Neurosurgeon in Gaza, described the work MAP supported so far: *"When I started working [in 2010], there was no equipment or resources to work with. We were able to do some types of surgeries, but we could not do any cervical ones (operations on the neck). We used to refer cases with cervical medical problems or do very few cases.*

I believe that, with MAP's [continued] support, we will be able to do these types of surgeries independently which means that the cases will no longer need to be referred and go through an arduous process of getting permits, paying the transportation cost, or suffer long exhausting trips."





'I have been a doctor for 25 years and a Consultant Neurologist for over 13 years. Being part of the Neurosurgical project including missions to the Gaza Strip with MAP has been the most rewarding of my professional life.' Dr Naheed Khan, Consultant Neurologist, MAP Neurosurgery Mission Volunteer

MORE EXAMPLES

WEST BANK ► PALESTINIAN CIRCUS SCHOOL

In Palestinian society, Children with Disabilities face many barriers. Poor healthcare, inadequate access to education, social stigma and limited inclusion mean they face long-term health issues, discrimination, and a lack of confidence due to cultural stereotypes. At MAP, one way we tackle this is by funding the Palestinian Circus School's (PCS) educational programme. Together our mission is to promote social inclusion and participation for children with a range of disabilities in the West Bank. The primary goal of this approach is not merely to learn circus arts. Rather, it's designed to help participants achieve personal and social development by nurturing their self-esteem and trust in others, teaching them social skills, inspiring them to become active citizens, and helping them to express their creativity and explore their potential. The school also raises awareness of the rights of people with disabilities and mental health issues in the broader community.

The School's Director, Mohamad Rabah highlights recent findings from research on the impact of their programmes, 'Over the past two years, we conducted research to understand the impact of circus training on the wellbeing of the children and

young people who participate in our weekly activities... The research found a significant decrease in emotional concerns, hyperactivity, unhappiness, nervousness, and conduct disorders among participants. Both male and female participants, in all age groups, benefit from our activities, experiencing positive effects on their psychosocial wellbeing.'



LEBANON

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Since 2008, MAP has run a pioneering midwifery service in Lebanon's refugee camps. Our midwives visit thousands of women in their homes each year, providing much-needed ante-natal and postnatal care to refugee women and their newborns.

MAP is working to improve essential care by providing the only home-visiting mother and child health service in the refugee camps. MAP's midwives deliver critical medical assistance and social and mental health support to women in difficult circumstances. Crucially, each visit is an average of 45 minutes; these extended visits enable our midwives to conduct detailed health assessments of the mother, conduct health and developmental screening of the baby and provide extensive health and nutritional advice. Uniquely, we screen for postnatal depression and signs of domestic violence, ensuring we support women's mental and physical health. Our midwives currently support two-thirds of all pregnant women and new mothers in camps where almost one in two pregnancies are considered high alert or high risk. They are vital to providing expert care for vulnerable women and children. They have successfully improved breastfeeding rates, reduced anaemia, and reduced pregnancy-related complications.

Katia, a recent beneficiary, says, *'The home visits helped me a lot. Midwife Saria used to visit me during pregnancy and supports me after childbirth. She explains things to me clearly and gives me advice. She always answers me when I need her advice or help with a health problem related to my baby or me.'*



THANK YOU

By supporting MAP, you could help provide Palestinians with access to essential health services and build local knowledge and skills. It can make a considerable difference to the health and wellbeing of Palestinians, particularly during times of humanitarian emergencies. Together, we can ensure your support has the maximum impact to improve access to an effective, sustainable and locally-led system of healthcare, and the full realisation of their rights to health and dignity.

'Although I felt privileged recently visiting MAP projects in the West Bank, it was a shock to recognise how little I had understood about the levels of difficulty in everyone's lives that Israel's illegal occupation was causing. There were so many examples, from the Bedouin camp that was the permanent home of a group of families unable to even add a room to a tent when a child was born or someone married, because soldiers who watched from a nearby hillside would just come and tear it down, to the stories of ambulances routinely shot at by soldiers and settlers, the restrictions on moving around areas people had owned and lived on for many years, the strip searching in public of teenage boys in Jerusalem old city as I walked past. The challenges of providing medical care in such an oppressive state were huge and obvious. I learned a great deal, and my respect for the indomitable workers of the MAP projects grew and grew. MAP's work is both inspiring and, sadly, essential. I recommitted to supporting MAP.'

Lawrence Waterman, MAP Supporter



To find out more about how you can support MAP further, please email philanthropy@map-uk.org or call (0)20 7226 4114.



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