

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

MAP
MEDICAL AID FOR PALESTINIANS

WITNESS



SEVENTY YEARS OF DISPLACEMENT

LIVING WITH A DISABILITY AS A REFUGEE

Supporting disability rights in Lebanon

GREAT MARCH OF RETURN

How MAP is responding to injuries in Gaza

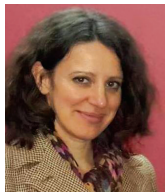
DISPLACED AND OCCUPIED

Delivering healthcare to Bedouin refugees in the West Bank

WITNESSING 70 YEARS OF DISPOSSESSION

Campaigning for the rights of Palestinian refugees

SUMMER 2018



DEAR READER

Once again, I am writing at a critical time for Palestine and Palestinians.

In Gaza, thousands of Palestinian protesters have been killed or severely injured, the humanitarian situation has deteriorated to emergency levels and its health system is on the verge of collapse. We are deeply dismayed by the terrible loss of life and large number of injuries due to the use of live ammunition, rubber bullets and tear gas by the Israeli forces. Gaza's hospitals have been overwhelmed and we are doing everything we can to support hospitals during this emergency.

In East Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank, settlement expansion is accelerating. President Trump's stance on Jerusalem breaks with decades of international consensus and has galvanised the further dispossession of Palestinians. US cuts in funding to UNRWA are also weakening the already underfunded Agency's capacity to deliver health and education services to Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) and the refugee camps of Lebanon.

In this edition of *Witness*, we share a few examples of our work: combatting malnutrition in Gaza; providing healthcare to threatened Bedouin communities in the West Bank; and supporting people with disabilities in Lebanon. The projects we describe are entirely only made possible thanks to the generous support of individuals like you. Thank you to everyone who has contributed and supported our work over the past few months and I hope you will continue to do so.

During 2018, we are also raising the profile of health needs in Lebanon, as the world marks 70 years since the Nakba (the 'Catastrophe'), when three-quarters of a million Palestinians were forced to leave their homeland. This issue helps commemorate that loss, and includes words from our colleagues, Dr Ali Dakwar in Lebanon and Amal Zaqout in Gaza – both from refugee families. The health and dignity of Palestinian refugees obstructed from returning to their homes must not be forgotten and MAP will continue to support the realisation of their right to return in line with international law.

At the end of last year, we were very sad to say goodbye to Jo O'Neill, who retired after ten years as MAP's Director of Fundraising. I would like to thank him for his enormous contribution over the years, taking MAP from strength to strength. I would also now like to take this opportunity to welcome Tina Bajec to the role. We are delighted she has joined the team.

Aimee Shalan

AIMEE SHALAN
Chief Executive Officer
Medical Aid for Palestinians

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 EDITORIAL
Aimee Shalan, MAP CEO
- 2 SITUATION OVERVIEW
A round-up of what is happening across MAP's areas of operation
- 3-4 LEBANON
Displacement and disability
- 5-6 GAZA
Combatting malnutrition in Gaza
- 7-8 PHOTOSTORY
- 9-10 WEST BANK
Displaced and occupied: Bedouin refugees
- 11-12 CAMPAIGNS
- 13-14 SUPPORTING MAP
- 15 MAP NEWS



Front cover photograph:
Gaza, Palestine. Palestinian Mohammed Hawajri holds the key to his family home in the town of Aljmama. Palestinians will mark the Nakba (the 'Catastrophe') on 15 May, the day that for Palestinians represents the loss of 78 percent of their homeland. Credit: Majdi Fathi/NurPhoto/ ZUMAPRESS.com/Alamy Live News

LEBANON
US cuts to UNRWA funding endangers Palestinian refugees' lives

In January 2018, the US Government announced that it halved its planned funding to the UN agency responsible for humanitarian support to Palestinian refugees, UNRWA. The US, UNRWA's largest donor, cut US\$65m of its planned US\$125m contribution to the agency's operations across the Middle East.

The decision demonstrates a dangerous politicisation of humanitarian aid and poses a direct threat to Palestinian refugees' access to healthcare, education and emergency food assistance.

These cuts will be felt particularly keenly in Lebanon, where the poverty rate is 60% among Palestinian refugees and 90% among those double-displaced from the war in Syria.

GAZA
Death toll rising – Israeli forces kills and injure Gaza protesters

Israel responded violently to the Great March of Return protests in Gaza – a series of mass peaceful protests, commencing on 30 March and leading up to the 70 anniversary of the Nakba on 15 May. On the first day of demonstrations alone, at least 14 protestors were killed and 1,416 people were injured by Israeli forces. UN Secretary General António Guterres has called for an "independent and transparent investigation" into the killing and injuring of Palestinians.

GAZA
Increased barriers to healthcare access

In 2017, patients faced unprecedented barriers to accessing essential life-saving care outside Gaza, with Israel authorising the lowest percentage of exit permits for patients needing to exit for medical treatment in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, or abroad.

Only 54% of permits were granted on time, and the World Health Organization reported that 54 people died while awaiting these permits.

WEST BANK
Deaths and injuries follow President Trump's Jerusalem announcement

On 6 December 2017, President Donald Trump declared that the United States recognises Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, and announced his intention to move the US embassy to the city.

Israeli forces responded violently to the Palestinian protests that followed the announcement, killing at least 18 Palestinians during the following three months. The Palestine Red Crescent Society stated that its teams treated more than 3,300 injured Palestinians. The Palestine Centre for Human Rights raised concerns about "indiscriminate use of excessive and disproportionate force against Palestinian civilians".



GAZA
Deepening medical emergency

In the first quarter of this year, healthcare in Gaza continued to deteriorate, with deepening fuel shortages and 40% of essential medicines out of stock.

In February, 19 healthcare centres, including three hospitals, were forced to stop services as they did not have enough fuel to keep generators running.

With no sustainable solution in sight, the United Nations described Gaza as being on the "verge of disaster."

DISPLACEMENT AND DISABILITY



Palestinians refugees in Lebanon continue to live in poverty

Seventy years have now passed since the Nakba, or 'Catastrophe', when over 750,000 Palestinians were expelled from or fled their homes due to the actions of armed groups during the creation of the State of Israel. Around 100,000 of them found shelter in Lebanon.

Despite living in Lebanon for seven decades, Palestinian refugees continue to suffer from social and economic exclusion, discrimination, and extreme poverty.

IN 2017

3,687
HOME AND
CENTRE-BASED
PHYSICAL
REHABILITATION
SESSIONS WERE
DELIVERED



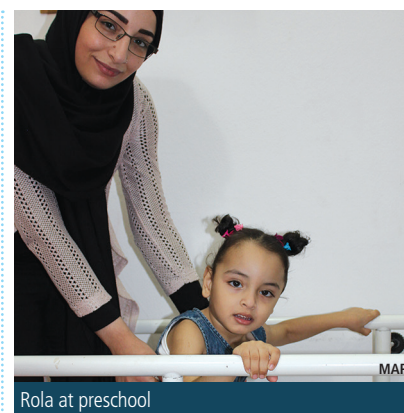
In Lebanon, the civil, political and economic human rights of Palestinian refugees are severely restricted. They are prohibited from owning property and working in 39 professions, including most medical jobs. Restrictions on employment and access to Lebanese public services, such as education and healthcare, leave many Palestinian refugees dependent on aid and services provided by the chronically-underfunded UNRWA.

In Lebanon, there are 12 official refugee camps where 53% of Palestinians refugees live. These camps suffer from abject poverty, overcrowding, unemployment, poor housing and lack of infrastructure.

SUPPORTING DISABILITY RIGHTS IN LEBANON

Palestinian refugees with disabilities face considerable challenges in day-to-day life in Lebanon. This includes a lack of adequate services, ill-adapted public spaces, and exclusion from education and social activities.

Supporting people with disabilities is a priority for MAP. We partner with four multidisciplinary health and rehabilitation centres in Tyre, Saida, and Beirut run by the Palestinian Women Humanitarian Organization, Ghassan Kanafani Cultural Foundation and the General Union of Palestinian Women. These centres ensure early detection of learning difficulties, developmental delays and other disorders



Rola at preschool

in children, and provide regular physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, special needs education, and psychosocial support services.

Our partners work to empower people to challenge public perceptions. We recently discussed this with the coordinator of the disability project in Tyre who reflected:

"When we first opened, families used to deny that they had a child with a disability. They used to keep them at home. We faced many challenges convincing parents to bring their children to our centre and benefitting from our services. Today, I feel that families are aware of the importance of early intervention and are eager to bring their children to the community centre and involve them in rehabilitation, educational and recreational activities. Our team is proud to have contributed to making our community more inclusive and accessible for people with disabilities."

ROLA'S* STORY:

Rola is four years old. She lives in Beirut with her mother and two brothers.

Rola has cerebral palsy. Before she was born her mother, Mona, did not know about disability rights or how to raise a child with cerebral palsy. *"When the doctors told me about my Rola's condition I was in shock; I didn't know what to expect or do."*

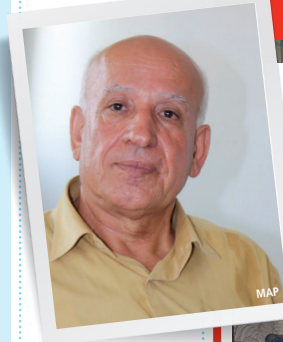
When Rola was a year old, Mona received a private donation allowing her to attend a well-known and expensive rehabilitation centre. Rola progressed well; however, a year later, Mona ran out of money and could no longer afford the fees. Mona took her daughter to private rehabilitation centres throughout Beirut. This took much of her time, energy, and financial resources and, as a result, she lost her job. *"My daughter is the most important person to me and she is worth every sacrifice,"* she explained. During this time, she also divorced from her husband.

Mona was losing hope when a doctor informed her about the MAP-supported Habilitation Preschool in Beirut. Located in Mar Elias camp, Beirut, it provides educational and rehabilitation services for children with disabilities and their families.

At the preschool, Rola and Mona found a welcoming and kind team. They assessed Rola and, with Mona's input, agreed on a care plan. This included physiotherapy, occupational and speech therapy and educational support. *"The team did not just focus on Rola as in the other places, they provided care for the whole family. It was the first time I was asked about my feelings, thoughts and needs,"* Mona said.

Mona learnt to communicate more effectively with her daughter by observing how the therapists interacted with Rola. *"I didn't know that she was capable of doing so many things until I saw how she responded to the centre's staff,"* she explained.

Mona reflected that Rola has made great progress and has become happier and more sociable since enrolling at the preschool. Mona is very pleased with the services provided and is thankful to the centre's staff, describing them as *"a team of angels, with exceptional kindness and patience."*



VOICES FROM THE DIASPORA: LEBANON

Dr Ali Dakwar, MAP's Director of Programmes in Lebanon, describes why he works for the health and dignity of Palestinians.



"I helped to develop the health system in the 12 Palestinian refugee camps, where around half of Palestinians refugees live."

Dr Ali Dakwar

To live as a refugee outside your homeland for 70 years without foreseen solutions and civil and social rights in the country you reside in is not easy.

In 1948, when I was two years old, my family was forced to flee our village in Palestine, Qaddita, in the Safad neighborhood in Galilee. There were 11 of us: me, my four brothers, three sisters, father, mother and grandma. We fled to Lebanon.

My father worked as a casual labourer in Lebanon. He tried his best to secure shelter, food and education for my family.

For 70 years, I have lived and witnessed the difficulties and barriers Palestinian refugees face. Despite representing roughly 10% of the population, we have no civil or social rights in Lebanon. We have no right to own property or land and no right to employment, except in seasonal agricultural and construction work. We also encounter significant barriers when trying to travel abroad.

I have dedicated my life to serving my fellow refugees. I was fortunate to study medicine in Russia. Before joining MAP, I worked for UNRWA, the UN agency responsible for humanitarian support to Palestinian refugees. Among the five UNRWA fields, Lebanon has the highest percentage of Palestine refugees living in abject poverty. I helped to develop the health system in the 12 Palestinian refugee camps, where around half of Palestinians

refugees live. These camps continue to suffer from serious problems today, including overcrowding, unemployment, poor housing conditions and lack of infrastructure.

I joined MAP in 2008 as the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Project Coordinator. This was just after the destruction of Nahr El Bared camp and the permanent displacement of tens of thousands residents during armed fighting between the Lebanese Army and Fateh Al Islam militants. I led three teams of community midwives in Palestinian camps in North and South Lebanon. They promote a sustainable approach to health, combating the effects of child stunting and MCH related issues. Now as the Director of Programmes in Lebanon, and with the great support of my team, I oversee the implementation of all of MAP's programmes. These include MCH, tertiary care for Palestinian refugees from Syria, mental health and psychosocial support and disability. Through these projects, we serve the most vulnerable groups in the Palestinian community. We bridge gaps in UNRWA's services, build the capacity of the main Palestinian NGOs and strengthen the resilience of the refugee population.

I work for the health and dignity of my people. I am waiting for the time when Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory will come to an end and Palestinian refugees can live in peace in an independent state of Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital.

IN 2017

65

CHILDREN WITH COMPLEX IMPAIRMENTS ATTENDED DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CENTRE

100
PEOPLE RECEIVED ASSISTIVE DEVICES



MAP-funded preschool

COMBATTING MALNUTRITION IN GAZA



At Ard El Insan mothers receive information about good nutrition

During the creation of the state of Israel in 1948, 750,000 Palestinians were forced to flee their homes in historic Palestine. At least 200,000 refugees fled to Gaza, the majority from evicted or evacuated Palestinian towns and villages from Jaffa southwards to Gaza City and the surrounding villages to the north and east. Gaza's refugees were housed in the ensuing years in eight camps. Since then, they have continued to suffer from recurrent conflict and emergency in Gaza.

After 11 years of unlawful blockade and closure, Gaza's health system is close to collapse. Beset by severe shortages of medicines and equipment, a chronic electricity crisis, and protracted de-development, it reflects a wider humanitarian emergency which affects every aspect of day-to-day life for the 1.9 million people who live there.



Helping to improve knowledge

Over a decade of restriction has placed huge obstacles to the movement of people and goods in and out of Gaza, and badly damaged Gaza's economy. Unemployment is now among the highest anywhere in the world at 42%. With 80% of the population dependent on some form of international aid, and more than two thirds of residents refugees, the US's announcement of major cuts to its funding for UNRWA means that for many, living conditions are set to become yet more precarious. Most at risk are Gaza's children, for whom malnutrition has become a significant health hazard.

IN GAZA
42%
 OF PEOPLE ARE
 UNEMPLOYED
80%
 DEPEND ON
 SOME FORM
 OF AID
40%
 LIVE BELOW THE
 POVERTY LINE

10%
 OF CHILDREN
 UNDER FIVE
 ARE STUNTED
 IN GAZA

Many of Gaza's residents struggle to afford the nutritious food their families need. As a result, many children are at risk of chronic malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies. One in ten children under five is stunted, which can cause lifelong impairments to cognitive, emotional and physical development.

HOPE FOR A HEALTHY FUTURE

For 10 years, MAP has been working to protect children from this man-made malnutrition crisis. In partnership with Muslim Aid, we support a nutrition centre in the southern area of Gaza, run by local charity Ard El Insan (AEI). This clinic identifies at-risk children and provides support for a variety of conditions and illnesses linked to malnutrition, including wasting, anaemia and rickets. It also treats children and adults with coeliac disease.

As well as providing essential medical care, the project distributes food packages, provides fresh meals and supplements, and runs health education sessions about healthy eating and food preparation.



Checking the health of young children

"The malnutrition centre saved my children's lives and gave me hope again. Thanks to all the people who support this project."

VOICES FROM THE DIASPORA: GAZA



Amal Zaqout, MAP's Community Programme Officer, describes life as a Palestinian refugee in Gaza.

Around 1.3 million Palestinian refugees live in Gaza, out of a total population of 2 million. There are eight refugee camps, the biggest of which is in Jabalia, in the north. I grew up in the south of Gaza, in Rafah Canada refugee camp.

There were 11 of us in my family. We are from Isdodin, Palestine, which today is called Ashdod in the south of Israel. My parents were forced to flee our land in 1948. They had nothing.

In Gaza, my father had no source of income, despite trying very hard to find work. We received food assistance from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

My family's living conditions were very bad. We didn't have a suitable home; we suffered from the cold, especially in winter. We had rain in most of the rooms and had to put buckets out to collect water which came through the ceiling.

My father and mother were illiterate. Both their fathers died when they were young, so they did not receive an education. They felt it was a big loss and insisted that my brothers, sisters and I completed our education. All of us, from the first grade to the ninth, attended UNRWA schools.

Although it was hard, thanks to my parents' determination we were all well-educated. I was lucky; being one of the youngest I got a lot of support from my older brothers and sisters. I received a scholarship at Ein Shams University in Cairo and qualified as a teacher of mathematics and physics. I met my husband in Egypt and, after I graduated, we moved to Yemen.

Ten years ago, I returned to Gaza, after my husband and baby girl passed away. I came back in 2007 with my two boys, just as Israel's blockade and closure began. It was not a good time to return. Finding a job was very difficult. I moved

from one organisation to another. There is no sustainability in Gaza, I would be working with one NGO and when the project finished I had to find another job. I feel happy to now have a permanent position at MAP, but a lot of people are not as fortunate.

Many refugees in Gaza have no source of income. There are very few employment opportunities because of the tightening blockade and closure, which this year entered its 11th year. In the past, Palestinians in Gaza used to go to Israel to work. But now many are unemployed. Gaza has one of the world's highest unemployment rates, at 42%. It is becoming increasingly difficult for graduates to find jobs. This is forcing some young people to emigrate, which is very bad as we lose our skilled workers because they lack opportunities in Gaza.

UNRWA's services are essential, they keep many Palestinian refugees in Gaza alive. Like my family, a lot of refugees depend on UNRWA for food assistance. UNRWA's primary health clinics are also essential, as are UNRWA's schools. I fear that the US funding cuts to UNRWA could be a disaster, threatening to further deteriorate the humanitarian situation in Gaza. It will be detrimental if Palestinian refugees' access to healthcare, education and emergency food assistance is limited.

Palestinian refugees in Gaza suffer a lot. We have dreams, but these continue to be obstructed. Last month I visited Ashdod in Israel, where my family was from. I found the secondary school was still there. I took lots of photos, which I showed to my uncle, who was displaced in 1948, like my parents. He was both happy and sad; happy to see his home again, but sad because we lost everything and continue to suffer today.

APPEAL UPDATE

Thank you to all those who supported our Gaza Zero Stock appeal.

In the first quarter 2018, MAP has been able to supply over 75 different types of medical items and essential drugs to hospitals in Gaza.

PROTEST AND PAIN FOLLOW TRUMP'S JERUSALEM ANNOUNCEMENT

On 6 December 2017, President Donald Trump declared that the United States recognised Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, and announced his intention to move the US embassy to the city.

Trump's announcement triggered protests across the occupied Palestinian territory, many of which were met by excessive force by Israeli authorities.

In Gaza, beginning on the 30 March, thousands of Palestinians peacefully gathered close to the border with Israel for the the 'Great March of Return' – a series of mass peaceful protests leading up to the 70th anniversary of the Nakba on 15 May. Israeli forces responded violently, using live ammunition, rubber bullets and tear gas against the protesters. Gaza's hospitals, already struggling under a decade of blockade and closure, with longstanding shortages of medical supplies, electricity and fuel, were overwhelmed by the influx of mass casualties.

"Simply expressing sorrow or concern for lives lost is not enough. The UK and other countries must take action to ensure international law is adhered to and that the rights due to Palestinians are upheld."

MAP CEO Aimee Shalan

 Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/MedicalAidforPalestinians



On Friday 30 March at least 14 protesters in Gaza were killed and almost 1,500 injured, many severely, with more than 1,000 transferred to hospital.



Families in Gaza gathered at protest camp to demand the realisation of their right to return.



Trump's Jerusalem announcement threatens the heart of Palestinian healthcare.



Gaza's hospitals have been overwhelmed by the mass casualties.



UN Secretary General António Guterres has called for an "independent and transparent investigation" into the killing and injuring of Palestinians.



MAP-supported Al Saraya centre in East Jerusalem, where Palestinian children living in the old city can learn life skills and safely discuss the daily challenges they face.

DISPLACED AND OCCUPIED: BEDOUIN REFUGEES IN THE WEST BANK

For the Bedouin communities in the Jordan Valley, a region in Area C of the West Bank where Israel maintains full civil and military control, displacement and dispossession have been part of life for over 70 years.

Most of the Bedouin in the Jordan Valley are refugees. Originating from five tribes in the Negev desert, they were expelled from or fled from their lands during and shortly following the creation of the state of Israel.

STRANGLED LIVELIHOODS

The Bedouin communities are traditionally either herders that roam the area to graze livestock, or farmers that need land to domesticate animals. Since Israel's military occupation of the West Bank in 1967, however, their livelihoods have been strangled.

The Bedouin communities' access to land and resources are severely restricted, with illegal settlements and outposts, closed military zones and checkpoints obstructing their freedom of movement. Harassment and violence from settlers is frequent too.

As a result, many Bedouin men now work on settlements as the only viable way to support their families.

THREAT OF DEMOLITION, DISPLACEMENT AND FORCED TRANSFER

Bedouin families face the constant threat of demolitions to homes and other structures such as schools, water tanks and toilets. Israeli authorities state that these structures are demolished as they were erected without an Israeli building permit. However, a restrictive and discriminatory planning regime makes it virtually impossible for Palestinians to obtain Israeli building permits. Between 2010 and 2014, Israeli authorities approved less than 2% of requests submitted for building permits by Palestinians.

Amid this coercive environment, the 46 Palestinian Bedouin communities in the West Bank are in danger of becoming displaced once more. These communities include Jabal al Baba, Khan al Ahmar and Susiya. According to the UN, they are at high-risk of demolition and forcible transfer due to a "relocation" plan advanced by Israeli authorities in recent years. Forcible transfer of these communities would constitute a war crime under international law.



"We are always in fear of Israeli jeeps and settlers that pass by"

50% OF BEDOUIN FAMILIES LACK ACCESS TO WATER

41% HAVE NO SOURCE OF ELECTRICITY

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



A Bedouin farmer



Demolitions in the Jordan Valley

BARRIERS ACCESSING HEALTHCARE

Without Israeli permit approvals for Palestinian buildings the health infrastructure in the Jordan Valley is not able to develop. Consequently, there is not a single permanent healthcare centre for Palestinians in the area.

Bedouin communities are a particularly vulnerable and isolated group, with many having already experienced multiple displacements. UN figures have shown that 50% of Bedouin families lack access to water, 41% have no source of electricity and 84% cannot afford the transport costs to access health and education. Bedouins also suffer from high rates of malnutrition and elevated rates of accidents and hygiene-related hazards.

In partnership with the Islah Charitable Society, MAP provides a mobile clinic which serves 27 Bedouin communities in the Jordan Valley. It provides vital primary care, health education sessions and hygiene kits to families.

Thanks to you, MAP is able to help these communities stay on their land. As the 70th anniversary of the Nakba arrives your support is more vital than ever.



Follow MAP on Twitter @MedicalAidPal

LIVING UNDER OCCUPATION

We spoke to women from Abu Kharabish and Treeshat, two Bedouin communities visited by the mobile clinic, to find out about the difference this vital service makes to their lives.

WHAT ARE YOUR LIVING CONDITIONS LIKE?

JAMILA*: "The situation is very difficult. We are struggling. We live in metallic sheds. It gets very hot and we get tired. We do not have our own plot of land. I don't even have a home I can rely on for shelter and security. We are always in fear of the Israeli jeeps and settlers that pass by."

TARA*: "Israeli settlers cut off my village's water supply. We have to fill our water tanks in other areas now. This is expensive, we need a tractor, which requires fuel, or have to go by taxi."

HOW DO ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IMPACT YOUR LIVES?

KHULOUD*: "Settlers have come with their jeeps and driven around our village. They would come in the middle of the night to scare us. They stole our money."

TARA: "Israeli settlers often come to my village. My husband used to herd sheep; that was our livelihood. But he had to stop because he couldn't go far or the settlers would hit him and take the sheep. I was scared they'd kill him."

JAMILA: "Settlers are always stealing from our livelihoods. And what do they say? –'You came too close to my home.' No one dares stand up to them, they have guns. If we resist, they could shoot and kill us."

TARA: "Now Bedouins rarely take their sheep to graze and many have been forced to find an alternative livelihood."

BEFORE THE MOBILE CLINIC, WHERE DID YOU GO TO RECEIVE HEALTHCARE?

JAMILA: "We used to go to an UNRWA clinic. It would take over an hour and a half to reach by foot. If one of my children needed treatment they would have to come too. It gets very hot, so I would walk and rest, walk and rest."

"One time I had one of my children on my shoulders, and the other on my hip. One of them fell sick on our way back because it was so hot. I also had a lot of pain in my shoulders, legs and feet; my body was exhausted."

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE SERVICES THE MOBILE CLINIC PROVIDES?

TARA: "It has made it much easier for me to take care of my son's health. We no longer have to walk the long distance to the clinic. When my boy gets a cold, staff from the mobile clinic give me advice and any medication he needs. They also give him vitamins."

KHULOUD: "The staff also run health awareness sessions. Through these, I have learnt about the importance of breast feeding."

JAMILA: "The workshops have raised my awareness of breast cancer. I have also learnt about parenting methods, how to stay healthy when pregnant and what signs to look out for in a new born baby. We also had training on first aid and emergency care. The mobile clinic's staff provide us with really useful information that the community benefits from."

TARA: "It's not just doctors and patients, we see the members of the clinic as family. They provide us with both physical and psychological support. Seeing them makes me smile."



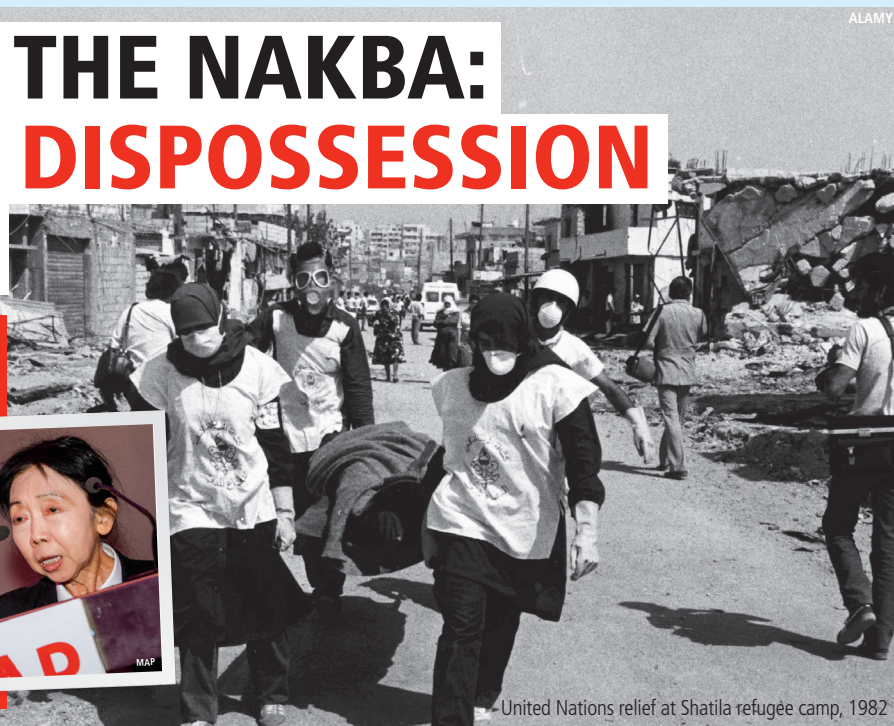
MAP-funded Mobile Clinic visiting Bedouin communities



Bedouin communities get regular visits from the MAP-funded Mobile Clinic

WITNESSING THE NAKBA: 70 YEARS OF DISPOSSESSION IN LEBANON

"One painful question needs to be answered. Not why they die, but why did they die as refugees?"



United Nations relief at Shatila refugee camp, 1982

Above are the words of Dr Swee Ang, reflecting on the 1982 massacre of Palestinian refugees which she witnessed while working as a young doctor in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camp. During the massacre, Lebanese Phalangist militants entered the central-Beirut refugee camp of Sabra and Shatila and killed and injured hundreds of unarmed Palestinian and other civilians inside. The massacre spurred Dr Ang to join with fellow medical professionals and humanitarians to establish MAP.

At that time, the Palestinian victims had already been refugees for up to 34 years. Now, decades later, the victims' families and descendants have still not been allowed to return to their homes in Palestine.



Transjordan, "South Shore camp", 1948

On 15 May 2018, Palestinian refugees across the Middle East, and the wider world, will mark 70 years of the displacement and dispossession that resulted from the tragedy known as the 'Nakba'. From 1947 to 1949, 750,000 Palestinians were expelled from or fled their homes under threat of armed groups during the creation of the state of Israel. Hundreds of Palestinian towns and villages were emptied of their populations and destroyed. The Nakba is a lived reality for Palestinian refugee families still displaced decades later, many of whom live in refugee camps across the region, including Lebanon and the occupied Palestinian territory.

Since MAP's beginning, our role has been not only to help provide sustainable healthcare to Palestinian communities needing it most, but also campaigning to address root causes of these needs.

Palestinians have been in Lebanon for seven decades. They have seen neither an improvement in their economic, social or political rights, nor the size of the camps where they are permitted to live. This means that many camps are dangerously overcrowded, and infrastructure such as sewage and water systems has been unable to expand to meet the increased demand of the population.

Lebanese law prohibits Palestinian refugees from working in 39 professions, including jobs in medicine, engineering and law. These restrictions contribute to a high

unemployment rate and poor working conditions amongst Palestinian refugees. The rate of poverty is incredibly high, 65% among Palestinian refugees from Lebanon and 90% among those who have fled Syria.

Since the start of 2018, the plight of Palestinian refugees, including those in Lebanon, has been subject to extra international focus as a result of the United States' decision to halve the funding it contributes to UNRWA. This drastic cut has compounded UNRWA's long-term funding problems, which have stretched many essential services close to breaking point.

To mark the 70th anniversary of the Nakba, MAP is releasing a new report, which illustrates how perpetual displacement and marginalisation has created a decades-long humanitarian crisis for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. The report will focus on how the rights to health and dignity of Palestinian refugees are violated by the ongoing denial of their internationally-recognised right of return, and by restrictions of their civil and political rights in Lebanon.

To find out how you can help MAP campaign for the rights of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, and to read the report when it is released on 15 May, visit map.org.uk/nakba70

NAKBA 1947-48
750,000
PALESTINIANS
WERE EXPELLED
FROM OR FLED
THEIR HOMES



ADVOCACY:

FROM GAZA TO GENEVA: MAP SPEAKS OUT AT THE UN

MAP's campaigning sometimes takes us to the UN, where we advocate for international support for Palestinians' rights to health and dignity.

In December, MAP's Programme Assistant in Gaza, Haitham Al Saqqa, travelled to the UN in Geneva to brief diplomats ahead of the third Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Israel's human rights record. Haitham spoke about how blockade and occupation detrimentally affect the lives of people with disabilities in Gaza, and described the constant violations of health and dignity faced by Palestinians.

It was Haitham's first time travelling outside of Palestine. Applying to leave was a lengthy process. It required a visa from Switzerland, a permit to exit Gaza from Israel and a non-objection letter from Jordan to fly out of Amman. Haitham only found out he had all the paperwork the night before he was due to travel.

"I will never forget when Fikr, MAP's Director of Programmes in Gaza, told me the news that I had been waiting to hear for more than 15 years. I couldn't believe it. I had the chance to get out to see the world and represent the voices of Palestinians in Gaza at the UN. It was a dream come true."

Before the trip, Haitham met with people involved in MAP's disability project

in Gaza, a quarter of whom had been disabled by explosive weapons used by the Israeli military. The issues they raised about living with a disability in Gaza informed the speech Haitham delivered in Geneva. This included the story of one of the groups' friends who was killed during Israel's 2014 assault on Gaza. The woman was 18 years old and had been involved in MAP's project. She had a physical disability and died alone in her family house after her father was unable to evacuate her during an Israeli military attack.

In his statement to UN delegates, Haitham described how, during Israel's military offensives on Gaza, Palestinians with disabilities - including those with mobility restrictions, hearing and visual impairments - had severe difficulty evacuating civilian buildings which came under attack, increasing their risk of injury and death. When preliminary warnings were given by Israel, these were often not effective or broadcast long enough in advance of an attack for some individuals with disabilities to evacuate safely. More than 2,000 Palestinians, mostly civilians, were killed in Israel's 2014 offensive on Gaza, and 11,000 were injured, 10% of whom were left with permanent disabilities.

Haitham discussed barriers obstructing Palestinian patients' access to medical treatment, including restrictions on the movement of patients and Palestinian

"I felt proud. I achieved something for Palestine and raised awareness of the barriers Palestinians face in accessing healthcare and the barriers Palestinians with disabilities face."

registered ambulances. He also addressed Israel's failure to protect Palestinian medical facilities and personnel or to ensure independent investigations into such attacks.

During his speech, he emphasised the need for Israel, as an occupying power, to meet its legal obligations to protect the human rights of the local population in the Palestinian territory, including the rights of Palestinians with disabilities.

"I felt proud. I achieved something for Palestine and raised awareness of the barriers Palestinians face in accessing healthcare and the barriers Palestinians with disabilities face."

At Israel's UPR session in January, a number of states, including Australia, Canada and Switzerland, highlighted Israel's restrictions on freedom of movement and Palestinians' access to healthcare. Other states raised concerns about Israel's demolition of Palestinian buildings in Area C, the building of settlements, and practices of collective punishment. The UK recommended that Israel take action to protect child detainees, reverse settlement expansion and cease demolition of Palestinian property.

You can listen to Haitham's speech, and watch a video about his journey at map.org.uk/gazatogeneva



MAP's work is only made possible thanks to the support and generosity of individual supporters. Without people like you, we would not be able to support life-saving projects in occupied Palestine and the refugee camps in Lebanon. We are extremely grateful to everyone who helps us to make a difference to the lives of Palestinians living under very difficult circumstances.

If you, your church or mosque, community group or company would like to learn more about how you can get involved and help support the work of MAP

Contact the MAP fundraising team on 020 7226 4114.

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

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

Thanks to the generosity of supporters in 2017, MAP delivered

45,450

worth of **ESSENTIAL MEDICINES** to Gaza's hospitals



OUR SUPPORTERS

Thank you!

Whether it's responding to an appeal, holding an event within their community or taking part in a sponsored challenge event, we are very grateful to all of our supporters. Here are just a few examples of the many wonderful things people have done to support our work:



JANET BAKER SWAM 100 LENGTHS

"I appreciate all the practical ways that MAP offer help and support but also the advocacy on the Palestinians behalf."

Janet raised £1,773 in sponsorship for her swim.

RAISED VOICES CHOIR – SINGING FOR PALESTINIANS

One Thursday evening in December commuters at Wembley Central station were greeted with some lively songs in support of justice for Palestine. The choir raised over £200 from commuters.



FOR THE CHILDREN OF PALESTINE

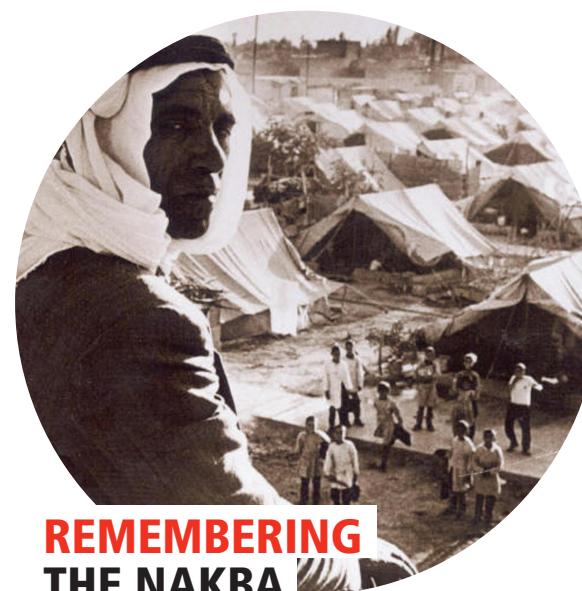
"I have long been a supporter of MAP and have always had confidence in the integrity of the charity and the work it does in Palestine. My focus is on the children of Palestine. I believe that every child has the right to a childhood free from the trauma of violence and of brutality"

Sandra held a fundraising event at her home and raised £400 for MAP.



JEAN BYRNE WALKS 500 MILES FOR MAP

This spring Jean is walking the Camino de Santiago in support of MAP. Jean starts her walk from St Jean Pied de Port on 20th April. She has already raised over £700 – and is still walking! You can sponsor Jean Byrne via Justgiving.



REMEMBERING THE NAKBA

On 15 May 2018, Palestinians around the world will commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Nakba (or 'Catastrophe'), which remembers the displacement of more than 750,000 Palestinians from their homes in historic Palestine during 1948.

Today, the Nakba continues to be lived by Palestinian refugee families who are still displaced – many of them living in refugee camps across the region, including in Lebanon and the occupied Palestinian territory.

That is why we are calling on our supporters to take action during this time and show their support of Palestinian health and dignity. In May 2018, we will hold our MAP 'Remembering the Nakba' events to help raise money and awareness of our work with Palestinian refugees.

HOLD AN EVENT AND HELP RAISE MONEY FOR THE FORGOTTEN REFUGEES OF THE NAKBA.

You can get involved by holding your own fundraising event on behalf of MAP. The event can be anything you choose, whether it's a food and drink fundraising event, bucket collection, or sponsored challenge. Whatever you choose to do, the MAP fundraising team is here to help.

You can register your interest at www.map.org.uk/nakba

MOBILE HEALTH CLINIC



436

VISITS MADE TO HOUSEHOLDS IN BEDOUIN COMMUNITIES

9,204 CONSULTATIONS

2018 CYCLE PALESTINE

Over Easter, 28 riders took part in our 2018 Cycle Palestine bike ride across the West Bank in occupied Palestine. They met with local people, saw the beautiful sites and scenery, and witnessed the occupation for themselves.

One rider, Kevin Lucas told us why he wanted to take part:

"The fact that MAP provides practical and meaningful community based responses to support the health and dignity of Palestinian people really resonates with me. When I learned of the opportunity to raise money for MAP by cycling the length of the West Bank I couldn't resist!

I'm really proud to have raised the money to support this work and I am really pleased to have had the opportunity to visit the country, meet the people of Palestine and be witness to the impact of the occupation. Hopefully I'll be able to use the experience to advocate for the work of MAP on my return."



A huge thank you to all our riders who took part in this year's Cycle Palestine. If you would like to take part in future MAP events in Palestine, including 2019 Cycle Palestine and our new Trek Palestine, visit www.map.org.uk/palestine and register your interest today.

Thank you!

TAKE ON A CHALLENGE AND HELP RAISE MONEY FOR MAP

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

EDINBURGH RUN FESTIVAL 26-27 May 2018

JURASSIC COAST CHALLENGE 21-22 July 2018

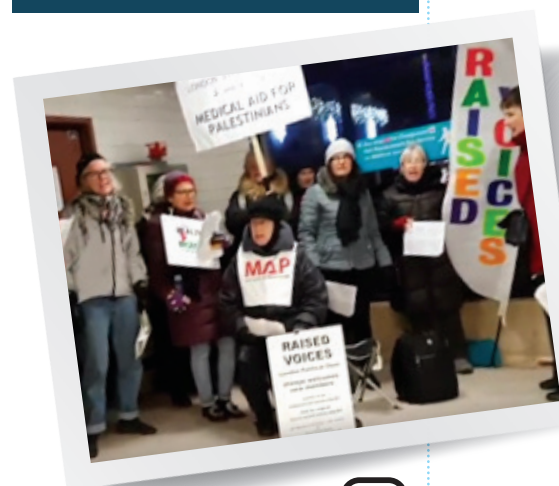
GLASGOW TO EDINBURGH BIKE RIDE 9 September 2018

SHEFFIELD 10K 23 September 2018

AMSTERDAM MARATHON 21 October 2018

2019 EVENTS IN PALESTINE: TREK PALESTINE AND CYCLE PALESTINE

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



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

RAISED VOICES CHOIR

MAP NEWS

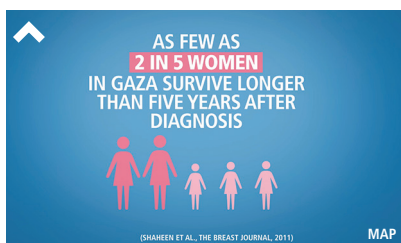
■ SHADOW FOREIGN SECRETARY VISITS WEST BANK WITH MAP

In November, Shadow Foreign Secretary and MAP's local MP Emily Thornberry visited the West Bank on a delegation with Fabian Hamilton MP and Andy Slaughter MP. They witnessed barriers to healthcare posed by checkpoints and the separation wall, and visited the MAP-supported Dunya women's cancer clinic in Ramallah.



■ NEW MAP FILM: DEEMA'S STORY

MAP launched an animation highlighting the struggles women in Gaza face when trying to access treatment for breast cancer.



To watch the film, visit
map.org.uk/breastcancer

■ UK PARLIAMENT DEBATES VIOLATIONS OF PALESTINIANS' RIGHTS

In December and February, MPs from across the House of Commons discussed how the UK Government should respond to Israel's violations of Palestinians' human rights. Many of the MPs who spoke in the two debates on demolitions of Palestinian homes and Palestinian children in Israeli military detention had previously witnessed these issues first-hand on MAP-Caabu delegations to the West Bank.

To find out more, go to
map.org.uk/campaigns



■ MAP LAUNCHES NEUROSURGERY PROGRAMME IN GAZA

MAP has started an exciting new programme in Gaza which will improve neurosurgery services at the European and Al Shifa hospitals. In October 2017, two British neurosurgeons and a neurologist visited Gaza to assess cases and the quality of current services. The next delegation in 2018 will provide surgeries for patients as well as on-the-job training and educational symposiums for local medics



■ MAP FILM FROM GAZA: PEACEFUL PROTEST, PAIN AND IMPUNITY

As Gaza's healthcare emergency deepened in February, MAP launched an animation showing how, with your support, we are able to get out-of-stock medicines into Gaza



To watch the film, visit
map.org.uk/painandimpunity

■ RESPONDING TO HIGH NUMBER OF CASUALTIES IN GAZA

MAP responded rapidly to high number of Palestinian protesters severely injured in Gaza, releasing prepositioned emergency medicines and consumables, including antibiotics and analgesics, and a shipment of limb reconstruction items to hospitals in Gaza. The surgical equipment was used by the MAP and IDEALS-trained surgical team at Al Shifa Hospital within the first 24 hours of responding to the crisis.

To support MAP's Gaza emergency appeal go to
map.org.uk/gaza



■ TAKE ACTION: DEMAND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST GAZA PROTESTERS

MAP has launched an emergency action for supporters to email their MP, asking them to urge the UK government to take action and support international calls for independent investigations into the killing and injuring of Palestinian protesters in Gaza, and accountability for violations of international law.



To take action, go to
map.org.uk/actnow

SOCIAL MEDIA



Juliet Stevenson
[@Juliet945600](https://twitter.com/Juliet945600)

Pls donate
to this if
u can.

↓
@MedicalAidPal
does astonishing
& courageous
work to heal
and save lives.
Thks x



Donate online at

www.map.org.uk

Or call today on

020 7226 4114



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

33a Islington Park Street
London N1 1QB
info@map.org.uk

Registered Charity no: 1045315

MAP
MEDICAL AID FOR PALESTINIANS