

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

MAP
MEDICAL AID FOR PALESTINIANS

WITNESS

GLOBAL PANDEMIC ADDS TO PALESTINIAN HEALTH WOES

GAZA

Treating gunshot injuries amid COVID-19 challenges

LEBANON

MAP's midwives adapt to new reality in refugee camps

WEST BANK

Troubling times increase demand for mental health support

CAMPAIGNS

Palestinian health workers in the firing line

AUTUMN 2020



DEAR READER

Health and healthcare have never been so much in the international spotlight as they are today. The global coronavirus pandemic has underlined how reliant we all are on strong, functional healthcare systems and public institutions. There is renewed respect and gratitude for doctors, nurses and other key workers, who tirelessly labour to care for the sick and keep us safe. More than ever, it is clear how political, economic and social factors have generated healthcare inequalities in all societies, with the virus hitting older people, people with disabilities, minorities and people living in poverty the hardest.

As a MAP supporter, you will already know that Palestinians have long faced many barriers to accessing healthcare and attaining a life of health and dignity. The coronavirus pandemic has reinforced these challenges. At the start of 2020, before the pandemic began, MAP was already warning that the deterioration of Gaza's health system, economy and basic resources amid 13 years of illegal closure have made it unliveable. In the West Bank, vulnerable communities now face the twin threats of the global pandemic and Israel's illegal annexation agenda. While in Lebanon, the overcrowded and unsanitary conditions in the Palestinian refugee camps, after 72 years of displacement and neglect, provide the dangerous conditions for infectious diseases to spread, while the country's economic collapse drives many refugees further into poverty.

For the first time, MAP is having to respond to a major crisis affecting all our areas of operation simultaneously.

And yet, in these dark times, you are giving reason for hope. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters and the dedication of MAP's staff and partners on the ground, we have been able to respond swiftly and at scale, prioritising infection control and protective equipment for health workers as we try to slow the spread of the virus. In this issue, you can read about our unprecedented COVID-19 emergency response, and learn how we have adapted our programmes to keep services running and people safe.

This work is having a real impact. We are helping reduce the rate of infections, avert further catastrophe in Gaza, and ensure continuity in the health services on which people depend.

We realise, however, that this new crisis will not end soon. Demands on health services will only grow as the pandemic continues and local resources dwindle. Should the worst happen, we must be ready to respond. Meanwhile, the injustices Palestinians have long faced – occupation, displacement, and blockade – continue unabated.

We recognise too that the pandemic has touched the lives of our supporters in the UK and around the world. We have all had our normal movement curtailed and been unable to visit family and friends. Many have fallen ill. Some have tragically lost loved ones before their time. Perhaps such experiences lie at the heart of the remarkable empathy and solidarity currently being shown towards Palestinians and MAP's mission in support of health and dignity.

The fact that you have continued to donate, fundraise and campaign with us in these unprecedented times gives me hope that, the other side of this global crisis, we can build a world of health, dignity and justice for all.

Thank you, as ever, for your support.

AIMEE SHALAN
Chief Executive Officer
Medical Aid for Palestinians

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Front cover photograph: Palestinians in Gaza city perform prayer in mosques for the first time after authorities allowed mosques to reopen with social distancing measures and other restrictions in place. Mosques in Gaza had been closed to worshippers to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Credit: Hassan Jedi

LEBANON

Economic crisis worsens

Lebanon is experiencing what the World Bank has described as its “worst economic crisis in recent history.” Since October 2019, the Lebanese pound has lost more than 80% of its value.

With Palestinian workers generally confined to low paid, unskilled or semi-skilled jobs, the outbreak of COVID-19 has made it even harder for them to maintain their livelihoods and income.



LEBANON

Utter devastation in Beirut

An explosion in the Lebanese capital of Beirut on 4 August left thousands wounded and hundreds killed or missing. Many families lost their homes and hospitals were flooded with casualties. MAP immediately launched an Emergency Appeal to help Palestine Red Crescent Society hospitals treat the injured through the provision of essential medical supplies.

Read more: www.map.org.uk/beirut



WEST BANK

MAP demands accountability for killing of Eyad Hallaq

Eyad Hallaq, a 32-year-old Palestinian man with autism and a mild learning disability, was fatally shot by Israeli police on 30 May on his way to the Elwyn El Quds Occupational Training Centre in the Old City of East Jerusalem, which he regularly attended.

MAP has called on the international community to ensure that there is an effective, independent and thorough investigation into Eyad's killing.

GAZA

COVID-19: knock-on effects to healthcare

As health sectors across the world pivot to COVID-19 response, access to other health services for Palestinians has reduced. In Gaza, breast cancer care and treatment is limited to diagnostic services. Routine management of non-communicable diseases is also postponed, as well as early child growth and development services, and physiotherapy. According to UN OCHA, more than 9,000 patients face postponements to their elective surgeries, 3,000 of which are urgent.



WEST BANK

Annexation breaks international law

The new coalition government of Israel has vowed to annex significant parts of the West Bank.

A group of 47 UN human rights experts has warned that annexation would break international law and called on the international community to ensure accountability: “*Occupation is a source of profound human rights violations against Palestinian people. These would only intensify after annexation.*”

MAP MIDWIVES ADAPT TO NEW REALITY IN THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMPS OF LEBANON

More than seven decades after the first waves of Palestinian refugees were exiled in Lebanon, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians remain displaced, many in overcrowded camps where poverty, poor sanitation and high unemployment are having a detrimental impact on the health of pregnant women, new mothers, and babies.

Among Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, rates of maternal and child mortality and illness remain worryingly high. Palestinian communities have little-to-no access to Lebanese state-run hospitals and clinics.

New and expectant mothers can only visit overstretched UNRWA clinics, where the average consultation time is less than three minutes. There is virtually no support to help tackle post-natal depression, and not enough time to promote breastfeeding or receive advice on infant care.

That is where MAP's community midwives come in, providing the only home-visiting midwifery service in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon.

Thanks to hard work providing check-ups and health advice over many years, breast-feeding rates among Palestinian mothers have increased, and anaemia, high-risk pregnancies and the rates of caesarean section deliveries have reduced.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, our midwives have continued providing essential care to expectant and new Palestinian mothers and their new-born babies in the camps. MAP has supported the midwives to take important precautionary measures to safeguard their own health and those of the women and babies they visit. Thanks to the help of supporters, we are providing them with face masks, antiseptic lotions, and gloves so their one-to-one health education sessions can be safely conducted.



MAP's midwives continue delivering essential care amid the COVID-19 pandemic

IN 2019,
**MORE THAN
2,000**
PREGNANT
WOMEN,
NEW MOTHERS
& THEIR BABIES

↓
**RECEIVED
REGULAR
HOME VISITS
FROM MAP'S
MIDWIVES**

We recently spoke to two of our community midwives, Saraya and Mariam, about the importance of their continued work and the current conditions in the Palestinian camps.

WHY IS IT VITAL TO CONTINUE DELIVERING HOME MIDWIFERY SERVICES AMID THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC?

Saraya: "The importance of our home visits has multiplied since the coronavirus crisis began, as many pregnant women and new mothers stopped going to the clinic for antenatal and postnatal consultations unless there is an emergency.

"Our home visits have become the only source of support and healthcare these women receive during this critical period.

"During the visits, on top of our usual advice, we are also providing advice and brochures related to precautionary



MAP is supporting the midwives to take important precautionary measures to safeguard their own health ahead of visits



CARING FOR A NEW BABY WHILE SEPARATED FROM MY FAMILY IN SYRIA

Abier, a Palestinian refugee from Syria now living in Lebanon, described the care she has received from MAP's community midwife Rania:

"My family and I fled the war in Syria and took shelter in one of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon. I met my husband here, and we stayed after my family went back to Syria.

"I first learned about MAP's midwives when I was pregnant. It was my first pregnancy, and my family was not with me. I was clueless and did not know anything about pregnancy or how to take care of a new-born. One day early on in my pregnancy, the midwife, Rania, came to my door to talk about the project. Rania asked if I wished to enrol in the home visiting service. I immediately accepted, especially as it is free-of-charge.

"Rania became my source of support and encouragement; she was the person I would go to with all my questions and concerns. She always responded to my questions; regardless how trivial they were. A first-time mother usually gets worried about everything.

"During home visits, Rania checked my blood pressure and listened to the baby's heartbeat, which was something I looked forward to. I felt happy and

relaxed when I heard that the pregnancy was going well, and the baby was fine. When the delivery date was approaching, I started getting nervous as I did not know much about childbirth. Rania explained the process clearly and helped me feel prepared and aware of everything that was happening to me.

"Rania continued to visit me after I gave birth to my now-six-month-old daughter Leila. I remember how much she helped me, teaching me how to care for Leila's umbilical cord stump. Every visit Rania used to examine my daughter carefully and check her weight and height to see if she was growing well.

"Perhaps what I like the most is the respectful and kind way Rania has treated me and my family. She always calls before the home visit to make sure that the scheduled time is still suitable for me and she explains the purpose of the visit and what it will include.

"I hope the midwifery project continues for a very long time. The home visits are very important especially for first-time or displaced mothers like me."

Names changed to protect identity

measures to prevent coronavirus infections. A few women are not consenting to home visits. We understand and respect their decision, and we try to provide them with advice and support through phone calls."

Mariam: "At UNRWA clinics, they are taking very good precautionary measures such as wearing protective suits and masks and not allowing people to sit close to one another. However, many pregnant women and new mothers still prefer not to go to the clinic or outside their houses fearing that they may catch an infection."

WHAT ARE CONDITIONS LIKE IN THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMPS?

Saraya: "People are worried because social distancing is impossible in the camps due to overcrowding and the close proximity of the homes to one another.

"The importance of our home visits has multiplied since the coronavirus crisis began, as many pregnant women and new mothers stopped going to the clinic for antenatal and postnatal consultations unless there is an emergency."



Instagram @
medicaidpal

In Ein el Helweh camp, we are talking about one square kilometre hosting over 80,000 refugees. Often, a single- or two-room house will have 10 to 15 people of three different generations living there.

"If one person gets sick, the whole camp is likely to get the disease. If we ask them to self-quarantine, it is not possible. They don't have financial resources and the space to self-quarantine nor the privilege to stay home and not work."

HOW HAVE PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOODS BEEN AFFECTED BY COVID-19?

Mariam: "In the medical file we use, there is a part related to the socioeconomic situation where we ask if any family members are working. Since the beginning of the financial crisis and mass protests across Lebanon against the government, we notice that almost all families we visit have

the husband not working or have no secure source of income. The financial situation of families in the camps has deteriorated further since the pandemic."

Saraya: "The prices are very high now. Many people know that they should be using hand gel and cleaning with disinfectant, but they can't afford it.

"Many families don't have food. If one family or extended family member is working, they help the entire family. Some shop owners and landlords are waiving fees as a way of supporting one another. It is good to see this support and care for one another."

It's because of your kind donations that our midwives are able to continue their vital work. *Thank you*

TROUBLING TIMES FOR PALESTINIAN CHILDREN INCREASE DEMAND FOR MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

By Aseel Baidoun,
MAP's Advocacy Officer
in the West Bank

I was born and raised in East Jerusalem. After school, I travelled to Lebanon to pursue my bachelor's degree. It wasn't until I moved to Sweden to study for a Master's that I came to understand the anger I have been living with most of my life. I finally had the chance to live in a country where I was not discriminated against, the opportunity to reflect how growing up in East Jerusalem and witnessing life for Palestinians in Lebanon had impacted my mental health.

In Jerusalem, I lived in constant fear of being killed, detained or losing my family. There are Israeli soldiers on every street, watching, waiting for the smallest "suspicious move" to shoot you. The recent killing of Eyad Hallaq (see p.2) is not exceptional: he was the second Palestinian killed by Israeli forces in East Jerusalem since the start of the year and the seventeenth Palestinian killed in Palestine during 2020.

We are 370,000 Palestinians living in East Jerusalem, and we are all treated as guilty until proven otherwise. Our homes are under the constant threat of being demolished, our Jerusalem residency is under constant threat of being revoked. The Israeli Government's threat to annex more Palestinian land looms further over our dignity and would have a particularly devastating effect on the wellbeing of youth. Growing up in a city where you are constantly discriminated against impacted my self-esteem, self-image and identity.



"I wish I had been part of Saraya when I was an adolescent"



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I am grateful that I am now part of the MAP team. Our partner, the Saraya Centre, provides a range of activities for Palestinian children aged six to 17. The centre is essential for youth, giving them a safe space in the Old City of East Jerusalem where they can express themselves, grow in confidence, and release stress. I wish I had been part of Saraya when I was an adolescent. Their activities help young people develop life skills, safely discuss the daily challenges they face, and learn about Palestinian culture and heritage.

In Lebanon, I witnessed how Palestinian refugees also face severe hardship. The 12 Palestinian camps suffer from overcrowding, unemployment, poor housing and lack of infrastructure and services. I met many young Palestinians in Lebanon and they all share the frustrations of being displaced and discriminated against. They were born and raised in Lebanon, but they are not treated as Lebanese. On the contrary, they are discriminated against in every aspect of life, frequently denied opportunities to work in their chosen fields and marginalised from society. Although they are Palestinian, they have never seen Palestine, which creates a big identity crisis. Growing up in such circumstances creates a huge need for psychosocial support.



MAP partners with the Saraya Centre, helping to support the psychological wellbeing and dignity of Palestinian children in East Jerusalem

MAP

In partnership with UNICEF and five local organisations - Naba'a, Najdeh, NISCVT, Tadamon and the General Union of Palestinian Women - MAP is bringing psychosocial and mental health support to thousands of children growing up in these harsh conditions. The programme's activities provide structured, recreational and learn-through-play psychosocial support activities. The project aims to empower young people to advocate their rights with confidence in their context of overlapping political and social restrictions.

While psychological support cannot solve the root problems facing Palestinians, it is much needed, supporting Palestinians in their determination to be resilient and active survivors. It is essential that Palestinian youth continue to have a safe place to decompress, share experiences and develop coping mechanisms, in order to reach their fullest potential.

Thanks to our supporters, MAP is able to continue projects supporting young Palestinians living under occupation and as refugees even during the unprecedented contemporary challenges.



DEMANDING RIGHTS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Many Palestinians with disabilities face worsening situation because of the pandemic

COVID-19 has touched the lives of everyone, but not all are equally affected by the virus or the measures taken to tackle it.

The UN has warned that people with disabilities, in particular, are disproportionately affected "due to attitudinal, environmental and institutional barriers that are reproduced in the COVID-19 response."

MAP has long worked with people with disabilities in Palestine and refugee camps in Lebanon, taking a rights-based approach to support them to remove barriers to their full inclusion and participation in society.

A human rights-based approach to disability stresses that people with disabilities are active members of society with equal rights to others. It focuses on removing barriers within society that prevent people with disabilities from having access to essential services and enjoying their rights.

Our partner in Gaza, the Social Developmental Forum (SDF), provides rights-based and digital training and support to people with disabilities,

"At the beginning of the coronavirus crisis, I was terrified. I did not understand what was happening around me."

enabling them to become advocates in their local community to bring about change.

Responding to the outbreak of COVID-19, SDF launched an online campaign. The campaign, which is accessible for people with disabilities, is raising awareness of the virus and preventative measures needed to help prevent transmission and keep people safe. People with disabilities formed the team who created, and are now delivering, the campaign.

Ola, a young woman in Gaza, shared with us her experiences:

"At the beginning of the coronavirus crisis, I was terrified. I did not understand what was happening around me. All the information on the TV and social media was not adapted for people with hearing impairments. I understood from my family that there is a dangerous pandemic and I am not allowed to leave the house. I was scared. The lack of information increased my anxiety and stress."

"After a few weeks, SDF started publishing videos about the pandemic with sign language. I felt more informed and less anxious."

In Lebanon, our partners have adapted the way they work to continue safely providing physical rehabilitation and educational support to children with disabilities living in Palestinian camps.

In El Bass Camp, MAP supports the Sour Community Disability Project. They provide a range of services, including physiotherapy, speech therapy, educational sessions for parents, and activities to promote better inclusion for children with disabilities in education and their communities. Hisham, the centre's Coordinator, explained how they changed to work remotely during the lockdown:

"All group activities were suspended to avoid risk of transmission. In-person activities were implemented online. Information about COVID-19 and advice on precautionary measures suitable for every child's need were provided to families through phone calls."

"The project specialists communicated with parents, training them to implement simple activities with their children at home to maintain the acquired skills. Parents provided feedback to the specialists or video-recorded the exercise and asked for comments. The specialists also responded to all the parents' and children's queries."

"It is very important that the children and their parents feel supported."

Hisham reflected on some unexpected learnings for the centre:

"We used to face challenges, such as bad weather that would prevent children from getting to the centre or difficulty getting fathers involved. The online and remote methods for raising awareness and reaching families proved effective. We will use these more in the future, for instance in campaigns, helping us reach larger audiences and involve hard-to-reach groups."

By quickly and safely adapting during the COVID-19 crisis, our partners have helped to ensure the voices and influence of Palestinians with disabilities continue to be heard.

Support from people like you make these disability programmes possible. Please consider making a donation today

Thank you

MAP'S EMERGENCY CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE

Palestinian communities in the occupied Palestinian territory and Lebanon remain extremely vulnerable to the global pandemic, largely as a consequence of unaddressed, historic and ongoing injustices.

MAP is responding through our teams and partners on the ground in the West Bank, Gaza and the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon; supporting Ministries of Health, East Jerusalem NGO hospitals and Palestine Red Crescent Society hospitals.

We are prioritising infection prevention and containment, providing hygiene kits to quarantined families, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for health workers, COVID-19 testing kits and antiseptics/disinfectants to help prevent further spread of the disease. We are also supplying out-of-stock medicines and disposables to Gaza's hospitals to support the care of the critically ill.

Motaz Alatrash, MAP's Finance Manager in Gaza, explains how we've procured essential medical items in Gaza in response to the COVID-19 crisis:



Since the outbreak of coronavirus prices of urgently needed medical supplies have risen significantly and the quantity of items in the market is limited, so we have had to accelerate our procurement process. Now, when we receive priority lists from the World Health Organization and Ministry of Health, we go directly to vendors. We make sure the items are available, verify the prices to make sure they are reasonable and, if they are, purchase them immediately.

Gaza has very limited support and resources. The Ministry of Health has very limited stocks, and during this crisis not all donors can contribute as they normally would due to responding to crises back home. That is why MAP is prioritising procuring and delivering these emergency items to ensure they reach hospitals, primary healthcare centres and community partners as quickly as possible.



We have delivered hygiene kits to the Palestinian Medical Relief Society in Gaza who have distributed them to vulnerable families.



We have also delivered PPE kits for health workers in the West Bank and East Jerusalem NGO hospitals.



"Our greatest fear remains the rapid and uncontrollable spread of the infection through communities almost defenceless as a result of overcrowding, poverty, malnutrition, a high prevalence of chronic disease and health systems already at breaking point. We must do all we can to mitigate those risks."

Dr Andy Ferguson,
MAP's Director of Programmes



MAP has also provided testing kits so local doctors can test Palestinians in quarantine centres after they return to Gaza



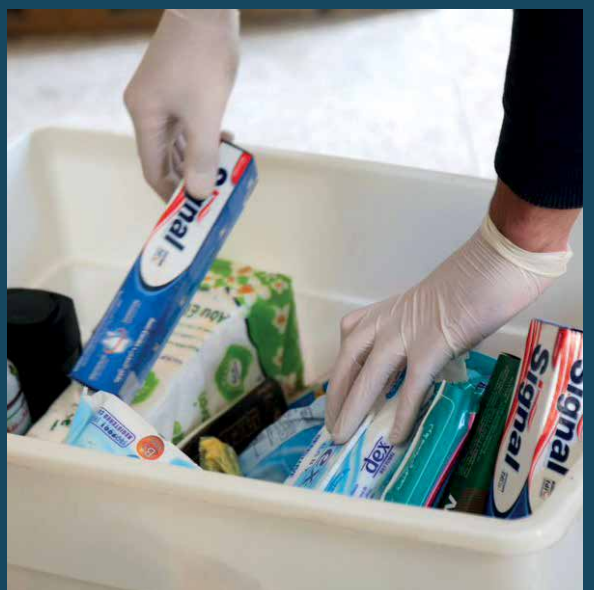
In Lebanon, we delivered PPE to Palestine Red Crescent Society Hospitals including N95 masks, surgical masks, sterile gowns, eye goggles, overalls, gloves and shoe covers



We also worked to prepare intensive care units (ICUs) for cases of coronavirus, and delivered critical care drugs and supplies for ICU patients to Gaza's Central Drug Store



We have provided PPE to the Ministry of Health in Gaza. These have helped to reduce the risk of infection for health workers involved in the assessment and care of patients with possible or confirmed COVID-19



In Gaza and the West Bank, all Palestinian citizens coming back from abroad are placed under a mandatory quarantine. We have provided hygiene kits to quarantine centres in Gaza

TREATING GUNSHOT INJURIES IN GAZA AMID THE PANDEMIC



Operation performed during a MAP-IDEALS surgical mission to Gaza



A Report from
Mohammed
Aghaalkurdi,
MAP's Limb
Reconstruction
Project Assistant
in Gaza

In 2012, the UN predicted that by 2020, Gaza would be unliveable. While we are still alive, we are barely living.

In Gaza some 96% of water is undrinkable. We have one of the highest unemployment rates in the world, reaching 64% amongst youth. Children and young people don't know what it means to travel. After 13 years of unlawful closure and blockade, poverty is soaring and food insecurity is rife.

Two years ago, on Friday, 30 March 2018, thousands gathered in Gaza to demand an end to the illegal closure and the fulfilment of Palestinian refugees' right of return at the first "Great March of Return" demonstrations.

Ahead of the first protest, Israeli forces positioned more than 100 snipers at the perimeter fence with Gaza. That day alone, they killed 15 Palestinians and injured 1,416.

Since then, more than 210 Palestinians have been killed, including 46 children. More than 8,000 people have been shot with live ammunition, predominantly to their limbs, including 1,200 with particularly severe limb gunshot wounds.

MAP, in partnership with IDEALS, has been working to support the development of local services to treat complex limb injuries in Gaza since 2014.

When the protests began, we were one of the first organisations to respond, and have provided essential medical supplies including out-of-stock medicines, disposables and over £1 million of equipment for orthopaedic surgery. OCHA has recognised MAP as "the only organization dealing with late and complex limb reconstruction injuries in Gaza."

I have been working with patients injured with gunshot wounds and their families for the past two years now. It is not easy seeing a patient's eyes turn red with pain and despair because of these devastating wounds. But nothing compares to seeing them burst with joy when they are reassured about their injury and treatment plan.

Most limb injuries we see have extensive damage to the bones and the surrounding soft tissue and neurovascular bundles (a structure combining nerves and veins). This makes it much more susceptible to a wound's worst enemy: infection. Between 25% and 40% of patients with gunshot wounds develop some degree of bone infection over a 12-month period following their injury.

Gunshot wounds also cause huge bone gaps and non-unions (when a broken bone fails to heal) which sometimes directs the medical decision towards

"It is not easy seeing a patient's eyes turn red with pain and despair because of these devastating wounds. But nothing compares to seeing them burst with joy when they are reassured about their injury and treatment plan."

shortening the limb for a period of time. This can make a patient's road to recovery even longer.

Occasionally, when the injury is bad enough and expected to expose a patient's life to danger, the decision to amputate is made. Over 150 limb injuries have resulted in amputation, and, if you think that cutting the limb off represents the end of the suffering, then you have not heard about patients who have to endure more surgeries or sometimes further amputations. At least 94 patients needed secondary amputations due to subsequent bone infections.

The work I support at MAP, limb reconstruction treatment, is unique. It requires a multidisciplinary team made up of orthopaedic and plastic surgeons, nurses, physiotherapists along with psychosocial support professionals. It also involves countless check-ups, complicated surgeries, heavy metal frames, frequent dressings and bloods, strong medicines, pain, insomnia, a sense of helplessness and disability... and much more besides.

Lucky patients have a swift recovery, but others, many others, have a very long, hard and expensive recovery sometimes lasting for years. Recently, the limb reconstruction clinic, where I am often based, recorded a patient whose date of injury goes back to the military offensive on Gaza in 2008. It



MAP

has been 12 years and he has undergone 25 minor and major surgeries and is about to have more.

Most patients I meet have lost their jobs due to their disabling injury, which hugely impacts their already vulnerable lives and households. One patient told me, "I was very active. I used to run an educational business. I was also a gardener. But a bullet broke it all, I'm frozen still, unable to move even one centimetre from my bed, waiting for some donation to meet my family's needs."

Thankfully, there are many success stories too. I will never forget a man who completed his Master's degree and became a father while receiving treatment.

This year marks the seventh phase of the project. It has been described by the Ministry of Health as one of the best projects ever supported by a charity in Gaza because of its focus on developing local skills and capacity.



MAP

Limb reconstruction has been described as one of the best projects ever supported by a charity in Gaza.



MAP- supported missions provide on-the-job training for local teams



MAP

The UN has recognised MAP as "the only organization dealing with late and complex limb reconstruction injuries in Gaza."

With freedom of movement so severely restricted for people in Gaza it is very difficult for health professionals to access the training and professional development they desperately need outside. Alone we would not have been able to treat the high number of patients with complex gunshot wounds.

An important part of the project is the missions of expert surgeons and rehabilitation specialists that travel from the UK to Gaza. During missions, the visiting surgeons work with local medics to evaluate and operate on patients with complex injuries. The missions cater to the needs of the local clinical team, providing hands-on training, symposiums and workshops.

Sadly, since the outbreak of COVID-19, planned medical missions have had to be postponed. To maintain the relationship with the specialists in the UK, virtual meetings via video calls are now conducted weekly with the local team, where they discuss clinical cases and decide on treatment plans for patients.

Back in March, when a state of emergency was announced, we also had to suspend other activities. Local outpatient clinics were closed, and elective surgeries were postponed, leaving dozens of patients waiting in line for medical care.

SINCE THE GREAT MARCH OF RETURN PROTESTS BEGAN

210
PALESTINIANS
HAVE BEEN
KILLED

OVER
8,000
PEOPLE SHOT
WITH LIVE
AMMUNITION

INCLUDING
1,200
WITH SEVERE

LIMB
GUNSHOT
INJURIES

PROVIDE LIFESAVING NUTRITIONAL CARE IN A TIME OF CRISIS

Dr Adnan is the director of the Ard El Insan (AEI) Malnutrition Centre, which supports families in southern Gaza. He told us about the impact COVID-19 was having on their services.



"The impact of COVID-19 in Gaza has been enormous. The situation here was already very bad before this crisis, but now is far worse. Many families on low incomes have seen their salaries reduced or have lost their jobs entirely. Other aid services on which they are heavily dependent have been cut or ended altogether.

"We have seen more and more people coming to our centre, desperately looking for some hope. They need medicines and nutritious food, including gluten free flour. We are doing all we can to limit the risks to the health and wellbeing of the children and families who come to us.

"We do this despite the fear for our own safety. We come every day to the centre, following the procedures to help prevent the spread of the virus. We are so very grateful for the care shown to us by MAP's supporters."

Thank you to everyone who has supported our Malnutrition in Gaza Appeal this summer.

The local outpatient clinics and surgeries have now resumed, but we are minimising the number of patients there and taking important precautionary measures.

Everyone involved in the project is working hard to overcome the disruption caused by the outbreak of COVID-19, to make sure it has the minimum impact on patients' treatments. I'm really proud of all we've achieved these past two years and look forward to helping more patients take their first steps towards recovery.

Your generosity can help us continue supporting limb reconstruction in Gaza. Please consider making a donation today.



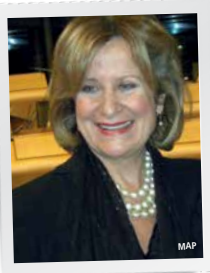
Mahmoud Khattab/APA Images/ZUMA Wire/Alamy Live News

CHRONIC IMPUNITY

IS KEEPING PALESTINIAN HEALTH WORKERS IN THE FIRING LINE

**THIS ARTICLE WAS
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED
IN MIDDLE EAST EYE**

**By Baroness
Helena Kennedy QC,
a barrister, broadcaster,
Labour member of
the House of Lords and
Honorary Patron of MAP**



While doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals around the world are heroically battling the coronavirus pandemic, spare a thought for those doing so in a place a UN investigation called "one of the most dangerous places in the world for healthcare workers": the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt).

Last year, a UN mandated Commission of Inquiry found reasonable grounds to believe that Israeli military snipers had intentionally shot at health workers, children, persons with disabilities and journalists at protests in Gaza.

Three medics were among the more than 200 people killed during two years of Israel's use of force at the Great March of Return demonstrations. A further 845 medics were injured. No one has been held to account for this.

Attacks on Palestinian medics and the wider health sector are nothing new.

**DURING 2014
MILITARY
OFFENSIVE
ON GAZA,**

**23
HEALTH
WORKERS
WERE KILLED**

**45
AMBULANCES**

**17
HOSPITALS**



**56
HEALTH CARE
CENTRES
WERE
DAMAGED OR
DESTROYED**

Israel's devastating military offensive on Gaza in the summer of 2014 took the lives of 23 Palestinian health workers and 556 children. Forty-five ambulances, 17 hospitals and 56 healthcare centres were damaged or destroyed.

A different round of death and destruction prompted a different UN investigation, but the conclusion was all-too-familiar: that there was "substantial information pointing to serious violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law [which] may amount to war crimes."

New research by MAP, in partnership with the Al Mezan Center for Human Rights and Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights, shows that the protected status of hospitals and medical personnel under international law is not being upheld.

Their new joint report, *Chronic Impunity: Gaza's health sector under repeated attack*, illustrates how Israel's internal military justice system has afforded impunity for the 2014 attacks on hospitals and ambulance crews, failing to prosecute a single perpetrator. It outlines how this impunity has fuelled the repeated attacks on health workers in Gaza during the Great March of Return, also carried out with total impunity.

At the UN Security Council this year, UK ambassador Karen Pierce stated that

"the United Kingdom believes that legal accountability for conflict-related crimes serves as deterrent, punishment, and a method for upholding victims' rights. Without it, there can be neither reconciliation of communities, nor faith in the functioning of rule of law institutions, nor respect for the rules-based international system."

This is completely correct, but the situation in the oPt cannot be allowed to become an exception or a blind spot for the UK government. If nations like the UK truly care about addressing humanitarian needs and upholding the fundamental rules of international law, we have to be prepared to condemn outright deplorable illegality and impunity wherever it occurs.

Failure to do so emboldens other nations to behave in a similar fashion.

The United States has made clear that it has abrogated any vestiges of global leadership on the issue of international law as pertains to Israel and the Palestinians.

The UK, with its international partners, must therefore step up. It is time to take real action to support accountability for attacks on healthcare and other potentially serious violations of international law wherever they occur, including in Palestine.

Impunity is contagious. Silence is collusion. If the UK and others fail to act, I'm afraid any hope of peace and justice also lies in critical condition.



Health worker injured while on duty at the Great March of Return



Medic wounded during the 2014 military offensive on Gaza

NURSE EMAN: CONTINUING IMPACT OF 2014 ATTACKS



Nurse Eman Abu Jayyab, who was permanently injured in an attack on Al Aqsa hospital

Eman has worked as a nurse at Al Aqsa hospital in Gaza since 2005. She is the only breadwinner of her family, after her husband was killed during the military offensive on Gaza in 2008.

On 21 July 2014, Israel's forces shelled Al Aqsa Hospital. In the attack, Eman's arm was struck by a large piece of shrapnel, leaving it permanently disabled. Like all other survivors from the 2014 offensive, Eman has not received any legal remedies.

In an interview with MAP, five years after the attack, Eman explains the profound ongoing impact of the injury on her life.

"I am still working as a nurse. Before the injury, I was a nurse in the intensive care unit, but now [due to the injury] I am a nurse in the outpatient clinic. I have no other option [but to work]. Who will feed my kids?"

"I feel so humiliated when I have to open a medication or a needle for a doctor. I have to turn my face away from the doctor and open it with my mouth [because I can't use my right arm and hand]. Or, when I have to measure the blood pressure of a patient, the patient has to do most of the work... But I'm fighting and I'm doing my best to keep my job. The only

"It's true that the injury brought me closer to the patients, but it has distanced me from my kids."

positive thing I've taken from my injury is an amplified feeling of sympathy and empathy towards the patients. I now feel the pain of all of the patients and I work hard to ease it.

"I am worn out. My arm is still aching as if it were on fire. It becomes swollen every day from hours of standing, because with no muscles to carry it, it has become a heavy burden on my body. I just take vitamins and painkillers, which I buy at my own expense. Sometimes I wish my arm was amputated so that I could be relieved of the pain, but then I say no, thank God it is still there, as it makes me look more like a normal human being.

"I wake up a lot. I can't remember the last time I slept deeply. I've lost my appetite, but I still have to cook for the kids. It's so hard to cook and chop vegetables with one hand, especially my left hand. My kids or sister sometimes help me. But many other times I spend hours cooking. When the food is on the table, I feel exhausted and frustrated to the point that I run to my room and burst into tears and lock myself there for hours.

"It's true that the injury brought me closer to the patients, but it has distanced me from my kids. I don't know why, but I've lost connection with my own children. I have no energy to communicate with them. I don't know what the reason is for us growing apart. I considered seeing a therapist for a long time. But I don't have the time. I have to work, cook, clean and take care of myself and my kids with one hand."



Eman's story features in our report, *Chronic Impunity: Gaza's Health Sector Under Repeated Attack*.

To learn more about chronic impunity for attacks on Palestinian health workers, read MAP's new report: map.org.uk/chronicimpunity



Follow MAP
on Twitter @
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HOW SUPPORTERS ARE HELPING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

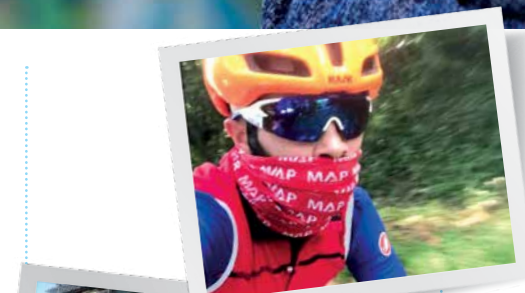
THANK YOU



TOGETHER2PALESTINE

2020 has been unprecedented to say the least. The coronavirus has affected the entire world, including the lives of Palestinians in the oPt and Lebanon. We decided to find ways to allow our supporters to show their solidarity with the Palestinian people while keeping safe in lockdown. Together2Palestine was a virtual event that collectively covered 2,190 miles, the distance from the UK to Palestine. **Seven weeks and over 50 participants later, Together2Palestine raised a fantastic £22,000!** Not only did we make it to Palestine together, but our supporters collectively covered enough distance to return to the UK as well. Huge thanks to everyone who took part and donated. To have your support during such difficult times has meant the world to MAP and the Palestinian communities we serve who benefit from our projects. **Together, we made it to Palestine (and back)!**

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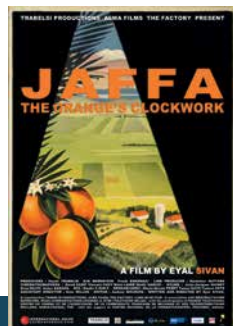


LONDON PALESTINE FILM FESTIVAL

The 2020 London Palestine Film Festival (LPFF) in the spring was unable to run as usual due to COVID-19 restrictions. They decided instead to support our COVID-19 Emergency Response by inviting supporters to donate and stream weekly films about Palestine. **The online festival ran for nine weeks and raised an incredible £13,000!** Thank you so much to the everyone at the London Palestine Film Festival and especially to Roua who liaised with us. **Thank you also to all our supporters who donated to watch the films, we hope you all enjoyed them.**



Instagram @
medicalaidpal



If you, your community or company would like to support MAP's work, get in touch with our fundraising team today. Telephone: 020 7226 4114
Email: fundraising@map.org.uk
www.map.org.uk/get-involved

KEW FRIENDS COME DINE FOR PALESTINE

Earlier this year our community fundraiser, Zahra Yassine, travelled to Kew, West London, to attend a Come Dine for Palestine lunch fundraiser and to speak about our malnutrition project in Gaza. Zahra was greeted by a wonderful and committed group of people and food so incredibly delicious that she went back for seconds! This was a ticketed event which also had a raffle and raised nearly £2,000 in total. Thank you so much to everyone who attended the event at Priory Park. **Your support means so much to us.**

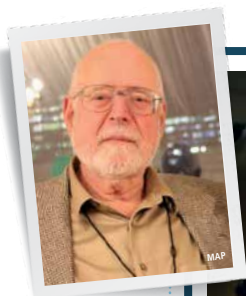
If you would like to put on your own Come Dine for Palestine event, visit map.org.uk/comedine

BECOME A MAP AMBASSADOR

Do you want to be one of our new MAP Ambassadors? Ambassadors work closely with MAP's Community Fundraiser and represent MAP in their communities.

Simon from Kent is our most recent Ambassador. When asked what is the best thing about becoming a MAP Ambassador, Simon said: *"By representing MAP in your community, you have the opportunity to become a voice for the voiceless. I would encourage anyone to apply to become a MAP Ambassador."*

To find out more email Zahra at fundraising@map.org.uk. Or call 020 7226 4114.



MAP SUPPORTER JOHN DESCRIBES WHY HE HAS CHOSEN TO LEAVE A GIFT IN HIS WILL



John is one of our supporters who has chosen to leave a gift to MAP in his will. Gifts like these can make an enormous impact to the lives of the Palestinians we support and help to leave an important and enduring legacy. John told us about why he chose to support MAP in this way:

"I've been volunteering at the London office for over 14 years, opening mail, addressing envelopes – whatever I can do that's useful. I've also been donating to MAP, and I'm leaving them a sum of money in my will."

"Supporting Palestinians through MAP attracts a certain kind of person. One who can't stand by when they see injustice. I know that, after I'm gone, my legacy will help Palestinians well into the future."

If you like to find out more about how to leave MAP a gift in your will, please contact us on 020 7226 4114. Or visit our website at map.org.uk/mylegacy

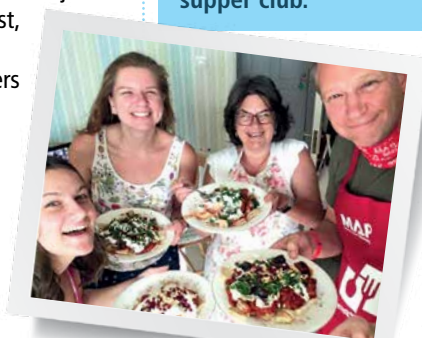
Thank you

ONLINE COOKING WITH PALESTINIAN CHEF, JOUDIE KALLA

Palestinian chef and author of *'Palestine on a Plate'* and *'Baladi'*, Joudie Kalla taught MAP supporters how to make a traditional Palestinian dish in our first ever online cooking class. We were also joined by special guest and journalist, Ahmed Shihab-Eldin for an insightful Q&A. 117 supporters took part over video call and raised an incredible £3,400!

Thank you all of our MAP chefs who joined and a huge thank you to Joudie and Ahmed for their time and support.

Keep an eye out for future cooking classes on our website and social media, or head over to map.org.uk/comedine to host your own supper club.



MAP NEWS

NEW MAP-FUNDED MOBILE CLINIC IN HEBRON HELPS TACKLE COVID-19

MAP has started a new partnership with the Palestinian Medical Relief Society to provide a mobile clinic service to Bedouin communities in the southern governorate of Hebron, a region hardest hit by COVID-19. A vital part of the clinics' work is raising awareness of COVID-19 among community members and preventative measures to help prevent further transmission and keep people safe.



REMEMBERING MAP'S FORMER TRUSTEE AND LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDEE RUNA MACKAY

All of us at MAP are deeply saddened to learn of the death of close friend and colleague Dr Runa Mackay. In 2014, MAP presented Runa with our lifetime achievement award, recognising her almost 60 years of service to the Palestinian people. "Runa was a wonderful human being, a great doctor and a resolute defender of Palestinian rights." – Dr Ghassan S. Abu-Sittah, MBChB, FRCS(Plast), Plastic Surgeon and MAP Trustee.



#ISOLATEDBUTTOGETHER: CAMPAIGNERS STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIAN MEDICS

More than 100 people in the UK, Palestine and around the world joined MAP's #IsolatedButTogether campaign, taking selfies and uploading messages of support to stand with Palestinian health workers battling coronavirus. **You can read more and see the supporters' selfies at map.org.uk/together.**

MAP JOINS UK CHARITIES IN OPPOSING FURTHER ANNEXATION

MAP has joined a coalition of 14 UK-based humanitarian, development, human rights and faith organisations in calling on the UK government to outline its response if Israel goes ahead with illegal annexation of the West Bank. **You can read the statement at: map.org.uk/annexationstatement**



OVER 1,500 SUPPORTERS EMAILED THEIR MP TO OPPOSE ANNEXATION

More than 1,500 people took part in MAP's email campaign, contacting their MP to call for the UK Government to take meaningful action to oppose further annexation of the West Bank. **Thank you to everyone who got involved.**

SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Rachael Moses**
@AHPLeader



@MedicalAidPal Come Dine for Palestine selfie as promised! Great hosting and online event. To read more about supporting this wonderful charity please visit www.map.org.uk/coronavirus



 **Tommy Corbyn**
@TommyCorbyn



Lockdown can be terrifying. Imagine 14 years of lockdown with insufficient medical supplies, hospitals in ruins, overcrowding and living under constant fear of attack, THEN getting hit with COVID-19.

Every year for my birthday I raise funds for the brilliant @MedicalAidPal. Last year we raised over £3k on Facebook alone. This year I want to top that.

 **Yara**
@YaraZinati



From Gaza to the UK 🇬🇧
#Isolated_but_together
@SdfPal @MedicalAidPal

 **Ben White**
@benabyad



New briefing by @MedicalAidPal, @alhaq_org & Jerusalem Legal Aid & Human Rights Centre: systematic neglect & de-development of Palestinian healthcare has left Palestinian communities in Israeli-occupied East Jerusalem extremely vulnerable to Covid-19. www.map.org.uk/C19Report

Donate online at

www.map.org.uk

Or call today on

020 7226 4114



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

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