



AUTUMN 2022

WITNESS

GAZA

15 years of
suffocating blockade

WEST BANK

Breast cancer unit
transforms services

LEBANON

Psychosocial support
for child refugees in
Shatila Camp

MAP'S MEDICAL MISSIONS:

**BUILDING SKILLS AND
CHANGING LIVES**

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MELANIE WARD WILL JOIN MAP AS THE NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN JANUARY 2023.

"It's a huge privilege to be appointed the next CEO of Medical Aid for Palestinians. Having lived in Hebron and worked in Lebanon, I have seen up close the grim reality of occupation and displacement for Palestinians, and the need to build a better future. MAP is a unique and special organisation whose dedicated staff and partners, with the backing of committed supporters, do extraordinary work in extremely difficult circumstances. I'm really looking forward to getting started and to leading this brilliant organisation in its next chapter." – Melanie Ward



Palestinians in the Sheikh Acleyn neighbourhood in Gaza on August 6, 2022.
Photo credit: Mohammed Zaoun



DEAR READER

2022 has been a year of uncertainty and insecurity, with many in the world facing economic shocks and the rising cost of living. The immediate humanitarian impact of the war in Ukraine and the ongoing health consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic have exacerbated inflationary pressures and disrupted food supplies.

While this may be a new phenomenon for many of us, Palestinians across the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) and Lebanon have become accustomed to constant instability and perpetual crisis, as a result of military occupation, dispossession and displacement.

Earlier this year, I visited the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and was struck by the steadfastness of people who are trying to live normal lives, in abnormal conditions, amid Lebanon's worst economic crisis in living memory.

Palestinians' right to dignity is at the heart of Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP)'s work and I remain continually inspired by our teams, partners and communities we work with, who strive to maintain their dignity in the face of discriminatory policies established to strip this from them.

Your generous support, particularly during these difficult financial times, enables us to continue in our mission towards a future in which all Palestinians can realise their full rights to health and dignity.

This year, MAP has been able to fully return to organising its medical missions to the oPt and Lebanon and is on track to complete 43 missions during 2022. Our medical missions are integral to building a sustainable and locally-led healthcare system for Palestinians and they are a running theme throughout this edition of *Witness*.

Inside, you can learn about the significant impact of a new MAP-funded breast cancer unit in the West Bank and how our assistance to limb reconstruction services in Gaza is securing positive futures for patients. You can also hear from a young Palestinian refugee about the importance of MAP's support for mental health and psychosocial services in Lebanon, and how we are continuing to advocate and campaign for the rights to health and dignity of every Palestinian.

I thank you, as ever, for continuing to support MAP. Our work is only made possible thanks to the continued generosity of people like you.

Iain McSevny

IAIN McSEVENY
Chief Executive Officer (interim)
Medical Aid for Palestinians

COVER IMAGE:
Vascular surgeons
at Gaza's Shifa Hospital.
Photo credit: Reflection Media/MAP

SITUATION UPDATE



Palestinians inspect damage caused by an Israeli airstrike on a building in Sheikh Acleyn neighbourhood in Gaza.

GAZA

ISRAEL LAUNCHES MOST SEVERE ATTACKS IN A YEAR

In August, 48 Palestinians were killed, including 17 children, and at least 360 injured during a three-day military offensive by Israel. The attacks destroyed residential buildings, struck refugee camps, partially damaged a hospital and killed five Palestinian children during an airstrike on a cemetery. MAP responded to the emergency situation by releasing prepositioned medicines, lab reagents and disposables, and procuring lifesaving medical items that were in critically short supply.

WEST BANK

ALARMING INCREASES OF VIOLENCE AND DISPLACEMENT

Excessive use of force by Israeli forces has led to an almost 50% increase in the number of Palestinians killed in the first half of 2022, compared to the same period last year. This included the killing of a prominent Palestinian journalist, Shireen Abu Akleh, who was shot dead while reporting on an Israeli military operation in Jenin refugee camp. Meanwhile communities, from Massafer Yatta to Silwan, continue to be threatened with forcible transfer and displacement.



Photo credit: Reuters/Raneen Sawaf

LEBANON

DEEPENING HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AND POLITICAL INSTABILITY

The devaluation of Lebanon's currency, increased unemployment, poverty and inflation have caused the entire country to feel economic hardship, with Palestinian refugees among the most deeply affected. Meanwhile, political uncertainty remains as no cabinet has been formed following elections in May.

A Palestinian woman in Burj El Barajneh Palestinian refugee camp, in Lebanon.



Photo credit: Ahmad Laila/MAP

PRCS medics carry an injured Palestinian demonstrator to an ambulance during a protest against Israeli settlements near Nablus, February 11, 2022.

MEDICAL MISSIONS RETURN TO PALESTINE



Photo credit: Reflection Media/MAP

Vascular surgeons at Gaza's Shifa Hospital.

This year, we organised our first medical missions to support the efficiency and effectiveness of vascular surgery in Gaza, with the aim of developing locally-led, self-sufficient and sustainable services to respond during times of emergency. Volunteers travelled from the UK to Gaza to train Palestinian healthcare staff, assess patient cases and conduct surgeries.

People in Gaza have experienced a protracted health catastrophe for the last 15 years, as a result of Israel's illegal closure, blockade and repeated military offensives. Facing severe shortages in medical, financial and human resources,

and an enduring electricity crisis, the health system is struggling to address the needs of Gaza's population.

Like every other area of care, vascular surgery is significantly affected by restrictions on the movement of people and goods, including the routine denial of permits for health workers to access training or professional development opportunities outside of Gaza. An assessment conducted by MAP found that vascular surgery services in Gaza fail to meet international standards, and are plagued by huge shortages in medical supplies and gaps in medical staff. Despite these challenges, it is a critical area of surgery that needs to be addressed given the likelihood of future emergencies.

We heard from a UK volunteer and Palestinian healthcare worker about why MAP's medical missions are so important.

"One of my passions is to save lives and limbs. Vascular surgery plays a major role in treating people with diabetes, kidney or renal failure needing dialysis, problems with arterial circulation, and trauma – where if blood vessels are injured this poses a threat to a person's life. The missions organised by MAP are very important and help to improve training, coordination of care and provide resources to support the services that are given to the people of Gaza."

DR IBRAHIM RIZA, CONSULTANT VASCULAR AND ENDOVASCULAR SURGEON, PENNINE ACUTE TRUST IN MANCHESTER, UK



Photo credit: Reflection Media/MAP

"We are under immense pressure, especially at the Shifa Medical Complex. Relative to the population, the number of vascular surgeons is small around the world and is smaller in Gaza.

I graduated from university in Germany, and I know that if I tell my colleagues there, or in the UK or Europe, that I see 80 outpatients between the morning and the afternoon, they'd probably wonder how we're dealing with this number. 80 outpatients!

But it is what it is. We work under great pressure, and we mean to make no mistakes and neglect no patients. We work in one of the most politically volatile areas known to the world. During times of war or crisis, we don't go home and just stay at the hospital for several days.

During these times, we prioritise difficult cases requiring emergency care, which leads to long delays in getting to patients with regular care needs. Patients needing kidney dialysis are especially affected by such delays. They require regular checks to maintain the catheter and access.

At times of crisis, we are forced to deprioritise these patients; our finite capacity falls short, and we cannot attend to all cases in time.

MAP has started addressing the crux of the problem by working towards creating vascular surgery centres resembling other high quality centres around the world."

DR AHMAD ABU NADA, CONSULTANT VASCULAR SURGEON, SHIFA MEDICAL COMPLEX

We are grateful for your support and will continue to update you on the incredible work of hospitals and medical missions taking place in Palestine.



MAP's medical missions are back in full swing after being paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic. So far this year, we have organised over 23 missions with 66 volunteers travelling to the occupied Palestinian territory and Lebanon, in order to train Palestinian health workers and support the sustainable development of healthcare services. We are on track to complete 43 missions in total this year, a considerable increase from the 34 in 2019.

YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL AND HAS HELPED TO SAVE LIVES THIS YEAR

23 MISSIONS SO FAR THIS YEAR

66 VOLUNTEERS TRAVELLING TO HOSPITALS IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY AND LEBANON

43 MISSIONS SET TO BE COMPLETED THIS YEAR



MAP'S 40 YEAR COMMITMENT TO SABRA AND SHATILA

By Wafa Dakwar, MAP's Senior Programme Manager in Lebanon

THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT, THE CHILD-FRIENDLY SPACES HAVE SUPPORTED MORE THAN:

1,100
CHILDREN



800
CAREGIVERS



OVER THE LAST 6 MONTHS IN LEBANON



Photo credit: Elizabeth Fitt for MAP

And change the bottom right to: "Palestinian young people walking home from the Solidarity Centre."



By Wafa Dakwar, MAP's Senior Programme Manager in Lebanon

Women taking part in an activity group at the Solidarity Association for Cultural Development in Shatila refugee camp. Photo credit: Elizabeth Fitt for MAP



United Nations relief at Shatila refugee camp, 1982



Ang Swee Chai in the refugee camp in Beirut in 1985. Photo credit: MAP

Photo credit: Alamy

Forty years ago, Lebanese Phalangist militants entered the Beirut refugee camp of Sabra and Shatila, and killed and injured hundreds of unarmed, defenseless Palestinians inside. The Israeli army, who had invaded Lebanon earlier that year and had surrounded the camp, had full knowledge of what was taking place inside, yet they never intervened.

Working in a hospital inside the camp at the time was a young orthopedic surgeon from London, Dr Swee Chai Ang. Refusing to leave the hospital, Dr Ang worked tirelessly to save the injured and protect her patients during the massacre.

On her return to London, Dr Ang joined with fellow medical professionals and humanitarians to establish MAP, in order to send doctors and nurses to work in the Palestinian refugee camps and provide frontline care. Forty years later, MAP's commitment and solidarity with the residents of Sabra and Shatila remains unbroken, and we continue to work with partners in the camp, Solidarity Association for Social and Cultural Development and Association Najdeh

Palestinians live in deplorable conditions in Shatila, with many unable to secure their basic needs. They face multiple barriers to access health, education, employment and social protection, leaving them almost entirely dependent on assistance from the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA). But reductions in funding for UNRWA, and Lebanon's ongoing economic and humanitarian crisis, are likely to increase the need for health, educational and social services, particularly for women, children and other marginalised groups.

MAP's work with Solidarity Association for Social and Cultural Development focuses on providing mental health and psychosocial support for children and their families and addressing the threats to women's and children's health – including child maltreatment, gender-based violence (GBV) and psychosocial distress.

We have established 14 child-friendly spaces, which operate daily and offer structured psychosocial support activities to children aged between three and 17, and their caregivers. Children at high risk or survivors of maltreatment or other violations have access to case management services, and their caregivers are offered parental support.

14-year-old Tamara regularly participates in activities at one of these centres. She spoke to me about how the centre plays such a significant role in her life and supports her mental health and wellbeing.

"I live with my younger sister, two older brothers and our parents in the camp. I was born here and have lived my whole life here. I like the camp, I am used to everything and I have many friends here.

I have been going to the Solidarity Community Centre and participating in different activities regularly for about four years now. I do sports, yoga and have learnt lots about subjects such as COVID-19, early marriage and different types of bullying and violence.

I go to the centre on weekends, when I don't have school, to relax and to enjoy my time. I feel full of energy when I go there. My mood improves and I feel happy. I've met lots of other children at the centre and now we've become good friends.

Since participating in the centre's activities, I have become more sociable and found it easier to make friends. I was not always like that. I have also become physically and mentally stronger and more relaxed."

Thanks to you, the women and children's safe spaces in Lebanon have been able to support over 200 people with case management and life-skills support, and reached over 200 people with GBV prevention activities.



NEW BREAST UNIT TRANSFORMS SERVICES IN THE WEST BANK

By Maha Khatib, MAP's Programme Manager in the West Bank



By Maha Khatib, MAP's Programme Manager in West Bank



EARLY DIAGNOSIS IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTORS FOR BREAST CANCER RECOVERY

IN ISRAEL
SCREENING FOR THE DISEASE IS COMMON, WITH **84%** OF WOMEN AGED 50-69 RECEIVING MAMMOGRAM SCREENINGS.

IN THE WEST BANK
MORE THAN **60%** OF WOMEN OVER THE AGE OF 50 HAVE NEVER ATTENDED A MAMMOGRAPHY SESSION.

BREAST CANCER PATIENTS IN GAZA HAVE A FIVE-YEAR SURVIVAL RATE OF 65%

WHICH IS SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER THAN AMONG PATIENTS IN ISRAEL.



Getting ready for a mammogram in the new outpatient clinic

Photo credit: MAP

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among Palestinian women in the West Bank, comprising 15% of all cancer diagnoses. But restrictions on freedom of movement for both patients and healthcare workers, shortages of essential medicines, and the fragmentation of the health system in the oPt are major obstacles to effective treatment and care for Palestinians with breast cancer.

This year, in coordination with the Palestinian Ministry of Health (MoH), a new MAP-funded and supported breast unit opened at Rafidia Hospital in Nablus, the first of its kind to provide full diagnostic and follow-up services for patients in the north of the West Bank. The unit, which has been refurbished and equipped with the most advanced medical devices thanks to the generosity of MAP's supporters, has so far served more than 200 patients since its opening in May 2022.

MAP conducted its first breast care mission to the West Bank in June and a larger mission took place in July, with a multidisciplinary team of specialists from the UK working from the new breast unit. Shifa, a nurse at the unit, described the impact it is having on patients.

"There has been a transformation in how we deliver breast care services. Before this unit opened, services were spread out in different places. A woman coming for services would have to go to one place for an ultrasound, another place for a mammogram and somewhere else for a biopsy. It was very difficult for women to navigate this. Now all the services are delivered in a one-stop unit, so the experience is much easier for women."



Nurse Shifa at the new breast unit at Rafidia MoH Hospital in Nablus

Photo credit: MAP

The process is clear and the women coming to the unit feel more comfortable.

The time it takes for a woman to be diagnosed has reduced. Now we can see a woman and quickly send her for a mammogram or biopsy to find out if she needs surgery, all on the same day. Before it would take a long time and the woman would have to keep coming back to the hospital.

The most important change is how the women feel when they come to the unit. The unit is bright and modern and feels very different from the surgical wards in the older part of the hospital which we used to use. Women feel that they are treated with dignity in the breast unit and there are separate consultation rooms which offer complete privacy.

I would like to thank MAP for their support in setting up this unit."

Our supporters make this work possible. With your support, we can continue providing this vital lifeline to women in the West Bank.

Thank you



Photo credit: MAP

Ultrasound room in new breast cancer unit

Palestinian women are seen during the Pink Sports Day at a campaign aiming to support breast cancer survivors during "Pink October", in Gaza City. Photo credit: SOFA Images Limited/Alamy Live News

"THE LIMB RECONSTRUCTION UNIT OFFERED ME SO MUCH"

By Mohammed Aghaalkurdi, MAP's Programme Officer in Gaza



Israel's military offensive on Gaza in August 2022 yet again proved the importance of effective limb reconstruction services for patients. This follows Israel's 11-day assault on Gaza in May 2021 which, according to Dr Mahmoud Matar, Head of the Limb Reconstruction Unit at Gaza's Nasser Medical Complex, resulted in approximately 100 patients who may require a long journey of complex reconstructive treatment and rehabilitation.

Patients may require two to three major reconstructive surgeries, amounting to about 300 surgeries in total for the unit to conduct. This comes on top of the backlog of cases resulting from the 'Great March of Return' demonstrations that began in 2018, and previous military offensives in 2014, 2012 and 2008-09. "A patient is usually waiting on the theatre list for at least two months until it is their turn to be treated," said Dr Matar.

For more than seven years, MAP has been working in partnership with IDEALS to equip surgical teams in Gaza with the skills and knowledge they need to help people during emergencies and with the longer-term aim of forming efficient, sustainable and locally-led limb reconstruction services.

An essential part of this work is MAP's medical missions, where UK surgeons train their counterparts in Gaza and work alongside them to operate on patients. This year, with your support, we were able to send our largest limb reconstruction mission to Gaza since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have also conducted four missions where the visiting team helped Palestinian surgeons to provide 206 consultations and perform 49 complex surgeries.

Limb injuries leave patients suffering from devastating and long-term effects on their physical and mental health, which can impact every aspect of their lives and lead to permanent disability. I spoke to two patients at Nasser Hospital's limb reconstruction unit, who are going through limb reconstruction surgery as a result of injuries caused by Israeli military violence in 2021 and 2018.



Kamal suffered from a limb injury during Israel's offensive on Gaza in May 2021. Photo credit: Reflection Media/MAP



Wael with a physiotherapist in Gaza. Photo credit: Reflection Media/MAP

WAEI'S STORY

"I was injured on the first day of the 'Great March of Return' demonstrations with live ammunition, so I was moved to the Shifa Medical Complex. I have since had 16 surgeries. I had external and internal fixation, then I was referred to the limb reconstruction unit at Nasser Medical Complex as I had a severe infection.

After treatment and physiotherapy, when I felt I could walk on my leg, I felt good. My mental health was improving, and I was recovering. But I still feel the pain of my injury at night and feelings of numbness and electric shock-like pains wake me up. Before my injury, I used to go out with my kids. No longer can I swim, exercise, run, play football, or walk as much on the beach.

The limb reconstruction unit offered me so much. Staff there performed complex surgeries and the surgeons, physiotherapists, and mental health staff did their best with me. I was not hopeful my leg would ever properly recover.

My message to the international community is to look at the defenceless Palestinian people and their suffering from attacks. There are thousands of injured people with amputated legs. I just wish to live in dignity, nothing more."



Photo credit: Reflection Media/MAP

"I JUST WISH TO LIVE IN DIGNITY, NOTHING MORE."



KAMAL'S STORY

"I am the provider for my family – my wife and two children. I used to work in an internet company, and I earned 700NIS [£166 per month]. I used to ride my motorcycle, install ladders, climb up internet distribution pillars, and fix damaged cables. My injury changed all of this.

I am disabled today; I cannot move more than 10-20 metres. My leg hurts and I cannot carry weight at all. My forearm is full of plates (internal fixation). During the last war on Gaza, on 15 May our neighbourhood was bombed. A drone missile killed three and injured me. My condition was serious. Once I saw my leg, I thought I would never walk again.

My injury caused deformation in all of my leg, and it affected all of my body. I had my veins cut, and they are now reconnected in my leg [after vascular repair surgeries]. I stayed in the intensive care unit for 11 days. I cannot afford the medicines I need, which cost around £712-£950. But at the limb reconstruction unit all the healthcare services and medicines I need are immediately provided.

I suffered an injustice from the occupier and I demand my rights to justice or, at minimum, to reparation and recovery. I just want to reclaim 80% of what my life was before."

Thanks to your support, Kamal and Wael have received the necessary surgery and care that they need, and are on the road to recovery.



Photo credit: Reflection Media/MAP

Kamal with a physiotherapist in Gaza.

15 YEARS OF BLOCKADE ON GAZA



Olivia Blake MP, Bambos Charalambous MP, Anna McMorris MP and Nadia Whittome MP outside Al Makassed Hospital in East Jerusalem.

In June 2022, people in Gaza marked 15 years under Israel's suffocating, illegal blockade and closure. In partnership with Al Mezan Center for Human Rights, MAP published a report warning that Israel's collective punishment of Gaza has created a humanitarian and health crisis that continues to deteriorate year-on-year. We highlighted how stifling restrictions and repeated military attacks have degraded Gaza's healthcare system and routinely prevented patients from accessing essential and potentially life-saving care.

"For 15 years Israel has denied Palestinians in Gaza their most basic rights to health and dignity. We are living in intolerable conditions with a health system constantly on the verge of collapse. The international community must pressure Israel to immediately end its blockade, which is the root cause of the seemingly endless healthcare disaster we face," said Fikr Shalltoot, MAP's Gaza Director.

Our report found that, in 2021, 36% of the more than 15,000 patients' requests to the Israeli authorities for permits to exit Gaza were either rejected, delayed or received no response, preventing them from accessing the care they need.

With the support of MAP, last year, Al Mezan provided legal and advocacy assistance to 635 patients, including 235 children, needing help obtaining permits. 39% of these patients were granted permits as a result, demonstrating the arbitrariness of the initial decisions and delays.

In June, MAP, along with other civil society organisations, participated in a two-day event organised by Oxfam in Gaza to discuss MAP's work and showcase the findings of this report.

Read the report: map.org.uk/delayeddenieddeprived

THE IMPACT OF 15 YEARS OF BLOCKADE ON THE POPULATION OF GAZA:

80% OF PEOPLE ARE RELIANT ON HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



64% OF PEOPLE EXPERIENCE FOOD INSECURITY



59% OF PEOPLE LIVE IN POVERTY



MPS WITNESS SYSTEMATIC DISCRIMINATION AND FRAGMENTATION IN THE WEST BANK

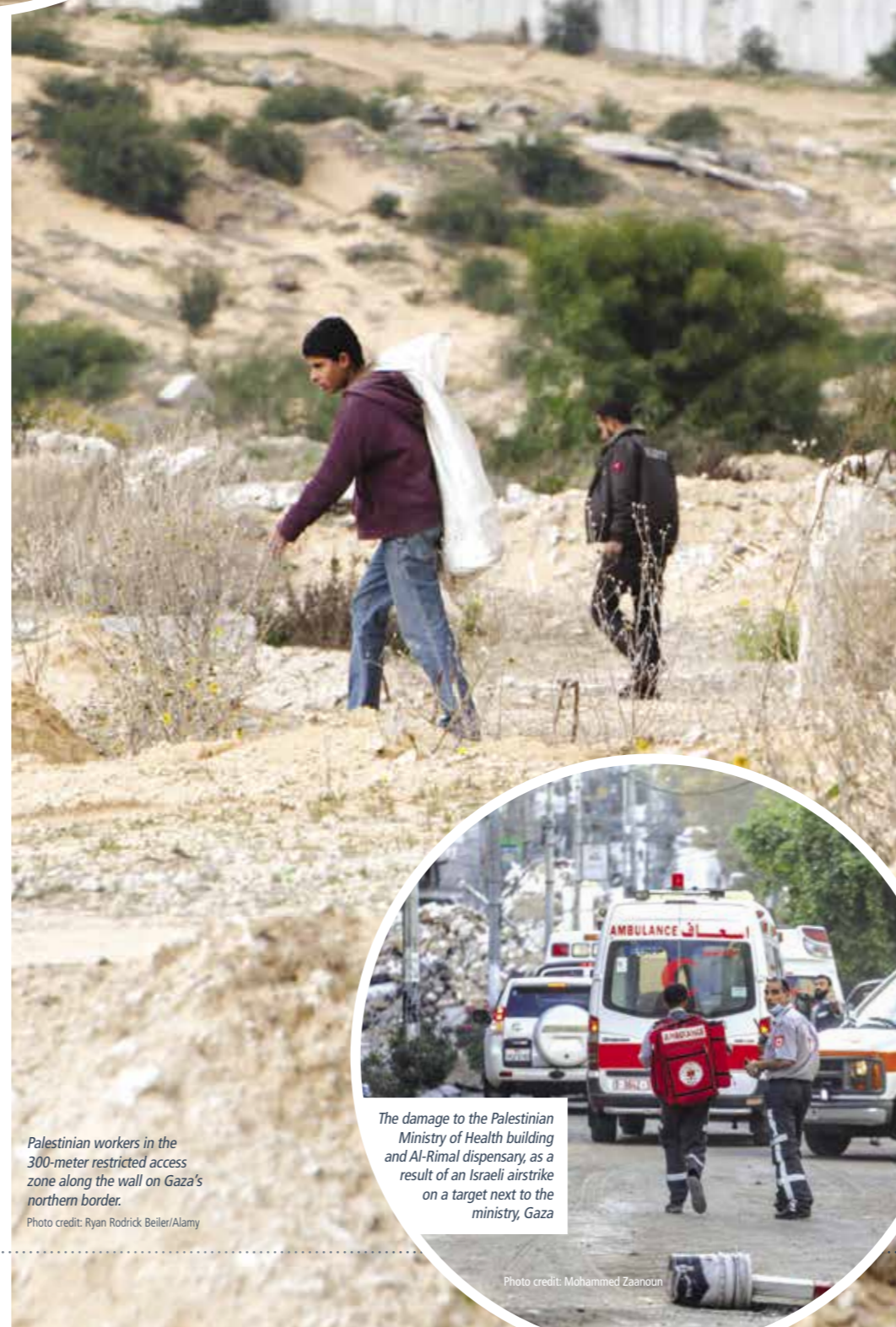
In May, MAP and the Council for Arab-British Understanding (Caabu) took four Members of Parliament to the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, for the first in-person delegation since the COVID-19 pandemic began in 2020.

The Shadow Minister for the Middle East and North Africa, Bambos Charalambous MP, was joined by Anna McMorris MP, Shadow Minister for Victims and Youth Justice, Olivia Blake MP and Nadia Whittome MP. Over a four-day delegation, the MPs witnessed first-hand how policies of systematic discrimination and fragmentation, imposed upon Palestinians, are severe detriments to their health and dignity.

Among the highlights from the delegation, the MPs visited the family of Shireen Abu Akleh, a prominent Palestinian journalist who was fatally shot while covering an Israeli army raid in Jenin. They visited Al Makassed hospital in East Jerusalem, to learn about the impact of Israel's restrictive permit regime on new-born babies. They also accompanied the Palestinian Medical Relief Society mobile clinic on a visit to a Bedouin community in 'Area C' of the West Bank, to hear more about the challenges of accessing healthcare.

Upon their return, the MP's spoke about their experiences in the oPt. Anna McMorris wrote that the visit to Al Makassed showed "the stark reality of how life impacts even the most basic of human rights for Palestinians," while Nadia Whittome wrote that "from healthcare to justice to education, I witnessed a system of oppression that seemed to consume every aspect of Palestinian life." Bambos Charalambous recognised that the UK must "ultimately look to systemic change rather than piecemeal improvements," and be "robust in asserting international law and defending human rights."

MAP and Caabu are planning two further in-person delegations with UK MPs to the West Bank later this year.



Palestinian workers in the 300-meter restricted access zone along the wall on Gaza's northern border.

The damage to the Palestinian Ministry of Health building and Al-Rimal dispensary, as a result of an Israeli airstrike on a target next to the ministry, Gaza

Photo credit: Mohammed Zaoun

HOW YOU HELPED MAP ADVOCATE FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

CAMPAIGNING

Nearly 19,000 people have signed MAP's pledge to stand up for every Palestinian's equal rights to health and dignity. You can add your name at map.org.uk/everypalestinian



More than 450 people in the UK emailed their MP urging them to demand that the UK government takes real action to address the root causes of Gaza's perpetual health crisis.

RESEARCH AND REPORTING

We shared our joint report with Al Mezan, on the collective punishment of Palestinian patients in Gaza, with a host of UK government officials, MPs, media other decision-makers.



ENGAGING UK PARLIAMENT AND GOVERNMENT

In June, Rasha Al Moghany, MAP's Emergency and Complex Health Programme Officer, travelled to the UK to meet with the UK and Scottish Parliaments, as well as the office of Glasgow's Lord Provost. She spoke with community groups, including the Bearsden Muslim Association and Community Centre and Scottish Friends of Palestine, and MAP's volunteer networks. During their visit, Rasha spoke about the importance of volunteers taking part in medical missions to Gaza, and highlighted the impact of blockade, military attacks, and access restrictions on Gaza's healthcare system.



CALLING FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AT THE UN

In June, MAP's Gaza Director, Fikr Shalltoot, spoke at the UN Human Rights Council. She welcomed the first report of the new UN Commission of Inquiry and called on states to recognise the systemic lack of accountability for attacks on healthcare workers in Gaza.



REACHING THE MEDIA

We continued to promote the voices of Palestinians in international, UK and local media to raise awareness of how systematic discrimination and fragmentation impact their health and dignity. MAP's work was covered in Guardian Global Development, Al Jazeera The Stream, Middle East Monitor and Lancet Oncology. Following the success of our first virtual media delegation to the West Bank last year, we are planning a second later this year, with international editors and journalists, to highlight the impact of 15 years of blockade on Gaza.



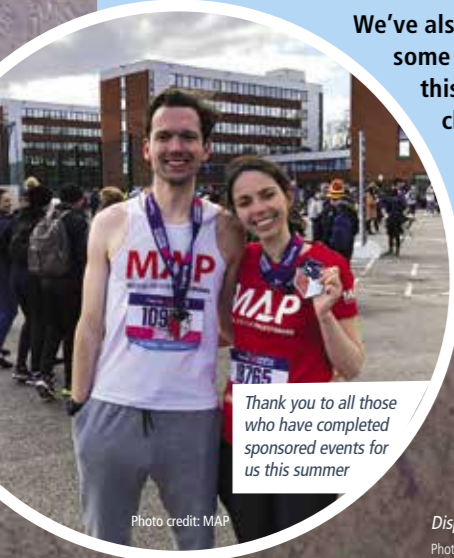
HOW YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE FOR PALESTINIANS

After a tumultuous two years of cancelled and postponed events, we wanted to say a massive thank you to everyone, for sticking with us through it all and still getting involved however you could. We have also been so impressed with the enthusiasm to get involved on the return to in-person events, and we hope to see more of your faces in 2023. From all of us at MAP, we are so grateful to you!

2023 EVENTS CALENDAR

- April TBC: Trek Palestine 2023
- 16 April: Manchester Marathon
- 21 May: Great Manchester Run 10k and Half Marathon
- 21 May: Hackney Half Marathon
- 27-28 May: Edinburgh Running Festival
- 9 July: London 10k
- September TBC: Cycle Palestine 2023
- TBC Autumn: Royal Parks Half Marathon

We've also worked hard to offer some more incredible events this year, so find your next challenge locally by having a look through our "run local" page. Visit www.map.org.uk/local



Thank you to all those who have completed sponsored events for us this summer

Photo credit: MAP

Displaced Palestinian girls at an UNRWA school in Gaza City. Photo credit: Mohammed Zaanoun



Our Cycle 240km fundraising packs

Photo credit: MAP

MC EVENTS GROUP

The MC events group were back yet again in 2022 taking on another incredible challenge and raising money to support MAP, alongside a number of other charities, for their 'North East 250' cycle challenge. This time, they cycled 250 miles from Aberdeen, up the coast and through the hills and back to Aberdeen over the course of four days! This amazing group raised over £20,000 to support our work and we want to say a huge thank you for their dedication once again.



Photo credit: MAP

COME DINE FOR PALESTINE GALA DINNER

In July this year, human rights activist Arifa Nasim hosted yet another amazing event to raise money for MAP, and also to celebrate the life and work of Shireen Abu Akleh. The 'Come Dine for Palestine' Gala dinner saw 250 guests attend in Walthamstow, London, for musical performances, guest speakers, a short film screening, an exhibition, and a live auction. So far, the evening raised over £15,000 to support MAP's life changing projects. A big thank you to Arifa and everyone that was involved in the event!

Photo credit: <https://arab.news/we8ww>



LIFE SAVING GIFTS FOR PALESTINE

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

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



THANK YOU



AMBASSADORS

We are excited to say that after putting out a call for MAP ambassadors earlier in the year, we have been absolutely overwhelmed with volunteers. We are so glad that MAP has such strong representation in your local areas.

If you'd like to be put in touch with your local ambassador to see how you could help, then please contact fundraising@map.org.uk

VIRTUAL FUNDRAISERS

In 2022, we challenged our MAP supporters virtually as thousands took on our two challenges of covering the distance of 100km in March and cycling 240km in September. Our September challenge has recently finished, and we will be updating everyone on how we did once we have received all donations.



Photo credit: MAP

Thank you to the thousands of people that have taken part and we look forward to the next one in 2023!



Photo credit: MAP

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Cycle Palestine 2022 took place in September, and was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who took part. Trek Palestine is now scheduled for April 2023, so there is still time to take part. We have been so excited to have these events back in our calendar.

If you are interested in taking part in our International Challenges, please visit our website or email us at Fundraising@map-uk.org.

CONTACT US

If you would like to get involved and help support Palestinians in need, please contact our fundraising team by emailing fundraising@map.org.uk or call us on 020 7226 4114.

Thank you

OUR NEWS

MAP JOINS 15 CHARITIES CALLING FOR AN END TO GAZA CLOSURE

The past 15 years of the blockade of Gaza, with its severe humanitarian, human rights consequences for people in Gaza and the Palestinian people as a whole, has been sustained by the failures of the international community. MAP has joined 15 other UK charities calling on the UK Government to demonstrate its consistent support for the rule of law and the rights of people under military occupation, and act urgently to end the illegal closure.



Photo credit: William Parry

WATCH: LIFE AS A PARAMEDIC IN GAZA

In our latest film, we spoke to Sami about his work on the frontlines as a paramedic during four rounds of intense attacks by Israel on Gaza.



Photo credit: MAP

WATCH: youtube.com/medicalaidpalestine



Photo credit: MAP

MAP STANDS WITH PALESTINIAN CIVIL SOCIETY

MAP stands in solidarity with Palestinian civil society organisations facing repression and escalating attacks, and calls for the UK to take urgent action.

SOCIAL MEDIA



Bambos Charalambous MP
@Bambos_MP

Visited a Bedouin village in the E1 area of the West Bank which relies on a weekly mobile medical centre @MedicalAidPal. The portacabin used for medical appts which is part funded by @UKinJerusalem & other international donors has a demolition notice on it! 1/3



The New Arab
@The_NewArab

"The international community must pressure Israel to immediately end its blockade, which is the root cause of the seemingly endless healthcare disaster we face," said @MedicalAidPal Gaza director Fikr Shalltoot 🇵🇸



Nadia Whittome MP
@NadiaWhittomeMP

I'm privileged to be visiting Palestine for the first time this week.

I'm part of a delegation with our Shadow Middle East Minister @Bambos_MP, @OliviaBlake + @AnnaMcMorrin, organised by @Caabu + @MedicalAidPal.



Ahmed Abofoul
@AhmedAbofoul

"Ultimately, [Palestinians] are victims of an unconscionable policy of collective punishment imposed on Gaza's population through Israel's 15-year blockade and closure, that the international community must ensure is finally brought to an end."
- @MedicalAidPal & @AlMezanCenter



Jess Barnard
@JessicaL.Barnard

#EveryPalestinian healthcare worker has the right to work without being attacked.

Join @MedicalAidPal and sign the pledge: map.org.uk/EveryPalestini...



Anna McMorrin MP 🇮🇷 🇵🇸
@AnnaMcMorrin

I won't ever forget the violence and inhumanity Palestinians face every day.

The anguish of parents seeing their son's beaten body. The tiny babies separated from their mothers. Children too scared to play outside.

Donate online at

www.map.org.uk

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020 7226 4114



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