

**AUTUMN 2021**

# WITNESS

**EMERGENCY  
RESPONSE**

**CRISIS ACROSS  
PALESTINE AND  
LEBANON**

**GAZA**

Gaza's health system  
on the brink of collapse

**WEST BANK**

Advancing disability  
rights in the West Bank

**LEBANON**

Providing a lifeline for  
Palestinian refugees

**MAP**  
MEDICAL AID FOR PALESTINIANS



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## DEAR READER

Increased violence across the occupied Palestinian territory in May this year, including the most brutal attack on Gaza for seven years, has made an already severe crisis for Palestinians living under military occupation and blockade even worse. The UN warned that Gaza would be unlivable by 2020. A year on and Gazans are now experiencing an unlivable nightmare.

Gaza's health system was already struggling to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. With further attacks on health facilities and doctors during the recent offensive, it is on the brink of collapse. In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Israel's systematic violence and continued efforts to forcibly expel Palestinians from their homes has caused thousands of injuries. Life for Palestinians living in exile in Lebanon's refugee camps is equally horrendous. A dire economic crisis in the country is driving more people into poverty and malnutrition, with many unable to meet their basic needs.

With these overlapping crises, MAP's work is more important than ever. Thanks to your kind support, our teams on the ground in Palestine and Lebanon have been able to respond to these emergencies. You have helped ensure that Palestinians get the medical aid and access to essential services they need during this critical time.

In this edition of *Witness*, you can read about how MAP was able to ramp up our emergency response on the ground in Gaza. We describe how we are providing psychosocial support and a safe space for self-expression for young people growing up in the violent and discriminatory context of East Jerusalem. You can also learn about our vital assistance to Palestinian refugees amid Lebanon's deepening economic crisis.

Despite the host of tragedies, there are reasons for hope. More people than ever are beginning to talk about Palestine. Celebrities and world leaders are increasingly speaking out in favour of justice. MAP will continue to shine a spotlight on how Palestinians' rights to health and dignity are violated and, with your support, build on this momentum to make real change happen.

It is an honour for me to take up my new role as MAP's Chief Executive. I would like to thank our previous CEO, Aimee Shalan, for her dedication to MAP's work and her unwavering commitment to the health and rights of Palestinians. Finally, I would like to thank you for your kind support throughout these challenging times. I look forward to updating you on our activities and plans in the future – in what is hopefully a much brighter future for Palestinians.

*Tina Bajec*

**TINA BAJEC**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Medical Aid for Palestinians

**COVER IMAGE:**  
A Palestinian child outside a destroyed residential building which was hit by Israeli airstrikes, in the Beit Hanoun area in northern Gaza.

Photo credit: Mohammed Zaanoun

# SITUATION UPDATE



A Palestinian woman inspects her destroyed house after an Israeli airstrike in Beit Lahia, northern Gaza.

Photo credit: SOPA Images Limited/Alamy Live News

## GAZA



### UN WARNS REBUILDING WILL TAKE YEARS

Gaza is still recovering from Israel's May 2021 military offensive which killed 256 people including 66 children. The UN has warned it will take several years for Gaza to recover after devastating attacks on civilian homes, healthcare and vital infrastructure. Before this latest assault, Gaza's health system was overwhelmed by a chronic lack of medical supplies and equipment, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and 14 years of blockade and illegal closure.

## LEBANON



### ECONOMIC COLLAPSE RAISES MALNUTRITION FEARS

Lebanon's economic collapse, described as the "worst since the civil war", has hugely increased the prices of food and medicine across the country, putting a growing number of Palestinian refugee women and children at risk of malnutrition. Before the crisis, 65% of Palestinian refugees were already living in poverty and even more are now struggling to secure their basic needs for survival. The COVID-19 pandemic is exacerbating the situation for marginalised Palestinians who already face severe restrictions on access to healthcare.



Inside Bourj el-Barajneh refugee camp, in the southern suburbs of Lebanon's capital Beirut.

Photo credit: Ahmad Laila / MAP

## WEST BANK AND EAST JERUSALEM



### PROTESTS MET WITH VIOLENCE

Palestinians in Sheikh Jarrah and other areas of East Jerusalem continue to face the threat of forced expulsion from their homes. Protests against these and other discriminatory and illegal policies have been met with excessive force and mass arrests across the West Bank. Palestinians face insecurity and fear on a daily basis as Israel's ongoing expansion of illegal settlements continues.



Israeli police detain a Palestinian protester amid ongoing tension ahead of an upcoming court hearing in an Israel-Palestinian land-ownership dispute in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood of East Jerusalem, 5 May 2021.

Photo credit: REUTERS/Amr Awad

Photo credit: Credit: Mohammed Talateneidpa/Alamy Live News

# RESPONDING TO CRISES ACROSS PALESTINE



In May 2021, Palestinians in Gaza experienced the most severe violence since Israel's military offensive in 2014. Eleven days of constant Israeli bombardment and shelling killed 256 Palestinians, including 66 children, and injured nearly 2,000. The bombing caused devastating damage and destruction to homes, healthcare infrastructure, roads and schools.

The escalation in Gaza was sparked by systematic violations of international law and discriminatory practices by Israeli authorities, centred on occupied East Jerusalem, including attempts to forcibly displace Palestinians from their homes in Sheikh Jarrah; restrictions and attacks on worshippers around the Al Aqsa compound; and violence and provocations in the city by far-right Israeli extremists.

Gaza's health system was already struggling to cope with the effects of previous Israeli military assaults, a suffocating 14-year blockade and illegal closure, and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. These latest attacks are pushing Gaza's health system yet again towards the brink of collapse.

MAP's teams in Gaza and the West Bank were ready to respond immediately to the escalation. We worked with local partners to ensure that Palestinians got the urgent medical aid that they needed during this critical time. In Gaza, even amid the bombing, our team rapidly delivered pre-positioned medicines and consumables to hospitals and procured new stocks, while continuing our vital ongoing support to limb reconstruction, neurosurgery and blood bank services. In the West Bank, we provided essential medications, dressings and fluids to the Palestine Red Crescent Society who treated wounded protesters.

With needs still high across Palestine, we are continuing to scale up our emergency response and procuring items including hygiene kits for people who have been forced to flee their destroyed homes; antibiotics, anaesthetics, dressings and fluids; and specialist treatment for children who have suffered severe crush injuries.

## YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL AND HELPS TO SAVE LIVES

**17 ESSENTIAL MEDICINES** and **2 PIECES OF EQUIPMENT** TO GAZA'S HOSPITALS

**32 DISPOSABLES** and **5 LAB ITEMS** TO GAZA'S HOSPITALS



A Palestinian man looking out the window of his destroyed home in northern Gaza. Photo credit: Mohammed Zaanoun



Dr Ghassan Abu Sittah Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon and MAP trustee. Photo credit: MAP

## "THEIR LIVES WILL NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN"

Dr Ghassan Abu Sittah is a Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon and a MAP trustee. He has been travelling to Gaza to volunteer in hospitals for decades and, during the height of the violence in May, he returned to treat injured Palestinians.

"War injuries are now something akin to an endemic disease in Gaza. When you create the conditions in which war injuries become an endemic disease, it means that you need surgeons in a number disproportionate to the two million who live in Gaza. The pressures of these continuous cyclical wars and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic means that Palestinians in Gaza barely receive the most basic healthcare many need.

At the end of a day when you have done 14 to 16 hours of operating in Gaza, you're left with a complete and utter sense of sadness about the lives that you have seen that have been destroyed. When you see these injuries and know that these limbs and bodies have been broken, you know that this has also shattered people's lives. Their lives will never be the same again."

## PRIORITISING LIMB RECONSTRUCTION

MAP's long-standing limb reconstruction project is treating many of the wounded during this year's attacks on Gaza. Mohammed Aghaalkurdi, MAP's Programme Officer in Gaza, describes the challenges for this work:

"The offensive in Gaza has yet again proved the fact that the limb reconstruction services should remain a priority. Head of the Limb Reconstruction Unit, Dr Mahmoud Matar, estimates that around 100 additional patients may require a long journey of complex reconstructive treatment and long-term rehabilitation.

The burdens on Gaza's only limb reconstruction unit and MAP's project are growing and bring a host of challenges. There is a severe lack of medical equipment and supplies, and a limited number of specialised staff. Given the frequent assaults on Gaza, Dr Matar estimates that the stock of limb reconstruction equipment supported by MAP should always be prepared for around 500 surgeries. As well as helping the service care for new and existing patients, MAP will devote even more time and resources to training the next generation of limb reconstruction surgeons, nurses and physiotherapists.



Surgeons operating in a theatre at Gaza's Nasser Hospital, during MAP's medical mission in July 2021. Photo credit: MAP



The arrival of injuries to the Indonesian hospital as a result of raids launched by the Israeli warplanes targeting the homes of citizens in the city of Beit Lahia, north of Gaza, May 12, 2021. Photo credit: Ramez Habboub/ABACAPRESS.COM



Several health workers need to be trained to respond to the influx of surgical needs. Currently, there is only one specialist doctor assisted by two practiced doctors – all three of whom benefitted from MAP's educational support and trainings.

Aggressive military assaults usually also result in devastating mental and social consequences which should be taken into consideration as part of patients' treatment plan. Dr Matar recently told us that his patients include a lady who lost the majority of her family, both of her eyes and a leg, in addition to suffering multiple bone fractures. His team can help fix what is left of her bones and extremities but she remains in huge need of other specialists to look after her mental health. That is why we support a multidisciplinary approach in our limb reconstruction work."

Your support has been vital to helping MAP save lives and limbs in Gaza.



SUPPORTING A GENERATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE



# GROWING UP AMID VIOLENCE IN JERUSALEM

The presence of settlements, militarised policing and systematic discriminatory policies have long made East Jerusalem a tense and scary place for Palestinian children to grow up in. This year, these tensions have been made worse by Israeli authorities' attempts to forcibly remove Palestinian families from their homes in occupied East Jerusalem neighbourhoods, such as Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan, and the violent response by Israeli forces to Palestinian protests centred around the Old City and the Al Aqsa Mosque.

WITH YOUR HELP, OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS:



**104 PALESTINIAN CHILDREN AND YOUTH AND 69 WOMEN** HAVE ENGAGED IN ACTIVITIES AND BEEN SUPPORTED BY AL SARAYA CENTRE



Photo credit: MAP

A caseworker from Al Saraya Centre in East Jerusalem, comforting a Palestinian girl



A caseworker from Al Saraya Centre



Photo credit: MAP

At Al Saraya Centre in East Jerusalem, Palestinian children take part in group activities and learn about their cultural heritage.

Since 2013, MAP has supported Al Saraya Centre, in the heart of the Old City of East Jerusalem, to provide psychosocial support services and empowerment activities for Palestinian youth. The centre devotes itself to strengthening the resilience of young Palestinian Jerusalemites so that they can become effective, positive agents of change. They also deliver life skills training for children, youth and women on topics related to identity, rights and responsibilities, leadership, and expression.

Nida'a Dweik, Resource Development and PR Officer at Al Saraya, shares her experiences of how the violence in East Jerusalem has affected the centre's work and the young people they serve.

"We are witnessing an increased wave of discriminatory policies and excessive use of force against women, children, and youth in East Jerusalem. We are worried and living in constant fear. All our staff members and people we work with feel unsafe. Even before the escalation of attacks and violence against Palestinian protesters, the situation in the Old City of Jerusalem was woeful and distressing. Israel is constantly working on erasing our presence, identity, culture, and heritage.

Most of the young people we work with have participated in the protests. They felt it was their duty to protect the Old City. I feel like their childhood has been stolen as they are reclaiming and protecting their space in the city. The reality that they are living today continues to deprive them of their childhood. Children in the Old City have not felt safe to go to their schools and this has had a tremendous impact on their educational development.

Moreover, Israel is revoking the health insurance of people who participated in demonstrations as a tool to deter them and prevent them from demonstrating.

The situation has had a tremendous impact on the mental

and physical wellbeing of everyone living in Jerusalem. Throughout our discussions and activities, some of the children and youth have shared their experiences after being attacked by settlers and Israeli forces. They have reported feelings of frustration, fear and insecurity in their own neighbourhood. Al Saraya team was able to see the physical and mental bruises on the children and the youth.

The aim of Al Saraya Centre is to build a safe place for Palestinian children, youth, and their parents. The location of the centre, in the Old City of Jerusalem, is at the heart of a constant conflict which makes our work more challenging yet very essential. We have been providing psychosocial support to young people living in East Jerusalem who have been subjected to oppression, violence, and injustice for more than 30 years.

[During the violence] we provided legal aid and assistance for detained children and their families. We have also provided mental health and psychosocial support for the youth and their parents.

I hope that the international community will take action to stop the ongoing injustice and violence that we are experiencing and has become part of our daily life. Living in Jerusalem has become unbearable, and the international community can play a vital role in stopping these violations and holding Israel accountable.

I only wish that our children and youth will be able to grow up in peace and pursue their dreams. At Al Saraya Centre we will continue to empower and protect our children and youth by providing our psychosocial support in these difficult times."

Thanks to your support, children, young people and their families in East Jerusalem are continuing to receive the critical mental health and psychosocial support they need during this emergency.



# LEBANON CRISIS

## PROVIDING A LIFELINE FOR PALESTINIAN REFUGEES



By Wafa Dakwar, MAP's Programme Manager in Lebanon

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Lebanon is experiencing its worst economic crisis in decades. This has worsened the situation for Palestinian refugees across the country, and many families are struggling to afford basic essentials such as food and medicine.

In the Palestinian refugee camps, food prices have quadrupled since 2019, making access to food a major concern for all families. More and more people are having to reduce the number of meals they eat per day, cutting down portion sizes, and choosing inexpensive and sometimes less nutritious foods. This is impacting women's and children's health in particular, and could lead to malnutrition in the long-term.

MAP's work in Lebanon has been a vital lifeline for Palestinian refugees during this ongoing crisis. We have provided food parcels, blankets and fuel for heating to refugee families. As the situation deteriorates across the country, we are working to do even more to provide medicines and medical items to hospitals serving Palestinian communities. The support we receive will help to alleviate some of the worst suffering.

Our team of community midwives continue to provide reproductive health consultations and regular home visits for pregnant women and new mothers, and their babies in refugee camps.

### MAP'S TEAM OF COMMUNITY MIDWIVES

**680**  
BABIES WERE BORN  
IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS UNDER  
THE PROGRAMME



(ACTIVE CASELOAD AS OF 31 JUNE 2021 WAS 746)

**111,235**  
HOME VISITS  
OVER 10 YEARS  
FOCUSED ON ANTENATAL AND  
POSTNATAL CARE



A child outside his home in Lebanon's Bourj el-Barajneh refugee camp.  
Photo credit: Ahmad Laila / MAP



Photo credit: MAP



Ramadan food aid in Lebanon.



Photo credit: Wafa Dakwar/MAP

MAP's community midwives visit vulnerable mothers in the Palestinian refugee camp of Ein El Helweh, in the south of Lebanon.



A MAP community midwife in action in Lebanon

### "I DON'T MIND BEING HUNGRY, BUT I DON'T WANT MY CHILDREN TO SUFFER"

Inas\* is one of the women who has been supported by MAP's community midwives. She shares her story of life as a Palestinian refugee in Lebanon.

"I live in Ein El Helweh camp and am a mother of four children; the youngest of my children is a three-month-old baby boy. I do not work and neither does my husband. My husband used to work in temporary jobs, but with the economic crisis in Lebanon, he is no longer able to find any work. My husband's health has deteriorated considerably. Nonetheless, we are a happy family despite our difficult conditions and our daily struggles.

Because of our situation we only have two meals a day. My husband and I always prioritise our children. I don't mind being hungry, but I don't want my children to suffer or for their health to be affected.

Our conditions were quite bad even before the economic crisis. We do not have rights, and we do not benefit from any assistance from the government, as in other countries that host Palestinian refugees.

The [MAP] project is helping a lot. The midwife, Ola, visits me and does a check-up on my health and the health of my new-born. She helps me relax and feel reassured regardless of how stressed I am. She gives me advice on how to take care of my health, avoid stress, and eat nutritious and affordable foods. She is very kind; I feel she is like a sister and not just a healthcare provider."

Our supporters make this work possible. With your support, we can continue providing this vital lifeline to refugee families in Lebanon.



Thank you

\* Name changed to protect identity



# ADVANCING DISABILITY RIGHTS IN THE WEST BANK

Since 2019, MAP has been working with the Palestinian Circus School in the West Bank to promote the rights of Palestinian children and young people with learning disabilities, and to advocate for their full participation in public life.

Across the occupied Palestinian territory, people with disabilities, including young people, struggle to access education, use public transport, earn an income and attend social events.

The Palestinian Circus School brings circus skills, such as acrobatics and juggling, to more than 300 children and youth – including those with learning disabilities – each year. The school is based in Birzeit, and has outreach clubs in Ramallah, Jenin, Hebron, Al Far'a refugee camp, Jalazone refugee camp and Jerusalem.

## OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS

**168** YOUNG PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES HAVE LEARNT NEW SKILLS WITH THE PALESTINIAN CIRCUS SCHOOL



Nayef Abdalla, Trainer at the Palestinian Circus School in the West Bank.

**"WE AIM TO BUILD A HAPPY, CONFIDENT GENERATION AND SAVE THEIR CHILDHOOD"**

Nayef Abdalla has been working as a trainer at the Palestinian Circus School for 13 years. He highlights the importance of the skills they teach and the challenges the school is facing.

"I grew up in Al Far'a refugee camp, in the northwest of the West Bank. Refugee camps are densely populated and the streets are narrow and lack safe spaces for children to play and grow.

The skills we teach at the school do not only enhance children's mental and physical wellbeing, but also enrich their social development. Every child has the right to have a safe space, we also call it a "free space" where they can jump, play, learn and acquire new skills. Children discover their capabilities, their bodies, and their personality traits. Through our work, we aim to build a happy, confident generation and save their childhood.

Children with disabilities in Palestine suffer from a lack of resources and spaces for them to grow and learn. I understand the importance of what I am doing from the feedback and the love we receive from the children. I was deeply touched when the parents of Mohamed, a 12-year-old with a [learning] disability, told me that he takes the diablo with him to bed. Through the diablo, he was able to communicate his needs. As a trainer, this is my reward, and this is what drives me and my colleagues to give more.

We face restrictions on freedom of movement. We are not able to provide our training for children or the youth in Jerusalem, especially in these difficult times where children are exposed to excessive use of force and forced expulsion from their homes.

Your support has helped young Palestinians like Areen and Marcel, 18 and 19-years-old, to develop their confidence and skills. They come to the Palestinian Circus School every week to practice together and have since become best friends.

**MARCEL:** "The circus activities helped me boost my concentration level. I have also gained lots of friends. We laugh, jump, play, and even lean on each other. I have learned how to overcome my fears, my shyness and how to challenge myself."



Young students from Palestinian Circus School perform together with peers with learning disabilities. The performance was the first of its kind, which came after almost three months of training and preparations.



Photo credit: MAP

I hope we will be able one day to open a branch of the Palestinian Circus School in every Palestinian city, village, and refugee camp and reach out to every child. I hope children will be able to enjoy their childhood despite the occupation.

**AREEN:** "I was very excited to join the circus and start practicing. I saw a circus performance once when I was a kid in Birzeit; it was the best performance I ever saw in my life. When I went back home, I told my mum how much I loved it and wished to be part of it. But in Jenin, there are no such activities and if there were, it would not be for girls. I am very happy that I had the opportunity to join the school because I love anything that has to do with physical activities and challenges."

Thank you



Photo credit: MAP

CAMPAIGNS



# DEMANDING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ATTACKS ON HEALTHCARE

Israel's 11-day military offensive on Gaza in May 2021, the fifth such assault in 14 years, caused widespread humanitarian suffering. Alongside the killing of civilians and destruction of homes, the bombardment damaged essential water, electricity and healthcare infrastructure. Thirty health facilities were damaged or destroyed, including six hospitals and 11 primary healthcare clinics. Two doctors and a psychologist were killed.

In the immediate aftermath, Mahmoud Shalabi, MAP's Senior Programme Manager in Gaza, visited healthcare centres damaged by bombing:

*"The amount of damage was horrible. Almost all of the sites we visited suffered severe damage via shrapnel, and shattered windows and doors – even those with fortified multi-lock doors. But the worst damage was found in the Hala Al Shawa clinic, which is no longer usable. Walls were blown out of their place and the COVID-19 vaccine rooms were totally burnt."*

In the West Bank, too, thousands of Palestinians have been injured and dozens killed this year by Israeli forces who have responded to protests with systematic use of excessive force, including live ammunition, rubber-coated steel bullets and tear gas. Paramedics and ambulance crews have reported repeated obstructions to their work and have even come under direct attack.

Attacks on civilians and healthcare are a recurrent feature of the occupation and a persistent barrier to Palestinians' rights to health and dignity. Recognising that this situation is perpetuated by chronic impunity for violations of international law, MAP and our supporters have been pressing for international action to ensure those responsible are held to account.

We had an unprecedented response to our campaign. More than 4,200 people in the UK used our online tool to write to their Member of Parliament (MP) calling for an end to the violence and suffering of Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt).

This has not only been an important show of solidarity, but has encouraged many MPs to raise these issues in

Parliament. Labour MP Yasmin Qureshi – who visited the West Bank with MAP and the Council for Arab-British Understanding (Caabu) in 2019 – was just one of the many MPs who spoke out on the situation in Parliament:

*"This is not a clash between two equal sides. Until we discuss the root issues, we will miss the entire context and fail to recognise that one side is an occupier and the other side is occupied."*

MAP's Advocacy and Campaigns Team has raised these issues at the highest levels:

*"Our campaigns and advocacy work has also addressed diplomats at the UN Human Rights Council and the UN Security Council, calling on the international community to take immediate steps to address the systematic human rights abuses and discriminatory policies against Palestinians, that lie at the root cause of the recent violence."*

## PROMOTING EQUAL RIGHTS TO HEALTH AND DIGNITY

The COVID-19 pandemic has starkly exposed growing health inequalities between Palestinians and Israelis. While at the start of the year Israel rolled out one of the world's fastest vaccination campaigns, there has been only a slow trickle of vaccinations available to Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. This is despite Israel's duty under international law to ensure rapid, comprehensive and equitable access to vaccines for Palestinians in the oPt.

Such discrimination is nothing new. From restrictions on access to treatment for cancer patients in Gaza, to the denial of basic needs like water and shelter in Area C of the West Bank, Palestinians have long endured fragmentation and systematic violations of their rights to health and dignity.

Later this year, we will be launching a new paper to highlight these health inequalities, and asking supporters to help us campaign for equal rights to health and dignity for Palestinians. Visit our website to learn how you can support [map.org.uk/campaigns](https://map.org.uk/campaigns)



Gaza's Al-Rimal Clinic in the Ministry of Health's headquarters, which was severely damaged during Israel's military offensive in May 2021.

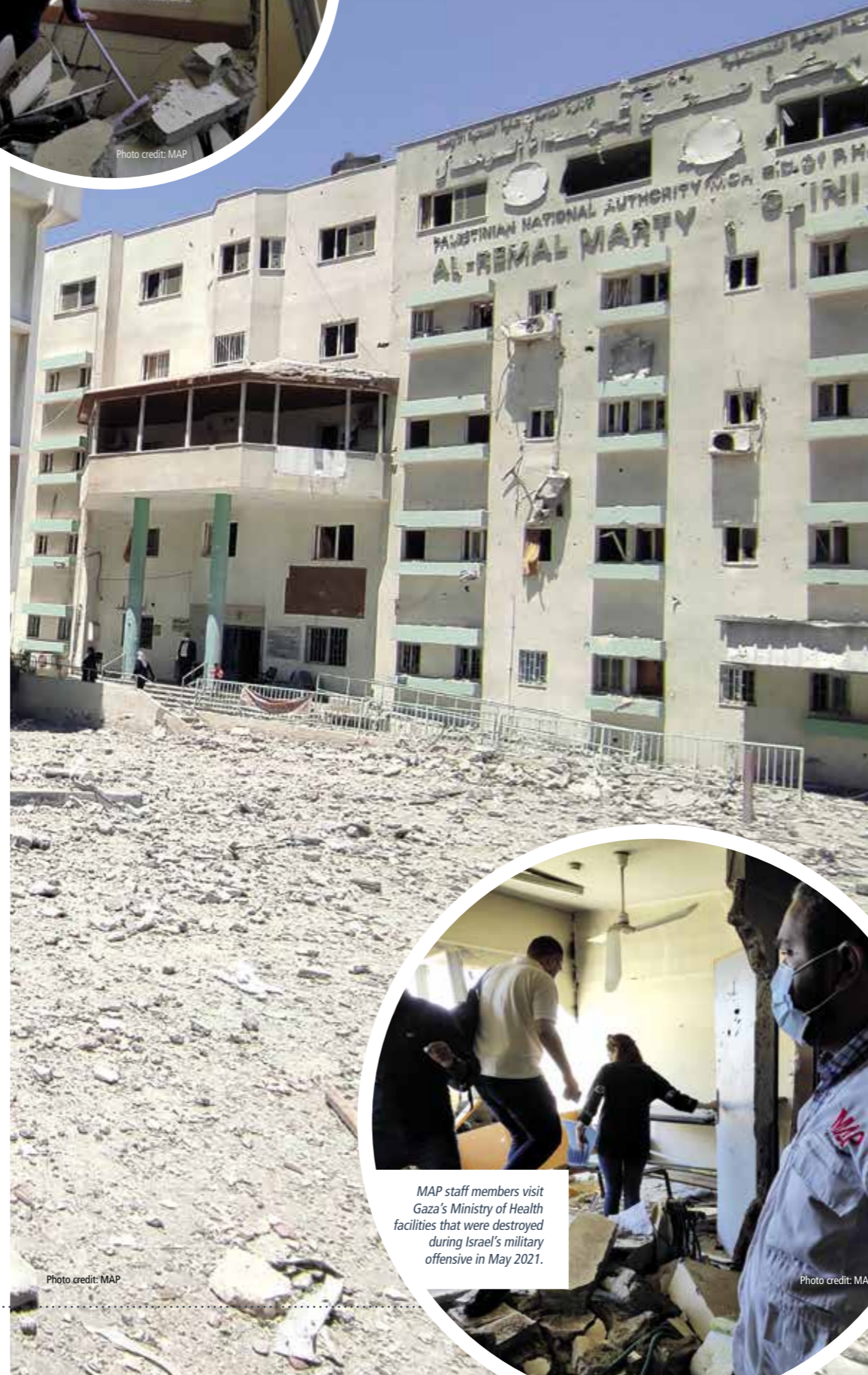


Photo credit: MAP



MAP staff members visit Gaza's Ministry of Health facilities that were destroyed during Israel's military offensive in May 2021.

Photo credit: MAP

## HOW TOGETHER WE ARE SPEAKING OUT FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

### CAMPAIGNING

More than **17,000** people signed our petition to UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, calling for action to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines for Palestinians.



More than **4,200** people in the UK wrote to their MP calling for accountability and an end to the violence and suffering of Palestinians across the oPt.

### RESEARCH AND REPORTING

We interviewed Palestinian health workers to understand how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted their mental health and wellbeing, and shared our briefing paper and its findings with government, MPs, and the media to encourage greater international support for the Palestinian health system.



### ENGAGING UK PARLIAMENT

Throughout the emergency, we provided regular briefings and updates to MPs and the UK government. With our partner, Caabu, we have also hosted a virtual delegation to Palestine, to enable MPs to see for themselves the grave situation on the ground, including the effects of the violence on Gaza and the ongoing forced displacement of Palestinians in East Jerusalem.



### SPEAKING OUT AT THE UN

MAP spoke at UN Human Rights Council sessions in May and June, highlighting the humanitarian situation in Gaza and ongoing vaccine discrimination. We also wrote to all members of the UN Security Council, urging them to speak out about attacks on Palestinian healthcare and pursue accountability.



We provided evidence from our teams and partners on the ground to two UN human rights experts: the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, and the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in the oPt.

### REACHING THE MEDIA

We promoted the voices of Palestinians and raised awareness about the situation in Palestine through UK and international media, with coverage of our programmes and key issues on Al Jazeera, the BBC, PBS NewsHour and a range of other outlets.



# MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR PALESTINIANS

By Zahra Yassine, MAP's Community Fundraising Officer



The work we do to support Palestinians is only made possible thanks to the generosity and dedication of our supporters. **We would like to say a huge thank you to you all.** Despite the difficulties of the global pandemic, creating uncertainty in all of our lives and the many demands made on people's time and money, I am so grateful for your time, support and kindness. Thank you.

## INTERNATIONAL EVENTS 2022

Due to the ongoing global pandemic, and the disruption caused to international travel, we sadly had to postpone our supporter visits to Palestine in 2021. We are very grateful to all of those who were hoping to take part for their patience and understanding. Despite the future remaining uncertain, we hope to return to Palestine in 2022.

**The health and safety of our supporters, team members, and the communities we serve will be of paramount importance in any decisions we make.**

## TAKE ON A CHALLENGE FOR MAP IN 2022

Thank you to everyone who took part in a challenge event in 2021 and raised money to support our work. We are regularly updating our challenge events calendar, so if you would like to **get involved, please contact us or visit our website to learn more.**

## 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](mailto:fundraising@map.org.uk) or call us on 020 7226 4114.



Thank you

Palestinian families shelter in UNRWA schools in Gaza, during Israel's military offensive in May 2021. Photo credit: Mohammed Zaoun



Tour of Wales cyclists

## THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who got in touch to tell us how they have been raising money for the health and dignity of Palestinians. Here are just a few stories of how people got involved. Thank you to you all.

### TOUR OF WALES

This July, 16 incredible cyclists completed their 'Tour of Wales' challenge with MC Events, cycling a huge 242 miles from Cardiff to Bangor and raising an absolutely incredible £140,000 for MAP. You are all superstars and we are so grateful for your hard work!

Thank you



THANK YOU TO THE LONDON 10K RUNNERS

### MAP FILM CLUB

A big thank you to everyone who bought tickets and attended one of our film screenings online, and to the directors and production companies who kindly allowed us to screen some amazing films. **We sold thousands of tickets and raised over £13,000!**



We hope you will continue to be part of the MAP film club as we host more screenings throughout the rest of 2021.

### SPONSORED DHIKR

40 students at The A'ishah Mavis Foundation took part in a sponsored Dhikr (which is an Islamic devotional act, in which phrases or prayers are repeated) for MAP. These incredible boys and girls pulled together for Palestine and raised an **astonishing £10,000**. Zaki, the founder of the foundation said:

*"The A'ishah Mavis Foundation chose to fundraise for MAP solely for their dedication helping those in need in Palestine for over 30 years. It shows we can trust MAP to deliver key essentials to the people, and we pray that whatever we managed to raise, will benefit the Ummah in Palestine."*



*"When I learned that MAP had spent the last three decades delivering health and medical care to those living under occupation it instantly had my deepest respect."*

Tommy Corbyn

## STAND UP FOR PALESTINE COMEDY NIGHT

Comedian and long time supporter of MAP, Imran Yusuf, organised a Stand Up for Palestine comedy night for MAP in the summer. Alongside 10 other comedians, they put on a brilliant and laughter-filled evening and raised over £6,000 for MAP. Thank you to Imran, all of the comedians involved and everyone who bought tickets.



### DEAR PALESTINE

The brainchild of Layla Hassanali @halalgirlabouttown, the Dear Palestine e-cookbook featured recipes from 20 chefs from different backgrounds, but united in their love of Palestine. **With their support it raised an incredible £10,000 for our emergency appeal! Thank you to everyone who purchased a copy.**



### FANCY COOKING UP YOUR OWN CULINARY FUNDRAISER?

Sign up to host Come Dine for Palestine [map.org.uk/comedine](http://map.org.uk/comedine)



### LC FITNESS MARATHON

LC Fitness in Loughborough took on a fitness marathon to raise vital funds for our projects. **60 fitness superstars raised a whopping £7,000! Thank you to everyone who took part.** I hope you all enjoyed the challenge and your MAP T-shirts.

### EMILY CATON-THICK ART

Emily Caton-Thick is a London based artist who this May donated the sales of one of her pieces completely to MAP, and with the support of some matched funding raised an incredible £21,500. We wanted to say a huge thank you to Emily for being so generous and using her incredible talent to support us. **You can check out her work via her Instagram page here – @emilycatonthick.**





# OUR NEWS

## FIRST MEDICAL MISSION TO GAZA AFTER PANDEMIC HIATUS

In July, Dr Andy Ferguson, MAP's Director of UK Programmes, led a limb reconstruction mission to Gaza – our first medical mission in 17 months due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr Graeme Groom, a senior orthopaedic surgeon, and Mr Tim Goodacre, a senior plastic surgeon, travelled from the UK to provide training, review cases at an outpatient clinic – including those injured in the recent military offensive – and conduct surgeries for patients alongside local specialists.

## MAP CALLS FOR EQUAL ACCESS TO COVID-19 VACCINES AT UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

At the UN Human Rights Council in June, MAP called for equal access to COVID-19 vaccines for Palestinians. Under international law, Israel, as an occupying power, is obligated to ensure rapid, equitable and comprehensive access to vaccines in the occupied territory. Its failure to do so is placing further avoidable strain on a Palestinian health system already weakened by blockade and decades of occupation.



Photo credit: Ludovic Courtès via Wikimedia Commons.

## WATCH: MAP'S MOBILE CLINIC SUPPORTING MARGINALISED WEST BANK COMMUNITIES

Access to healthcare is a persistent challenge for Palestinian communities located in Area C, the 60% of the occupied West Bank under full Israeli military and civil control.

Our latest film highlights how a MAP-supported mobile clinic is providing essential primary health care services to some of these communities, including medical check-ups and examinations, essential women's and children's health services, and essential medications.



Photo credit: MAP

**WATCH:** [map.org.uk/WBmobileclinic](http://map.org.uk/WBmobileclinic)

## SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS



## THANK YOU TO OUR HIGH PROFILE SUPPORTERS

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported our work during the emergency in May 2021. We are particularly grateful to the high profile people, like Zendaya, Sayeeda Warsi, Bella Hadid, Jameela Jamil and Dua Lipa, who shared our emergency appeal on social media and helped to make sure that it reached people all over the world.



Thank you

 **Riz Ahmed**  
@rizwanahmed



If you are moved or concerned by what's happening in Palestine, and want to help, consider donating - UK: [map.org.uk](http://map.org.uk)  
[@MedicalAidPal](https://www.instagram.com/MedicalAidPal)

 **Richard Burgon MP**  
@RichardBurgon



When I visited the Occupied Palestinian Territories with Medical Aid for Palestinians, I saw first-hand how the Israeli occupation undermines Palestinians' access to basic services.

[@MedicalAidPal](https://www.instagram.com/MedicalAidPal) is providing key medical aid to Palestine.

 **Dr Philippa Whitford**  
@Dr\_PhilippaW



Knowing how the pandemic has impacted on NHS colleagues here, I stand with [#Palestinian](https://www.instagram.com/Palestinian) healthcare heroes who also live under occupation and are facing [#COVID19](https://www.instagram.com/COVID19) wellbeing crisis. Read [@MedicalAidPal](http://map.org.uk/healthworkers)'s latest briefing: [map.org.uk/healthworkers](http://map.org.uk/healthworkers)  
[#HealthAndDignity](https://www.instagram.com/HealthAndDignity)

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