



Medical Aid for Palestinians

25 Years of Support

MAP still sends teams of doctors and specialist health professionals from the UK to the Middle East to work in partnership with Palestinian hospital staff and communities to build sustainable capacity for the future.

We will continue to deliver health and medical care to the Palestinians worst affected by conflict, occupation and displacement. Today, MAP is able to reach the most vulnerable and ensure they are receiving the best healthcare available in such hostile and difficult conditions.

In hospitals and the community

MAP supplies hospitals and clinics with specialist equipment and other essential items in short supply. In the community, MAP trains local health workers, doctors and nurses to ensure that all Palestinians receive health care now and in the future. MAP's disability projects encourage dialogue and awareness whilst equipping mothers and carers of children with disabilities with practical skills for everyday life. We also focus on the provision of specialist emergency care and burns training.

Helping children recover from the trauma of conflict

Living in a war zone with the loss of homes and family, and ongoing threat of military violence is causing anxiety, stress and trauma in children. MAP has developed special support programmes for children to help them to cope and live a normal childhood.

Support for new mothers and vulnerable children

Poor nutrition, inadequate living conditions and sanitation have a serious impact on women during pregnancy. This often leads to anaemia and low birth weights, which can result in life-long health problems for their new born infants.

MAP has developed innovative community health programmes in Lebanon which provide nutritional education to mothers in the refugee camps and also distributes healthy food during the critical early years of childhood to families in Gaza.

Our Mission

Medical Aid for Palestinians works for the health and dignity of Palestinians living under occupation and as refugees. With offices located in Beirut, Ramallah and Gaza City, MAP responds rapidly in times of crisis, and works directly with communities in the longer term on health development.

MAP is an independent, non-political, non-sectarian humanitarian aid organisation.



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The Birth of Medical Aid for Palestinians

Refusing to leave the hospital in Shatila Refugee camp Dr Swee Ang, a British surgeon, worked tirelessly to save the injured and protect her patients. Eventually under gun point she was marched out of the camp with her team of nurses – knowing the dreadful fate that awaited the Palestinian women and children that lined the street but were prevented from leaving.

Dr Swee Ang vowed never to forget the Palestinians and on her return to the United Kingdom established Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP). More than a quarter of a century later, Dr Swee led the first team of British surgeons into Gaza in January 2009 to carry out an emergency assessment of the burns, loss of limbs and other injuries inflicted on thousands of civilians.

Since its inception MAP has sent hundreds of medical volunteers to the Middle East from over 15 countries including the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Malaysia, India, China, Ireland and the Netherlands.

“MAP is both well known and well regarded for being ever present and able to respond rapidly to changing events.”

Professor Graham Watt, Chair of MAP’s Programme Advisory Panel

The war on Gaza in 2009 shocked British people into action. Countless individuals approached the MAP office in London keen to help out in any way they could, meanwhile many others came forward in support of our call for help giving generous donations and holding events to raise urgently needed funds

Through our emergency plans of pre-positioning medical supplies in Gaza, MAP was able to respond within two hours of the crisis – with surgical and blood donation kits, each able to treat 100 people, followed up with hygiene and nutritional kits to the most vulnerable families that had lost their homes. As the bombardment and invasion intensified – the coordination of emergency aid in Gaza was in chaos. MAP performed a leading role in organising the coordination of medical equipment and drugs to hospitals throughout Gaza.

MAP relies upon the loyalty of thousands to support our programmes. Through lectures, high profile events and community fundraising, MAP has been able to build strong links between the residents of the United Kingdom and Palestinians living across the Middle East.

The Invasion of Lebanon

On 16th September 1982, The largest Palestinian Refugee Camp in Beirut was surrounded and sealed by the Israeli army – no one was allowed to leave. Phalangist militia entered the camp and raped, killed, and injured thousands of unarmed Palestinian civilians, mostly children, women and elderly people.

“What we found inside the Shatila Palestinian camp at ten o’clock on the morning of 18 September 1982 did not beggar description, although it would have been easier to re-tell in the cold prose of a medical examination. There had been massacres in Lebanon, but rarely on this scale and never overlooked by a regular, supposedly disciplined (Israeli) army....These people, hundreds of them, had been shot down unarmed. This was a mass killing...an atrocity. It went beyond even what Israelis would have, in other circumstances, called a terrorist atrocity. It was a war crime.”

Robert Fisk (Times Journalist 1982)

“I worked with MAP in a clinic in a Palestinian camp in the south of Lebanon. It was during the civil war and I was the only doctor in the camp treating 60-70 patients everyday. The horrible injustice of the situation prompted me to stay actively involved with MAP on my return.”

Dr Runa Mackay, MAP Volunteer

Our constant presence in Lebanon over 25 years has built a strong bond of trust between MAP staff and the people we work with each day in the refugee camps. MAP is able to develop flexible and innovative programmes to help people cope in very difficult conditions.

Today we have established teams based in West Bank and Gaza. The ongoing Israeli occupation is the main determinant impacting on the quality of healthcare for Palestinians in the occupied territory. Access, or rather lack of it, remains one of the most important issues facing Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Daily life for Palestinians is hindered by the Separation Wall, road blocks, checkpoints and other obstacles to movement – many lives have been lost because patients were blocked from receiving medical care in time. In Gaza the blockade has caused an humanitarian crisis. Hospital equipment is failing due to lack of spare parts and patients waiting referral for treatment outside Gaza often die due to delays or restrictions of movement.

Medical Aid for Palestinians runs mobile clinics across the West Bank to allow healthcare to be delivered to Palestinians who cannot gain access to larger hospitals. These clinics are a lifeline as they provide health checkups and essential medication free of charge.

“MAP’s enormous work in trying to get some kind of order and relief in this chaos is incredibly important.”

Rageh Omar, Broadcaster

“The expulsion of the Palestinians from their homes and the continued violent oppression is one of the great tragedies of these times. Anyone who reads the news from Gaza knows of their suffering: houses, schools, hospitals – and bodies – shattered. Organisations like Medical Aid for Palestinians need our absolute support.”

Ken Loach, Film Director