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



WITNESS

LEBANON The forgotten refugees

MAP INTERVIEW

Meet Baroness Morris, MAP's new President

NEWS UPDATE

Including UN membership, Settler attacks and demolitions in the West Bank

WILL YOU REMEMBER?

The importance of leaving a gift in your will

CONFERENCES SUMMARY

Politicians urge the British Government to play a greater role

SPRING 2012

DEAR READER



Nelcome to this edition of Witness

2011 was another busy and eventful year for MAP. Tragically, against the backdrop of unprecedented events as part of the Arab Spring across the region, the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza continues. In the West Bank, as this

newsletter highlights, Israeli settlement construction, the demolition of Palestinian homes and violence from Israeli settlers continue unabated. Gaza remains severely restricted by the blockade and many medical supplies are critically low or at zero stock. In Lebanon, Palestinian refugees are now in their 63rd year of displacement and face numerous health challenges highlighted by a recently launched MAP report Terminal Decline.

It is in this context that MAP's lifesaving projects operate thanks to the continued and generous support of thousands of donors around the world. In 2011, after three years of preparation and work, we were proud to deliver two successful Primary Trauma Care courses in addition to the first 'Train the Trainer' (TOT) in the occupied Palestinian territory. The courses were extremely successful and, in the words of the programme director, James de Courcey, produced the highest standard of trainees that he'd ever worked with.

MAP has also been working with the United Nations to develop a protection group for the Bedouin communities of the Jordan Valley who are particularly vulnerable to the expanding Israeli occupation. MAP, in liaison with the UN, is leading the establishment of this group, which will highlight continuing abuses against a very vulnerable community. In addition, MAP is developing training for the Bedouin on legal rights in coordination with the Norwegian Refugee Council, who are providing free legal aid for people affected by demolition or eviction orders.

I am delighted to announce that Baroness Morris of Bolton has been appointed as our new President, succeeding Lord Patten of Barnes. She is, in her own words, a 'practical politician' who will be a great asset.

Many of you will be saddened to hear that Francis Khoo, one of MAP's founders, passed away in November. Francis was one of MAP's staunchest supporters. We miss him dearly and our thoughts are with his wife Dr Swee Chai Ang. In August Samira Hassassian, one of our Patrons, sady passed away. Our sincere condolences go to her husband, Ambassador Manuel Hassassian, her two daughters and son, her grandchildren, and all her family and friends.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the massacre at Sabra and Shatila, a terrible event that led to Dr. Swee and a group of doctors and medical professionals setting up MAP in 1984. With your continued support MAP remains committed to improving the health and dignity of Palestinians across the Middle East.

STEVE JAMES Chief Executive Medical Aid for Palestinians



Steve with Filippo Grandi, Commissioner-General of UNRWA. at the Launch of MAP's report Terminal Decline

IN THIS ISSUE

2 SITUATION OVERVIEW Round-up of the latest developments in the occupied Palestinian territory and Lebanon

3 MAP INTERVIEW Meet MAP's new President.

Baroness Morris of Bolton

4 CONFERENCES SUMMARY

Highlights from MAP's events at the Party Conferences focusing on Britain's role in Palestine

4 APPEAL UPDATE

Update on our latest 'Children of Palestine' Appeal

5-6 SNAPSHOTS FROM LEBANON

Photographic Diary on the precarious state of healthcare for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon

7-8 MAJOR REPORT LAUNCH

Launch of MAP's Lebanon Refugee Health Report, and project updates

7 APPEAL UPDATE

Update on our recent 'Zero stock medicine' Appeal

8 APPEAL UPDATE Update on our 'Bedouin First Aid training' Appeal

9 WILL YOU REMEMBER? Leaving a legacy to support MAP's work with Palestinians

10 MY FUNDRAISER Hadeel raises £2,000 climbing Mount Kilimanjaro... and more

11 MAP NEWS Plus dates for your diary

PALESTINE

UNESCO gives Palestinians full membership

October: The UN cultural agency decided to give the Palestinians full membership of the body. UNESCO is the first UN agency the Palestinians have sought to join as a full member since President Mahmoud Abbas applied for full membership of the United Nations on September 23rd.

The United States, Canada and Germany voted against Palestinian membership. Brazil, Russia, China, India, South Africa and France voted in favour. Britain abstained.

PALESTINE **Financial crisis**

January: The Palestinian Authority is struggling to pay employees as it seeks to narrow a budget deficit of about \$1 billion caused by a reduction in international funding. MAP is deeply concerned over the Palestinian Ministry of Health's inability to purchase sufficient essential drugs.

In 2011 stocks of many essential drugs ran out in the West Bank for the first time. The Gaza Strip continues to suffer from a lack of supply of key drugs and medical disposables and equipment.

GAZA

Catastrophic shortfall in Gaza's medical supplies

December: The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights warned of the catastrophic repercussions of medical shortages on the health of the population of Gaza.

Especially at risk are patients who suffer from renal failure due to the shortage of blood filters used in dialysis. There is concern that the lack of these blood filters may stop dialysis treatment in the Gaza Strip hospitals, and endanger the lives of 450 patients.



WEST BANK

Demolitions displace record number of Palestinians

December: Israeli authorities have stepped up unlawful demolitions in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, over the past year, displacing a record number of Palestinian families from their homes. The statement from an international coalition of 20 leading aid agencies and human rights groups came as the Middle East Quartet met in Jerusalem in its latest effort to revive peace talks.

The sharp rise in demolitions in 2011 has been accompanied by accelerated expansion of Israeli settlements and an escalation of violence perpetrated by settlers, the groups said. The humanitarian and human rights groups, including MAP, Human Rights Watch, and Oxfam International, are calling for the Quartet to hold all parties to the conflict to their international law obligations. The Quartet must press the Israeli government to immediately reverse its settlement policies and freeze all demolitions that violate international law.



WEST BANK



December: Israel approved the construction of 40 more illegal settler units and a farm in two new settler communities near the Palestinian city of Bethlehem in central West Bank.

The UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon expressed "deep concern" over Israel's announcement that it is going to build new settlements in central occupied West Bank.

LEBANON

63 years of waiting to return

September: On the 63rd anniversary of UN General Assembly Resolution 194, NGOs issued a statement to bring the attention of the international community to the enduring denial of the Palestinian right to reparation, rehabilitation and in particular to their right to return.

The group called upon the international community to affirm the right of return by resurrecting mechanisms aimed at its implementation and at bridging the outstanding protection gaps regarding refugees. 2012 marks the 30th anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacre.

WEST BANK Accelerated settlement activity Sharp increase in settler attacks

> November: A UN report shows that there has been a sharp increase in Jewish settler attacks on Palestinians in the West Bank. Figures show attacks by Israeli settlers on Palestinians have increased by 40% in 2011 compared to 2010, and by over 165% compared to 2009.



INTRODUCING **MAP'S NEW PRESIDENT BARONESS MORRIS OF BOLTON**

MAP is delighted to announce that Baroness Morris takes over from Lord Patten as our new President.

MAP Chief Executive Steve James described the appointment as "fantastic news." Baroness Morris brings with her a wealth of experience and knowledge of the region, as well as connections to key players in the Houses of Parliament. She has been to both Gaza and the West Bank over the past year and was outspoken in her belief that "Britain should have recognised a Palestinian state at the United Nations."

Baroness Morris of Bolton is a Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords. She

became a life peer in 2004 and served as the Shadow Minister for Education. Children, Families & Women and as a Shadow Work and Pensions Spokesman. In addition to this, she was also a Member of the Lords Opposition Whip's Office before standing down from the front bench at her own request at the end of the last Parliament.

Prior to entering the House of Lords. Baroness Morris was Vice-Chairman of the Conservative Party with responsibility for candidates where she instigated and oversaw fundamental changes in the selection procedure to increase diversity. She is a former Deputy Chairman of the Salford Royal Hospitals Trust.



INTERVIEW



Congratulations on becoming our new President.

"Thank you. I'm really honoured and was very touched when I was asked to take up this position. MAP has an amazing reputation and I'm thrilled to be a part of this organisation and to work with its staff and volunteers."

How did you come to be involved in the Middle East?

"Gradually, I've felt that all aspects of my life have a Middle Eastern dimension. I'm Chancellor of The University of Bolton and we have a campus in the UAE. I am a trustee of UNICEF which is active across the region, I am also a trustee of the Disability Partnership and part of our work is with severely disabled children and young people in the West Bank. After the 2010 General Election, I was

asked to chair the Conservative Middle East Council (CMEC) and now I'm fully hooked on the region!"

Why do you think so many people in Britain are supportive of the Palestinian cause?

"Britain has a moral obligation to Palestine that goes back to the British mandate. More than any country, we need to be at the forefront of working for a resolution."

You follow in the footsteps of former MAP Presidents Lord Steel, Baroness Kennedy and Lord Patten. What are you hoping to bring to the role?

"It's pretty daunting to follow MAP's ex-Presidents, but I bring with me a passion for the cause and a determination to continue their work in raising awareness of the plight of the Palestinian people and helping to raise funds to support MAP's vital work."

You recently came out publically in favour of Britain voting for a Palestinian state at the United Nations. Can you explain the reasoning behind that decision? "I'm a great believer that if you are in a position to do something you feel

strongly about then you should do it. Two years ago President Obama said that the Palestinians would have a state and Britain agreed. President Abass and Salam Fayyad have done everything that's been asked of them to build the institutions of a state and then, when they ask for recognition, the world says no. The Palestinians didn't think that recognition by the United Nations was the end of everything, but rather the start of a long and hard process of negotiations."

You travelled to Gaza and the West Bank in 2011, what were the main impressions from your visits?

"Sadly, the region never ceases to shock me. Maybe there are not so many checkpoints in the West Bank and maybe we have a few more materials going into Gaza, but it is still a daily grind for people living under occupation and blockade. It is shocking. Visiting Gaza got to me in a big way, the sheer potential that's wasted is sad for the whole region, including Israel."

"Britain has a moral obligation to **Palestine that** goes back to the British mandate. More than any country, we need to be at the forefront of working for a resolution."



Follow MAP on Twitter @ MedicalAidPal



PARTY CONFERENCES SUMMARY

MAP held fringe events at the three main Party Conferences asking "What role should Britain play in regards to Palestine?" The events, co-hosted by the New Statesman, were chaired by Mehdi Hassan and featured panels including former Liberal Democrat leader Sir Menzies Campbell MP, current Deputy Leader Simon Hughes MP, Oxford historian Avi Shlaim, Richard Howitt MEP and the Shadow Minister for International Development Rushanara Ali MP.

At the Liberal Democrat Party Conference Sir Menzies Campbell MP passionately argued that the "Palestinians should be in the sunshine of the Arab Spring. I'm deeply unimpressed by the government's failure to state a position on a Palestinian state. It is deeply damaging to Britain's influence and reputation not to have declared its position. It is both a democratic and moral decision to support the Palestinians." Simon Hughes MP, fresh from going on a MAP delegation to the West Bank in June, urged the government to "step up to the plate and take our responsibilities. We don't need an EU consensus, Britain and France can make our position clear."

"We cannot be part of the hypocrisy that says we support what is happening across North Africa but not Palestine."

(Richard Howitt - MEP)

"My instinct is

that it is right

for the British

government

to back the

Palestinian

statehood."

(Rory Stewart

bid for

- MP)

At the Labour Party Conference Professor Avi Shlaim described the US as a "dishonest broker" in the conflict, with an "absolutely dismal" record of mediating. Richard Howitt MEP spoke about Europe increasing its role in the conflict, stating that they had not done enough and "should be a player, not just a payer." Howitt warned that "we cannot be part of the hypocrisy that says we support what is happening across North Africa but not Palestine." Rushanara Ali MP described her "eye opening experience visiting the West Bank earlier in the year" and how the conflict is "one of the greatest injustices facing our times... the Arab Spring has given people both hope and the opportunity to reengage with the issues facing the Middle East. Britain needs to play its part, along with the EU, to restart the peace process. We will keep the pressure on the Conservative-led government to ensure that it plays a more significant role in this issue."

...including East Jerusalem, in addition to some **100** "outposts" erected by settlers without official authorization.

MAP Chief Executive Steve James went on to focus on the continued state of emergency in Gaza, explaining that "while MAP's projects continue to save lives and make a real difference on the ground today, it lies with our politicians to ensure that there is a brighter future tomorrow."

APPEAL UPDATE

THE CHILDREN **OF PALESTINE** APPEAL

We had a tremendous response from MAP supporters to our Children of Palestine appeal. The level of response has really inspired MAP's teams in the occupied Palestinian territory that the work they are doing is so valued by our supporters in the UK.

Being a child growing up under occupation is terrifying. Threats of violence, home demolitions and movement restrictions are all enough to leave a child traumatised and anxious. With your help we have been able to support more children – giving them a way of dealing with their stresses and anxieties – and a better chance of having a childhood.



At the Conservative Party Conference Rory Stewart MP, a member of the Foreign Affairs committee, spoke of hearing his colleagues in parliament reading out statements on Israel-Palestine that sound like "press statements written by the Israeli embassy..... my instinct is that it is right for the British government to back the Palestinian bid for statehood."

.....

ION: THE BIG PICTURE

SNAPSHOTS FROM LEBANON

► In November, we launched our report into Palestinian refugee health in Lebanon. This report has been in development for over a year and is part of MAP's ongoing work to raise the profile of the health challenges facing Palestinian refugees living in camps in Lebanon. MAP aims to use this report as the basis from which to argue for fundamental improvements to the healthcare and living conditions of the Palestinian refugee population who have spent over 62 years in Lebanon. Here are some of its key findings:

 Tertiary healthcare provision for Palestinian refugees is in a precarious state.

Training for future Palestinian doctors, nurses and dentists is in deep decline.

UN health services are increasingly under-resourced and overstretched with doctors in the camps seeing an average of 107 patients a day.

The environments of Palestinian refugee camps constitute a health hazard in and of themselves.

If you would like a copy of the report please phone us on 020 7226 4114 or email us at info@map.org.uk









www.map.org.uk

TERMINAL DECLINE? PALESTINIAN REFUGEE HEALTH IN LEBANON

In November, in partnership with Caabu and the SOAS Palestinian Society, MAP launched its first briefing paper into Palestinian refugee health in Lebanon. The launch event was chaired by the Olive **Tree Foundation's Professor Rosemary Hollis and the panel** included Commissioner-General of UNRWA, Filippo Grandi, alongside James Denselow from MAP.

The report reveals that Palestinian healthcare in Lebanon is underfunded and chronically unfit for the needs of the refugee population.

Of particular concern are the overburdened and under-resourced UN clinics, an acute shortage of Palestinians training to become doctors and an inadequate tertiary healthcare system that places unbearable stress upon patients.

The dignity associated with access to adequate healthcare is both a matter of life and death as well as one of international responsibility. In Lebanon, Palestinian refugees cannot benefit from the state's social security healthcare. Instead, 95% of Palestinian refugees rely on assistance from UNRWA, the Palestine Red Crescent Society. NGOs such as MAP, and a myriad of informal civil society networks, in order to access healthcare.

Today the majority of the 260,000-280,000 Palestinians estimated to be in Lebanon are dispersed across twelve refugee camps.

APPEAL UPDATE

JANUARY ZERO STOCK MEDICINE APPEAL

We have had thousands of responses from our supporters demanding that the British government puts pressure on the Israeli authorities to stop collectively punishing Palestinians by threatening

There can be little doubt that the camp environments are linked to the multitude of physical and mental health problems they suffer from. Indeed, there is a higher proportion of Palestinian UN hardship cases in Lebanon than anywhere else in the Middle East. Meanwhile, despite a recent change in Lebanese legislation, Palestinians are still effectively barred from working in a substantial number of professions, including medicine and engineering.

Palestinian refugees are also embroiled in the relentless politics of the region. The destruction of Nahr al-Bared camp in 2007, caused by in-fighting between the Lebanese Army and Fatah al-Islam, placed a massive burden on an already overstretched health infrastructure. Today there are still some 10,000 Palestinians who remain displaced from Nahr al-Bared camp. Reconstruction of the camp, estimated to cost approximately \$400 million, has been continually delayed, largely for political reasons.

In 2010, the British Ambassador to Lebanon, Frances Guy, stated that "the situation for Palestinian refugees is very important, because the whole settlement of the Middle East will depend to some extent on what happens to [these] refugees."

MAP believes that until there is a peace settlement, the international community has a moral responsibility to ensure that Palestinian refugees live in dignity and in good health. This report serves as a timely wake-up call on the perils of neglecting Palestinian refugee health.

Read the full report at www.map.org.uk or call us on 020 7226 4114 for a paper copy.

to stop Palestinian tax revenue. We have already written to David Cameron and at the time of going to press were waiting for a response.

Your donations have already helped. In January the Ministry of Health approached MAP to release essential medicines and medical equipment which had reached zero stock levels. Because of your donations we were able to supply life-saving medicine and equipment.

"The situation for Palestinian refugees is very important, because the whole settlement of the Middle East will depend to some extent on what happens to [these] refugees.' (Frances Guy -British Ambassador to Lebanon)

STATISTICS:

107 Average number of Palestinian patients one UN doctor will see in one day

50,000

Number of refugee special hardship cases, the highest number in the Middle East

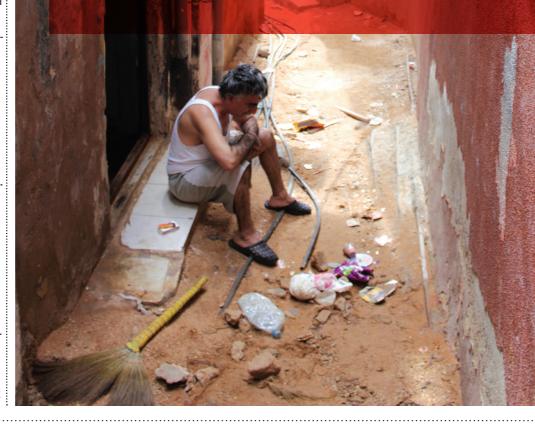
25%

of buildings in refugee camps are made out of inadequate and impermanent material

To read the full report, please visit www.map.org.uk



TERMINAL DECLINE? PALESTINIAN REFUGEE **HEALTH IN LEBANON**





MAP's programme in Lebanon has seen our community nurses and midwives visit hundreds of vulnerable Palestinian mothers and their babies living in the refugee camps across the country.

communities.

PROJECT UPDATE

HELPING VULNERABLE MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

MAP's community mothers' teams, who are volunteers, have been trained in family planning support with workshops focusing on the importance of birth spacing, fertility awareness, choice of birth control methods, and especially natural methods which remain the preferred choice for a large majority of women.

The community mothers' teams in Beddawi and Ein El Helweh camps carried out 271 visits to pregnant women and nursing mothers in the space of a month. Meanwhile the newly recruited team in Nahr al-Bared started the visiting programme accompanied by the midwives.

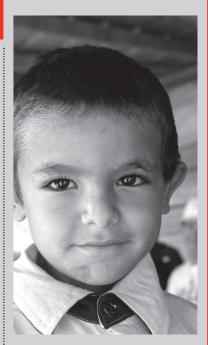


APPEAL UPDATE

BEDOUIN FIRST AID TRAINING

In September, we wrote to some of you about the desperate need to train up members of the Bedouin community of the Jordan Valley in First Aid. With your help, MAP trained 100 Bedouin in essential First Aid – giving them the skills and the First Aid kits they need to save lives in these marginalised

Your donations helped people like 22-year-old Narmeen, who attended one of MAP's First Aid training courses. She said "This First Aid course is very important and needed in our communities, as we are away from the health service providers; we live in the mountains



where there are no hospitals or clinics to attend in case of emergency. You never know what might happen with any of us."



WILL YOU REMEMBER?

We all rely on support from family and friends to get through life, and MAP has a pledge to always be there as a trusted friend of the Palestinian people. But working here in the UK, it is sometimes easy to forget the harsh reality faced by Palestinians every day - and with little sign that it's going to improve in any way for a long time to come. A visit to the MAP website (www.map.org.uk) can act as an important reminder of the numbers of issues that MAP addresses and the many ways in which people support our work.

One way which is often missed by people who have spent a lifetime supporting MAP is to remember MAP when they are updating their will.

It's an interesting observation that while 70% of the British public regularly support charities each year, less that 15% remember to provide even a small allowance in their will. The most common reason is simply not considering it at the time of making or amending their will. Each year we are fortunate to receive a few notifications of bequests to MAP.

This foresight by past MAP supporters breathes life into many aid projects which we could not afford to provide.

Remembering to include Medical Aid for Palestinians in your will provides for those most in need in an uncertain future. If you leave a gift in your will to MAP you can be confident that vour funds will be best used to help Palestinians living under occupation or as refugees until they - one day- find a just solution.

MAP interviewed a long term supporter who, while wanting to remain anonymous, told us about why she came to leave a bequest to MAP in her will.

"I cannot remember ever not being able to read, and it was around the age of ten that I first read about the plight of the Palestinians. I am 81 years old today and still feel a huge degree of empathy with the Palestinians. I'm verv much from the generation that remembers the British Raj and have watched with dismay the continued crisis across the region and particularly for the residents of the Gaza Strip. I am normally very

"My experience as someone who is now in a wheelchair and who has endured frequent hospital visits is that a people's right to health should never be compromised like it is in Gaza and across the West Bank.

People should do what they feel is right to respond to the situation, and that is why I fully support MAP."

suspicious of charities but felt a connection when talking to MAP about their work. Everything about how the people of Gaza are forced to live is abhorrent in my eyes. My experience as someone who is now in a wheelchair and who has endured frequent hospital visits is that a people's right to health should never be compromised like it is in Gaza and across the West Bank. People should do what they feel is right to respond to the situation, and that is why I fully support MAP."

If you would like more information on the importance of leaving a gift in your will to MAP please contact our office on:

020 7226 4114 or at info@map-uk.org

OUR SUPPORTERS Thank you!

MAP has some truly fantastic supporters doing amazing things to help raise money. If you are putting on or taking part in a fundraising event please tell us – we love to hear about them. We just wanted to say a big thank you to all our fundraisers. Below are just a few people who have raised money for MAP in the last few months.

- Patrick O'Hare and his father raised over £800 by running the Jedburgh Half Marathon.
- Lesley Welch and her friends cycled from Bristol to Cornwall as well as doing a 100 metre abseil near Cheddar Gorge, raising nearly £1500 for MAP.
- **Dana Dajani** put on a performance of 'Seven Jewish Children' raising money for MAP in the United Arab Emirates. In 2011, performances were also held in France, South Korea, Australia, and Greece – all raising money for MAP.
- MAP supporter Veronica hosted "love letters to Gaza", with Calder Bookshop & Theatre. People wrote letters, songs and poems about Gaza and then performed them.
- British Palestinian doctor, Nadia Dabbagh, currently working in the UAE, ran the Dubai 10km raising over £500.
- Students from University of the Arts, London College of **Communication** raised money by putting on a fashion show.
- MAP's very own team of James Denselow, Sophie Hundall, John Banian and Diana Safieh raised nearly £5,000 running the Royal Parks Half Marathon. We also have four runners doing the London Marathon this year, GO TEAM MAP!"



MY FUNDRAISER HADEEL RAISED OVER £2,000 BY CLIMBING **MOUNT KILIMANJARO**



Hadeel On Kilimanjaro

"I wanted to do something that would take me out of my comfort zone and was for a worthy cause.

I am originally Palestinian although like so many of us I've never been to Palestine. I have always kept in touch with what was happening on the ground and raised money for MAP in 2009 when I did the Reading Half Marathon. I felt that MAP was the right charity to raise money for as I knew that it would be going towards improving people's lives.

Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in Africa and at 19.000 feet . In the months before the trip I kept fit by running and climbing Ben Nevis and Snowdon. Along with a friend we joined up with a group of ten to complete the seven day hike to the peak. We took the Lemosho route,

DID YOU KNOW...?

The generous support that we receive from companies is made possible because of employees who advocate and make requests on behalf of MAP.

Can you help us in this way to increase donations in this important area?

MAP welcomes support from companies who want to help some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in the world today. By partnering with MAP, your company will have an immediate

which is the longest one, and on the final day we started off at midnight to see the sunrise on the peak. The ascent was really difficult, as you get higher up the air thins and even a slow pace feels like you're sprinting.

I kept hydrated, and fuelled on energy bars, but the biggest incentive was knowing that people back home had sponsored me and that I couldn't let them down. It was an exhausting and exhilarating experience but I'm so glad that I could support MAP and make a difference. I'm already looking into my next challenge event."

If you would like to raise money for MAP by taking part in a challenge event please contact Flora on 020 7226 4114 or email flora.williamson@map-uk.org

and lasting impact on the lives of thousands of people.

There are many different ways in which we can work together to make a difference.

FOR EXAMPLE. YOUR **COMPANY COULD:**

- Make a company gift
- Sponsor a project
- Sponsor an event or publication
- Offer Payroll Giving and
- matched funding

To discuss opportunities with MAP, please contact us at info@map-uk.org or 020 7226 4114 ASKS:

£25 could help pay for supplies and equipment to train frontline staff in resuscitation techniques

£50

can help supply essential medicines and medical equipment to those who need them

£75

could help pay for an experienced psychologist to provide expert care to psychologically injured children



MAP NEWS

SUPPORTING WOMEN AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

With the recruitment of two psychologists in Bekaa and North Lebanon, MAP's project is now fully staffed and running. To date, legal, psychological and social consultations have been offered to 122 women and five men, including two beneficiaries with special needs. Around 50% of the beneficiaries received extra support with cases referred to a psychologist and a lawyer to receive legal consultation. The project has so far run sixty awareness sessions on women's rights, gender equity and prevention of gender-based violence.

SPECIAL THANKS:

To the Barham Charitable Trust who have very kindly pledged £20,000 towards this project. We are now trying to find the remaining funds: please get in touch if you are able to help, or if you can recommend any individual, trust or company who might be interested in matching this generous gift.

MAP'S PRIMARY TRAUMA CARE PROGRAMME

MAP is working with the Ministry of Health to increase the capacity of frontline health providers, men & women, in remote & high risk communities across the West Bank and Gaza to have capacity in Primary Trauma Care (PTC) so that they are able to effectively stabilize patients prior to referral. Given the current situation and the increasing demand, MAP is now expanding the project to support the development of a community based version of PTC which is to be rolled out to non-medics living in vulnerable communities this year.

SPECIAL THANKS:

To an anonymous donor for their generous gift of £10,000 towards MAP's Primary Trauma Care project, in memory of Dr A G Wilson.

BARONESS MORRIS OF BOLTON BECOMES NEW MAP PRESIDENT

MAP is delighted to announce that Baroness Morris takes over from Lord Patten as our new President. See her full interview on page 3.

■ MAP FILM: LIFE IN THE SHADOWS: PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON

Palestinian health care in Lebanon is underfunded and chronically unfit for the needs of the refugee population. Of particular concern are the overburdened and under-resourced UN clinics, an acute shortage of Palestinians training to become doctors and an inadequate tertiary healthcare system that places unbearable stress upon patients.

NEW MAP STAFF

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MAP is pleased to introduce our new Director of Finance Mary Daly. Mary joins MAP having worked at the BBC and PricewaterhouseCoopers. We also welcome new Programme Officer in London, Sara Halimah. Sara has previously worked at Water Aid and WHO.

MAP CHAIRS HUMANITARIAN ACCOUNTABILITY PARTNERSHIP MEETING

On the 13th December, MAP chaired the first UK based Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) meeting. HAP International is an umbrella body of NGOs which work towards set standards to ensure humanitarian action is made accountable to its beneficiaries. As an active member of HAP International. MAP initiated a regional hub for all the UK NGOs who are members of HAP to meet quarterly. The UK HAP meeting hosted at the MAP offices in London allows NGOs to discuss best practice on aid accountability and share resources to work towards a common goal of transparency.

DIARY DATES

LONDON SOCIALIST FILM CO-OP

11th March, Renoir Cinema, Brunswick Square, London, 10.30am

Screening of "Jaffa: The Orange's Clockwork" and MAP Films. Full details: www.socialistfil.blogspot.com

PITCHING FOR PALESTINE 20th April, Church House, Westminster, London, 6.30pm

Join Jon Snow and expert panellists including Professor Illan Pappe, Dr Richard Horton and Professor Rosemary Hollis for a MAP-Caabu organised discussion of practical ways to improve the situation on the ground in the occupied Palestinian territory. Tickets cost £10, for more information contact info@map-uk.org.

PALESTINIAN FILM FESTIVAL

21st April, Barbican Centre, London, Evening (time tbc)

Join MAP for a screening of "Gaza Hospital" and a panel discussion about the Sabra and Shatila massacre with Dr. Swee. Full details: www.palestinefilm.org



SAMIRA HASSASSIAN (1954-2011)

MAP is saddened by the death of Samira Hassassian in August after a long illness. Samira worked tirelessly for the rights of the Palestinian people and supported several charities including working as a Patron for MAP.



FRANCIS KHOO (1947-2011)

MAP is saddened by the sudden death of one of our founders and former trustees, Francis Khoo. Francis dedicated his life to fighting for justice for Palestine, and beyond. He will be remembered for his incredible generosity and work over the last decades.

Donate online at www.map.org.uk

Or call today on 020 7226 4114

Follow MAP on Twitter @MedicalAidPal and Facebook www.facebook.com/MedicalAidforPalestinians info@map.org.uk Registered Charity no: 1045315

