

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

**MAP**  
MEDICAL AID FOR PALESTINIANS

# WITNESS

## SABRA AND SHATILA 30 YEARS ON

### PALESTINIAN HEALTH CONFERENCE

Addressing the different health challenges facing Palestinians

### INTERVIEW WITH DR SWEE ANG

Remembering Sabra and Shatila

### NEW REPORT ON GAZA'S CHILDREN

An in-depth report on child health in Gaza on the 5th anniversary of the blockade

### POEMS FROM PALESTINE

Poems from MAP's project supporting people with disability

AUTUMN 2012



## DEAR READER

Welcome to the Autumn edition of Witness, MAP's biannual newsletter.

We are approaching a tragic milestone in the history of the Palestinian people. On 15th September, 1982, following the assassination of the Lebanese president-elect, Bashir Gemayel, Israel sent tanks into West Beirut. By midday they had ringed the refugee camp of Sabra and Shatila. The Israelis then supported a group of Christian Lebanese militiamen to enter the camp. When the tanks withdrew, dead and mutilated bodies lay in heaps along the alleyways. Up to 3,000 innocent people are estimated to have died inside the camp.

The massacre sent shockwaves through the region and inspired a team of medical professionals to set up MAP. Today, along with our partners, MAP is still working in the refugee camps in Lebanon. Among our programmes is our Maternal and Child Health (MCH) programme which runs in Nahr el-Bared and Beddawi camps near Tripoli and Ein el-Helweh in Saida, employing 15 midwives and nurses and MAP's 'Community Mothers' - a trained team of peer-to-peer volunteers. The MAP MCH Community Outreach Team visit pregnant women, new mothers, and their children in their homes. MAP's MCH Team make a huge difference to people's lives. One resident recently said, "I don't know what I would do without the MAP Midwife."

In the occupied Palestinian territory, thanks to your support, we've been able to train more Palestinians in emergency Primary Trauma Care in order to save lives when the next emergency occurs. Unfortunately, the heavy bombardment of Gaza in March put that training straight to the test.

In London, we've had a busy calendar of events. At the Palestine Film Festival we chaired the premiere screening of Gaza Hospital, which features our very own Dr. Swee Ang. UNRWA Commissioner-General, Filippo Grandi, also appeared on a MAP panel chaired by Jon Snow in April, from which he urged the international community to put refugees at the heart of the peace process.

In this edition we feature an interview with Dr. Swee discussing the 30th anniversary; a report on the Lancet-Palestinian Health Alliance's latest event in Beirut; and news of a MAP report into child health in Gaza. As ever, we also hear from MAP's supporters, the lifeblood of our organisation. I would like to give special congratulations to the four runners who completed the London marathon!

**STEVE JAMES**  
Chief Executive  
Medical Aid for Palestinians



MAP's Maternal and Child Health Project in Lebanon is working to improve infant survival in the refugee camps by tackling the main health risks that are leaving mothers and infants vulnerable.

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**LEBANON:**  
Deteriorating  
Refugee Camps

**April:** Palestinian officials planted trees in Burj el-Barajneh camp and led a tour for European donors as they tried to raise awareness about the deteriorating living conditions inside the camp.

Danish Ambassador Jan Top Christensen, along with EU and UNRWA officials, was taken on a tour of the camp by officials from the Palestinian Embassy in Lebanon.



**LEBANON**  
Violence in Lebanon

**May-June:** A series of violent clashes broke out in Lebanon in May, during which time 12 people were killed and many more injured.

In June, a further 3 people were killed, including a 16 year old boy, and several more wounded in Nahr el-Bared camp. A new Emergency Preparedness and Response plan for MAP is being formulated in case the situation escalates further.'

**GAZA**  
Under Heavy Attack

**March-June:** There was an escalation in violence in Gaza in March and again in June.

An Israeli airstrike sparked off retaliatory actions in March to and from Gaza reminiscent of the war on Gaza in January 2009. 27 Palestinians were killed and over 100 injured by a series of attacks by Israel. MAP aid workers in Gaza were in immediate contact with the hospitals when the air strikes began to ensure they had sufficient blood supplies and disposables to treat the casualties. The violence that broke out again in June resulted in a further 14 Palestinian deaths, including 3 children, and over 70 injuries.

**GAZA**  
Fuel Crisis

**March:** The fuel crisis in Gaza is leading to a plethora of tragic health consequences

Emergency services in Gaza reported that three Palestinian children died after a fire in their room was caused by a candle being used due to lack of electricity. Abdul-Rahim Helou reported that his baby son, Mohammed, died after a respirator he relied on to help him breathe ran out of fuel.



**WEST BANK**  
Hundreds Denied Access  
to Palestine



**April:** Hundreds of travellers from across the globe attempted to reach the West Bank via Tel Aviv airport.

PLO official Hanan Ashrawi said that the 'Welcome to Palestine' participants should have been received as people "taking a courageous and principled stand affirming our common humanity, rather than being viciously targeted and prevented from visiting Palestine and joining our people in their search for dignity and freedom."

**WEST BANK**  
Prisoners Hunger Strike

**May-June:** Hundreds of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel launched a hunger strike in April demanding an end to open-ended detentions without trial.

The hunger strike saw some prisoners go 77 days without food and only ended in May after Israel announced that inmates had signed a deal that should allow them more visiting rights and better conditions in jails. Meanwhile several hunger strikers, including Hassan Safadi, have continued their protests.





# INTERVIEW WITH DR SWEE ANG

# REMEMBERING

# SABRA AND SHATILA

**When Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982, Dr Swee Ang resigned from her job in London, said goodbye to her husband and set out on a journey to work in the Palestinian refugee camp of Sabra and Shatila.**

While she was there the Palestinian Liberation Organisation was forced to leave the country, leaving the camp defenceless. After their evacuation Lebanese Christian militia supported by the Israeli military, raped, killed and injured hundreds of unarmed

Palestinian civilians inside the circled and sealed camps. Out of that horror, Dr Swee Ang founded Medical Aid for Palestinians. 30 years on, she talked to us about her experience.

## MAP INTERVIEW



**What was it that originally inspired you to leave everything and go to work in a Palestinian refugee camp in Beirut?**

I grew up in Singapore, where we were very supportive of Israel. But in 1982, it was a different story. I was in London and there was a lot of footage of what the Israeli planes did to Lebanon. Then an Israeli statement was televised saying, "Well, to make an omelette one has to first crack eggs." That was terrible. Later, when Christian Aid sent out an appeal asking for a doctor to look after the wounded, I realised that was what I should be doing, instead of entering the endless debate of who's right and who's wrong.

**What was it like, as a young doctor, going into what was essentially a war zone?**

There were two things going on at the same time: working in a war zone in the aftermath of a major siege and trying to take in, on a personal level, who the Palestinians were. I met people who were displaced, who

had lost their homes, and people who had been unjustly dealt with – women with children, families that were totally dispossessed.

**What happened after the evacuation of the PLO?**

On 15 September Israeli tanks rolled under air cover into Beirut and went straight for Sabra and Shatila. We were surrounded by tanks, which shelled the refugee camps, and then the massacre started. I was in a basement operating theatre of Gaza Hospital and wounded people were pouring in. When I found someone to explain what was going on, they said gunmen had broken into their homes and were shooting whole families without reason. Then, on 18 September, we were ordered out of the hospital. Two medical students insisted on staying behind and they basically saved the lives of all our patients. The rest of us were marched down the main road of the camp. Even then the massacre wasn't over. There were groups of people who'd been captured lining the sides of the road and many of them were killed after we left.

**That must have been a very gruelling experience.**

Yes, it made me realise that we, the international community, had done a grievous wrong to the Palestinian people. They were forced out of their homes in 1948 and had not been allowed to return. I hold two postgraduate degrees yet I never knew of their existence. What had we done to discover an injustice like that through

their death? And now from 1982 to 2012, what are we doing about that?

**After you left Lebanon, you set up Medical Aid for Palestinians. How did that come about?**

I asked my Palestinian friends what they would like me to do and they said: "It would be good if you supported us with substance, but what we really need is for the world to see who we are." So I flew back to London, and a group of us established MAP. People then were prepared to give money to buy antibiotics, but not everyone was ready to take on a high profile advocacy role. It's different now, we've moved forward. We cannot see the Palestinians just as victims; we must support them because we love justice. Humanitarianism might be a good thing, but it is not the only thing.

**Over the past 30 years who has most inspired you?**

Wow, there are so many people! I owe a big debt to the Palestinians who put up with me when I went into the refugee camp. They knew I was Zionist, yet they treated me so well, as one of their own. They never discriminated against me and even though they had nothing, the little they had they shared with me. Their generosity is totally overwhelming and the deprivation is so horrendous.

**"I asked my Palestinian friends what they would like me to do and they said: 'It would be good if you supported us with substance, but what we really need is for the world to see who we are.'"**

Dr. Swee Ang



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Maternal and Child Health project



Bourj el Bourajneh

# 30 YEARS ON

## MAP'S WORK IN LEBANON TODAY

Palestinians are living in Lebanon today in a state of chronic crisis as long-term refugees. While most local and international stakeholders in Lebanon adopt a predominantly emergency/relief approach, MAP focuses on development – building on the resources of the Palestinian community by supporting long-term interventions, advancing existing initiatives and working in partnership with local organisations. We are aware that social and health development takes time and are willing to invest in continuity.

### HOW WE WORK

We are guided by our partners' assessments of the needs within the community, with feedback from beneficiaries. Our partners propose possible solutions and provide ongoing input and guidance on community development within the camps and gatherings. MAP contributes to their initiatives by providing funding opportunities, technical support, ongoing monitoring and feedback, technical expertise and capacity building.

### WHERE WE WORK

Working directly and with our partners we aim to work in all refugee camps and unofficial gatherings in Lebanon. However, many of our projects focus on Ein el Helweh, Nahr el Bared and Beddawi camps, where instability, violence, displacement and overcrowding are making their inhabitants among the most vulnerable refugees in Lebanon.

### OUR PRIORITY AREAS:

Maternal and Child Health, including Child Development and Child Protection, Reproductive Health, Psycho-social Health and Disability.

Mother's quotes from the Maternal and Child Health project:

**"I feel I know the importance of our role as women and as mothers in society."**

**"They know us well enough to know our situation and our needs."**



Libby Powell



Libby Powell

Maternal and Child Health project



# HEALTH OF PALESTINIANS: INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

**In March, MAP supported a two-day conference at the American University of Beirut (AUB) addressing the huge variety of health challenges faced by Palestinians living as refugees or under prolonged occupation. The conference aimed to improve understanding of the complex issues surrounding Palestinian health and to come up with policy recommendations that could make a real difference.**

Making a difference was the founding reason behind the Lancet-Palestinian Health Alliance (LPHA), a group of Palestinian and international researchers which includes MAP trustee Professor Graham Watt, Iain Chalmers, Rita Giacaman and Abdullatif Hussein and the editor of the Lancet, Richard Horton.

The LPHA is committed to the highest scientific standards in describing, analysing and evaluating the health and health care of Palestinians, in order to contribute to international scientific

literature and to develop local evidence-based policy and practice.

The conference was the fourth meeting of the LPHA and the programme reflected the strengthening scientific base of LPHA activity, with 50 oral and poster presentations being selected from 85 submitted abstracts, on the basis of international peer review, with three reviewers for each abstract. Presentations examined a range of topics from neonatal mortality in Gaza, health and living conditions of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon to the psychological stress experienced by Palestinian amputees. Outside of the main conference poster presentations included research on nosocomial infection amongst Palestinian patients, UNRWA's non-communicable disease services and a look at improving medical procurement.

Richard Horton's opening address to the conference stressed the role of research not only as a way of obtaining clear answers to clear questions, but also as the basis for values-based advocacy, pursuing issues of justice and fairness. "Why are we holding these annual gatherings?" Horton asked, "Because the paralysis of the



Two-day conference on the health of Palestinians inside and outside

**"This event conference highlights the variety of problems facing Palestinians and is a rare chance for us to sit together and discuss how we can solve major health issues."**

Dr. Ali Dakwar

international community when confronted by the plight of the Palestinian people means that health professionals must find better ways to draw the human harms of occupation to the attention of politicians and policy makers."

The conference participants reflected the widening geographic base of the LPHA with very welcome contributions from Gaza, Lebanon and elsewhere. Conference participants described the coming together as an act of 'academic resistance' to the pressures of occupation and part of the 'scientific endeavour towards justice'.

MAP's Dr. Ali Dakwar spoke of how the conference highlighted "the variety of problems facing Palestinians" and provided, "a rare chance for us to sit together and discuss how we can solve



James Denselow



James Denselow

side the occupied Palestinian territory

## APPEAL UPDATE

### EMERGENCY TRAUMA CARE

MAP recently launched an appeal to ensure that more doctors, nurses and key members of the community are equipped with the skills needed to save lives in an emergency.

In the West Bank the use of excessive force to disperse peaceful demonstrations in protest against construction of the Separation Wall, settler violence and evictions by the Israeli Army of the Bedouin communities in Area C has led to a growing number of Palestinian civilian casualties.

Thanks to the generosity of MAP supporters, we will soon be able to start training the next wave of doctors, nurses and community members in life saving skills.



Flora Williamson

Head Nurse and Primary Trauma Care graduate in Gaza

major health issues." Our Director of Programmes in Lebanon, Marta Petagna, explained that the event was also valuable in drawing attention to health issues for Palestinians in Lebanon in particular. Tony Laurence, the World Health Organisation's representative in Palestine, also praised the event for "bringing together the public health community in Palestine and raising the profile of health challenges and practical solutions." Earlier in his presentation Mr. Laurence commented on the Palestinian right to health being compromised by the permit regime, "which is a direct consequence of the Israeli occupation".

The group welcomed the support and continuing interest of the Welfare Association and looks forward to further collaboration. It was agreed that the next major LPHA event should be held in 2013, rather than 2014, in Gaza if possible, in order to keep up the momentum.

**"I'd like to congratulate the event's organisers for bringing together the public health community in Palestine and raising the profile of health challenges and practical solutions."**

Tony Laurence



Graham Watt, MAP trustee, at the Lancet-Palestinian Health Alliance Conference.

James Denselow

## PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE ARAB WORLD

The Beirut conference also saw the launch of the first ever book specifically on public health in the Arab World. The Arab world is a distinct geographic and cultural entity, with a complex demographic. Public Health in the Arab World reviews and dissects the public health concerns specific to this region.

The book will interest not only researchers, practitioners and students in the Arab world, but also the wider constituency of international public health specialists and social scholars interested in this region. With contributions from a multidisciplinary group of leading regional and international experts it addresses a comprehensive range of contemporary topics, including the social determinants of health, and health issues in different population groups.



# PHOTOSTORY

## LIFE AS A PALESTINIAN REFUGEE IN LEBANON: 1982 AND TODAY

**THEN** ▶ “Suddenly a group of kids appeared. They asked me to take a picture and started to put their hands up in a victory sign. “We’re not afraid,” they said, “We’re the children of Shatila.” It was only when I came back and looked at the picture that I saw they had ruins behind them and a mass grave in front of them. They had no future, yet they were completely courageous.”

Interview with Dr Swee Ang

“There are those who build palaces and those who dig graves”, proverb in the camps.

Rosemary Sayigh, *Too Many Enemies: The Palestinian Experience in Lebanon*

**NOW** ▶ “Empowering women – equipping them with the knowledge and tools to realise their rights – this will improve family and community and contribute economically to the camps. We are working on a shift that goes beyond the local. It is political.”

MAP supported project addressing violence against women

“At school I studied but I didn’t learn about health – now I know.”

Community Mother in MAP’s Maternal and Child Health Project









# 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE

**On the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the blockade, MAP launched an in-depth report in partnership with Save the Children on the impact of the ongoing blockade on the lives and health of Gaza's children.**

Every child is entitled to an adequate standard of living and to the highest attainable standard of health and development. To have the best chance of a healthy, happy life, children need nurturing relationships, a safe environment in which to explore and play, nutritious food, clean water, and access to professional and responsive services, including medical care. Yet at every level in Gaza their support system has been shrinking because of the blockade.

Families are bearing the strains of prolonged poverty and food insecurity, with no end in sight. The community is torn by political disputes and critical services, including health, are struggling to recover from conflict. The environment is heavily polluted and Gaza's residents are being squeezed into an ever-shrinking, increasingly unhealthy space with almost no clean water. The impact this is having on the health of Gaza's children is alarming:

- Stunting, or long-term exposure to chronic malnutrition, remains high, found among 10% of children under five.
- Anaemia, usually caused by dietary iron deficiency, affects most children in

Gaza (58.6% of schoolchildren, 68.1% of children 9-12 months) and one third (36.8%) of pregnant women.

■ Sanitation-related diseases with serious implications for child mortality, such as typhoid fever and watery diarrhoea in children under three years of age, have increased at clinics serving refugees in the Gaza Strip.

Dr Adnan Al Wahaidi, medical director of Ard El Insan and an internationally recognised expert on the nutritional health of children in Gaza, makes a direct link between the deteriorating state of children's health in Gaza and the blockade: "With the continuous blockade, and Gaza's closed borders, malnutrition will continue, as we cannot get the food that we need to reduce the incidence of children suffering from malnutrition. My personal concern is that a child who is growing up in these devastating conditions, is no longer able to be mentally, physically and educationally sound. I am afraid of more sickness and an entire disabled generation."

As a matter of urgent priority for the health and wellbeing of Gaza's children, the report calls on Israel to lift the blockade in its entirety and to enable the free movement of people and goods in and out of Gaza, including to the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

**Read the full report at [www.map.org.uk](http://www.map.org.uk) or call us on 020 7226 4114 for a paper copy.**

## STATISTICS:

**10%**

of children under five are affected by stunting or long-term exposure to chronic malnutrition

**58%**

of school children are affected by anaemia

**90-95%**

of water supplied through Gaza's depleted aquifer does not meet WHO's safety standards and is unfit for drinking

**To read the full report, please visit [www.map.org.uk](http://www.map.org.uk)**



Nuriya Oswald

Boy in Gaza City



## GAZA'S CHILDREN FALLING THE EFFECT OF THE BLOCKADE



**Save the Children**



# GAZA BLOCKADE

## CHILDREN: LIVING BEHIND THE BLOCKADE ON CHILD HEALTH IN GAZA



### PROJECT UPDATE

#### PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE CHILDREN OF GAZA

After years of isolation, too many children continue to suffer from the scant availability of food. Having parents who are dependent on food aid coupled with the lack of stability in home or school life is contributing to an increase in behavioural problems, anxiety, and psychological stress. With few safe places for recreation or leisure, families are often trapped in overcrowded spaces, where the effects of such problems are magnified.

Last year MAP worked with over 1,000 children in Gaza, using a variety of art and play therapy techniques to encourage children to deal with the effects of trauma and stress. These therapeutic sessions allowed children to express their feelings in a safe space and to work through behavioural and emotional problems within a supportive network of family and friends. With the help of trained animators the children took part in group sessions focusing on different issues such as 'dealing with fear and sadness', 'understanding dreams and nightmares', 'coping with frightening voices', 'story telling', 'and 'identifying secure places'.

### APPEAL UPDATE

#### EMERGENCY FUEL CRISIS



MAP supplies, April 2012

In March we contacted some of our donors about the fuel crisis in Gaza. The massive restrictions on the amount of fuel getting in because of the blockade, together with further disruptions to the supply of fuel from Egypt, were having a catastrophic impact. With power cuts lasting up to 18 hours a day, hospitals and medical clinics were at breaking point – being forced to cancel operations and medical procedures as the power ran out.



With the support of MAP donors we were able to ensure that essential services, such as blood banks, were able to carry on running – even with a limited supply of electricity.

# INTRODUCING MAP'S NEW DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMES IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

MAP is delighted that Salam Kanaan has joined the team as our new Director of Programmes in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt).



Following an undergraduate degree in Public Health and a Masters in Education at the American University of Beirut, Salam

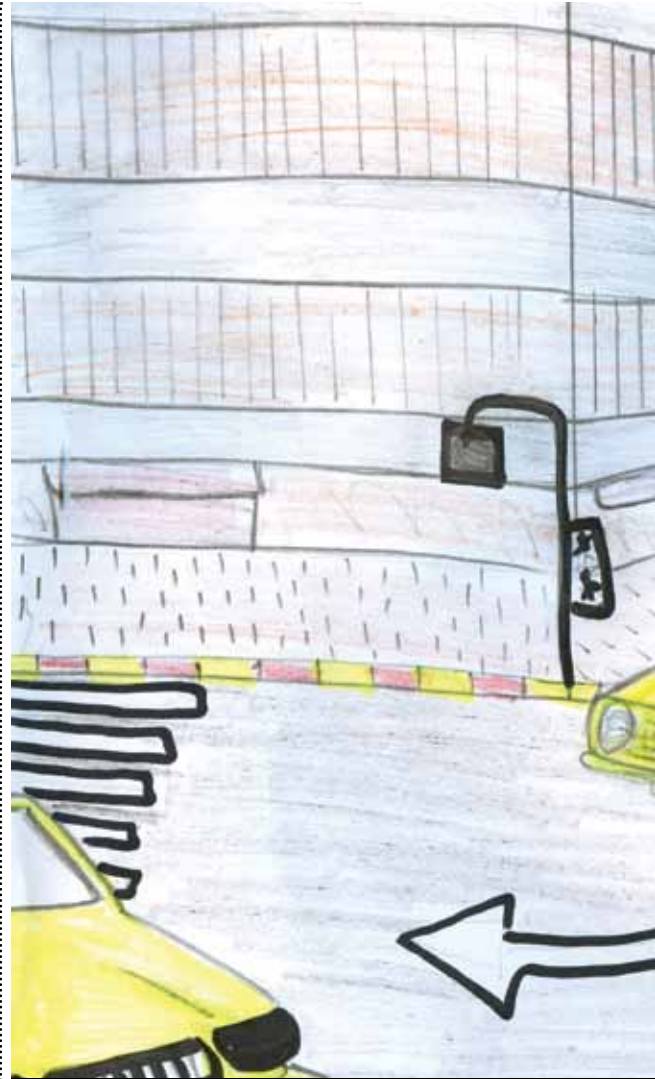
has worked in the development sector for twenty-two years, including working with the UN, the World Bank, Birzeit University and CARE International. For the last five years, she was based in Jerusalem as Country Director for the oPt with Save the Children UK, where she provided the overall management of the oPt programme, from advocacy and fundraising to managing security issues and emergency interventions.

As a Jordanian-Palestinian, Salam has always been involved with the Palestinian issue. She grew up in Jordan after her father was deported from Nablus in the early 1970s and, after taking her degree, she decided to return to live in the West Bank. Salam is involved with the Palestinian cause in a number of different ways. She serves as a Board member for a local Palestinian NGO, Al Mada for Music

Therapy and is a general assembly member of Defence for Children International and Asala, which supports micro-finance for women. "A lot of what I do revolves around issues of social justice," she says, "and in this sense I consider myself an activist."

Salam first heard about MAP's work back in the 1980s, when she took part in some of the sponsored walks MAP used to organise in Jordan. She describes MAP as one of the most important organisations working in the health sector. "I've known MAP now for more than twenty years and it is an outstanding organisation," she says. "It's close to my heart and I like its approach to healthcare and rights issues – the way it addresses inequalities in a professional way and makes a difference to people's lives."

When we asked Salam what her top three priorities would be in the first three months, she focused on getting to know MAP staff and partners, developing an in depth understanding MAP's projects and strategy; reinforcing and expanding our current work and bringing the voices of Palestinians to a wider audience. The biggest challenge, she says, will be working with and through partners to expand the humanitarian space and focusing on development programmes.



Drawing by Lina Abu Zaid about MAP's project supporting people with

## They Forgot that I am Human

By Suhad Hussein Suboh

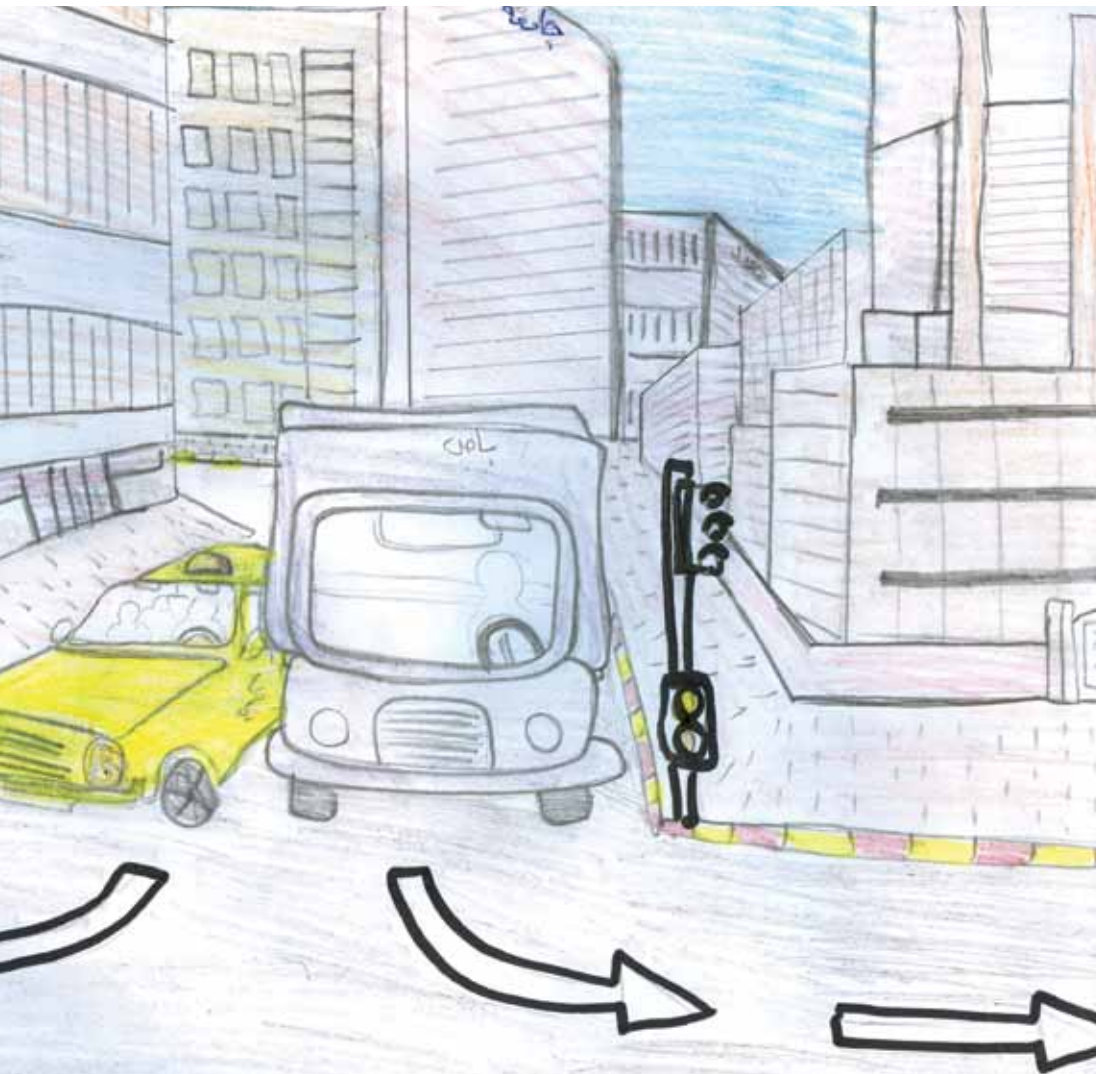
Suddenly I was surrounded by cruelty and injustice  
Haven't felt happiness  
They described me as disabled  
They thought I was strange  
They have surrounded me with their hurtful looks  
They have not considered my feelings  
They haven't accepted me  
As if I dirtied the place  
And with their words they hurt me  
They had no love for me  
And with their abandonment they destroyed me  
They have caused me injustice  
And haven't left me with anything  
But I will prove to them that I am human  
I will change the world with my will  
And grow love inside of them  
And with my will I will make the rock have two hearts  
And they will write that I am human

## POEMS FROM PALESTINE

The following poems were by participants in MAP's project supporting the rights and inclusion of people with disability







with disability. The car expresses her independence as it was the first time she travelled to Ramallah independently.



Drawing by Lina Abu Zaid about the changes in the project team and the last workshop

## Me and the Project

By Amna Fayyad

In a society that isn't sure  
What to call me  
I sat with sadness

Someone calling me disabled  
Another calling me stupid  
While the other calls me crazy

I study in a school where they  
make fun of me

I submit my degrees to  
an institution  
And they reject me

I return home  
waiting for a car for hours

It's as if they don't see me

I kiss the hands of my mother  
and father  
And hide my sorrow so they  
can't see it

I pray to God every night that  
things will become better  
Until I saw an advert demanding  
the rights that I wished for

I rushed there and spoke with  
the director  
And I became part of this project  
Which made me happy

I visited institutions and shops  
in a programme from the north to  
the south about empowerment  
Around my neck an introduction  
card as they welcomed me

I attend workshops and work  
for change  
I follow my steps with my friends  
and family

We stay at the hotel and  
share ideas  
We share with the community

I hope more people will be part  
of this too

# INTERVIEW

## RACHEL CORNISH

### TRUSTEE OF THE EVAN CORNISH FOUNDATION

**The Evan Cornish Foundation has been supporting MAP since its creation in 2008.**

Only seven months after their first gift, came the war on Gaza, 'Operation Cast Lead'. At that time the Foundation

contacted us to show their solidarity and give further financial support. Recently, a Foundation grant has supported the delivery of one of MAP's several projects to promote and facilitate community-based rehabilitation for children and adults

with disabilities who are also living under occupation and as refugees. We met with one of the Trustees, Rachel Cornish, who explained to us her involvement with the issues and her reasons for being such a good friend of MAP.

**"I see MAP as the key organisation as far as this issue goes."**

Rachel Cornish

## MAP INTERVIEW

### Could you tell us a bit about your foundation?

It's a small family foundation supporting a wide range of charities, but with a focus on reaching the most marginalised – both in the UK and overseas. When we first started a couple of years ago, every Trustee was able to choose their own charities to whom grants could be given. I chose MAP.

### How did you first become involved with this issue?

I lived in Israel in my early twenties, before the first intifada. In fact, I was the only woman working in a concrete factory on a kibbutz. I realised very quickly that Arab Israelis were basically second class citizens and that the Bedouin were treated even worse, considered the lowest of the low.

### How did you hear about the work of MAP?

I feel like I've always known about MAP and can't remember. I used to give as an individual in the past. I might have come across MAP as early as the late 1980s.

### Are you involved with the cause in any other way?

The Foundation supports other charities running projects that help the Palestinian people in one way or another. I'm personally very interested in the issue and try to keep closely

involved. I have a passion about film so try to get along to showings of films that address the issues. Film and theatre are powerful media to convey and explain such a complex area. I'm particularly proud to support smaller organisations that work on the ground, and those working on reconciliation.

### How does MAP stand out?

I see MAP as the key organisation as far as this issue goes. I like that the work is concentrated, utterly focused on one important area. MAP is really well-respected in the sector for being knowledgeable about the area and the issues, the political context and how it is affecting people on a daily basis.

### Why did you choose to support MAP?

All of the above! I've known MAP a long time and can trust that our donation is going to have an impact and that there is clear accountability too.

### Have you visited any MAP projects, or is that something you would like to do?

No, but I would love to.

### How well do you feel you understand the work that you are funding?

As well as one can without visiting and seeing the work firsthand, but I hope to rectify this by visiting MAP projects in the near future!



Libby Powell

Maternal and Child Health project

If you want more information about planning a fundraising event contact us on:

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



## OUR SUPPORTERS

*Thank you!*

Once again our supporters have been very busy over the past few months running, walking, cycling and doing all sorts of other imaginative things to raise money for MAP.

As always we are so grateful for their commitment and support. Below are just a few of those who have raised money for MAP in the past few months.

- **Tamara Qutteineh** ran, cycled and swam all in one day to complete the Eton SuperSprint Triathlon and raised £845 for MAP.
- In London **Eric Wheelan**, **Yasmine Say**, **Elspeth Robinson** and **Carolina Graterol** ran the 2012 London Marathon on behalf of MAP and raised over £4000 between them.



- Elsewhere in London **Dr** and **Mrs Zarifa** took part in the SuperHero walk in Regent's park and raised over £3,000
- Meanwhile in Edinburgh, **Claire Claverley** and **Mandy Allison** completed the Edinburgh half marathon, raising over £1,000.
- **Oliver Thompson** raised nearly £200 when he completed the BUPA Manchester 10k.
- **Adli Amran** cycled an incredible 78 miles around Greater Manchester in 24 hours for MAP.
- **Mahmoud Azzam** undertook the mammoth task of running in the London to Brighton Challenge and raised over £1,000.
- **Hayley Perry-Awad** raised over £100 by shaving the Palestinian flag into her head.

# MY FUNDRAISER

## FAITH ZHU ON CYCLING4GAZA



Cycling4Gaza UK team photograph

Cycling4Gaza was founded by four friends to raise awareness and funds for reliable and reputable charities to improve healthcare and education for the Palestinian community.

Following 'Operation Cast Lead', in 2009, there was a lack of media attention around the crisis situation Gaza was left in after the offensive stopped. As a group of young people, we felt frustrated in the face of such overwhelming crisis. Then one of us, Lulu Sakka, suggested a physical challenge to fundraise for emergency medical projects in Gaza. The cycle was a great way to bring people together who are passionate about the cause and who are willing to challenge themselves both mentally and physically.

We chose to support MAP this year because in the past it's been fantastic to work with. MAP's projects also have a strong focus on knowledge transfer and long-term self-sustainability which we believe will give Palestinians skills to rebuild their community. We're very excited to be supporting three excellent healthcare projects – one of which supports pregnant women in refugee camps in Lebanon and identifies those who are at high risk of complications. Their support is also followed through to the post-natal stage, educating mothers in breastfeeding and care of their newborn. This project is close to my heart as an aspiring paediatrician. I believe we can shape the future of

a community by optimizing children's full potential through education and healthcare from the ante-natal period.

It's important to continue our momentum and keep raising awareness and support. One of our primary goals is to bring attention to the fact that Gaza remains under siege to this day. Until the blockade on Gaza is lifted, C4G will continue to mobilize people. The political landscape in the Middle East is undergoing vast transformations as Arab populations seek justice and democracy. Now more than ever is the time for us to show our solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle for self-determination.

The best thing about the cycle is the people you meet. They are the warmest, most encouraging people I've come across – especially as I've had several falls! I've learned so much from some wonderful stories from fellow Gazan cyclists.

I'm blown away by their strength and persistence and I'm determined to ensure that this year's cycle is even more of a success!

Keep an eye out on our website [www.cycling4gaza.com](http://www.cycling4gaza.com), or follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/cycling4gaza](http://www.facebook.com/cycling4gaza), or Twitter at [twitter.com/cycling4gaza](http://twitter.com/cycling4gaza). We have active chapters in London, Dubai and Riyadh for anyone who wishes to get involved.



## ASKS:

**£25**

could help pay for supplies and equipment to train front-line staff in resuscitation techniques

**£50**

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

**£80**

run a mobile clinic for 24 hours, helping Bedouin families in remote, inaccessible parts of the Jordan valley

# MAP NEWS

## ■ THE CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AT BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

The Centre for Development Studies at Birzeit University celebrated a milestone event on 31 March with a workshop marking a year since the establishment of their project "Empowering People with Disabilities to Claim their Rights and Entitlements". This project, which aims to support people with disability to become key agents of change within their communities has been implemented by the Centre in partnership with Medical Aid for Palestinians and funded by UKAID.

## ■ NEW MAP STAFF

In March, Aimee Shalan was appointed as MAP's new Director of Advocacy and Communications. Aimee joins us from the Council for Arab-British Understanding. Before that she was Director of the Olive Tree Scholarship Programme at City University and also taught at Queen Mary, University of London. For many years she has also been a regular contributor to The Guardian Review.

Following the retirement of Hanan Khalaf after 14 years with MAP, we are delighted to welcome Mr. Shadi Al Badareen as the new Finance manager. Shadi is a qualified accountant and experienced finance manager and is coming to us from Save the Children UK. Our Director of Programmes in the oPt, Kathy Al Ju'beh, is leaving us too after over four years in the post. MAP would like to send our huge thanks to Hanan and Kathy for their fantastic work over the years.

## ■ MAP TRUSTEE

Also in March Sir Terence English, a MAP trustee, led a delegation of surgeons on a trip to West Bank. The surgeons spent a week in hospitals across the West Bank

running a specialist training programme. Unfortunately the team were unable to enter Gaza due to an outbreak of violence.

## ■ HAP ANNUAL MEETING IN GENEVA

In April, MAP attended the annual Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) Annual Meeting in Geneva. MAP has been a member of HAP International since 2005. MAP's presence at the annual meeting was an opportunity for MAP to present our work over the past year in working towards HAP standards.

MAP continues to provide, monitor and independently evaluate our humanitarian assistance on an impartial basis, with respect to the expressed needs, concerns and dignity of beneficiary communities. Our overall aim is to support appropriate humanitarian and emergency assistance to Palestinians through partnership with Palestinian organisations and in coordination and collaboration with other humanitarian stakeholders.

## ■ JOINT REPORT LAUNCH

MAP and Save the Children launched their joint report on child health in Gaza at the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) on 20 June. The panel included Jeremy Hardy, Comedian and BBC Presenter; Professor Terence Stephenson, Former President of the RCPCH; Baroness Morris of Bolton, MAP President; and George Graham, Head of Conflict and Humanitarian Policy and Advocacy Team at Save the Children. Aimee Shalan, MAP's Director of Advocacy & Communications and Kerry Smith, Save the Children's Humanitarian Advocacy Adviser, gave a further briefing on the report in parliament on 26 June, with Lord Warner chairing the event.

## DIARY DATES

### ■ MAP AT THE LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE NEW STATESMAN

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 6.30pm-7.30pm, Manchester Town Hall

Panel discussion on MAP's new report 'Pitching for Palestine' with Lisa Nandy MP and MAP Trustee Phyllis Starkey. For more information email [info@map-uk.org](mailto:info@map-uk.org)

### ■ MAP AT THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE NEW STATESMAN

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October – Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October, the ICC Birmingham

Full details to be confirmed.

### ■ CYCLING4GAZA

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October – Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October, Turkey

Join us on a 3 day, 350km, bike ride in Turkey raising money for MAP projects in Gaza and the refugee camps of Lebanon. More information to follow soon at our website [www.map.org.uk](http://www.map.org.uk). For further details please call 020 7226 4114.

### ■ ACCREDITATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

With MAP's support 227 Community Health Workers sat at the Ministry of Health to take the first professional accreditation examination in Palestine of Community Health Workers as a recognised cadre. There were so many Community Health Workers that the examination had to be taken in two shifts. The sheer joy and enthusiasm for this opportunity was buzzing in the room, as one Community Health Worker enthused: "Regardless of the outcome of the exam today, whether I pass or fail, we have finally made our mark. This is a point in history for us"



Community Health Workers accreditation

Donate online at

[www.map.org.uk](http://www.map.org.uk)

Or call today on

020 7226 4114



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