



# 2017

**ANNUAL REVIEW**

# About Interpal

Interpal was founded in 1994 to provide humanitarian and development aid to Palestinians in need. Interpal is a British registered charity working on the ground in the occupied Palestinian territories and refugee camps in Lebanon and Jordan. The charity also provides support to refugees fleeing from violence in Syria.

Interpal's aim is to alleviate the suffering and disadvantage faced by Palestinians through immediate relief and to support Palestinian society through long term development programmes.





## Key Areas of Work by Spending

2% Medical Aid

5% Education Aid

6% Advocacy & Awareness

18% Community Development

69% Humanitarian Aid



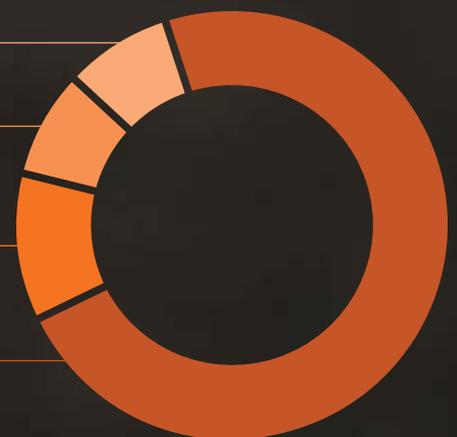
## Key Areas of Work by Geography

8% UK & other grants

8% Lebanon

11% Jordan

73% Gaza & the West Bank



## A Message from Our Chairman

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### **Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem**

The past twelve months have brought with them unprecedented developments at home and in our areas of operation, offering both opportunities and challenges to be overcome. Here at Interpal we strive to deliver meaningful, sustainable and empowering change to Palestinians in need.

This year might appear at first glance to have been a quiet one in Israel/Palestine; 2016 did not, as was feared, bring with it any major aggression against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. The annual winter floods, though devastating for an already-precarious population, did not sweep away the territory's shattered infrastructure. However, despite these small comforts, the continual breaches of human rights and crushing poverty still linger. Our goal is to be part of a force for positive change to empower those who, against the odds, continue to resist oppression in all its forms.

The fate of the Palestinians is one that teaches us humility in the face of aggression and courage against those who seek to quieten us. As it enters its 23rd year of operation, Interpal continues to respond to developments in the

field as they arise. The Syrian crisis has impressed itself deep into our collective consciousness as one of the most pressing issues of our time, but what many do not realise is that those worst affected are Palestinian refugees from Syria, displaced by the Nakba only to be made refugees once again by the Civil War. With your help, we have reached out to the doubly-displaced victims of the war to provide care and assistance during their time of need.

In 2017, we face a year of major anniversaries in Palestinian history that will be marked across our seasonal campaigns. I am confident that Interpal will rise to these challenges with compassion for those we strive to help, whilst remaining in admiration of what our staff and donors come together to achieve.

Our vision is a world where Palestinians can live in dignity rather than desperation; where refugees are provided with the tools to help themselves achieve their potential. Palestinians are amongst the most highly educated, innovative and creative diasporic communities in the region and it is our mission to help them strive for success, insha'Allah.

A man with a beard and glasses, wearing a dark cap and a suit, is speaking into a microphone. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent teal color. The text is positioned on the right side of the image.

Our vision is a world where Palestinians can **live in dignity** rather than desperation; where refugees are provided with the **tools to help themselves achieve their potential.**

# 2016/2017 has been a very busy time for us

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Your support has made a difference to the lives of thousands of Palestinian refugees in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon and Jordan. Thanks to your help, we've delivered financial aid, food aid, emergency relief and much needed medical equipment.

You've enabled us to support students, improve access for the disabled and

advocate for Palestinian rights. You've helped us nurture the development of Palestinian communities.

What's more, your donations in the last year have so far totalled over £6 million, allowing us continue our vital work in the future.

**Here are the top 20 moments  
you helped create in the  
last year**





01

Shatila refugee camp was established in 1949 and shelters about 10,000 Palestinian (and now Syrian) refugees. The camp's infrastructure was damaged by war in 1982 and it was a regular target during the Lebanese civil war. The resulting destruction, overcrowding and poor living conditions in the camp continue to place a heavy burden on its residents.

One of the camp's residents is seven year old Muhammad, who lives with his parents and four siblings. A few years ago, Muhammad's parents became increasingly concerned when he began to show signs of being seriously unwell. After numerous costly visits to the doctor, they eventually received the devastating news that Muhammad had cancer. Living with and treating a life-threatening condition, while also overcoming the obstacles of ongoing displacement is a burden no one should endure. Muhammad's parents had to find a way to pay for chemotherapy treatment, while

## You helped Muhammad in Lebanon finally beat cancer

also managing the costs of daily living. In 2016, Interpal began covering some of Muhammad's chemotherapy fees. He eventually became part of our Sponsorship Programme, receiving financial and seasonal aid from his sponsor.

We are extremely pleased to say that Muhammad recently finished his course of chemotherapy and has received the 'all clear' from doctors. Muhammad will continue to be monitored in the years ahead, and Interpal will continue to help cover his medical costs.

**IN 2016/2017,  
INTERPAL SUPPORTED  
THE MEDICAL COSTS  
OF UP TO 2,000  
INDIVIDUALS**

**INTERPAL'S SUPPORT  
OF HOSPITALS  
BENEFITS UP TO  
500,000 PEOPLE  
A YEAR**



# 02 **You helped doctors in Gaza perform open heart surgery**

Medical equipment in Gaza's hospitals are now running so low that surgeons are forced to reuse broken and damaged surgical tools for operations.

In 2016, Interpal provided surgical tools, medication and medical equipment to Yaffa Hospital in Deir Al Balah to help doctors perform operations, such as open heart surgery, safely on patients.

# 03

**You provided  
100,000  
refugees with  
clean, safe  
water**



**FOR MORE  
INFORMATION ON  
HOW YOU CAN HELP  
ADVOCATE FOR  
PALESTINIANS' RIGHT  
TO WATER, VISIT OUR  
WEBSITE AT  
[WWW.INTERPAL.ORG](http://WWW.INTERPAL.ORG)**

With its only aquifer and main source of water contaminated by sewage, chemicals and seawater, more than 95% of water in Gaza is unfit for human consumption. Nearly 200,000 Palestinians in the West Bank have no access to running water, and in Lebanon's refugee camps, water is too salty and polluted for daily use.

The Palestinian water crisis has been one of our biggest concerns in 2016/2017, which is why we have delivered clean, safe drinking water to over 100,000 Palestinian refugees over the course of the year.

Our Water Aid projects will remain a priority in the years ahead. With Gaza's aquifer said to be irreversibly damaged by 2020, we will continue to advocate for Palestinians' right to clean water and sanitation.



# 04

## **You provided a safe home for girls in the West Bank**

In 2016/2017, Interpal continued to support the construction and development of the Lazarus Home for girls, which provides a safe home, education and love to young girls in the West Bank.

With limited services in Palestine to help children through poverty, abandonment and abuse, the impact and importance of the Lazarus Home is immense. The home repairs lives; it replaces fear with smiles and trauma with love and opportunity.

**INTERPAL'S  
COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT FUND  
HELPS THOUSANDS OF  
PALESTINIANS EVERY  
YEAR**

## You delivered urgent supplies to over 15,000 families for Ramadan, Qurbani and winter

# 05



Our seasonal projects are carried out during Ramadan, Qurbani and winter and have supported over 15,000 Palestinian refugees in the last year. We provide struggling families with the means to buy essential supplies, while also delivering locally sourced food items to those who need it most. From collective iftars for special groups during Ramadan to Qurbanis for disadvantaged families during Eid Al Adha, our seasonal projects are crucial to mitigating vulnerability among the most disadvantaged Palestinian families.

“

*Thank you so much for this help. You do not know how much it helps me! I had nothing to provide for my children on the first day of Ramadan except old bread and that is how we used to survive. Alhamdulillah and Jazakum Allah Khair!”*

**Mohammed, 56, Gaza**

**MULTIDIMENSIONAL AID: THE PRODUCTS THAT GO IN TO OUR AID PACKAGES ARE ALWAYS SOURCED FROM LOCAL FARMERS AND VENDORS, WHICH BENEFITS THE WIDER COMMUNITY.**

# 06

## You gave Sara and her friends toys to play with at their kindergarten in Lebanon

**IN 2016/2017 WE SUPPORTED OVER 1,500 CHILDREN IN LEBANON'S REFUGEE CAMPS**

In 2016/2017 we delivered educational material and pedagogical toys to kindergartens in Lebanon's refugee camps. One beneficiary we met was Sara, who is also part of our Sponsorships Programme. Sara and her friends received children's books, a 'reading corner', mobility toys, musical instruments, kids' fancy dress costumes, Lego, a 'gymnastics corner' and a basketball play area.



**INTERPAL'S  
SPONSORSHIP  
PROGRAMMES  
SUPPORT MORE THAN  
8,000 PALESTINIAN  
CHILDREN A YEAR**

**You made  
Hadeya  
smile**  
**07**

Our One to One Sponsorship Programme is our oldest and largest relief programme. The One to One link aims to build a sense of solidarity and togetherness between children and their sponsors. This is apparent in the many examples of generous and committed donors who have been with us since the very beginning. One such donor, Mrs Tanvir, supports fourteen children across our areas of operation, and has also funded the distribution of clothes, winter aid, iftars and children's outreach events over 2016 and 2017.

Among the many children receiving support from Mrs Tanvir is young Hadeya

and her family in Jordan. Hadeya is blind, and her father's income isn't enough to cover her medical costs and daily needs. The One to One Sponsorship ensures that Hadeya is looked after and the family is not left further impoverished due to her special needs.

Hadeya, and the many children helped by Mrs Tanvir have had a lot of reasons to smile this year. We are thankful that we can connect people in this way and grateful for the love and prayers which our donors give for Palestinian Children.



## You set up breast cancer awareness sessions in Lebanon

# 08



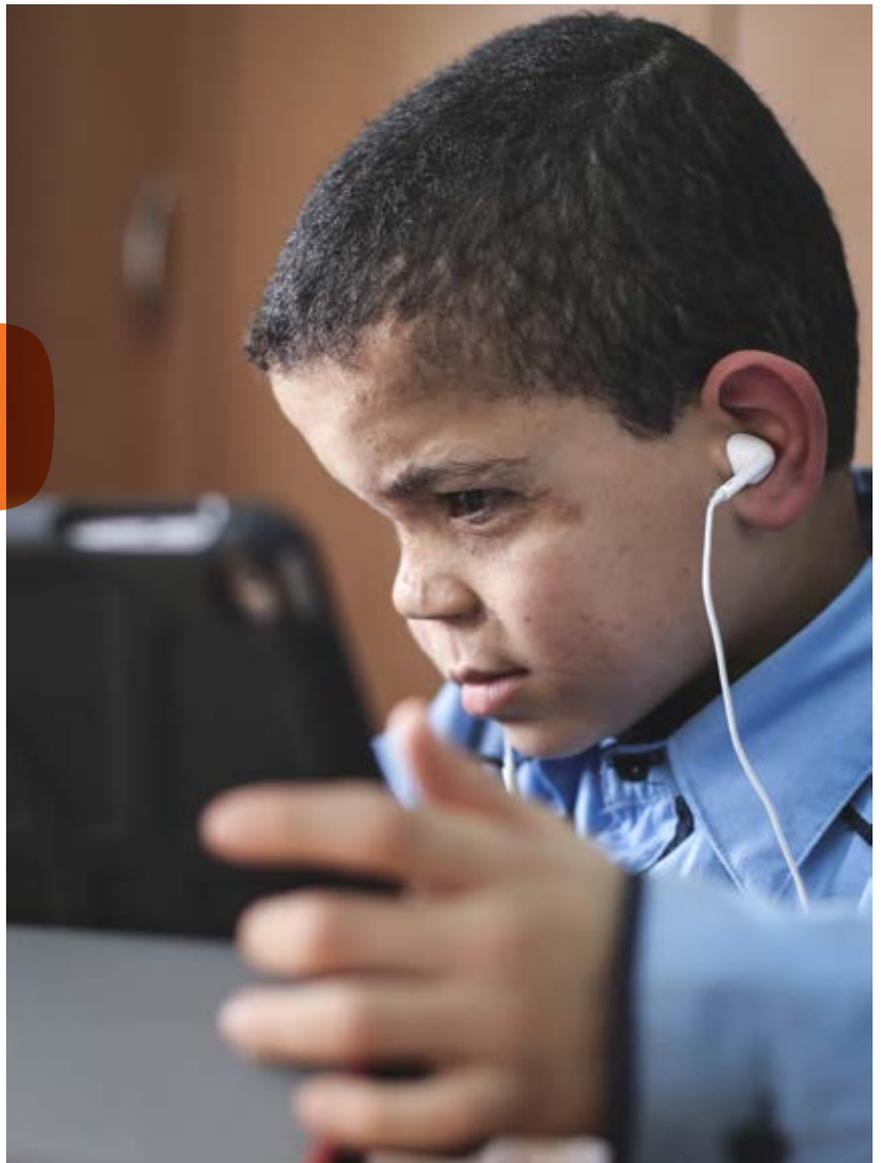
To increase awareness of breast cancer among refugee women in Lebanon, our Field Office organised Interpal's first breast cancer awareness session in Tyre last year. Forty five mothers of sponsored children from Al Bass camp and the Sahel Area attended the session.

**FOR MORE  
INFORMATION ABOUT  
OUR MEDICAL AID  
PROGRAMMES VISIT  
[WWW.INTERPAL.ORG](http://WWW.INTERPAL.ORG)**

# You provided a “digital education” to 217 visually impaired children in Gaza

In February 2017 we completed The Vision Project, a joint initiative with UNRWA which has provided over two hundred blind and visually impaired children in Gaza with cutting edge digital technology to help them access information sources, learning opportunities and creative initiatives.

The project has provided the children with a comprehensive education-one that they would otherwise not be able to receive given the lack of resources available to



“

*This project has had a tangible impact on the lives of children whose education prospects had been severely curtailed. Thanks to the Vision Project they have been given hope and a sense of optimism for a better future.”*

**Pierre Krähenbühl, Commissioner-General for UNRWA.**

people with disabilities in the Gaza Strip. Named ‘the next generation of Braille’, the technology has allowed students to reach the same level of education as their peers, helping them to eventually graduate and integrate into society with ease.

Beyond the Vision Project, Interpal also supported the installation of solar panels at UNRWA’s ‘Rehabilitation Centre for the Visually Impaired’ (RCVI) which will ensure the centre’s 1,250 children are not affected by Gaza’s frequent power cuts.

**INTERPAL HAS SUPPORTED HUNDREDS OF REFUGEES WITH DISABILITIES IN THE LAST YEAR**



# 10 You lit up Meena's home in Gaza

With electricity on rotation for thousands of homes in Gaza, families can go up to 21 hours a day without power, leaving them completely immobilised when the darkness sets in. As part of Interpal's Safe Lighting Project, our Field Office met ten year old Meena to install battery-powered LED lights in her home.

**IN 2016/2017, WE PROVIDED BATTERY-POWERED LED LIGHTS TO OVER 600 FAMILIES.**



**WE'VE PROVIDED LAB WORK EQUIPMENT, RECREATION EQUIPMENT, GENERATORS AND COMPUTERS FOR SCHOOLS, UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER LEARNING FACILITIES, BENEFITING OVER 20,000 STUDENTS OVER THE YEAR.**

## You helped Mahmoud in Gaza find an eco-friendly alternative to pesticides **11**

Mahmoud El-Hindi has just completed his master's degree in Biotechnology at the Islamic University of Gaza. He recently published his research paper entitled "Isolation, Molecular Identification and under Lab Evaluation of the Entomopathogenic Fungi *M. anisopliae* and *B. bassiana* against the Red Palm Weevil *R. ferrugineus* in Gaza Strip".

In other words, Mahmoud developed an eco-friendly biological alternative to pest control in Gaza. His findings mean that farmers do not have to use dangerous forms of pesticides that contaminate groundwater and affect the health of those around them. In Gaza where the water crisis is worsening, this is a promising step forward in ensuring that the population has access to clean, safe water.

Interpal supported Mahmoud's study by providing essential materials for his practical research. His paper has been published in *Advances in Microbiology* for the publishing house Scientific Research Publishing.

12



**You provided Dar El Salaam hospital in Gaza with an echo Doppler machine**

Interpal supported Dar El Salaam Hospital in Gaza with the provision of a Hysteroscopy device to provide health service for women. The device is essential to help doctors diagnose and check women with intrauterine or endocervical health issues.



13

**OUR 'DISABLED OUTREACH BUS PROJECT' INCLUDES 10 VEHICLES AND DRIVERS AND SUPPORTS ALMOST 200 PEOPLE ON A REGULAR BASIS.**



## You created a safe commute for students with hearing impairments in Gaza

Disability makes living in Gaza that much more challenging. The lack of services for people with certain disabilities-despite attempts to improve the situation-negatively impacts their quality of life. It limits their personal ambitions and prevents them from being more involved

in their communities.

For students with disabilities, getting to and from school brings many hurdles. The lack of modified transport, the lack of fuel, the expense, the distance and the indignity people can feel contribute to students and others not feeling included.

Because of this, Interpal launched its Disabled Outreach Bus Project three years ago. The project started off with 2 vehicles that were modified for wheelchair access. We now have 10 buses in operation with drivers employed from the local community.

In 2016, we included thirty university students with hearing impairments to help them get to classes safely. We are also

supporting a local sports club to help disabled athletes get to their training sessions with ease.

Facilitating access for the disabled is essential to building stronger and more inclusive communities and it will remain our priority for years to come.

# 14

## You awarded Nadia and eleven more post graduates with exceptional scholarship in Gaza

Interpal's scholarship programme encourages practical scientific research and covers the expenses of students' research including experiments and laboratory materials, equipment, data collection and analysis. One of the recipients of our scholarship programmes is Nadia from Gaza, who is a post-graduate student in biotechnology. Her thesis focused on using nanotechnology to create a type of cotton that can be used in hospital bed sheets to kill germs. This simple idea is potentially groundbreaking for hospitals in Gaza where diseases are so easily spread that patients are placed at greater risk of infection by receiving treatment.



# 15

## You supported the Palestine Youth Orchestra's UK tour



In the summer of 2016, the UK saw the arrival of the Palestine Youth Orchestra for their debut tour of the country. Hailing from the occupied Palestinian territories, the young orchestra performed at leading venues across the UK, from the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow to the Royal Festival Hall in London.

Audiences were treated to a combination of pieces from the European classical canon and contemporary Arab songs. The organisers also relayed to audiences the obstacles the young musicians had overcome to perform. Due to restrictions

on movement in the occupied Palestinian territories imposed by the Israeli occupation, the orchestra were unable to rehearse together as a collective. Their debut tour was therefore the first time the orchestra had performed together for an audience.

Interpal is delighted to have supported the tour.

**You supported  
a photography  
workshop  
to help 30  
traumatised  
children in  
Gaza** **16**

In 2016, Interpal supported a series of photography workshops to help support 30 children in Gaza suffering from PTSD. The workshops weaved together original, personal stories into photography to express the children's dreams, aspirations and concerns about their futures.

**You helped  
Abeer find her  
dream job** **17**

The continuation of the siege on Gaza has led to a sharp increase in unemployment, with rates as high as 60% for young people aged between 15 and 30. It is one of the major causes of poverty in Gaza, holding the youth hostage at a crucial time in their lives. In addition to economic hardship, unemployment contributes to low self-esteem, marginalization, impoverishment and feelings of vulnerability and depression.

Interpal's Job Creation Programme aims to create job opportunities for workers





and unemployed graduates, in order for them to acquire the skills and abilities needed to increase their chances of securing permanent positions.

Abeer joined our Job Creation programme last year. Visually impaired herself, she is the main provider in a family of three blind sisters who need special care. As a family unit they rely on Abeer's monthly salary of \$300 which is barely enough to cover their day-to-day needs, let alone the medical care that they all require.

Through the help of Interpal's Job Creation Programme, Abeer turned to teaching to help provide children with visual impairments the opportunities that she lacked as a child.

Abeer is a shining example for all those women who persevere in the face of life's many challenges. By breaking down the stigma surrounding disability in Gazan society, Abeer is proving to herself-and countless others-the strength women have to reach new heights as leaders in their fields.

**IN 2016/2017  
INTERPAL'S  
JOB CREATION  
PROGRAMME  
HELPED OVER 200  
PALESTINIANS IN  
NEED**



# You restocked medicines and disposables in the West Bank and Gaza

The #ZeroStockList is a list of the basic medical supplies that are at zero stock levels in Gaza and the West Bank, with the risk of being totally depleted within a month.

From adhesive tape to x-ray film, there are countless items that are urgently needed in order to safely treat patients in hospitals and healthcare centres across the occupied Palestinian territories.

In 2016/2017 we ensured that hospitals across all our areas of operation were restocked with essential medical supplies.

**FOR MORE  
INFORMATION ABOUT  
THE ZERO STOCK LIST,  
PLEASE VISIT  
[WWW.INTERPAL.ORG](http://WWW.INTERPAL.ORG)**



Palestinian children are growing up in unimaginably difficult and challenging environments. They continue to require specialist support to overcome trauma and the behavioural issues which stem from it. However, due to the sheer scale of need and inadequate services, thousands continue to struggle with mental health issues.



For this reason, Interpal supports the Palestine Trauma Centre, which began working in Gaza in 2009 with the aim of providing psycho-social therapy to children in desperate need of support. The Centre trains staff to help not only the children but also their families, and is an invaluable service contributing to improving long term mental health in a community under siege. Together we have aided over 100,000 children over the last seven years and reduced the long term negative impact of chronic and ongoing trauma in the lives of Gaza's children.

We have also worked with a specialist partner organisation to improve child psychiatry in the West Bank and supported a five year plan to improve mental health services for children and young adults. The programme aims to support the training of mental health professionals, improve best practice in the sector and filter knowledge to other services and professionals working with children.

Children with disabilities and special needs are often excluded from recreational activities due to a lack of adequate facilities or because their carers are unable to cope with providing more than basic needs due to poverty and safety concerns. This year we have supported hundreds of children's events and have received positive feedback from both the children and their parents.

**You trained  
and supported  
psychosocial  
therapists  
to help  
traumatised  
refugees**

**In 2016/2017  
INTERPAL SUPPORTED  
HUNDREDS OF EVENTS  
TO PROVIDE CARE FOR  
CHILDREN SUFFERING  
FROM TRAUMA**

**19**



20

## **You provided an ultrasound machine for patients from Shatila refugee camp, Lebanon**

Over 50% of registered refugees in Lebanon live in 12 Palestinian refugee camps. Due to the restrictions on employment most are forced to be financially dependent on charities. All Palestinian refugees are denied access to Lebanese public healthcare, leaving them no option but to either turn to private healthcare or to seek help from UNRWA, whose services are already strained.

In 2016/2017, we provided the Zakat Fund Medical Center in Beirut with an ultrasound machine. The center is located near Shatila camp which houses more than 9,842 registered refugees.

A photograph of two children, a girl on the left and a boy on the right, both wearing winter clothing. The girl is wearing a white t-shirt with a lion logo and the text 'JUNGLE CLUB' and 'SAHIH MUSLIM'. The boy is wearing a white sweater with a lion logo. The background is a blurred outdoor setting. The entire image has a blue tint.

“Every act of  
goodness is  
charity.”

SAHIH MUSLIM

All your help and  
support - past,  
present & future - is  
helping to alleviate  
the difficulties  
faced by countless  
Palestinians in Need.  
**Thank You.**

## GET IN TOUCH

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📷 [@Interpalmedia](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv11111111111111111111)

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Interpal is a charity registered in  
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Helping Palestinians in Need