



St John Eye Hospital's goal is to eradicate preventable blindness in Palestine.

We believe in treating all patients, regardless of race, religion or ability to pay and are the only charitable provider of expert eye care in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem.

We are one of the foundations of the Most Venerable Order of St John of Jerusalem and are a British, Royal Charity founded in 1882 at the bequest of Queen Victoria. Our Muristan Clinic operates in the very area where the Order of St John began in 1100 AD.

In 2017 we saw almost **137,000** patients across our services and performed over **4,800** major operations.

The costs to run our services each year amounts to **£8.3 million** annually.

UNIQUE CHALLENGES

Palestine has rates of blindness which are **TEN TIMES** higher than the West.

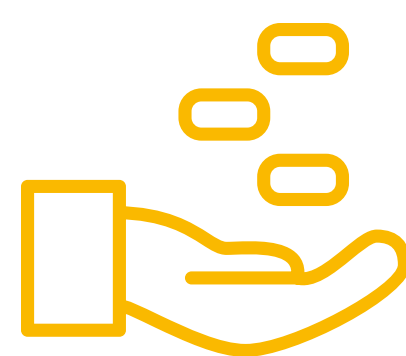
Access: Accessing medical care in Palestine is complicated by movement restrictions, including the Separation Wall and permit system.

Poverty: Palestine's physical and economic isolation and the frequent outbreaks of conflict have led to high levels of poverty and unemployment, meaning that many patients cannot afford to seek medical care.

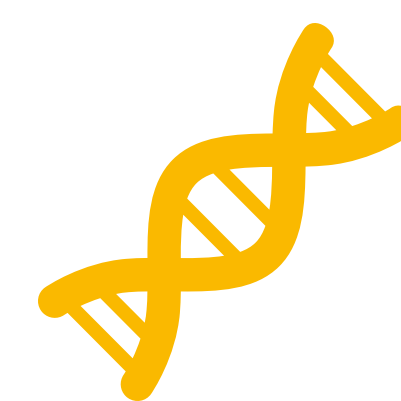
Genetics: The circumstance of this isolation, the desire to preserve cultural traditions and to retain property within the family has led to a rise in intra-familial marriage. This leads to high levels of genetic eye disease. Palestinians are also genetically more likely to suffer from diabetes, as well as suffering due to lifestyle factors (impacted further by a lack of access to health care and education).



50% of patients and their companions in Gaza are delayed or denied access to treatment outside of their area (20% for West Bank patients) according to the World Health Organisation.



- **75%** of people in East Jerusalem live below the poverty line.
- **1/6** of people living the West Bank are able to find work.
- **80%** of Gazans rely on international aid to survive.



- **50%** of marriages in Palestine are intra-familial.
- **12%** of the population suffer from diabetes.
- **80%** of diabetes sufferers develop diabetic retinopathy.

OUR WORK IN 2017

ACCESSIBILITY

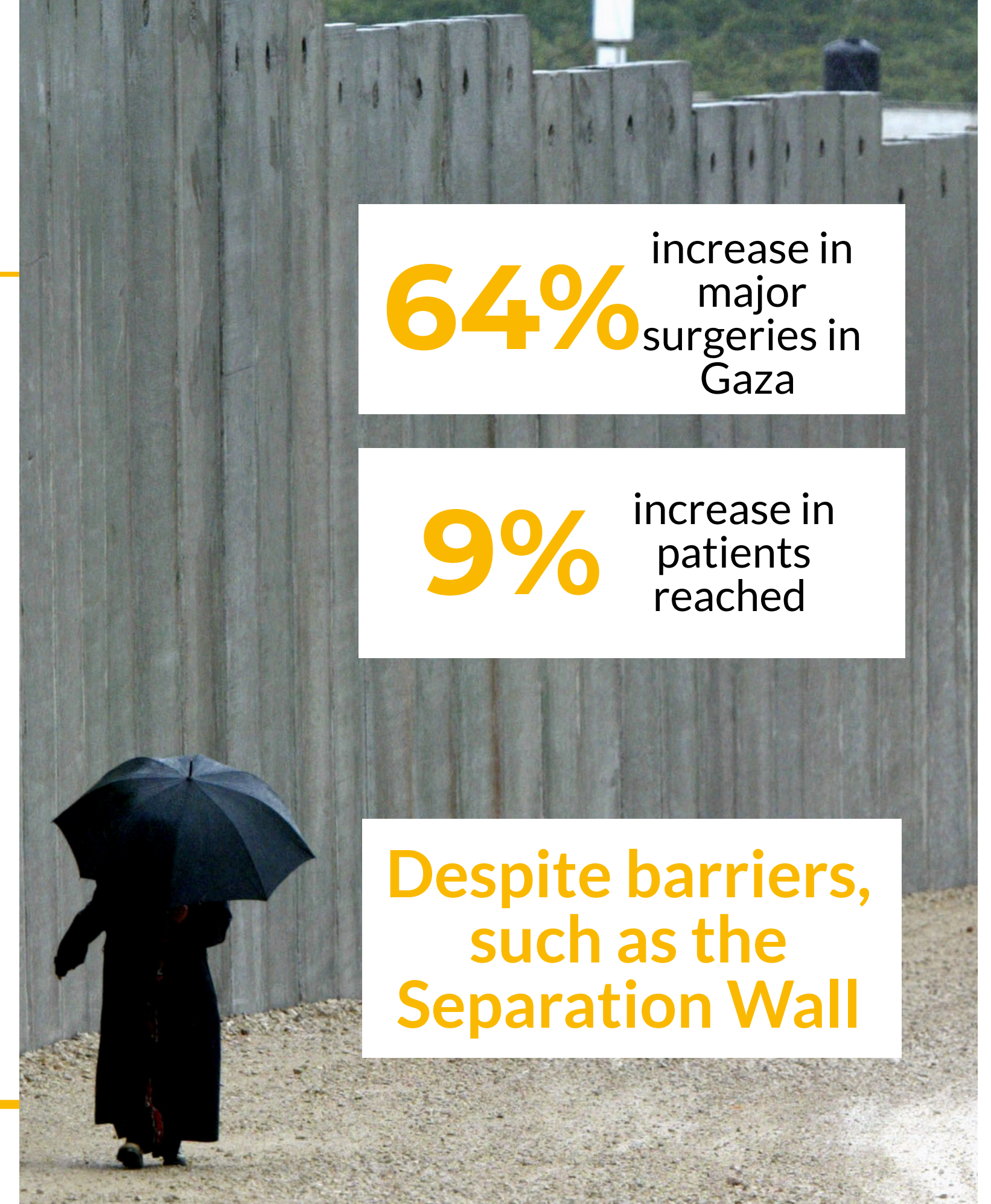
St John Eye Hospital has been working to increase accessibility to eye care in Palestine. This has grown to include three hospitals in Jerusalem, Gaza and Hebron; two clinics in Anabta and the Old City (Muristan); a Mobile Outreach Programme in the West Bank and Gaza; and a Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Programme.

In 2017 we saw almost 137,000 patients across our services. This is a 9% increase from the previous year, partly thanks to the launch of our Outreach and Diabetic Retinopathy Screening projects in Gaza, the Muristan Clinic, and Outreach in the Old City of Jerusalem.

64% increase in major surgeries in Gaza

9% increase in patients reached

Despite barriers, such as the Separation Wall



QUALITY OF CARE

The main priority across our hospitals is to provide first-class, quality eye care. Our Jerusalem Hospital is the first in Palestine to provide care for all 14 ophthalmic subspecialties (excluding oncology). We were also the first Palestinian hospital to receive JCI accreditation, the gold-standard for healthcare worldwide.

Our four satellite centres benefit from regular outpatient clinics ran by our Jerusalem specialists. We are also focusing heavily on developing our ability to provide subspecialty treatment from within Gaza by investing in training and quality of care practices from within. Thanks to this investment, in 2017 the number of major surgeries performed in Gaza increased by 64%.

TRAINING

Providing world-class eye care is impossible without staff trained to the highest level.

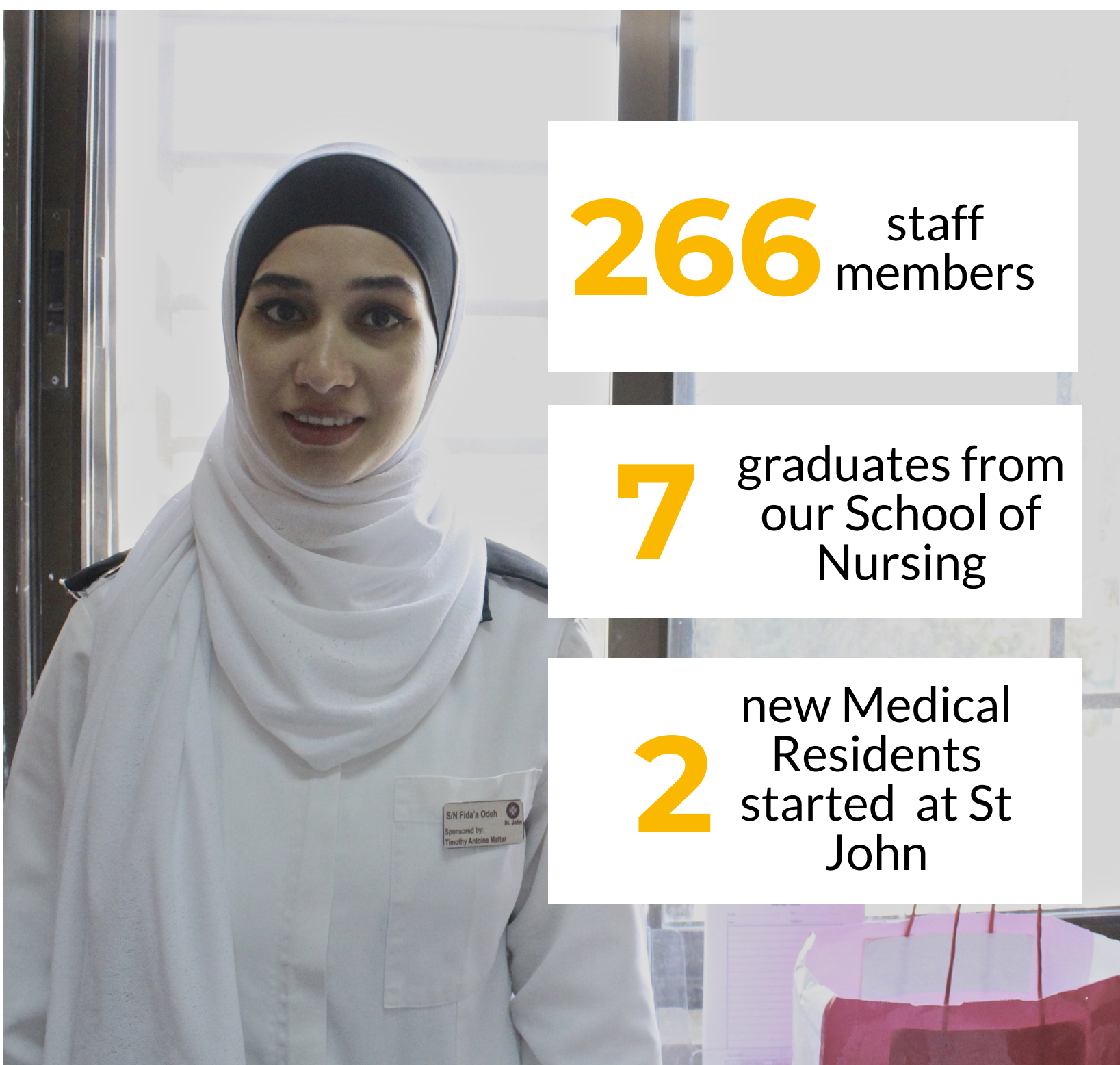
Our **Medical Residency Training Programme**, **Sir Stephen Miller School of Nursing**, and our **Gaza Nursing Assistant Programme** train doctors and nurses to become ophthalmic specialists.

Once qualified as ophthalmic specialists our doctors and nurses have the opportunity for further study. This is achieved through our **Joint Teaching Programme** which offer opportunities for our doctors to study fellowships in subspecialties at partner organisations. Our nurses are also offered continuous further training opportunities.

266 staff members

7 graduates from our School of Nursing

2 new Medical Residents started at St John



RESEARCH

In 2008, St John Eye Hospital conducted the region's first Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness (RAAB) which allowed us to focus our efforts on tackling preventable blindness on the areas which needed it most. A condition that was identified as needing serious attention was Diabetic Retinopathy (DR). Launched in 2012, our **DR Screening Programme** works to understand the prevalence of DR as well as the best way to tackle the condition within our unique political and economic constraints. A second RAAB study is planned for 2018.

Our **Peace for Sight Programme** was established in 2016 funded by the EU Peacebuilding Initiative and Hadassah Medical Center. This is a three-year study into genetic eye conditions that affect the Palestinian population. The project's main aim is to provide sustainable treatment and medical solutions for people who have had no other option in the past. This will have a significant long-term impact by preventing inherited ophthalmic diseases from developing in the next generations.

180 families recruited to our genetic research study

6 international conferences attended by our doctors

1 research lab opened
1 paper published in the Lancet Journal

