



Programme Report July 2022



INTRODUCTION

#SyriaStillMatters. Over ten years of conflict and a staggering number of displaced Syrians are still suffering the consequences. 13 million were forced to leave their homes, half of them fled the country altogether. More than 4 million are still in need of urgent humanitarian assistance in the north west of the country*. That is why we refuse to give up and continue to support two vital projects in north Syria and Lebanon.

Our local partner SAMS's medical team continue to provide vital health services in spite of the challenges of working in an extremely hard-to-reach area and the fallout of COVID19. SAWA's teachers successfully completed a full in-class academic year following two years of lockdown and hybrid learning as a result of the pandemic.

This report covers the period from January to June 2022 and reflects on the situation on the ground during that period.

https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/where/middle-east/syria_en





Primary Healthcare
in Tel Abyad, north Syria

INTRODUCTION – HEALTHCARE

We are proud to continue supporting SAMS and the medical team at our Primary Health Clinic (PHC) in Tel Abyad, northeast Syria. In March 2022, we renewed our commitment to fund the clinic for another year. This funding covers salaries of doctors, nurses and admin staff in addition to running costs.

Medication, which makes up a large part of the costs and, as with all services at the PHC, is provided to patients free of charge. The team has successfully purchased their stock for the upcoming year. While this may sound trivial, a lot of work goes into ensuring that medication is purchased appropriately and transported safely from south-east Turkey into Syria and SAMS' warehouse.

We are also funding a **Mobile Clinic**, which will enable the team to reach an additional **10,000 patients**, a year. This will target the most vulnerable patients who are unable to afford transport or cannot physically get to the PHC themselves. The Mobile Clinic will be fully operational within the next few months.



PROGRESS & IMPACT PRIMARY HEALTHCARE CLINIC

From January to June 2022, the team helped 15,654 patients through 21,985 consultations:

- 8,944 for women, 41%
- 4,652 for men, 21%
- 4,272 for boys, 19%
- 4,117 for girls, 19%

Internal medicine was the most sought after service at the clinic during the last six months (28%), **pediatric services** came second (27%) followed by **OBGYN** consultations (19%).

There was an increase in the number of patients attending at the clinic in the past six months, especially for cases of **intestinal infections** and **diarrhea** hence the high number of **internal medicine** consultations. This is mainly due to poor sanitation and lack of fresh water supply.

On average, the clinic provides around 3,700 consultations a month. This is a lifeline for the community of 50,000 people living in the surrounding area, which is extremely hard to access, and which has no other similar healthcare facilities.





OSAMA'S STORY

At the PHC, we have recently activated a separate clinic designated for the treatment of **leishmaniasis**, a 'neglected tropical disease' which spreads in areas where poverty is dominant. Leishmaniasis is now endemic in this part of Syria.

Osama, 3 years-old, is one of hundreds of children suffering from this flesh-eating disease. The Clinic's dermatologist put together a treatment plan for Osama along with a timetable to follow up on his condition regularly.

His father says: "Osama suffered a lot from this disease, and I was confused due to the lack of medical centers in our area, which made things very difficult for us. But now, with SAMS's clinic for leishmaniasis, we are able to overcome this wearisome problem".

With SAMS, we are constantly trying to develop and improve the services provided by the PHC to ensure that patients receive accessible, quality healthcare in a safe environment. This is particularly important in this part of Syria, which is characterized by a scarcity of health facilities.



Education
in the Bekaa Valley, Lebanon



Charity no. 1156491

INTRODUCTION – EDUCATION

The financial crisis in Lebanon keeps getting worse due to the inflation which is affecting the whole society. The country is witnessing a dramatic collapse in basic services pushing desperate families already struggling to afford food, electricity and fuel deeper into poverty. That means more children are dropping out of schooling to work and support their families. Unemployment rates are on the rise and many are struggling to afford basic daily necessities.

The Ministry of Education has not yet approved the new round of Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) exams where refugee students can join the formal education system if they pass the exams. This is due to the many difficulties the Ministry is facing to stabilise the sector and the ongoing teachers' strike protesting the low pay and poor working conditions.

Despite all these challenges, **SAWA's school in the refugee camps of Bar Elias** remained open and the outreach team kept visiting families urging them to send their children to school.

SAWA's teachers completed the academic year in June 2022 and an end of school party took place where children had the chance to dance, sing and play.



PROGRESS & IMPACT EDUCATION

The school year ended in June 2022 and was celebrated by the children and teachers with a small party, where they had the chance to sing, dance and play games. Teachers at the school reported positively and spoke of how rewarding it is to see children from extremely difficult backgrounds celebrating such an achievement.

We are proud to report an **83% attendance rate** over the year, which is a huge accomplishment considering the extremely challenging circumstances the children and their families face; Lebanon's economic crisis is making it more and more difficult for families to send their children to school, choosing instead for them to work or get married.

Teachers also reported excellent exam results, with **93% overall passing grade**. This is an amazing achievement both for the teachers and their students, who are catching up with their education having missed out on so much. The school is designed to bridge this educational gap while providing a safe place for them to do so. We believe that equipping these children with critical basic and core skills will give them the change for a brighter future. Further life-skills courses will take place over the summer, where children will take part in extra-curricular activities, including music and sport.

The current socio-economic situation in Lebanon makes for an extremely challenging operating environment. As the price of inflation sky-rockets and living conditions for vulnerable communities worsen, it is all the more crucial that we are able to maintain the services provided by this school.

The school successfully concluded the academic year with **433 students** attending at the two educational centres run by SAWA. Hands Up funds the education of **153 students: 79 girls and 74 boys**.

The children are supported by **36 teachers**, Hands up funds the salaries of **15** of them in addition to another **17 educational and project support staff**.



Funding Prostheses
on the Syrian-Turkish border



Charity no. 1156491

KOALAA PROSTHESES

Following a successful pilot phase to fit selected patients with upper-limb prostheses in Turkey and north Syria, in partnership with [Koalaa](#), we are now launching a new prosthetics project to provide an initial 100 limbs to patients in northern Syria. Working with local partners, including [Physicians Across Continent \(PAC\)](#), we hope to provide a cost-effective, lightweight and functional solution to those with upper limb difference. Typically the cost and discomfort of traditionally made limbs is high.

The aim is not only to provide upper-limb prostheses, but also to reduce the various environmental hardships that affect conflict refugees and to help improve their lives through physiotherapy and psychosocial support. Initially, we will work with patients and their surrounding communities in northwest Syria near the Turkish border.

This project is still in the early stages of implementation and more information will be provided in the next programme report, due January 2023.





In the first half of 2022, Hands Up has helped over 17,000 Syrians

We've funded:

- 22 medical & clinical staff salaries
- 17 healthcare support staff
- 15 teacher salaries
- 17 admin and school staff including social workers & carers
- Education for over 433 Syrian refugee children
- Healthcare for over 16,000 patients, with over 22,000 free of charge consultations
- 16 patients were fitted with Koalaa's mitts at a pilot project

THANK YOU

Hands Up has helped over **17,000** people so far this year. We are enormously proud of this achievement, particularly in relation to a conflict that the wider world has largely moved on from, but more work is needed. The situation is still desperate. To put some numbers on it, **14.6 million** need humanitarian aid in Syria, **2 million** live in informal camps, over **3 million children** are at risk of dropping out of school. A looming famine threatens Syria owing to the wheat crisis because of the war in Ukraine and flesh-eating skin diseases which appear in the poorest parts of the world are now endemic in Syria. It's frightening, but how utterly amazing that we can do something to help some people (thousands of them) who are living through this. We can only do this with your donations, please know how grateful we are for your support.

We are always happy to hear from you, please get in touch.

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