



# PROGRAMME REPORT

January 2023

Charity no. 1156491



# INTRODUCTION

Today, in Syria alone, there are **14.6 million** people in need of humanitarian protection and assistance. While this statistic may seem too large to comprehend and any solution an impossibility, at Hands Up we know that we can make a difference to thousands of people each year by providing health and education projects to vulnerable Syrian populations. Since our last report (July 2022), alongside our local partners, we are so proud to have helped over **8,300** Syrians. Although there is an unbelievably long way to go, we are so proud to have provided life changing services to this many people. Thank you so much for being a part of it.

With a cholera outbreak, dramatically rising prices, and continued economic crisis, the past year has not been easy in Syria or Lebanon. Despite this, our programmes continue to serve their communities and provide life changing, and life saving services.

*This report covers the period from 01 July 2022 to 31 December 2022 and reflects on the situation on the ground during this period.*

<https://www.unhcr.org/uk/syria-emergency.html>





Primary Healthcare  
Tel Abyad, North Syria

## HEALTHCARE

Despite being a long-standing partner, SAMS and the medical team at our Primary Health Clinic (PHC) in Tel Abyad, northeast Syria, have continued to inspire us with their levels of organisation, willingness, and commitment to their community. In September, a cholera case was announced in close vicinity to Tel Abyad. By December, the number of suspected cases across Syria surpassed **60,000**. In response to the outbreak, SAMS launched their cholera preparedness and response plan, training **244** health staff to ensure health personnel were effectively positioned to reduce infection rates and the severity of cases. Our funding provided the Tel Abyad PHC with cholera kits, including **16,000** sachets of Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS).

“The most critical point in cholera is the rapid response and preventive measures; if the pandemic is not dealt with properly and with the required resources, it is expected to have a longer impact in Syria and may turn into an endemic disease” *SAMS Doctor*.

SAMS' diligence and expertise is at the frontline of ensuring the vulnerable community they serve is protected and ensures the quality of the services they provide. Under the Hands Up grant SAMS have now purchased a Mobile Clinic, which will mean that this care will be able to extend further and reach remote communities who otherwise have no access to healthcare.

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<https://reliefweb.int>



## PROGRESS & IMPACT PRIMARY HEALTHCARE CLINIC

From July to December 2022, the team helped 7,968 patients through 10,485 consultations:

- 4,310 for women, 41%
- 2,242 for men, 21%
- 1,974 for girls, 19%
- 1,959 for boys, 19%

Paediatric services were the most commonly required at the clinic, representing 30% of all consultations, with internal and OBGYN following in demand, representing 29% and 15% (respectively).

Over the reporting period all running costs were covered to ensure quality primary health care services can continue to be provided to people in need. These include, but are not limited to, reproductive health services, dental services, and services for leishmaniasis (a flesh-eating disease) services. To have provided all of these services and more, in the face of a cholera outbreak without interruption is testament to SAMS' diligent approach to their work.

In September SAMS purchased a Mobile Clinic, funded by Hands Up. They are now working hard to procure all required medicines and finalising the recruitment process for mobile clinic staff, with a sight to having the clinic fully operational by mid-February 2023.





Education Centre  
Bekaa Valley, Lebanon

## EDUCATION

Since writing our last report, tragically, very little has changed in the status of Lebanon's financial situation. Now in its fourth year of economic crisis, Lebanon's currency has diminished to less than 95% of its value, and 80% of the population live in poverty. As is all too often the case, refugee and displaced communities have been some of the groups hit hardest by this crisis.

For Syrian refugees in Lebanon, schooling has become a luxury, received by far too few and inaccessible to most. With mounting financial burdens, to put food on the table many Syrian families have had no choice but to send their children to work. Without an education, the horizons of these children's futures are greatly constrained.

SAWA's education centre, in the refugee camps of Bar Elias, works to ensure Syrian refugee children have access to the education they deserve. Despite having battled so far against inflation and the booming costs of fuel that have caused many others to close, the situation is highly challenging. We have been working closely with SAWA to navigate these difficult waters, but the conditions are harsh and an ongoing reminder of how desperately funds are needed. We are actively fundraising to keep this education programme open.

*Having recommitted to funding the education centre in September 2022, this reporting period has not yet involved a quarterly Progress Report from SAWA. These findings will be included in our next Programme Report on 31 July 2023.*

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<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2023/country-chapters/lebanon>



## PROGRESS & IMPACT EDUCATION

SAWA's education project focuses on providing Syrian refugee children with the education that they deserve, in a safe learning environment. This, they do brilliantly for the 280 children they serve. By also providing salaries for the centre's 17 teachers, and 5 support staff, Hands Up aims to spread the benefits of the project even wider. Supporting local professionals with a stable salary and employment helps to benefit the local economy and provides a steadiness to a refugee community for whom instability is the status quo.

Despite the heavy burdens placed on SAWA by the financial crisis, the centre has prioritised the provision of free-of-charge travel for its pupils. This is essential for making sure that a community of children, on whom the pressure to leave school and join the work force is already high, have continued access to education.

The arrival of a bitter winter in Lebanon also introduced an urgent need for heating. Without it the plummeting temperatures would simply have closed the school. In a country where electricity is only provided by the state for two to three hours per day, generator bills already gobble up a large part of SAWA's budgets. With rapidly increasing fuel prices the winter has not been easy to manage, but we are proud to report that SAWA's education centre has remained open and continued to inspire its pupils with a love for learning.

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<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2023/country-chapters/lebanon>





## OMAR'S STORY

Omar is a 14-year-old Syrian boy who studied at SAWA's education centre for five years, before going on to pursue education at an official school in Lebanon. A star pupil, Omar now regularly comes top of his classes. "Yesterday I got 60/60 in my maths test. When I told my father he didn't believe me, he even went to ask the teacher himself" he told us with a humorous chuckle.

Omar's path through education has not been without challenges. When the war broke out in Syria, Omar and his family were forced to flee Damascus to seek refuge in Lebanon. Here, due to economic crisis, Omar was forced leave education in 2019 and find a job to help his family.

Despite these obstacles, Omar never gave up on education and from setting foot in SAWA's education centre at just 7 years old, he showed great determination to build himself a better future. He claims "SAWA established me. After English lessons, I go back home, and use google translate to review the lessons we took and repeat the new words to memorise them."

*"I want my people to live in peace and feel the stability again. But to do this, I want to focus on my studies to empower myself in work later on and establish my future... without school I can't make it."*

This is exactly what Hands Up is so proud to support. We believe in giving a hand up, not a handout, and providing children, like Omar, with the services and education they need to provide stability and dignity to their communities and country, empowering them to make their own difference.





## PROSTHETICS

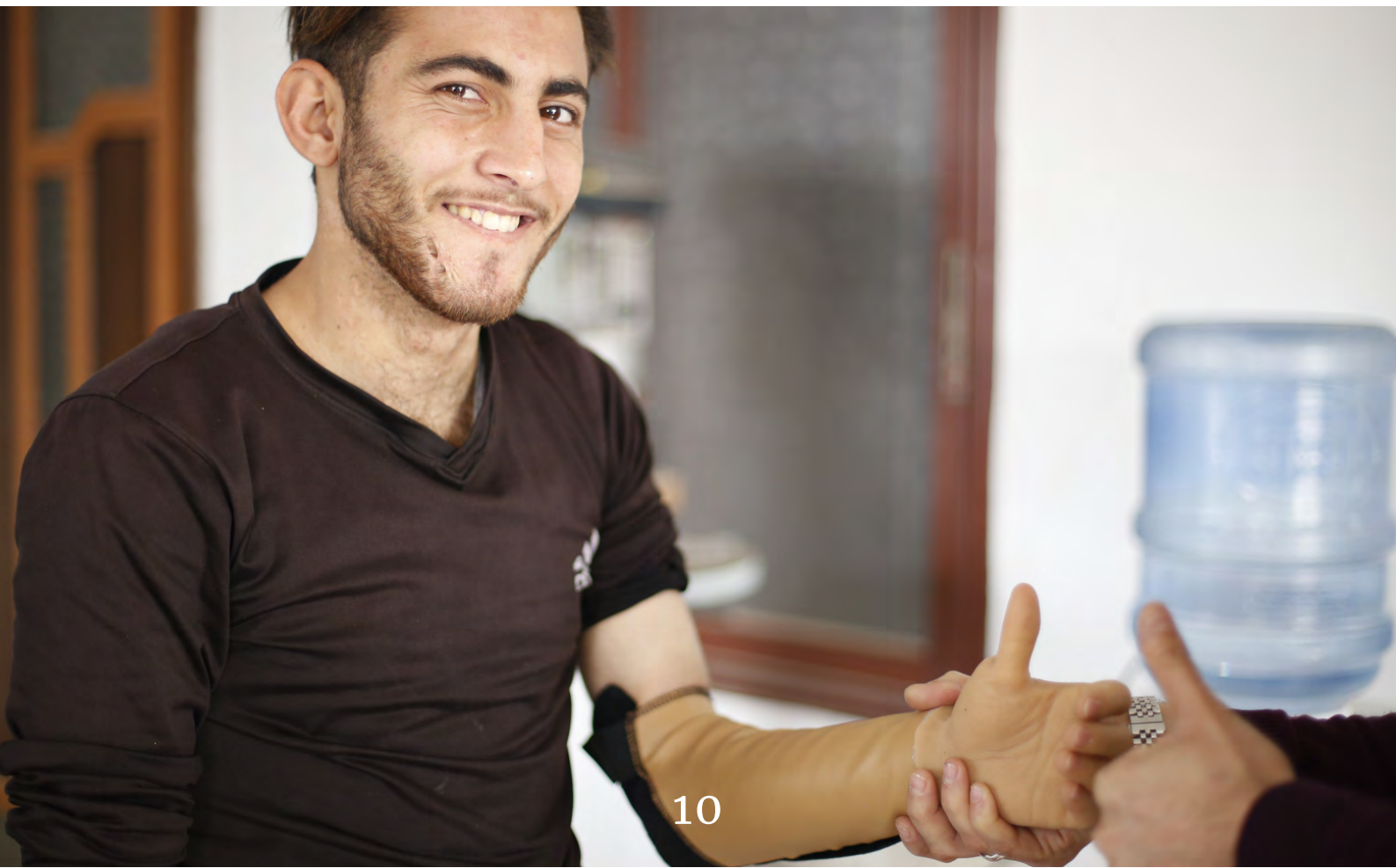
In October, after a long journey from London, 50 Koalaa prosthetics arrived in Syria. Although at first glance, this may have seemed a rather odd delivery, to 50 people, these are a key to functional independence. Alongside our partners, Physicians Across Continents (PAC), in Syria, and Koalaa, in the UK, we have been working to deliver these prostheses to people with upper limb difference.

In Syria, over a decade of conflict, infrastructure degradation, and ongoing displacement has exposed millions of people to physical injury and trauma, while destroying their access to essential services and support. While there are an estimated 50,000 amputees, in reality, that figure is likely far greater. Not only do these amputations have a physical effect, but also often result in socio-economic vulnerability and marginalisation for individuals.

As well as providing prosthetics free-of-charge, the programme is providing each patient with physiotherapy sessions, as well as psychosocial support services for them and their caregivers. Together, this works to ensure the best possible chance for patients to build a life beyond limb difference.

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<https://onenationuk.org/projects/syria-appeal/prosthetic-artificial-limbs-clinic-in-syria>



# PROGRESS & IMPACT PROSTHETICS

Programme highlights so far:

- 6 staff trained
- 36 patients provided and fitted with upper limb prosthesis
- 72 physiotherapy rehabilitation sessions provided
- 72 psychosocial sessions provided

Since the roll out of the programme in September, PAC has been working to deliver Koalaa prosthetics to people with upper-limb differences from the Hope Step Centre in A'zaz city, North West Syria.

As an integral part of the programme PAC have implemented a referral system to increase the number of people with disabilities (PWD) reached. Multiple networks, including Facebook and WhatsApp have been used spread an application link and increase the reach of the programme. From this, **150** people suitable for the programme were identified, and a wait list established. The project staff have also been selected from the local community to enhance the sustainability of the project in the future.

During the reporting period, staff from the centre attended training conducted by Koalaa, as well as further training in the PAC office in Gaziantep, Turkey. All running costs, including the rental of the workshop, electricity, internet, prosthetic parts and medication have been covered during the reporting period. This is essential for ensuring the smooth delivery of the programme.

Central to this programme is a need to monitor and evaluate the impact on prosthetic recipients' quality of life, and access to other types of services such as sport, work and education. Reporting and evaluation is currently ongoing and we look forward to sharing the results in the next Programme Report.



## In the second half of 2022, Hands Up helped over 8,300 Syrians

### We've funded:

- 22 medical & clinical staff salaries
- 17 teacher salaries
- 5 admin and school staff including social workers & carers
- Education for over 280 Syrian refugee children
- Healthcare for over 7,500 patients, with over 10,485 free of charge consultations
- Provision and fitting of Koalaa prosthetics for 36 patients
- Training for 6 prosthetics clinicians

# THANK YOU

While Syria seems to fade further from public consciousness, we remain desperately aware of those in need. In 2022 in northern Syria, citizens faced a deadly cholera outbreak, 90% lived below the poverty line, and more than 600,000 children were chronically malnourished. In neighbouring countries such as Lebanon where many refugee populations live, life is not much better. Looking at these figures it can be hard to see any form of hope. But to us, and the communities they serve, this is what the programmes we support represent. To have helped over 8,300 people, in the latter half of 2022 alone is an achievement we are so proud of. This work would not be possible without your generous support, thank you for being a part of it.

We always love hearing from you, please get in touch.

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<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2023/country-chapters/syria#1f871e>



