

Hold your own

**Action Syria
Carols
fundraiser**



actionsyria.org.uk

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Thank you

Your support means a lot. Just by considering getting involved, you're already part of a community that's making a real difference.

Syria has entered a new chapter — but the road to recovery is long and the humanitarian needs remain urgent. Right now, over 2 million children in Syria are still out of school and nearly 15.8 million people require urgent healthcare assistance.

Action Syria is standing with Syrian communities for as long as we are needed. And with your support, we can deliver aid where it's needed most.

This festive season, you can take action to support education and healthcare for Syrian communities as they rebuild, by holding a fundraiser in aid of Action Syria. As well as spreading festive cheer, you'll be raising money to support lasting recovery for Syrian communities.

Whether it's gathering your neighbours for festive drinks, or getting some baking underway to host your own 'home café', why not turn community spirit into a powerful force for good?

Inside this pack are plenty of ideas to get you started, as well as a step-by-step guide to running a fundraiser and some useful tips. We've also included posters, leaflets, and other resources to help make your event a success.

If you're planning a fundraiser, we'd really love to hear about it! Drop us a note at contact@actionsyria.org.uk.

Big or small, every effort helps raise awareness and support for Syrian communities, both in Syria and in neighbouring countries. We can't thank you enough — none of our work would be possible without incredible supporters like you.

What you'll be supporting

Since 2012, we've been responding to the most pressing needs on the ground, both inside Syria and in neighbouring countries.

Since the fall of the Assad regime in 2024, we've been working closely with our partners on the ground in Syria to assess how we can continue to make an impact during this complex and fragile transitional period. Our focus remains on working with local organisations - who know their communities best - to make sure Syrian communities have the medical care and education they need, every day and when emergencies strike.

We've continued working with longstanding partners to support education for Syrian refugee children and support access to medical care in northern Syria. In July 2025, we launched two new partnerships to meet urgent educational infrastructure needs. We are also exploring opportunities with new partners to address critical gaps and provide support where it is needed most, for example, in mental health support for families affected by enforced disappearance.

Action Syria's recent projects:

School in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley
— in partnership with SAWA for
Development and Aid

Delivering full-time education for **over 100 Syrian refugee children**, including psychosocial support, school buses, a school guard, and heating in the winter. Action Syria funds the full operating costs, including teacher and support staff salaries.





School rehabilitations in Syria

— in partnership with Abjad Initiative and MARS Organization

Renovating classrooms, improving accessibility for students with disabilities, and upgrading basic infrastructure such as sanitation facilities, electricity and water. Action Syria's funding has delivered safe and engaging learning spaces for over **1,500 children** across three schools in rural Damascus.

Medical equipment for a hospital in Syria

— in partnership with Syrian American Medical Society

Providing essential medical equipment for the intensive care and neurological units at Aleppo University Hospital, and training medical staff on equipment usage and maintenance. Launched in August 2026, Action Syria's newest project is strengthening the hospital's long-term capacity to treat at least **500 patients annually** suffering from acute respiratory distress and severe neurological conditions.

During this critical time for Syria, your fundraising initiative can strengthen our support for safe and inclusive learning for Syrian children and life-saving medical care for communities in underserved regions.

For more information on our work, please [visit our website](#).

Event ideas

We've got some ideas to get you started, but feel free to get as creative as you like with your fundraiser in aid of Action Syria.

Carol service collection

Why not combine forces with an existing event? Tie in a donation collection with your local community's carol service this year — it's a super simple way to get involved.

Or, if you're part of a choir and want to do something bigger, you could put together a concert in your local village hall and perform for friends and family.

Christmas jumper day

Encourage your colleagues to donate a couple of pounds to come to work in a fun and colourful Christmas jumper - you could even tie this in with your work Christmas lunch! We'd be happy to provide resources to help you raise awareness of Action Syria's work.

Crafts session

Get your friends together and host a Christmas crafts session. From knitting scarfs to making wreaths to decorating gingerbread — you can get creative and make a difference!

Winter bake sale

Whip up your favourite festive bakes, and share them with your local community at a bake sale.

Festive drinks

Get your local community together for some mulled wine, hot chocolate or mince pies. It's a great way to get to know your neighbours better or have a catch up with friends, all while spreading festive cheer!



Lizzie and Tim hosted their own festive drinks fundraiser in Bristol, December 2024, raising an incredible £1,325 for Action Syria.



Simple steps for success



1. **Mark your calendars** — Choose a date, time and venue.



2. **Get planning** — Gather friends, neighbours, colleagues, or family to help plan the event. Share tasks and keep a track of what everyone has volunteered to do. Sharing the load will make it easier and much more fun.



3. **Begin to spread the word** — The more people that attend, the more you can raise. Encourage your friends and family to post on social media, and we'll shout about it too!



4. **Set a target** — This will help to encourage donations. And there are always ways to make more: hand round a bucket for donations at the end of your event, and explain to guests where their money is going.



5. **Be prepared on the day** — Make sure you're fully equipped with resources and information to share with people about the impact of their support — we've included some at the end of this pack.

Your guide to hosting an Action Syria Carols event

Where you can host the event

Pretty much anywhere works!

- Village hall or school
- Local church, mosque, temple, or gurdwara
- A bigger concert venue
- Even your own living room

Tip: Already got a carol concert or festive get-together planned? Turn it into a fundraiser!

How to spread the word about Syria during the event

The personal touch matters.

- Tell your guests why you're inspired to support Action Syria — it's your story that connects.
- Don't worry about being an expert!
- You could invite someone who knows more to say a few words — think journalists, writers, artists, or students.

How to promote the event

- Ask friends to invite their own circles — family, colleagues, community groups.
- Use social media (Instagram, WhatsApp, Facebook groups) to share your event widely. Get friends to share too!
- Don't forget to tag us: [@actionsyria](#) on Instagram, [Action Syria](#) on Facebook.
- Old school more your style? Send a note to your local newspaper.

How you can maximise the impact

You're already doing something amazing by supporting Action Syria. If you'd like to go one step further, why not team up with local businesses?

- Ask for sponsorship — They could chip in with money, or cover costs like food, drinks, or prizes.
- Look for community champions — Lots of supermarkets have dedicated staff who can donate items or vouchers for local causes.
- Make it a win-win — Remind them it's great for their ESG credentials, and offer to pop their logo on your posters or event page — it gives them visibility too.

A little local support can go a long way in making your fundraiser even more fun and successful!

How to send the money you've raised

Once you have completed your event, you can donate on our website, transfer the donations to us by BACS transfer, or send us a cheque.

- Online: Donate directly at actionsyria.org.uk/donate.
- Bank Transfer (BACS):
Name of bank: Barclays PLC
Account Name: THE HANDS UP FOUNDATION T/AS ACTION SYRIA
Account number: 50590142
Sort code: 20-26-46
Please put your surname as the reference.
- Cheque: Payable to Action Syria, with "Carols" written on the back.
Post to: Action Syria, Rich Mix Centre, 35-47 Bethnal Green Road, London E1 6LA.

Please send us an email with your details and amount you have donated, requesting a receipt if you need one.

Fundraising tips

Whether you're hosting festive drinks, a carol service or something different, here are some simple ways to make your fundraiser shine:

- **Set up a fundraising page** — The easiest way to collect donations is online (via [our webpage](#) or JustGiving).
- **Offer options** — Not everyone likes online giving, so let people know they can donate by BACS or cheque too. Don't forget to encourage [Gift Aid](#) — it adds 25% at no cost to them.
- **Add a personal touch** — Share a bit about yourself and why you're fundraising. A photo makes it feel more real and inspiring.
- **Explain the cause** — Be clear about what you're doing, why you're raising money, and always say it's "in aid of Action Syria."
- **Be upfront** — If any of the money will cover expenses (like food or materials), let supporters know.
- **Spread the word** — Share your page on social media (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, X) and tag us so we can cheer you on!
- **Keep people updated** — Post little updates as you go — planning, menus, rehearsal snaps, progress towards your target.
- **Say thanks** — A quick thank you goes a long way in keeping donors connected.

One last thing: fundraising for charities like Action Syria is regulated by the Fundraising Regulator. By following these tips, you'll be keeping everything safe, legal and transparent.

Resources

We've created some resources to help you fundraise.

On the following pages, you'll find:

- **Information leaflets and posters** — Print out A5 copies to distribute or larger A2 copies to display as posters at your event, to show supporters the impact of their giving. We've included a case study highlighting the story of Khaled, a pupil who we've supported through our school rehabilitations in rural Damascus.
- **Cut out for buckets** — Attach these to your donation collection buckets so it's clear who you're raising money for!

Please get in touch at contact@actionsyria.org.uk if you'd like us to send you an Action Syria template to create your own poster. We can also send you our logo to include on your own posters.



Action Syria

Education | Health | Emergencies

We work with local partners to make sure
Syrian communities have the medical
care and education they need,
every day and when
emergencies strike.



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

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Action Syria is the operating name of the
Hands Up Foundation. Charity no. 1156491



Action
Syria

15.6 MILLION IN SYRIA NEED HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



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Action Syria

What we do

We work with local partners to make sure Syrian communities have the medical care and education they need, every day and when emergencies strike.

At the same time, we offer you a way to help. We make sure our funding gets to the right people quickly and safely.

Who we help

Over the past year (2024-25) we helped over 20,000 Syrians, funding:



Over 17,600
medical
consultations



Education
for 84 children



Salaries for 10 medical
staff, 6 education staff,
and 43 support staff



Two playgrounds
for 2,400 children



61 prosthetics
and 193 orthotic
devices



Emergency supplies and
hot meals for 240 families

Right now, we're providing education to over 100 Syrian refugee children and rehabilitating schools in rural Damascus. We're raising funds to sustain these programmes, as well as deliver new education and health projects so that we can reach even more communities.

We also mobilise when there is an emergency, such as an earthquake.



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"After the renovation,
everything changed. Now, I
want to become an engineer
so I can help **rebuild** my
country, Syria."
Khaled, age 12



After Action Syria helped restore his school, Khaled is now back in the classroom. With a safe space to learn and grow, Khaled is able to imagine a brighter future.

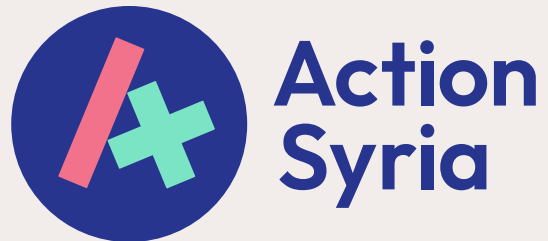
Your support makes stories like Khaled's possible.

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**Name and photo changed to keep children safe.*

Fundraising in aid of



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