



Syrian American Medical Society

Annual Report 2015



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Message from the President

DEAR COLLEAGUES, FRIENDS, AND DONORS,

This opening word is a humble note of thanks. Without your involvement, support, and contribution, our mission at SAMS to save lives and provide quality healthcare to Syrians isn't possible.

Thank you for your courage, and for responding with humanity in a time of need. Your involvement with SAMS is an answer, a solution, and a source of hope for thousands. Thank you for choosing to take action. You are influencing lives that are not far away, but connected to our own. With 65% of our programs targeting women and children, you have helped us support and inspire the next generation of Syrians.

You, like SAMS, have chosen to respond to this crisis with enduring optimism, hope, and benevolence, the fundamental tools for rebuilding. We watched chemical weapons deployed, millions flee from their homes, schools and hospitals being bombed, health care workers killed while providing medical care, and finally, a small boy wash onto a beach. At this very moment, the whole world stopped, held its breath, and paid attention. "What's going on in Syria?" we finally asked.

From this destruction, who could believe there is hope left, that there is still beauty in the world, that children in Syria have a bright and optimistic future?

We asked ourselves how we could turn a blind eye to this suffering for so



long. In turn, I ask you to pledge your support, hope, and faith into restoring and rebuilding, to invest in a future for Syria. Your contributions and donations do not end with dollars in a bank account, or a scholarship fund for a Syrian striving to study medicine in the United States. Your contributions forge a bright and optimistic future for Syria. This is my personal promise as president of SAMS.

The crisis in Syria will affect many generations to come, and will affect all parts of the world. Syria needs more than healthcare workers. It needs teachers, parents, and basic civil infrastructure. It needs jobs, investment,

and opportunities. It needs compassion and empathy from the world, and for individuals like you to step in and lend a helping hand.

Thank you for making a difference with SAMS. What a journey it has been.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ahmad Tarakji
President, Syrian American Medical Society

Message from the Foundation Chair

DEAR VOLUNTEERS, SUPPORTERS, STAFF, and donors,

The Syrian crisis is entering its sixth year with no light visible at the end of this dark tunnel. The year 2015 has been the most violent since the eruption of the conflict, with 21,000 Syrian civilians killed according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. We also witnessed a significant surge of military operations and violence in the final quarter of the year that put more burden on all humanitarian workers and organizations.

The Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS) started the year with a clear vision of expanding projects, building capacity, reaching more Syrians in need, and being able to deal with crises within the crisis as they arose. To do all of that we had to gather support, build more momentum and find more funding.

In anticipation of expanding projects, the SAMS board made a strategic decision to build capacity and hire more qualified staff to oversee and execute our relief work in the outmost professional manner. We were fortunate to hire a Director of Programs. Dr. Randa Loutfi came with deep knowledge of the medical relief inside Syria, having served on SAMS's board for the previous four years. We were also fortunate to hire a Director of Finances. Mr. Safa'a Aladham came with extensive experience in relief work, having worked at a reputable NGO for many years. Capacity building was



also extended to our regional offices in Turkey and Jordan. We hired more staff, continued to train the existing ones, and provided them with tools and power to aid in the execution of the SAMS vision. We built a team that is highly qualified, dedicated, and committed to the cause.

Over the last few years private donations have been essential in the support of our programs. However, the demands exceeded the capabilities of our generous donors. 2015 was another year within which SAMS gained significant trust from international NGOs and United Nations relief agencies. Our actual cash spending was

around twenty five million, two thirds of which came from grants.

Our Syrian communities across the United States have continued to show tremendous support. More than eight million dollars were raised from donors in all 50 states.

SAMS was founded by volunteers, and is still governed likewise. As we grew, our staff became more influential in our operations and decision making processes, yet the volunteer-based nature of SAMS never lost its growing momentum. Highly qualified physicians and other healthcare professionals ran committees that handled highly specialized medical projects, such as ICU,

nephrology, mental health, and more. Their professional contributions were estimated to value over one million dollars, excluding their administrative duties. The contributions did not stop there. Volunteers, from Syrian Americans and other fellow American communities, took part in highly effective medical missions in the region, treating over 11,000 refugees. Additionally, volunteers gathered in groups to collect and ship ten medical containers, together valued at eight hundred thousand dollars, to touch the lives of tens of thousands of Syrians.

Our collective efforts supported more than one hundred projects that reached 2.6 million Syrians, with 2.3 million inside Syria. The number of beneficiaries doubled from the previous year. The major cause of this increase was made possible by targeting vulnerable populations by expanding our birth centers and primary care clinics. Two thirds of SAMS's beneficiaries were women and children.

Projects were adopted based on needs, not solely based on available grants, a feat only possible with the support of our donors. SAMS adopted high cost, low volume, though expensive projects with the goal of saving more lives, and complementing previously existing medical systems. For example, our intensive care units and hemodialysis centers were initiated and supervised by our specialists in the states to enhance and assure the quality of the services delivered.

SAMS's healthcare for refugees was designed to fill gaps in needs. We treated over 300,000 refugees in our medical, dental, and psychosocial centers in Jordan and Lebanon, and through the eight dental clinics in southern Turkey. In November of 2015, SAMS sent its first medical mission



to the Greek island of Lesbos, where most of those refugees arrived by boat. Following this exploratory trip, the board moved to form the 'SAMS Global Committee' to tackle Syrian refugee issues outside the Middle East.

With each life we saved or touched we wrote a success story. However, for every success story we faced additional challenges, such as attacks targeting hospitals. We have been forced to move medical facilities underground, to practice modern-day "cave medicine." SAMS was proud to focus on the safety of its medical personnel, and spare no effort or cost in achieving this goal. To deal with shortages of trained healthcare professionals SAMS started its medical education program by opening a nursing, medical technician, and midwifery school.

We are humbled to look at the achievements we had together in 2015, but we are saddened by the lives we could not touch. We are saddened by the death of the children in Madaya

because we were not able to feed them, by the ambulance driver who was killed while saving others in Ghouta, by the death of the two nurses in Kafr Zaiteh when their above-ground hospital was attacked, by the schoolgirl in Aleppo who lost her leg when her school was attacked, and by the countless other stories. Working together will empower us to reach more Syrians and have less of these sad endings.

On behalf of the board of the Syrian American Medical Society Foundation, I would like to thank you for trusting us with your time, efforts, and donations.

We hope that the year 2016 will bring a better future for Syrians.

Amjad Rass

SAMS 2015 Foundation Chair

About the Syrian American Medical Society

THE SYRIAN AMERICAN MEDICAL SOCIETY (SAMS) is a nonpolitical, nonprofit, professional and medical relief organization that represents hundreds of Syrian American medical professionals across the United States. SAMS is working on the front lines of crisis relief in Syria and neighboring countries to alleviate suffering and save lives.

SAMS was founded in 1998 as a professional society, working to provide physicians of Syrian descent with networking, educational, cultural, and professional services. SAMS facilitates opportunities for its members to stay connected to Syria through medical missions, conferences, and charitable activities. SAMS continues to conduct national and international conferences annually to provide a platform for exchange of ideas and best practices, recognition of leaders in humanitarian and medical work, and trainings and updates on cutting-edge medical relief.

When the conflict in Syria began in 2011, SAMS expanded its capacity significantly to meet the growing needs and challenges of the medical crisis. SAMS has since supported healthcare throughout Syria, sponsoring field hospitals and ambulances, training and paying the salaries of Syrian medical personnel who are risking their lives to save others, and sending lifesaving humanitarian aid and medical equipment to where it is needed most. SAMS also supports Syrian refugees in neighboring countries with critical psychosocial support, medical and dental care, and art therapy programs.

SAMS currently has offices in Washington DC, Ohio, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, and Syria. SAMS has over 500 grassroots members in the United States, who help lead 19 chapters nationwide. SAMS is governed by an elected Board of Directors, and its work is overseen by several volunteer committees and dedicated staff.

Vision

SAMS's vision is to be a leading humanitarian organization, harnessing the talents of Syrian American healthcare professionals, and channeling them toward medical relief for the people of Syria and the United States.

Mission

SAMS's mission is to save lives and work to ensure healthcare development on behalf of Syrian American healthcare professionals.



SAMS 2015 Milestones

- Held public ‘Die-In to Defend Doctors’ in New York with Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) attended by hundreds of healthcare professionals
- Held first national Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C. with more than 100 members and partners attending over 60 meetings with Members of Congress and their staff
- Celebrated one year without a polio diagnosis because of Polio Task Force
- Testified in front of the House Foreign Affairs Committee on the medical effects of ongoing chemical weapons attacks
- Briefed the numerous Congressional committees, including the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Tom Lantos Human Rights Committee, Senate Human Rights Caucus, and more on the humanitarian crisis in Syria
- Published “Slow Death” report on the underreporting of communities under siege
- Published “Syrian Medical Voices from the Ground” report alongside the Center for Public Health and Human Rights at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School for Public Health
- Participated in 3 UN briefings, including the Arria-formula UN Security Council session held by Ambassador Samantha Power on the chemical attacks in Idlib
- Began receiving funds from UN OCHA’s Pooled Fund for ICU programs
- Reached over 5,740 private donors
- Held largest SAMS medical mission to date in Jordan with 46 volunteers





Syria: A Humanitarian Crisis

"If I die but 100 live it will be worth it. I am doing my job." —Surgeon

260,000–470,000

total deaths¹, including **93,440** civilian deaths²

4,718,230

total registered refugees³

637,859

in Jordan

1,069,111

in Lebanon

2,620,553

in Turkey

6.5 million

internally displaced persons⁴

12.2 million

in need of assistance inside Syria⁵

1,099,475

people under long-term siege in 46 areas⁶

1. Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, January 2, 2016, <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=41912>

2. Violations Documentation Center in Syria, "Statistics for the number of martyrs (February 2016)," <http://www.vdc-sy.info/index.php/en/home>

3. UNHCR, "Syria Regional Refugee Response (February 22, 2016)," <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>

4. USAID, "Syria Factsheet February 4, 2016," <https://www.usaid.gov/crisis/syria/fy16/fso2>

5. Ibid

6. Siege Watch, "Table of Besieged Communities in Syria," <http://siegewatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/SiegeWatchTable-Final-for-release.pdf>



The Impact on Healthcare

346

attacks on medical facilities⁷

705

medical personnel killed⁸

71

attacks on SAMS-supported facilities >

27 SAMS-supported healthcare workers killed; **50** injured

By governorate

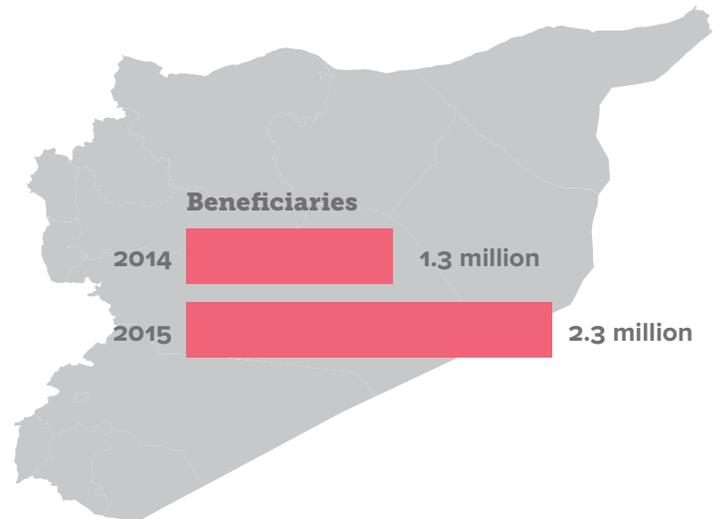
Aleppo	13
Idlib	17
Homs	9
Hama	8
Latakia	2
Rif Damascus	10
Dera'a	12

7. Physicians for Human Rights, "Anatomy of a Crisis," https://s3.amazonaws.com/PHR_syria_map/web/index.html

8. Ibid

Syria Programs

SAMS OPERATES 106 MEDICAL FACILITIES THROUGHOUT SYRIA that provide general and specialized medical care for Syrians in need. Programs range from primary care to more specialized treatment, such as the newly established GI endoscopy care program, in order to provide effective and needs-based healthcare in Syria. In 2015, SAMS programs in Syria treated 2.3 million beneficiaries with quality medical care as well as through fuel provisions, medication and equipment deliveries, physicians' salaries, medical training, and more.



New Programs in 2015

- Aleppo Nursing School
- Facility Reconstruction
- Tele-Psych In Idlib
- Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Care
- Physical Therapy
- Medical Technicians Institute in East Ghouta

1 Aid and Equipment Delivery

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH INTERNATIONAL relief organizations and the United Nations, SAMS supports medical facilities in Syria through the delivery of medical supplies and equipment throughout the year. Using a network of warehouses in Syria and the region, SAMS is able to store and distribute these supplies to facilities in a timely manner in order to keep hospitals stocked and able to provide rapid, life-saving support. **In 2015, SAMS sent 207 medical containers across borders to 35 facilities in Syria.**

Fuel

Severe shortages of fuel and electricity have led to an immediate need for the provision of diesel fuel in order to operate medical facilities throughout Syria. Without diesel fuel, operating rooms, ventilators, monitors, dialysis units, incubators, labs, X-rays, and storage refrigerators cannot function. **SAMS supports each of its 106 facilities with fuel for generators and ambulances.**

Medicine, Medical Equipment, and Supplies

With the destruction of much of Syria's healthcare, facilities are in short supply of many medications, basic equipment, and medical consumables. SAMS's field teams conduct needs assessments to determine and deliver the most critically needed supplies such as



Medical Containers Sent to Syria



vital medications, blood bags, surgical sets, dialysis machines, intubation kits, and X-ray machines.

Ambulances

Ambulance systems in Syria connect vulnerable populations and those wounded in aerial attacks to the vital care provided at SAMS-supported facilities. **In 2015, SAMS supported over 60 ambulances in Syria and established projects in Hama and Aleppo**

to revitalize the ambulance system in these governorates.

Winterization

SAMS provides critical winter survival kits for adults and children throughout Syria. These kits include basic winter necessities like high-thermal blankets, plastic sheeting, winter clothes, sleeping mats, jerry cans, and hygiene supplies. **In 2015, SAMS provided winterization kits in Aleppo to over 5,500 individuals.**

STORIES FROM THE FIELD Trauma

Ibtisam was collecting water for her family near Aleppo when she was caught in a barrel bomb attack. The attack left her with many injuries, including a vascular wound and broken leg. She was rushed to a nearby SAMS-supported hospital to receive an emergency arterial link, surgery, and ICU care. Ibtisam recovered from her injuries thanks to the specialized trauma care the facility was able to provide.





2 Dialysis Centers

IN SYRIA, IT HAS BECOME INCREDIBLY difficult, sometimes impossible, for thousands of kidney disease patients to access the dialysis services they need to survive. Poor machine maintenance and diminishing numbers of specialists have limited the availability of this critical care. **In 2015, SAMS supported 3 dialysis centers in Idlib and 1 in Homs that provided care for 1,802 beneficiaries.**

3 Dental Clinics

SAMS PROVIDES CRITICAL DENTAL CARE in Syria to adults and children of all ages. SAMS-supported dental clinics operate in Aleppo, Idlib, Lattakia, and Dera'a, addressing the needs of both local and displaced populations. In 2015, 2 facilities in Aleppo were forced to close due to shelling and security reasons. **In 2015, SAMS fully supported 16 dental clinics and partially supported 6 clinics that together treated 62,499 Syrians.**



4 Labs, Blood Banks, and Imaging Services

LABS AND BLOOD BANKS ALLOW PHYSICIANS to draw, test, and store blood for the constant flow of procedures in the field. These facilities aim to ensure that safe and clean blood is readily available. **In 2015, these labs and blood banks served 183,388 beneficiaries in Idlib and East Ghouta.**

Despite the challenges of equipping medical facilities with imaging services, providing maintenance for the machines, and finding qualified staff to use and interpret the studies, SAMS supports many facilities with the machines necessary to take X-rays, perform ultrasounds, and take cardiac echocardiograms. These facilities accept referrals from others that lack these services. Additionally, a group of dedicated radiologists in the U.S. provide their expertise to assist medical personnel inside Syria to help interpret images of complicated cases. **SAMS supports 4 CT scanners in Aleppo, Idlib, East Ghouta, Dera'a.**

STORIES FROM THE FIELD Blood Bank

Blood and blood products are essential in Syria, where severe trauma injuries dominate the scene in medical facilities. SAMS, with donations from its generous members, fully sponsors a blood bank in Idlib that tests blood samples from up to 1,000 donors each month for blood-borne diseases. The blood banks also provide a safe supply of blood products for the injured. In one incident, a teenager from Idlib with hemophilia tripped and injured his knee, causing bleeding inside his joint. SAMS secured a clotting factor from Turkey to stop the bleeding and save the joint. Realizing that this teenager was one of at least 15 patients with hemophilia in the area, the blood bank secured a supply of clotting factors for future emergency treatment for bleeding episodes.



5 Healthcare Professionals Support

THE COLLAPSE OF THE FORMAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM IN SYRIA has left health workers without the financial support needed to remain in the country. SAMS provides medical personnel and health workers with salaries, allowing them to continue practicing medicine in Syria and support themselves and their families. **In 2015, SAMS supported 1,709 healthcare workers in Syria.** These health professionals span numerous areas of medicine including general physicians and specialists, technicians, nurses, pharmacists, physical therapists, and more. SAMS-supported medical personnel work in Aleppo, Idlib, Latakia, Hama, Homs, Dera'a, East Ghouta, and Quneitra.



Health Workers Supported



6 Medical Education and Training

TO ADDRESS THE GAPS IN HEALTHCARE PROVISION LEFT BY SHORTAGES of medical staff, SAMS established and supports educational programs focused on training medical personnel and providing the skills needed to save lives. In 2014, the nursing school in Aleppo was established to train nurses for field work. The school is led by more than 19 doctors and technicians as they teach students both theoretical and practical curriculums covering topics such as Nursing Ethics, Medical Science, Maternal and Child Health, Nutrition, and more. **To date, 105 students, both male and female, have attended the school.**

In 2015, SAMS began supporting work at the Medical Technicians Institute in East Ghouta. This institute provides vocational training for students as lab technicians and anesthesia technicians. Education tracks at the institute are led by a pharmacist, an anesthesiologist, a vascular surgeon, and a rehabilitation physician, with additional training provided by medical staff working in East Ghouta. Medical education ensures that future medical professionals in Syria receive the support needed to build skills and save lives now and in the future.

7 Mobile Clinics

MOBILE CLINICS TRAVEL TO DELIVER PRIMARY healthcare to patients in Syria, particularly populations with limited mobility such as the elderly, women with young children, and people with special needs. Mobile clinics are typically staffed with a pharmacist, a midwife, a nurse, and a general practitioner. These clinics are able to address diverse cases and needs in different areas of the country, particularly rural areas that have seen high population increases due to internal displacement. SAMS supports 4 primary care mobile clinics in Idlib and Hama and 1 mobile dermatology clinic in Idlib. **These mobile clinics served 92,261 people in 2015.**



8 OB/GYN

THE IMPACT OF CONFLICT HAS SIGNIFICANTLY ALTERED REPRODUCTIVE AND WOMEN'S health in Syria. Due to the lack of healthcare options available, pregnancy and child-birth have particular added challenges. **SAMS proudly operates 12 OB/GYN clinics throughout Syria, including a Mobile OB/GYN unit in southern Aleppo that provided care for 105,989 beneficiaries in 2015.** These clinics offer multilayered treatment including pregnancy and neonatal care. The facilities also monitor mental health and provide reproductive health education and family planning for women.



STORIES FROM THE FIELD OB/GYN/Neonatal

Fatima, a newborn baby from Idlib, was born with a bowel obstruction. Her parents traveled from hospital to hospital desperately trying to find treatment for their daughter. Finally, they came to a SAMS-supported OB/GYN facility in the countryside of Idlib where medical personnel were able to perform the necessary surgery and provide her with all needed medical care and medication.

24,318

babies delivered



9 Primary Care Facilities

THE STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO THE conflict and the deterioration of health-care infrastructure has forced many facilities to prioritize the treatment of immediate trauma injuries over primary care. However, SAMS is committed to supporting facilities dedicated to basic healthcare. These primary care facilities provide general care as well as treatment for communicable and non-communicable diseases. SAMS supports 41 primary care clinics in Aleppo, Idlib, Latakia, Dera'a, Hama, Quneitra, and East Ghouta. **In 2015, SAMS-supported primary care facilities provided care for 896,665 patients.**

10 Reconstruction and Underground Facilities

THROUGHOUT THE CRISIS, MEDICAL PERSONNEL and facilities have been attacked as a tool of war. In an effort to provide both patients and health workers with needed security, SAMS has invested in the reconstruction and transfer of standard medical facilities to underground structures—in basements, fortified structures, and even caves.



22

facilities underground

6 out of 8

governorates that SAMS operates in utilize underground facilities

11 Psychosocial Care

THE SYRIAN CRISIS HAS LED NOT ONLY to physical wounds, but also to psychological wounds. Millions of Syrians have been witness to widespread destruction, violence, and loss. SAMS physicians estimate that most of the Syrian population is suffering from some level of post-traumatic stress disorder, shock, or depression. In response to this mental health epidemic, SAMS supports psychosocial programming that facilitates therapeutic healing strategies and mental wellbeing. SAMS supports psychosocial care in Dera'a, a Tele-Psychiatry Clinic in Idlib, and a center in the besieged area of Erbeen in East Ghouta. **In 2015, 14,242 patients received psychosocial care from SAMS-supported programs.**



12 Specialty Treatment

SAMS SUPPORTS MULTIPLE CLINICS AND programs in Syria that provide specialized care. These facilities bring unique treatment to Syrian civilians in need. SAMS equips and sponsors 3 ophthalmology clinics in Aleppo, Idlib, and Dera'a. In Homs, a new cardiac catheter lab was established to support cardiac care for Syrians in the area. In Idlib, SAMS supports an orthopedic center which treats various injuries related to the musculoskeletal system, a physical rehabilitation center, and a new gastrointestinal endoscopy program to address the severe need for treatments of both upper and lower gastrointestinal tract cases. **In 2015, 11,569 beneficiaries in Syria received physical rehabilitation and the orthopedic center provided care for 1,714 patients.**

13 Intensive Care Units and Trauma Care

SAMS SUPPORTS TRAUMA FACILITIES THAT PROVIDE CRUCIAL CARE FOR EMERGENCY cases, supporting them with necessary machinery such as ventilators, monitors, defibrillators, IV pumps, and other essential consumables. Intensive Care Units (ICUs) provide patients with access to postoperative and long-term care for comprehensive recovery process. SAMS supports 7 ICU units in Syria that operate with standardized protocols to ensure quality care for patients. **In 2015, SAMS's 41 trauma care facilities treated 629,373 patients in Aleppo, Idlib, Hama, Homs, Lattakia, Dera'a, Quneitra, and East Ghouta.**



14 Telemedicine

SAMS IS SPEARHEADING INNOVATIVE telemedicine strategies to use the skills of Syrian American physicians to assist and support doctors inside of Syria. Critical care specialists based in the United States use video cameras, Skype, and satellite internet to consult, advise, and support local healthcare professionals. SAMS's members assist doctors inside Syria to provide high quality care to trauma victims, from advice on specialized care to real-time surgery consultations. **In 2015, more than 25,000 benefitted from SAMS's telemedicine program.**



STORIES FROM THE FIELD Trauma

While ten year old Mohammad was playing next to his house in Douma, a small metal object caught his attention. The object was an unexploded bomb. When Mohammad picked up the piece, it exploded, severely injuring his hand and body. Thanks the fast work of doctors on the ground, Mohammad has improved significantly following multiple trauma surgeries.

Syria Programs by Governorate

SAMS provides support inside of Syria based on local needs assessments, taking into consideration logistical, operational, and safety concerns.

Latakia

Primary health care	1
Trauma	1
OBGYN	2
Beneficiaries	20,124

Hama

Primary health care	4
Trauma	2
Mobile	1
Beneficiaries	120,029

Homs

Trauma	2
OBGYN	2
Beneficiaries	82,624

Quneitra

Primary health care	2
Trauma	2
Beneficiaries	58,589

Dera'a

Primary health care	13
Trauma	19
OBGYN	2
Psychosocial	2
Beneficiaries	612,985

Aleppo

Primary health care	5
Trauma	5
OBGYN	3
Mobile	1
CT	1
Beneficiaries	118,591

Idlib

Primary health care	8
Trauma	7
OBGYN	4
Mobile	4
Blood banks and labs	1
Dialysis	3
Dental clinic	1
Orthopedic	1
Gender-based violence	1
Dermatology	1
Rehabilitation center	1
Psychosocial	1
Beneficiaries	335,875

East Ghouta

Primary health care	9
Trauma	5
OBGYN	1
Psychosocial	1
Blood banks and labs	6
Rehabilitation center	1
CT	1
Beneficiaries	271,942

2,640,837

total beneficiaries

54,313
in Turkey

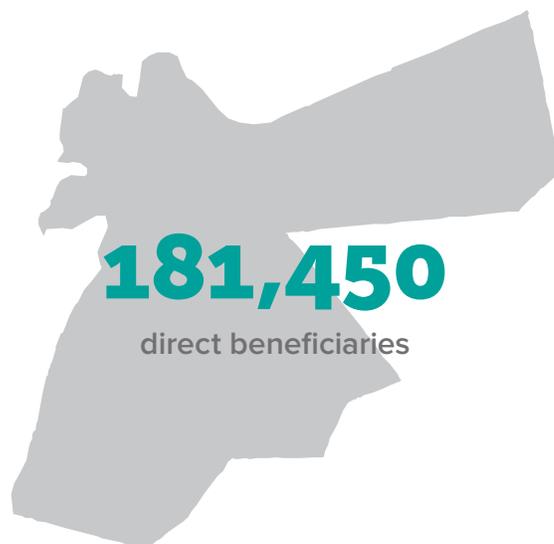
86,932
in Lebanon

2,316,642
in Syria

181,450
in Jordan

Jordan Programs

SAMS'S REGIONAL OFFICE IN AMMAN IS A HUB FOR SAMS'S work in Jordan and southern Syria. The regional office monitors, coordinates, and communicates with facilities in southern Syria to ensure that they remain stocked with supplies, equipment, and general support. Additionally, SAMS operates several medical relief programs in Jordan. These programs target vulnerable refugee populations, aimed at providing free medical services to Syrian refugees. In 2015, SAMS programs in Jordan treated 181,450 beneficiaries.

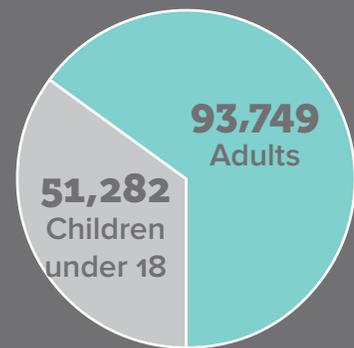
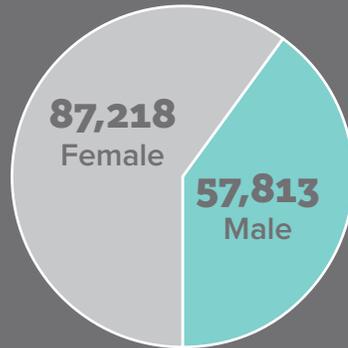


1 Al-Zaatari Camp

SAMS SUPPORTS THE LARGEST MEDICAL facility in Al-Zaatari Camp, a multi-specialty clinic that sees an average of 500 patients every day. This facility sees over half of the patients who seek treatment in the camp. **In 2015, it served 145,031 patients.** The multi-specialty clinic in Al-Zaatari offers internal medicine, pediatric care, surgery, OB/GYN services, dermatology, ear/ nose/ throat services, ophthalmology, dental care, and physiotherapy. The Zaatari clinic was also selected by the Jordanian Health Ministry to provide vaccinations for the pediatric population of the camp. Additionally, medical staff travel outside of the clinic to visit patients residing in the camp to ensure that rehabilitation care reaches all those in need.



Patients Served at Al-Zaatari Camp



2 Medical Missions

SAMS'S MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS IN the United States take frequent medical missions to Jordan to support ongoing medical relief programs. Missions allow health workers of different specialties to volunteer their skills. Volunteers visit the SAMS clinic in Al-Zaatari Camp and other programs in Jordan with the help of the regional office in Amman. In November, SAMS's largest medical mission in 2015 brought 46 volunteers to 17 locations in Jordan to provide free medical, dental, and surgical care as well as free medication. **A total of 4 medical missions in 2015 treated 10,950 Syrian refugees.**

3 Dialysis

MANY SYRIAN REFUGEES who have fled the conflict suffer from chronic illnesses and kidney diseases. In 2014, SAMS established a dialysis center in Irbid to provide regular dialysis sessions for refugees in need. **This small but growing program was able to provide dialysis treatment for 120 Syrian refugees in 2015.**



3 Psychosocial Care

PSYCHOLOGICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH-care services are vital for Syrian refugees in Jordan. SAMS initiated its psychosocial program in Amman as early as 2012. In 2015, SAMS began supporting psychosocial care for urban refugees in Irbid who have limited access to medical programs. This program uses art and play therapy such as photography, painting, and creative workshops to help individuals heal and cope with the effects of trauma. Additionally, the program refers those in need of advanced evaluation and therapy to specialists in the field of psychology and



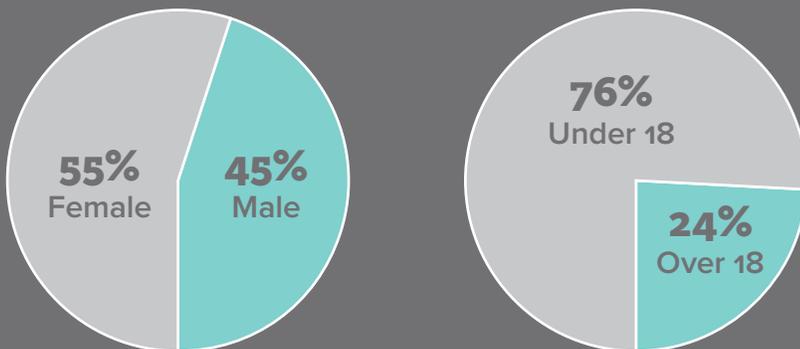
psychiatry. **In 2015, the psychosocial program for urban refugees treated 8,610 Syrian refugees.**

5 Cross-Border Support

SAMS'S REGIONAL OFFICE IN AMMAN works to send medical aid from Jordan to facilities and programs in southern Syria. These shipments include vital medicine, equipment, and supplies, which are particularly important for communities under siege in addition to civilians throughout the region. **In 2015, 125 containers were shipped from Jordan to 23 SAMS-supported facilities in Syria.**



Psychosocial program beneficiaries in 2015



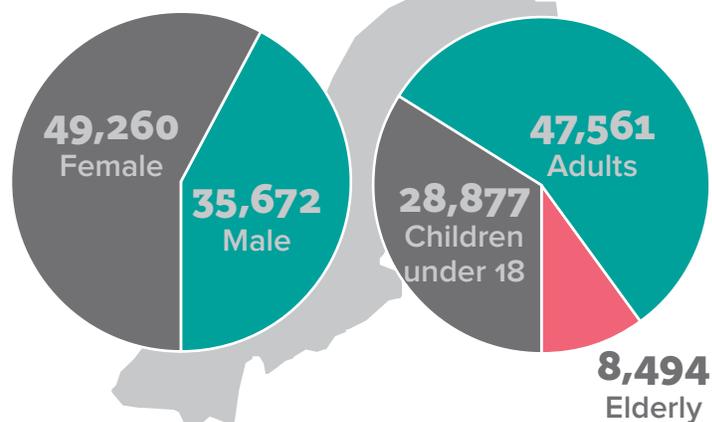
STORIES FROM THE FIELD Tele-ICU

Dr. Anas Moughrabieh, member of the Telemedicine Committee, once called a SAMS-sponsored ICU unit with no response. After several calls, an ICU nurse finally answered. When Dr. Anas inquired about the delay, he was told that the facility had been temporarily evacuated due to extreme shelling in the area. Surprised that the nurse was still in the facility, Dr. Anas asked the nurse why he remained. The nurse replied, "I cannot leave. There are two patients in my unit who were unable to be evacuated due to their condition. I am staying here to take care of them." Dr. Anas stayed on the line with the dedicated nurse discussing the conditions of the two patients as the sound of shelling and aerial attacks resounded in the background.

Lebanon Programs

OVER 1 MILLION SYRIAN REFUGEES ARE REGISTERED IN LEBANON, an overwhelming figure given Lebanon's small size and population. SAMS operates a small office in Lebanon to help provide Syrian refugees with medical relief. Despite the small size of our office, our staff in Lebanon, with the support of volunteers in the United States, have been able to achieve significant accomplishments in past years. **In 2015, SAMS programs and facilities in Lebanon 86,932 beneficiaries.**

Lebanon Beneficiaries in 2015



1 Dental Care

WITH MORE THAN ONE MILLION SYRIAN refugees now residing in Lebanon, basic services like dental care are more important than ever. **In 2015, the SAMS-supported polyclinic in Bekaa valley provided dental care for 15,585 patients.**



2 Medical Campaigns

IN LEBANON, SAMS INITIATED MULTIPLE medical campaigns to address needs faced by medical staff treating refugees throughout the country. In 2015, these medical campaigns provided 2,012 Syrian refugees with vital medical information and services that are needed to lead healthy lives.

The *Together Toward Better Health* campaign provided medical education and basic services for 1,812 Syrian refugees in Bekaa Valley. The *Insulin for Life* campaign in Tripoli and Bekaa Valley provided diabetes workshops for physicians and nurses, insulin administration and diabetes care training for patients and their families. The campaign also distributed free insulin supplies. In coordination with Palestinian Children's Relief Fund (PCRF), SAMS initiated the Nebulizer Campaign in Tripoli and Bekaa Valley. The campaign provided education for families and distributed nebulizer devices for children suffering from asthma and bronchospasm attacks.



3 Medical Missions and Trainings

SAMS'S NETWORK OF DOCTORS IN THE UNITED STATES FREQUENTLY VOLUNTEER their services in medical and surgical mission trips to Lebanon to help support programs and physicians on the ground with knowledge, expertise, and capacity needed to handle the often overwhelming caseloads. Many of these medical missions coordinate with other organizations in Lebanon in order to best deliver the services needed to Syrian refugees. **In 2015, medical missions to Bekaa Valley, Tripoli, Sidon, and Beirut treated 386 Syrian refugees. Medical workshops in Beirut trained 68 medical healthcare professionals.**

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Lebanon Physical Rehabilitation

Nisreen, a young girl from Aleppo, fled the barrel bombs of Syria with eleven of members of her family. The family escaped to Lebanon, hopeful that they had finally found safety. However, one day while Nisreen was walking to school with her younger sister, she was injured by bomb shrapnel that caused serious injury to her abdomen. Nisreen was taken to a SAMS-supported facility in Bekaa Valley where she underwent major surgery that helped save her life. Following surgery, Nisreen received physical therapy to provide her with complete treatment and allow her to fully heal from her injuries. During her treatment, she decorated the SAMS center with beautiful drawings. Nisreen told SAMS staff at the facility that when she grows up, she wants to be a nurse.





4 Medical Containers

CLINICS OFTEN FACE SHORTAGES OF medical consumables and equipment to treat the high number of refugees seeking care. In response, SAMS procures, collects, and sends shipments of essential equipment to clinics to distribute to areas with the highest needs. **In 2015, 2,300 Syrian refugees benefited from medical containers sent to Arsal, Bekaa Valley, and Tripoli.**

5 Physiotherapy Centers

MANY SYRIANS LIVING AS REFUGEES have suffered horrific and debilitating injuries. To heal and recover from these injuries, patients need extensive physical therapy to heal, get accustomed to new prosthetic limbs, and resume some semblance of a normal life. SAMS supports 2 physiotherapy centers, one in Bekaa Valley and the other in Tripoli, to support recovering Syrians through these difficult processes. **In 2015, these centers provided care for 7,178 Syrian refugees.**

6 Psychosocial Care

REFUGEES OF ALL AGES IN LEBANON OFTEN EXPERIENCE new psychological difficulties after experiencing violence in Syria and adapting to life as a refugee in Lebanon. SAMS sponsors a psychosocial care program in Bekaa Valley to assist mothers and support healthy child-rearing practices, treat anxiety and speech disorders in children, and address the psychological wounds of victims of arrest and torture. **This psychosocial program provided multiple specialized programs for 2,273 women, children, and victims of detainment in 2015.**



7 Specialty Clinics

MULTI-SPECIALTY CLINICS ALLOW SYRIAN REFUGEES TO ACCESS BOTH BASIC AND specialized care. These clinics offer free treatment and are equipped to handle a variety of cases. SAMS operates 2 multi-specialty clinics in Lebanon. In the central Bekaa Valley, where many refugees have settled, SAMS operates a large clinic, which offers internal medicine, OB/GYN services, pediatrics, general surgery, physiotherapy, dental care, orthopedics, X-rays, ultrasounds, psychiatry, ophthalmology, urology, and basic lab work. **The Bekaa Valley clinic treated 51,783 beneficiaries in 2015.**



8 Surgical Center

SAMS SUPPORTS A SURGICAL CLINIC IN TRIPOLI, THE only surgical center for Syrian refugees in Lebanon, which offers care twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. SAMS provides surgeries in the fields of orthopedics, general, reconstructive, urology, ENT, and gynecology as well as additional support in the form of medical staff salaries, supplies, and medications. **In 2015, this surgical center treated 2,701 Syrian refugees.**

7 Winterization Kits

SAMS PARTNERS WITH SEVERAL ORGANIZATIONS IN Lebanon to distribute winterization kits in regions such as Arsal and Bekaa Valley. In 2015, support from SAMS allowed for the distribution of winterization kits for 2,000 refugees to help many survive the harsh winter.

Turkey Programs

SAMS'S OFFICE IN TURKEY WORKS TO PROVIDE RELIEF FOR BOTH Syrian refugees and Syrian medical personnel based in northern Syria who travel back and forth to Turkey. SAMS works in Turkey to provide cross-border operational support, treat Syrian refugees in dental clinics and on medical missions, and conduct medical training courses essential for skill development of doctors on the ground. SAMS's office in Turkey has fostered strong partnerships with other INGOs and UN agencies on the ground, and SAMS is one of the co-leads of the Turkey-based Health Cluster for the Whole of Syria response. In 2015, SAMS treated 54,313 patients in Turkey.



54,313
patients treated



1 Dental Clinics

SAMS SUPPORTS 8 DENTAL CLINICS IN or close to refugee camps in Turkey that are supervised and operated by a Syrian American dental team. These dental clinics are located in Gaziantep, Reyhanli, Kilis, Yayladagi, Kirikhan, the Islahiye and Kahramanmaras refugee camps, and Istanbul. The dental team provides vital care for refugees as they flee the conflict, immediately responding to population influxes with added shifts and dentists to ensure that all needs are met. **In 2015, SAMS dental clinics in Turkey treated 52,790 beneficiaries.**



2 Medical Training Program

SAMS PROVIDES COMPREHENSIVE MEDICAL TRAINING SEMINARS TO SYRIAN DOCTORS in Turkey. These training programs began in August 2012 and take place every three months with the purpose of training medical personnel from the field on advanced critical care skills such as trauma care, gender-based violence recognition, and specialty care like dialysis. Courses pair medical lectures with hands-on training in order to provide Syrian medical personnel with comprehensive instruction that can be brought back to Syria. **In 2015, SAMS completed its 19th Critical Care Training course. To date, this program has trained more than 770 physicians, nurses, and medical technicians.**



STORIES FROM THE FIELD Deah Barakat Dental Clinic

On February 10, 2015, SAMS mourned the tragic loss of Deah Barakat, 23; his wife, Yusor Abu-Salha, 21; and her sister, Razan abu-Salha, 19 in a shooting at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill campus. Deah and Yusor, students at UNC and UNC's School of Dentistry, had participated on past SAMS medical missions to provide dental care for Syrian refugees in Turkey. To honor these inspiring humanitarians, SAMS established the Deah Barakat Dental Clinic in the Alsalam School in Reyhanli, Turkey. Since its founding, the clinic has treated more than 9,000 patients, all of them children. In July, SAMS completed "Project Refugees Smiles," Deah Barakat's project for which he raised more than \$500,000 through crowdfunding, which allowed for the purchase of 8 dental chairs. The medical mission brought 45 volunteers to the clinic who treated roughly 900 patients during their time. In July 2016, the second Project Refugee Smiles is planned to take place to continue the work of Deah Barakat with the help of his family and loved ones.

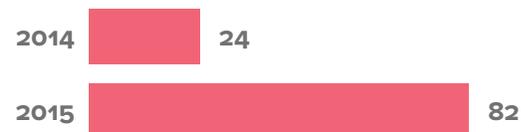
3 Medical Missions

MEDICAL VOLUNTEERS FREQUENTLY TRAVEL TO Turkey to support Syrian refugees in need of basic health services, and to support overwhelmed hospitals along the Turkey-Syria border. In 2015, more than 12 healthcare providers traveled to southeast Turkey to provide care. Volunteers came from medical fields including reconstructive and plastic surgery, psychiatry, physiotherapy, urology, pulmonology, general surgery, and more. **In 2015, these medical missions provided care for 1,432 patients in Turkey.**

3 UN Cross-Border Support

IN 2015, SAMS SENT 82 TRUCKS FROM SAMS supporters as well as UN shipments to IDP camps and medical facilities in five governorates of northern Syria. These trucks were filled with supplies to address the diverse needs of the civilian populations in Syria such as surgical kits, emergency health kits, reproductive health kits, and female dignity kits.

Trucks Sent to Syria





SAMS Funding

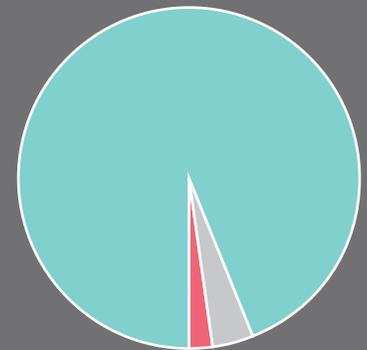
The Following is Syrian American Medical Society's Statement of Activities for years ended December 31, 2014 and 2015.¹

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	Statement of Activities	
	2014	2015
Support and other contributions		
Contributions	\$7,092,047	\$8,185,317
Grants	\$4,408,067	\$14,063,580
Gifts in kind	\$2,811,232	\$2,346,282
Total support and other contributions	\$14,311,345	\$24,595,179
EXPENSES		
Program services		
Turkey Regional Office/Northern, Midwest, and Coastal Regions of Syria	\$7,921,259	\$11,550,901
Jordan Regional Office/Southern Syria, Damascus Suburbs, and Refugees in Jordan	\$3,159,112	\$7,923,206
Lebanon Regional Office and Refugees in Lebanon	\$637,500	\$874,100
United States	\$475,887	\$601,646
Total program services	\$12,193,758	\$20,949,853
Supporting Services		
Fundraising	\$490,986	\$471,147
Administrative and general	\$210,142	\$332,747
Total expenses	\$12,894,886	\$21,753,747
Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets	\$1,416,459	\$2,841,432
NET ASSETS		
Beginning of Year	\$1,328,995	\$2,745,454
End of Year	\$2,745,454	\$5,586,886

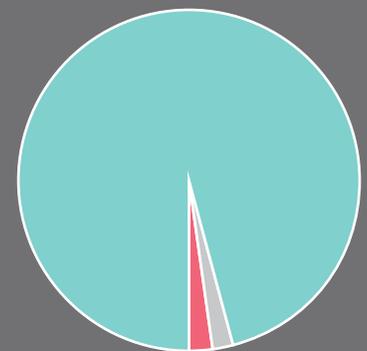
1. 2015 financial information is unaudited, preliminary and subject to adjustments and modifications

Funds Allocation

94 cents of every dollar donated went directly into our programs in 2014

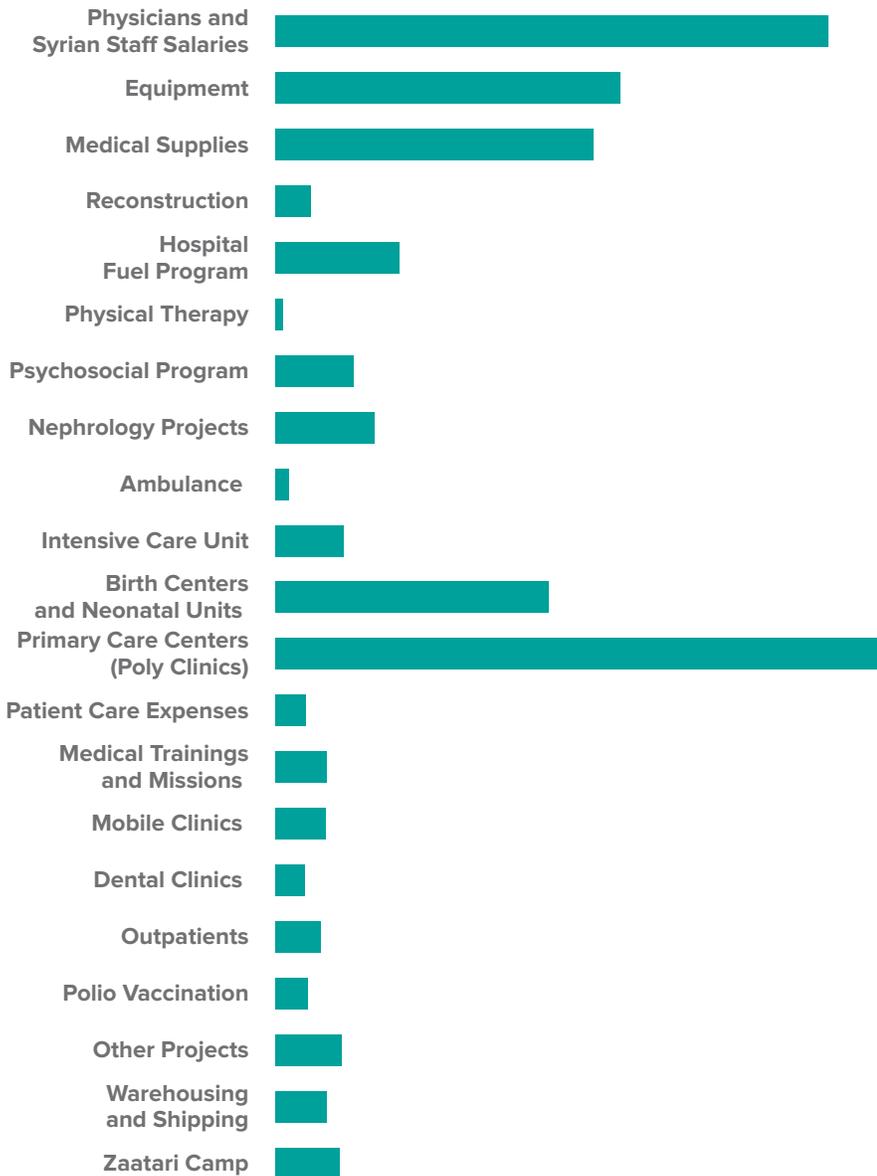


96 cents of every dollar donated went directly into our programs in 2015



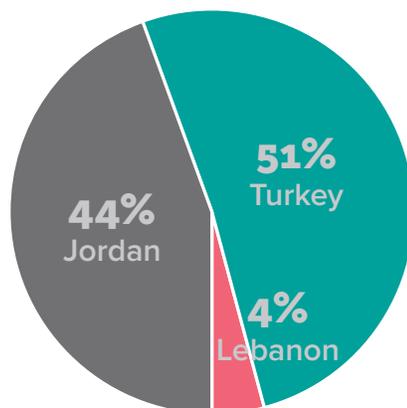
- Services
- Fundraising
- Administrative and general

Annual Medical Expenses



Regional Offices/ Cross Border Medical Relief Budget

Percentage of total budget spent



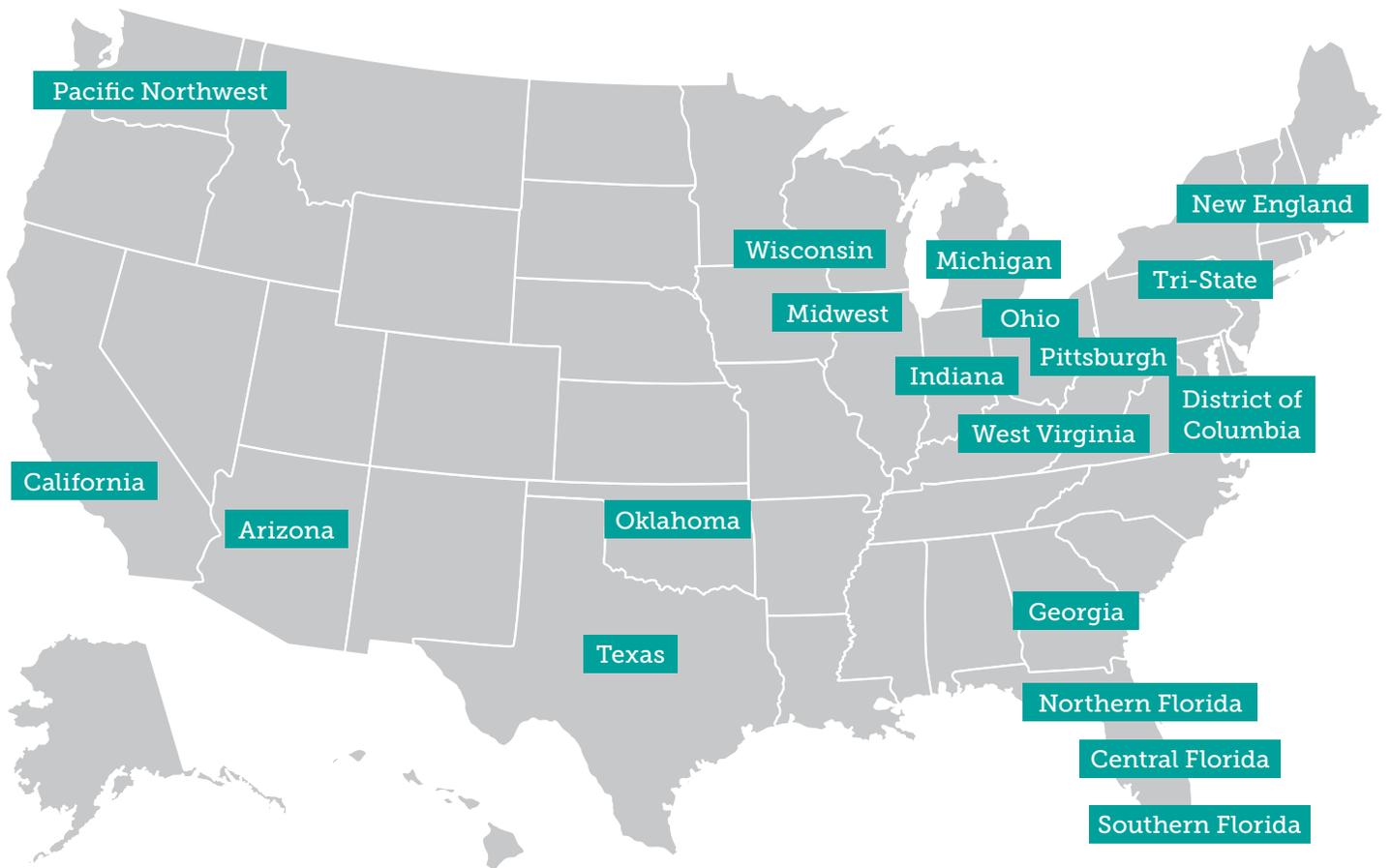
STORIES FROM THE FIELD

GI Success Story

SAMS's Idlib coordinator, Dr. Mohamed Tennari, brought his father to the SAMS GI clinic in Idlib near the Turkish border for treatment. During the colonoscopy, a polyps was found, and then biopsied. Thankfully, the biopsy did not reveal any cancer. With the support of a SAMS member visiting from the U.S., the specialists decided to perform a colonoscopy to remove the polyp, which measured 10-12 cm, in small segments due to a lack of large snares. After removing 75% of the polyp, the medical staff checked again to ensure that there was no cancer present as polyps of this size have a high likelihood of being cancerous. After further tests that found no cancer, Dr. Tennari's father will be able to return for the removal of the final remnant of the polyp at a later date. The SAMS-supported GI endoscopy clinics provides vital and important services that bring Syrians the care they deserve.

U.S. Work

SAMS chapters



Programs

SAMS Scholarship Program

In 2006, SAMS launched its scholarship program to support Syrian medical residency applicants with interest-free loans. SAMS continues to offer monetary loans of \$1,500-\$4,000 to selected applicants. After matching in residency, awardees repay their interest-free loan over a two-year period. In recent years, this program has grown to support more than 144 Syrian medical graduates with loans, the majority of whom went on to match and are current residents, fellows or practicing doctors in the U.S. and other countries. **In 2015, 31 of the 39 applicants were granted interest-free loans, the highest number in the program's history.**

Observership Program

The SAMS Clinical Observership program, designed in collaboration with academic institutions and private practices in the United States, seeks to assimilate International Medical Graduates (IMGs) to American medical practices to prepare them for residency. Following American Medical Association International Medical Graduates (AMA-IMG) guidelines, the program provides students with lessons on healthcare practices and norms in the U.S. to ensure a smooth transition for applicants to residency programs.

Mentorship Program

The mentorship program, launched in 2009, connects Syrian residency applicants with Syrian American physician mentors who provide guidance as the medical graduates undergo training in U.S. programs. **In 2015, 28 mentors and 39 mentees participated in the 2015 mentorship program.**



Avicenna Journal of Medicine

The SAMS-sponsored Avicenna Journal of Medicine published its first issues in 2011. This quarterly peer-reviewed journal ensures that community-based research and education have a platform for publication. In 2012, Avicenna Journal became the first official Syrian medical journal cited on PubMed. By the end of 2015, the journal had published 18 issues with 113 published articles, 300 reviewers, and 800 publishing authors.

Online Courses

In order to reach Syrian students and professionals around the world, the SAMS education committee utilizes online platforms to bring lecture series, courses, and webinars. In 2015, the committee hosted the Academic Writing in Medicine course for Arabic speakers, an Evidence-based Medicine course for professionals in Syria,

and multiple lecture series and workshops to bring training and skills to healthcare providers in Syria. These online courses and material provide a vital resource for Syrian medical students and physicians in Syria who do not have access to continuing medical education (CME) in Syria.

Workshops

The SAMS Education Committee hosts various workshops throughout the year to support Syrian graduates in various training programs in the United States. These workshops cover topics such as USMLE exams, interview skills, residency applications in the U.S., residency readiness, visa and immigration, and job search. The workshops are offered as webinars and hands-on workshops. In 2015, the Interview Skills Workshop was held in Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland and Houston and reached more than 60 online participants.

Advocacy and Media

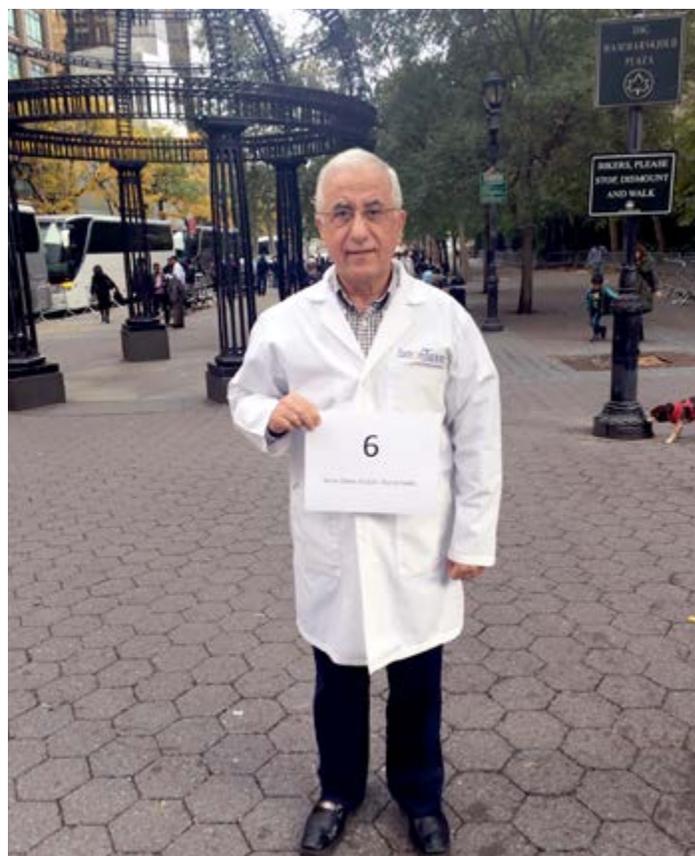
“Our number one and our main ask is for the international community to help protect us from aerial attacks.”
—Dr. Mohamed Tennari

SAMS HAS BECOME A LEADER IN ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT with policymakers. SAMS effectively advocates at the local, national, and global levels and engages a broad constituency to increase political will around saving Syrian lives. SAMS has been an advocate for an increase in humanitarian aid and access, particularly in areas under siege, tangible civilian protection mechanisms, an end to the targeting of healthcare infrastructure and professionals in Syria and across the world, regional and international support for Syrian health workers, support for Syrian refugees and host communities, a referral of all war crimes committed to the International Criminal Court, and more.



1 High Level Engagement

SAMS MEMBERS AND STAFF REGULARLY MEET WITH POLICY makers at the Department of State, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Treasury, National Security Council at the White House, U.S. Mission to the UN and other UN missions, and Congressional leaders. In the past year, SAMS has met with Ambassador Samantha Power; UN Special Envoy Staffan De Mistura; National Security Advisor Susan Rice; Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu; National Security Council Senior Director Rob Malley; U.S. Special Envoys to Syria Daniel Rubinstein and Michael Ratney; and many other senior officials and offices. SAMS has previously met with President Barack Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry to discuss the humanitarian needs of Syria.



2 Advocacy Day

ON OCTOBER 9, 2015, SAMS HELD ITS FIRST NATIONAL LOBBY day in Washington, DC to advocate for Syria. Over 100 participants attended more than 60 meetings with Congressional staff to urge Congress to prioritize civilian protection, fund humanitarian accounts, and increase Syrian refugee resettlement numbers in the U.S.



4 Die-In to Defend Doctors

ON OCTOBER 29, 2015, SAMS, IN COORDINATION WITH PHYSICIANS for Human Rights and Doctors Without Borders, held a 'die-in' to draw attention to attacks on medical workers in Syria. Over 200 physicians, medical students, and volunteers wore white physician coats and staged a 'die-in' in front of the UN to highlight the attacks on health workers in Syria and stand in solidarity with the medics who remain in the country risking their lives to save others.



5 Geneva Conference

ON DECEMBER 10, SAMS PARTNERED WITH FOUR SYRIAN MEDICAL NGOs to host the "Protect Hospitals & Health Workers in Syria" sit-in and conference in Geneva, Switzerland. SAMS, the Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations (UOSSM), Syrian Expatriates Medical Association (SEMA), Physicians Across Continents (PAC), and Al-Sham Humanitarian Foundation (AHF) collaborated to share information about challenges inside Syria, discuss best practices for operational protection of hospitals, and strategize joint advocacy efforts.



6 Press Conference on Refugee Resettlement

ON SEPTEMBER 16, SAMS JOINED THE MUSLIM PUBLIC AFFAIRS Council, Human Rights Watch, and other humanitarian, human rights, and faith-based organizations to a press conference in front of the White House. These groups urged the administration to address the cause of the global refugee crisis and the lack of civilian protection in Syria, and call for increased numbers of Syrian refugees to be resettled in the U.S.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Polio Vaccination

In June 2015, the 10th polio vaccination campaign was carried out in Hama. With polio diagnoses re-emerging after a 15 year absence, the WHO declared a polio emergency for the Eastern Mediterranean region. Similar to past initiatives, SAMS planned the campaign in cooperation with other implementing partners on the ground. The campaign utilized 33 field supervisors, 3 district supervisors, a governorate supervisor, and a senior supervisor at the first level on monitoring.

The campaign traveled house to house with 200 vaccinators and 94 support staff for technical, financial, and logistical components. The campaign ultimately reached 31,920 beneficiaries, all under the age of 5. SAMS plans to continue its provision of this important vaccination for Syrian children. In 2016, following the training of personnel in Jordan, SAMS will hold a campaign provide immunization for more than 120,000 children in Dera'a and Quneitra.

7 UN Advocacy

SAMS MEMBERS AND STAFF ARE IN CONSTANT CONTACT with UN delegations and UN agencies. We have developed strong working relationships with many UN missions, having near monthly meetings with them and hosting briefings and high level meetings with UN Security Council members.

March 18, 2015: UN Security Council Briefing on Medical Neutrality in Syria hosted by Spain Mission to UN

March 19, 2015: UN General Assembly Briefing on Siege in Syria hosted by Qatar Mission to UN

April 16, 2015: UN Security Arrria-Formula Meeting on Chemical Attacks



8 Congressional Advocacy

SAMS STAFF AND MEMBERS MEET REGULARLY WITH MEMBERS of Congress in district and in Washington, DC. We have held numerous briefings and hearing with key members and committees in the House and Senate.



March 12, 2015: Senate Human Rights Caucus Briefing on Medical Neutrality in Syria

March 17, 2015: House Foreign Affairs Committee Briefing on the Humanitarian Crisis in Syria

June 17, 2015: House Foreign Affairs Committee Hearing on Chemical Attacks in Syria

9 Congressional Floor Speeches and Statements

SAMS AND THE WORK OF OUR SYRIAN AND SYRIAN AMERICAN medical personnel have been mentioned in several Congressional floor speeches and remarks.

April 28, 2015: Congressman Ted Poe (TX-2)

May 12, 2015: Senator Dick Durbin (IL)

May 21, 2015: Congressman Alex Mooney (WV-2)

October 9, 2015: Congressman Ed Royce (CA-39)

October 9, 2015: Congressman Ted Yoho (FL-3)



10 Coalitions and Working Groups

SAMS IS A MEMBER OF NUMEROUS COALITIONS AND WORKING groups that collaborate on advocacy and operational planning.

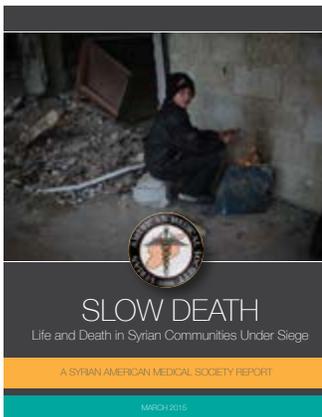
Field Based Coalitions

- Turkey NGO Forum
- Syria INGO Regional Forum (SIRF)
- Syrian NGO Alliance (SNA)
- Syria Relief Network (SRN)

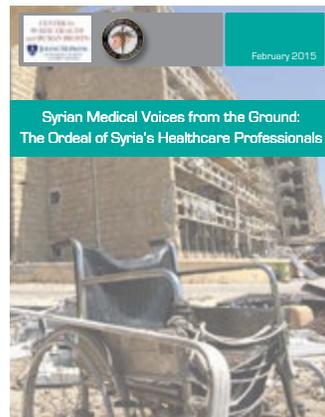
U.S. Based Coalitions

- American Relief Coalition for Syria (ARCS)
- #WithSyria Coalition, facilitated by Crisis Action
- InterAction Syria Working Group
- Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition
- Multifaith Alliance for Syrian Refugees in Jordan
- Global Mental Health Advocacy Working Group

11 Reports



Slow Death: Life in Syrian Communities Under Siege
https://www.sams-usa.net/foundation/images/PDFs/Slow%20Death_Syria%20Under%20Siege.pdf



Syrian Medical Voices from the Ground: The Ordeal of Syria's Healthcare Professionals
https://www.sams-usa.net/foundation/images/PDFs/Syrian%20Medical%20Voices%20from%20the%20Ground_F.pdf



STORIES FROM THE FIELD

GI Endoscopy Care

In 2015, SAMS began supporting Gastrointestinal Endoscopy care in Syria. Effects of the conflict left regions in Syria with a severe need for gastrointestinal endoscopy services. The program began with the delivery of the specialized equipment to a facility in northern Syria, near the border of Turkey. Thirteen GI specialists and SAMS members from the US initiated the project by delivering equipment to the region and training professionals from Syria on GI endoscopic procedures. The GI program treats cases of caustic ingestion, ulcer cauterization, and other upper and lower gastrointestinal tract cases for both adults and children. The program also provides specialized endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) care. Prior to the establishment of this center, ERCP was not available in the hard-to-reach areas of Syria. The GI-trained Syrian professional who leads the program receives frequent support from SAMS members who travel to Syria to assist in the provision of services.

In 2016, SAMS plans to establish an additional clinic in Reyhanli, Turkey. With 900,000 Syrian refugees in Turkey, the needs for this specialized care continues to grow. Additionally, the clinic will provide an easy access point for SAMS members to provide equipment, care, and training for additional Syrian healthcare professionals.

Awards and Recognition

State Department

LEADING UP TO THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SYRIA CRISIS on March 13, 2015, the State Department formally recognized SAMS for its “truly heroic work to provide medical care inside of Syria.”

American Muslim Health Professionals' Humanitarian Service Award

SAMS RECEIVED THE AMERICAN MUSLIM HEALTH PROFESSIONALS (AMHP)'s Humanitarian Service Award at their 10th Annual Gala. This award recognized SAMS's Syrian American health-care professionals for their contributions to medical relief for the people of Syria.

Advocacy Day

ON OCTOBER 9, 2015, REPRESENTATIVE ED ROYCE, CHAIRMAN of the House Foreign Affairs Committee opened SAMS's first advocacy day on Capitol Hill with a statement on the Syrian crisis, the work of SAMS, and possible future steps needed to protect civilians in Syria.

Secretary Kerry Recognition

ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, SECRETARY OF STATE JOHN KERRY commended SAMS for its work during his remarks at the 2015 Global Diaspora Week Launch Event:

“Doctors from the Syrian American Medical Society have lent their time and talent to support clinics in the Za'atari camp in Jordan, which I visited during my first year as Secretary. And they are providing counseling and social services for women and children wherever possible in Syria. And they are finding ways to reach people who would suffer or die without their help. And that is the very definition of courage and citizenship under fire.”

Ibn Sina Award for Excellence in Humanitarian Service at the 8th Annual Banquet & Fundraiser from the Compassionate Care Network (CCN)

Boards

Society Board 2015

Ahmad Tarakji, MD, *President*
 Basel Termanini, MD, *Vice President*
 M. Zaher Sahloul, MD, *Past President*
 Mohamad Sekkarie, MD, *Treasurer*
 Lina Murad, MD, *Secretary*
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Amjad Rass, MD, *Foundation Chair*
 Abdul Zanabli, MD
 Opada Alzohaili, MD, *Vice Chair*
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 Ihsan Mamoun, MD, *Secretary*
 Ahmad Tarakji, MD

Jaber Monla-Hassan, MD
 Mohamad Nahhas, MD
 Ammar Ghanem, MD
 M. Zaher Sahloul, MD
 Randa Loutfi, MD
 Majd Isreb, MD





Syrian American Medical Society

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