

Syrian American Medical Society
World Humanitarian Summit
Core Commitments

The international humanitarian response to the crisis in Syria - with effects locally, nationally, regionally, and now globally - provides a critical example of an unsustainable model. As stakeholders meet at the World Humanitarian Summit, the humanitarian community must acknowledge the cycle of project creation and destruction by aerial attacks and shelling, imminent funding fatigue around the emergency response inside of Syria, unbalanced partnerships and risk between international and local organizations, and limited platforms for Syrian NGO leadership in the humanitarian response planning and design - though Syrian NGOs are at the forefront of assistance distribution, service provision, local skills trainings, and creative programming. The Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS) has two major priorities at the World Humanitarian Summit: ensuring state accountability for international humanitarian law, and local leadership. SAMS calls for UN officials and agencies, governments, donors, and the humanitarian community who are convening at the World Humanitarian Summit to put forth tangible steps to hold states accountable for their obligations to protection and international humanitarian law, and to incorporate local organizations into leadership frameworks and direct funding streams for the Whole of Syria response and all crises responses.

SAMS, as the leading Syrian organization providing medical relief and support for local hospitals and health workers in Syria, will also be making organizational core commitments at the World Humanitarian Summit to best support Syrian staff and beneficiaries, and ensure the effectiveness of our mission in the long-term:

- SAMS commits to strengthening the resilience of local Syrian communities through the provision of sustainable, gender equitable, and community-based healthcare.
- As a national organization within the Whole of Syria response and an international organization with a U.S. base, SAMS will commit to sharing resources, trainings, and funding with local Syrian organizations and civil society.
- In coordination with Health Cluster, SAMS commits to consistently and effectively providing a diverse range of trainings to health workers in Syria. These trainings will include medical trainings as well as trainings and best practices with an intersectional lens including protection mainstreaming, documentation, and human rights.
- SAMS commits to fully supporting the needs of its health workers, including psychosocial, family assistance, and sustained protection mainstreaming into medical facilities and programs. SAMS will particularly focus on identifying and prioritizing the needs of female health workers, who face increased protection challenges.
- SAMS, in coordination with Health Clusters, the WHO, and human rights and documentation organizations, commits to pushing forth a mechanism to

streamline data and information about attacks on health facilities and medical workers. SAMS will work with civil society groups from other states to ensure that the mechanism can be duplicated in other conflicts.