



SEMA
سِما العالمية
SEMA INTERNATIONAL

Syrian Expatriates Medical Association

Annual Report

2019



SEMA

الرابطة الطبية للمغتربين السوريين
SYRIAN EXPATRIATES MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

SEMA.. We hold good for all

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A Word from CEO

The Syrian crisis is still facing the political complications tangled amongst the conflicting parties, who are ignoring the difficult humanitarian situation encountered by the Syrian people everywhere, and particularly in displacement and refugee sites alike. Year after year, the suffering continues in all social, health and service aspects of life. With the enormous challenges and difficulties along with the ceaseless and systematic bombardment inside Syria, the Syrian Expatriate Medical Association (SEMA) perseveres in running its operations in the field and providing Health and Protection services to the vulnerable and marginalized groups.

It was the real birth of SEMA in terms of governance and administrative management when the SEMA Federation was established last year and became the big home that hosted all of its members, associates and workers.

Since our ultimate goal in the humanitarian work is to save people's lives and health as well as to provide care to them, SEMA has worked with all of its member organizations to strengthen its partnerships and increase its income to utilize it in saving lives of vulnerable civilians such as children, women and elderly inside Syria and in the refugee countries. All of this is achieved in accordance with the standards and recommendations of the World Health Organization and with an emphasis on high-quality provision of services as well as a focus on assessing the impact of these services on the public health of the beneficiaries.

During 2019, SEMA has gone through several stages that were important on the level of collective and standardized action of the member organizations in Turkey, America, Italy and France. The real birth of SEMA in terms of governance and administrative management was completed when the SEMA Federation was established last year to become the big home hosting all of its members, associates and workers. In addition, registration and accreditation process for a new member organization of SEMA in the United Kingdom was finalized. Moreover, a new working group was formed to conduct fundraising in the local communities of France, and large events were participated in such as the conference of French Muslims (Le Bourget).

In 2019, SEMA opened an administrative office in Erbil, Iraq, and started the implementation of a refugee-oriented project in one of the refugee camps in Duhok. Furthermore, a Primary Health Care center was opened in Tal Abyadh city, northern Syria. This year was marked by new and strength-

ened partnerships with International humanitarian organizations, as SEMA began working with World Vision, and it was recognized as a member of Help Age Network, a specialized entity concerned with elderly and people with disabilities. It was also approved as a partner of IMC. Additionally, SEMA started to significantly and extensively work with the humanitarian associations in Kuwait.

Among other prominent highlights was developing the 2020-2022 Strategic Plan for three years. This was a paradigm shift in the organizational work that is based on planning, organizing, and professionalism. All of SEMA's partners, workers and members participated in the process of developing the strategy.

All of these efforts were made through the hard work of all members, workers and lovers of SEMA. I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to all those who contributed, supported and volunteered for the sake of our Syrian people, who need more and more from our side to overcome this ordeal soon. We give thanks to all of the international donors, and special thanks go to our brothers in the Gulf Countries and to those known for benevolence and loyalty.

Finally, despite all of the ongoing fund challenges, SEMA will keep giving and providing services everywhere to help the Syrian people inside and outside the country as much as it can. SEMA will seek to strengthen and build new partnerships during the coming years.



SEMA.. We hold good for all

Who we are:

The Syrian Expatriate Medical Association – SEMA International – is a federation of affiliated organizations based in France, Turkey, Italy the United States of America and the United Kingdom (Britain). The federation was formed in deference to the desire of the founders of these organizations based in those countries to create a federal union that gathers its historic legacy as well as to organize and coordinate efforts. This also allows for the federation to regulate and consolidate the general system, carry out strategic planning for each member, develop their structures, obtain recognition from international entities, and provide a variety of high-level professional support.



Vision

Contributing to achieving a world in which everyone enjoys a healthy and dignified life.



Message

Fulfilling the principle of leadership in medical relief and development to make the utmost use of financial and human resources through improving performance and services, coordination, building partnerships, and developing local potentials, as these resources will be allocated regardless of ethnicity, color, sex or beliefs.



Values

Accountability, Transparency, Humanity, Cooperation and Partnership

In response to the humanitarian catastrophe caused by the Syrian crisis, and the total deterioration of the health sector and its infrastructure, a group of Syrian expatriate doctors called for the establishment of a humanitarian medical relief and development organization named the Syrian Expatriate Medical Association (SEMA), which was launched in mid-2011.

The Humanitarian Situation in Syria

5.5 million refugees

registered around the world

6.1 million internally


displaced people inside Syria


11.1 million people

in need of humanitarian assistance

4 million Syrian people

people living in north of Syria, in rural Idleb and northern rural Aleppo;

25% | 
women

51% | 
children

Nine years of forced displacement and injustice.

2.9 million civilians

in need of primary health care in north of Syria, out of them 1.8 million are displaced people.

81 documented

targeting of health facilities and hospitals

4.7 million

children and women in need of support for preventing malnutrition.


More than 46%

of primary health care are partially operating while others are completely out of service.

Around 960,000

people displaced since December 2019, among whom

25% | 
women

51% | 
children

Bitterness of Displacement and Hope to Return Home

Each displaced person conceals stories full of pain due to what they have gone through before they were forced to leave their homes and villages. The ultimate dream of Fatima Zein Al-Din, from Sarjeh village of the rural areas of Ma'art An Noman city, is that warplanes stop to target them, and to go back home, to the place that she does not know if it was destroyed or it still exists as she left it waiting for the return of its residents. With a constant anguish, Fatima explained "we fled the heavy aerial bombardment launched by air fighters and helicopters that never departed the sky of our town; I do not know what they want, nor do I know why they shell us and force us to leave our villages; I do not know what happened to my home, in which I lived for more than 30 years; why all of the world countries are standing by and watching what is happening here in Syria, and silently observing displacement, bombardment and devastation?"

Fatima successively asked these questions while standing near her small tent along with three or-

phans, who were her grandchildren. She continued her story with an agonizing pain that almost suffocated her, "their father was killed several years ago in a barrel bomb attack by helicopters on the town. Now I am their only breadwinner, and I do not know how to meet their multiple needs. Before we displaced to this place, I had a house, and a piece of land that I used to plant and support myself and my little grandchildren, but today we have nothing but thinking of how to live in the cold winter and the hot summer."

Finally, Fatima Zein Al-Din hoped that the world would look at the circumstances which she lives in together with thousands of displaced people, who were compelled to leave their homes and lands under heavy bombardment. She also hoped that the world would extend a helping hand to put a stop to this war and end the pain, displacement and deprivation that they are experiencing.

According to the Response Coordination Group, number of displaced Syrians in north of Syria between the start and the end of 2019 reached more than one million individuals, most of them were children and women living harsh conditions in light of the poor humanitarian and health assistance and services.



More than 80 health facilities were targeted during 2019

The year 2019 has witnessed an intense and systematic targeting of the health facilities providing health services to the civilians in northern Syria. Number of targeted health centers and hospitals reached more than 80 centers, causing considerable damage and rendering most of them entirely out of service. On the other hand, number of victims of humanitarian workers during the same year reached 20 medical workers and paramedics.

Among these targeted medical facilities was Kiwan Obstetric and Pediatrics Hospital, which is located in southern rural Idlib and supported by the Syrian Expatriate Medical Association (SEMA). The hospital was directly targeted by an airstrike on Saturday, 24th of November 2019, rendering it heavily damaged and completely out of service. The facility used to serve more than 1200 beneficiaries of a catchment population of approx. 175,000 people.

In the same year, Jisr As-Shugur hospital, supported by SEMA, was also directly targeted on the 10th of July 2019, leading to a number of martyrs and injuries among civilians as well as extensively damaging the hospital and causing it to stop functioning; the injured people and medical staff, who were working in the hospital, were relocated to near and safer medical points. On

monthly basis, this hospital provided its services to more than 4500 beneficiaries of the surrounding communities that hosted a population of around 70,000 people.

The continual targeting of medical and service facilities adversely impacts the access of humanitarian assistance and services to those in need. It affects the lives of four million civilians living in north of Syria, the place that witnesses a humanitarian disaster

and difficult conditions apart from the continued bombardment by the Syrian regime and its allies on the densely populated areas, which is indeed considered a violation of the International Law and Human Rights. The continuation of these circumstances also lead to more waves of displacement and more tragedies faced by the civilians residing there.



SEMA in 2019

January

- "A Step of Hope"; the first campaign that SEMA launched through LaunchGood platform; the campaign was for the Prosthetics Project.
- SEMA provides a training on Neonatal Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (NPICU).



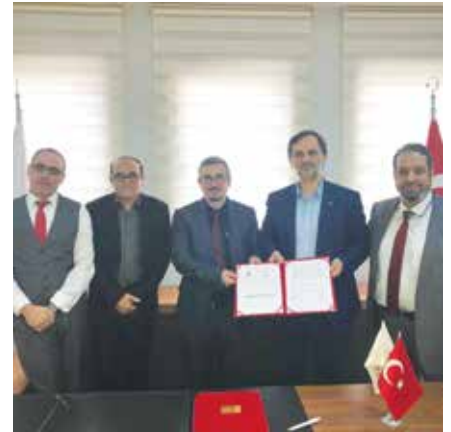
February

- Opening Shahba' Center for Primary Health Care in rural Aleppo.
- Signing a cooperation protocol with the Gaziantep health directorate to develop the health operation.
- Signing an MoU with Bevol International Platform.



March

- Bringing in 16 ambulances to north of Syria.
- Opening Bab Al-Hajar Center for Primary Health Care in rural Aleppo.
- Signing a cooperation protocol with the Turkish Red Crescent.



July

- Wasim Hassino hospital opening an ophthalmology clinic for serving civilians.
- The Academy of Health Sciences obtains the accreditation from the Accreditation, Certification and Quality Assurance Institute (ACQUIN), one of the most prominent academic accreditation entities in Europe.



August

- Opening Meidan Ekbes Primary Health Care Center in rural Aleppo.
- Participating in the World Humanitarian Day that was organized by the World Health Organization.



September

- Opening a new building for Moaz Abu Mehdi Obstetric and Pediatric hospital.
- The Academy of Health Sciences attains a membership in Mediterranean Universities Union.



April

- Opening Basmat Center in Sharran in northern rural Aleppo.
- A delegation of SEMA visiting many Kuwaiti relief associations in Kuwait.
- SEMA France participates in the first annual conference for Muslims in France (Le Bourget).



May

- SEMA International enters into a MoU with the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization.
- SEMA participates in the humanitarian aid conference in Ankara as a representative of the Syrian NGOs.



June

- Participating in opening a developed department for dialysis in Al-Bab Hospital.
- SEMA offers a training on Neonatal Pediatric Intensive Care Unit.



October

- SEMA opens its second Primary Health Care in Iraq.
- SEMA International opens Rael Primary Health Care Center in northern rural Aleppo.
- SEMA conducts a training on Endoscopy Surgery 3.



November

- SEMA launches its new platform for electronic campaigns.
- SEMA attains membership into the HelpAge International Network.
- SEMA conducts a training on Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO) for enhancing the medical services provided to patients.



December

- SEMA opens a center for prosthetics in northern rural Aleppo.
- SEMA participates in the events of the First Arab Forum for Elderly in Jordan





Secondary Health Care Program (Surgical Hospital)

Despite the decrease in number of hospitals in 2019 due to the loss of non-government controlled areas (Rural Damascus, Dar'a, Rural Homs, and Rural Hama), the Syrian Expatriate Medical Association (SEMA) managed to open new departments within the supported hospitals as well as to increase number of the medical staff working in these hospitals. SEMA also worked on adding new surgical specializations such as (eye/ocular surgery, urologic surgery, neurosurgery, and vascular surgery) as well as it worked on developing the radiology and laboratory sections and providing a blood bank in each of Idleb, rural Idleb, and rural Aleppo.

SEMA worked on applying the standards of infection control, and training the medical staff in cooperation with the Health Directorate and the World Health Organization. In addition, SEMA also managed to check and document the medical degrees of all of its medical staff as well as to obtain licenses for them from the Health Directorate. Furthermore, SEMA added a medical residency program to the medical specializations (gynecologic surgery) which are recognized by Aleppo and Idleb Universities as well as by the Syrian Board of Medical Specialties (SBOMS).



SEMA provided Secondary Health Care services to around 395,000 beneficiaries of displaced people and hosting communities in the areas of northern rural Aleppo, and Idleb governorate; these areas witnessed displacement waves and an unprecedented escalation that increased the load on the health facilities in north of Syria. The provided medical services included the following:

- 1 Medical consultations in the out-patient clinics.
- 2 Admission of patients to the prepared wards of the hospitals.
- 3 Diagnostic tests and examinations
- 4 Free medication and medical supplies.
- 5 Major and minor surgical operations.
- 6 Intensive Care Units for adults and children.
- 7 Normal and Cesarean deliveries, and gynecologic surgeries.
- 8 Blood bank.
- 9 Services of physical therapy and prosthetics.
- 10 Dialysis sessions.

The health services were provided by a specialized and trained medical team to ensure of the quality of services and comply to the international protocols and standards. The medical team comprises doctors, surgeons, resident medical staff of the different specializations, nurses, midwives, technicians, as well as the administrative and service team. The trainings offered to the health staff included the following:

- Intensive trainings with a clinical supervision of doctors on the Mental Health Gap Action Program.
- Specialized trainings in endoscopy surgery.
- Specialized trainings in Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Reproductive Health protocols.
- Training the medical staff on infection control protocols.
- Trainings on Intensive Care Units for adults, newborn and premature infants.
- Training specialized doctors on protocols of communicable diseases under secondary health care.



Hospitals

7



Beneficiaries

393,583

Locations of Centers and Surgical Hospitals:

Number	Name of the Hospital	Location of the Hospital
1	Idleb Specialized Surgical Hospital	Idleb
2	Wasim Hasino Hospital	Kafr Takhareem, rural Idleb
3	Jisr Ash-Shugur Hospital	Jisr Ash-Shugur, rural Idleb
4	Ekha' Hospital	Atma, rural Idleb
5	Al Farabi Hospital	Al-Bab, rural Aleppo
6	Moaz Abu Mehdi Hospital	Azaz, rural Aleppo
7	Kiwan hospital	rural Idleb

Surgical Operations:

Major surgeries:

10,445

Minor surgeries

11,751



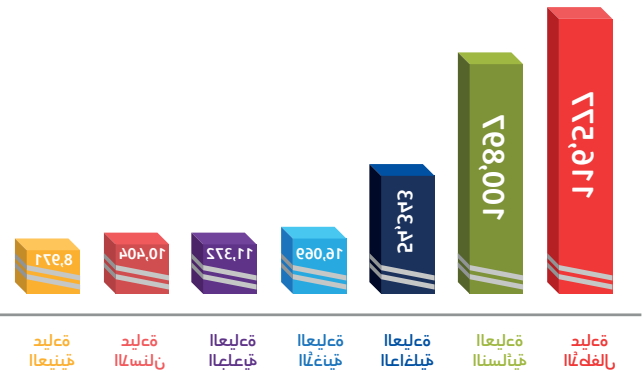
Breakdown of major surgeries:



gynecologic surgeries	4,566
jaw surgeries	173
ENT surgeries	947
urologic surgeries	714
Reconstructive surgeries	351
Thoracic surgeries	80
general surgeries	2,096
orthopedic surgeries	1,102
ocular surgeries	72
vascular surgeries	344

Out-patient clinics:

Gynecology clinic	82,434
Pediatric clinic	60,968
Internal medicine clinic	3,354
Emergency and First Aid clinic	52,088
General surgery clinic	3,339
Orthopedic clinic	13,153
Ear Clinic	5,225
Urology clinic	5,071
Ophthalmology clinic	6,771
Cosmetic clinic	493



Total number of beneficiaries

232,896

Miscellaneous Services:

Intensive care	636
Pharmacy	36,4961



Radiology	69,477
Laboratory	110,533

Ambulance system

Hama ambulance system		Idle ambulance system	
number of beneficiaries	113	Total number of beneficiaries	982
Referrals	47	Evacuation cases of injuries to hospitals inside the city	388
		Evacuation cases of injuries to hospitals outside the city	594

Noble Humanitarian Work is Not Free of Sacrifice

Dr. Mohamad Abdul Baqi

As the Syrian Expatriate Medical Association (SEMA) works in the most dangerous parts around the world, its facilities and staff become exposed to risks at any moment together with all of the other humanitarian and medical relief workers in Syria, particularly when the Syrian regime and its allies directly and systematically target the health and humanitarian facilities operating to save lives of civilians in north of Syria. The year 2019 witnessed the martyrdom of 20 workers from health staff and paramedics.

In 2019, SEMA lost one of its medical teachers, Dr. Mohammad Abdul Baqi, who was a member of the teaching staff of the Academy of Health Sciences. He was one of the noble workers who sacrificed their lives for saving civilians and vulnerable people, as he was martyred of his injuries following the bombardment of the Syrian regime on his town, Mhambal, in rural Idlib on 08/07/2019.

Dr. Mohamad worked in many field hospitals along with his work in education and training in the Academy of Health Sciences, which is supported by SEMA. He was a lecturer and a good educator for the academy's students, and he selflessly assumed the burden not concerned with the risks and challenges of this field, and bearing the heavy responsibility, with his aim to improve the educational

process and the level of the academy's students in north of Syria.

Just like Dr. Mohamad Abdul Baqi loved his students, patients, friends and humanitarian work, everyone loved him, and his good reputation and excellent career remained memorable.

We pray to Allah to have mercy upon the martyr Dr. Mohammad Abdul Baqi and all of the martyrs in Syria.



An Interview with Dr. Kawthar Mando

In spite of the challenges, the Ekha' Specialized Hospital became leading in Gynecology and Pediatric sector in northern Syria.

Kawthar Mando, born in Damascus in 1990 and a graduate of Aleppo University, works as a gynecologist in Ekha' Specialized Hospital, that is supported by the Syrian Expatriate Medical Association (SEMA). She speaks of the challenges and difficulties that encounter the medical staff, working in the hospital, while responding to the displaced and hosting people in north of Syria.

"We receive in the hospital all cold and emergency gynecology cases such as infertility treatment, gynecologic examination, prenatal care, bleeding, normal deliveries, C-sections, and other obstetrics and gynecology surgeries"

"Over the past period, the challenges faced by the workers in the hospital increased, and that was due to the overload caused by the increased number of displaced people in northern Syria, especially in the area near the hospital, leading to a rise in number of patients visiting the hospital on daily basis. Moreover, the medical staff

faced other difficulties with some critical cases, as these cases came from far areas and through rough roads to reach the hospital; however, the hospital was fully prepared to receive and successfully treat all cases with the existing capacity."

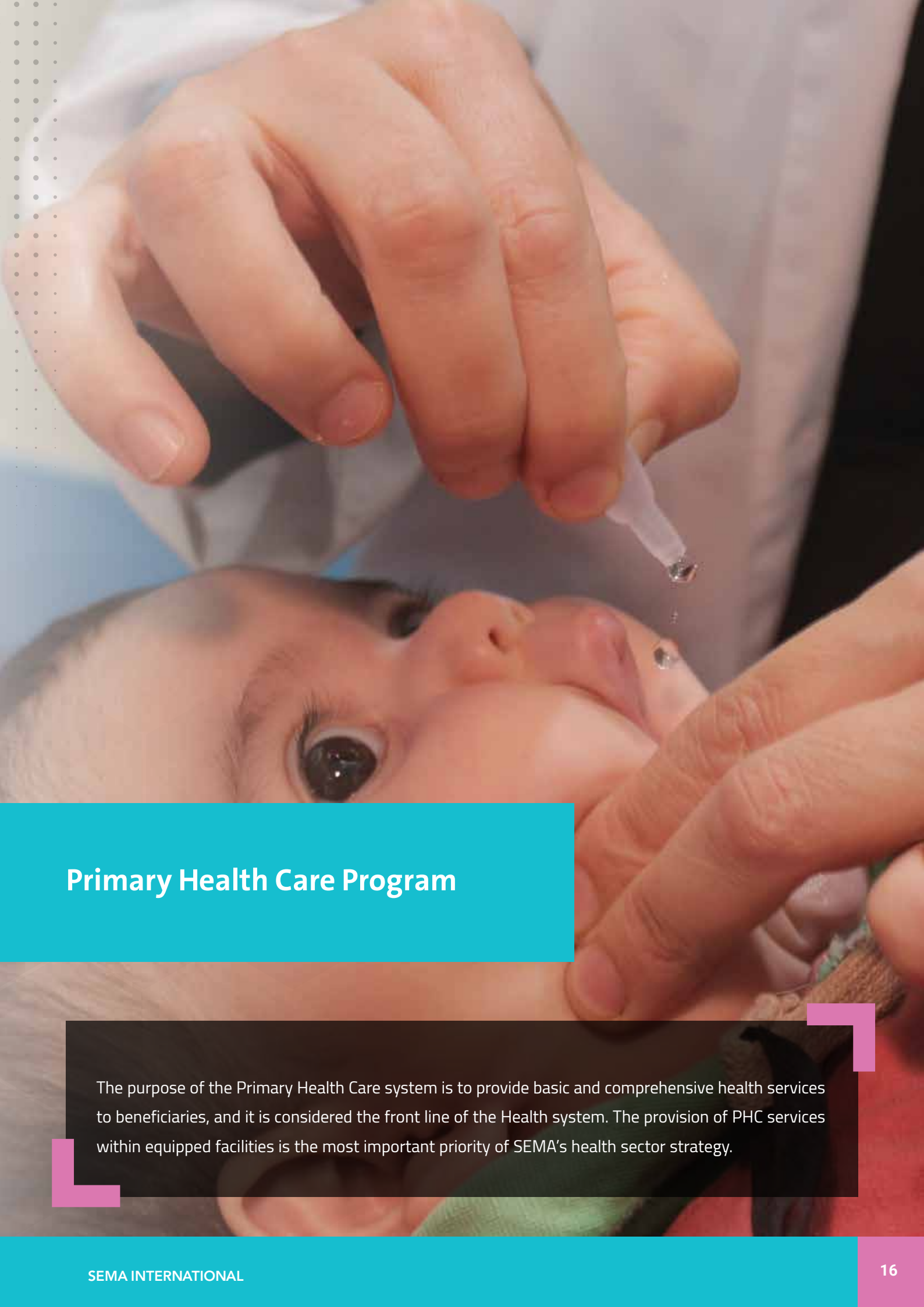
"I remember that one of the female patients, who was from Daraya city in Rural Damascus, came to the hospital bearing in her womb the child for whom she had been waiting for 12 years, after she had lost her first child as a result of the displacement from Qudsaya city to one of

the camps at the Turkish borders. The harshness of her life forced her to displace for the third time to Idleb city, and after the recent military offensive on Idleb city, she was forced again to move with her family for the fourth time to Ataa camp near the Turkish border. When she visited the hospital to give birth to her child, she was physically and psychologically tired because of the repeated displacement and because of the suffering that she experienced along that journey. The medical staff received her and conducted a Cesarean delivery allowing her female baby to come with a good health, thanks be to Allah.

"I watched a lot of these stories and tragedies over the seven years that passed while I did my job, which I am proud of, inside Syria; I never thought of migrating abroad because I wanted to stay to help the oppressed people of women, elderly and children who daily witness bombardment and brutality."

"I would like to thank the Syrian Expatriate Medical Association (SEMA) for the enormous support it provided to Ekha' Hospital and other health facilities. I hope that this hospital remains a leading facility in the gynecology and pediatrics sector."





Primary Health Care Program

The purpose of the Primary Health Care system is to provide basic and comprehensive health services to beneficiaries, and it is considered the front line of the Health system. The provision of PHC services within equipped facilities is the most important priority of SEMA's health sector strategy.

During 2019, the Syrian Expatriate Medical Association (SEMA) has supported a wide network of Primary Health Care facilities in northern Syria, implementing a basic package of services including reproductive health, pediatrics, mental health and psychosocial support, communicable and non-communicable diseases, nutrition and vaccination.

SEMA was able to increase the number of fixed and mobile Primary Health Care facilities during 2019, as number of displaced people significantly increased in the informal camps; these camps lack the minimum necessities of life, and they are considered fertile environment for the spread of infectious diseases and for the deterioration of chronic disease cases in light of the sub-standard living and shelter conditions and the shortage of healthcare.

The program comprised nine fixed health facilities and six mobile clinics. These facilities are equipped and have expert medical staff who are trained on the clinical protocols and standards; the facilities are spread throughout Syria and Iraq, and they provide primary healthcare services for more than 195,000 beneficiaries.

SEMA has worked on improving the access to these services through activating referral mechanisms among the PHC centers, hospitals and specialized health centers. Additionally, SEMA supported a network of community health workers to increase access to beneficiaries in their communities, activate the referral system between the communities and the health centers, and promote community health levels through health awareness raising messages.



centers

15



beneficiaries

192,492

Primary Health Centers and Locations

Name of the Center	Location of the Center
Bab Al-Hajar Center	Al Ra'e town, rural Aleppo
Shahbaa Center	Shamarekh camp, rural Aleppo
Ra'el Center	Ra'el community, rural Aleppo
Meidan Ekbes Center	Afrin, rural Aleppo
Al Dana Center	Al Dana, rural Idleb
Sheikh Yusuf Center	Sheikh Yusuf community, rural Idleb
Baksraya Center	northwest of Jisr Ash-Shugur
Garmawa Center	Duhok, Iraq
Mamilian Center	Duhok, Iraq
Mobile Clinic #1	Al Bab, rural Aleppo
Mobile Clinic #2	Afrin, rural Aleppo
Mobile Clinic #3	Al Dana, rural Idleb
Mobile Clinic #4	Atma, rural Idleb
Mobile Clinic #5	Salqin, rural Idleb
Mobile Clinic #6	Idleb

Pediatrics Clinic



Total number of beneficiaries

48,575



Male **24,706**

Female **23,869**



Displaced **36,668**

Residents **11,907**

Specialized Internal Medicine Clinic



Total number of beneficiaries

80,867



Male **33,515**

Female **47,352**



Displaced **28,458**

Residents **52,409**

Obstetric & Gynaecology



Displaced
31,910

Residents
11,169

Total number
of female beneficiaries

43,079



Miscellaneous services

● Radiographs	3,112
● Pharmacy	3,10284
● Laboratory	18,916
● Vaccination	10,762



Dental clinic



Male **9,144**

Female **10,827**



Displaced **11,544**

Residents **8,427**



Total number of beneficiaries

19,971

Kidney Transplantation in Jordan

A Mother Donates Kidney to Her Son

"I have been suffering from an acute renal failure for three years, and the dialysis sessions have exhausted me. Every week, I conducted three dialysis sessions, and each session was for four straight hours. I also suffered from valve prolapse and other symptoms of the kidney failure". These were the words of Moftakher Al Hariri, a patient who was summarizing his story of suffering from acute renal failure before entering to the operations room to undergo a kidney transplantation operation.

Moftakher Al Hariri continued his story, "the reason of the acute renal failure from which I suffer is the acute increase of blood pressure and errors

in medications. I have been undergoing the exhausting dialysis sessions for the past three years in the dialysis center in Jordan, under the project supported by SEMA. Because of the disease, I cannot work or perform my daily life activities; today, my dear mother came to donate her kidney for me."

Throughout this period, in which Moftakher Al Hariri was suffering from renal failure, the Syrian Expatriate Medical Association (SEMA) followed up his case and conducted dialysis sessions for him free of charge. After his mother donated her kidney to end his pains, the needed examinations were conducted for the mother and her son, then, through SEMA's pro-

gram, the surgical staff of one of the specialized hospitals in Jordan successfully performed the transplantation operation, enabling Moftakher to return to his normal life.

Dr. Bilal Al Hariri, manager of SEMA Jordan says: "the Kidney Transplantation project in Jordan is one of the components of the health care program for the chronic renal failure patients. The program commenced in mid-2018, and have conducted six kidney transplantation operations for Syrians in Jordan. The success rate of the operations was 100%, and the patients managed to go back and live their normal life again.

The Syrian Expatriate Medical Association (SEMA) has been working in Jordan since 2013 in many of the Jordanian governorates such as the capital, Amman, and in northern cities like Ramtha, Irbed, and Al Mafrqa, and has implemented several projects, the most important of which were: dialysis and kidney transplantation program, ocular health care program, rehabilitation programs that included prosthetics centers, physical rehabilitation, mobile health teams, protection, psychosocial support, hearing and speech difficulties, and community awareness raising; these programs were concerned with the Syrian refugees in Jordan.



Ra'el Primary Health Care Center

In the efforts of all SEMA organizations to continue providing critical services and expanding the work area to include new locations, SEMA US supported many health centers inside Syria, and in refugee sites in Erbil, Iraq. During 2019, SEMA US worked on exploring the locations with high and moderate population densities, which are suffering from shortage of health services in Syria. In October 2019, SEMA opened Ra'el Primary Health Care center in rural Aleppo, and started the mobile clinic project in Askat area located in Salqin, rural Idlib to offer health services to Syrian people and alleviate their suffering.

Further, SEMA US paid a special attention to the vulnerable Syrian refugees who are suffering from inadequate health services in the places they resorted to in countries neighboring Syria. Therefore, it opened the Garmawa Primary Health Care Center in Garmawa camp, and Mamilian Primary Health Care Center in Mamilian camp, in Duhok, in Iraq's Kurdistan Region.

All of these medical points are considered level-two PHC centers. The provided services in these centers include: primary health care services, community health services, general consultations, specialized pediatrics consultations, and provision of medications as well as awareness raising activities in the hosting community.

It is worth to mention that SEMA US was established in 2018 by a group of doctors residing in the United States. It was registered in accordance with the law of non-for-profit organizations as a medical organization that is concerned with the quality of health services provided during humanitarian disasters. It started its activities through the Syrian health program which focuses on conducting surveys and scientific researches that facilitate the diagnosis of the health situation of the Syrian people, including the displaced and the refugees.





Medical Education and Training Program

SEMA's Medical Education and Training Program has contributed to building the capacities of the medical teams and health service providers, and raising the awareness on the proper procedures and scientific standards while providing health services. It also contributed to improving the quality of services in the fields of emergency, rehabilitation, and primary healthcare. In addition, the program developed the health education and vocational academies and institutes from which qualified health workers graduate. It also promoted a culture of scientific research that aimed at providing effective health services, seeking to achieve sustainability and economically empowering the youth. This was achieved through obtaining the necessary accreditation for the provided programs and trainings, meeting the needs of the labor market, and supporting the recovery of the health sector.

The Medical Education and Training Program comprised the following components: continuous medical education, vocational medical education, trainings and capacity building; furthermore, two programs were activated, the program of translation, studies and scientific researches in coordination with international academic entities and the program of publishing of research outputs and papers in international scientific journals.



Number of trainings and lectures

132



Total number of beneficiaries

3,735

Specialized trainings

Specialized trainings	
Number of trainings	51
Number of trainees (beneficiaries)	1,100
Number of students	120
Locations of the trainings	Idleb and its rural areas, Euphrates Shield area, Olive Branch area, Hatay, Gaziantep

Medical Education

	The Academy of Health Sciences	the Health Academic Institute
Location	Qah, northern Idleb, Syria	Yayladağı, Hatay, Turkey
Departments	nursing, emergency medicine, physical therapy	nursing
Number of students	120	15

Online lectures



Number of lectures

81



Number of beneficiaries

2,500

Most important achievements of the Medical Education and Training program in 2019:

- 1 An extensive specialized training package on Basic Intensive Care – Neonatal Care, and Radiology.
- 2 Developing the Continuous Medical Education program and establishment of SEMA's medical education channel.
- 3 Training courses in reproductive health and neonatal care in cooperation with the World Health Organization.
- 4 Training courses in endoscopy surgery in cooperation with the National Association of Endoscopy Surgery in Italy (ACOI)
- 5 Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO) training in collaboration with the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the Wake Forest University.
- 6 Translating the Neonatal Resuscitation (NRP) Program and Helping Babies Breathe (HBB) Program with the authorization from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).
- 7 Obtaining an accreditation of education quality for the Academy of Health Sciences from the Accreditation, Certification and Quality Assurance Institute (ACQUIN).
- 8 Conducting 51 trainings attached to the projects of Health, Nutrition, Mental Health and Protection programs

SEMA continues to run and develop the Academy of Health Sciences in Qah community, rural Idleb, and the Health Academic Institute in Yayladağı, Turkey, providing it with needed requirements that enhance the educational and academic process for the students. Number of Continuous Medical Education Lectures reached 81 lectures, targeting 2500 beneficiaries from trainees and health workers, while number of hours of the Continuous Medical Education reached 160 instruction hours. Additionally, more than 60 specialized training courses were provided benefiting 1200 of SEMA's medical staff.



The Management of the Medical Education and Training Program Cooperates with European and American Universities

“Advanced Life Support in obstetrics” Training in cooperation with Wake Forest University, North Carolina, America.



In its strategy to strengthen its partnerships, the Syrian Expatriate Medical Association (SEMA) succeeded in cooperating with European and American universities to support its Medical Education and Training program, with the purpose of bringing academic and international expertise to the trainings to have a great impact on improving the performance of the medical staff and health workers inside Syria.

The management of the Medical Education and Training program in SEMA conducted a training in Gaziantep, Turkey, on Advanced Life Support for the staff working in Syria. The training aimed at developing their skills and health experience as well as to promote the quality of medical work provided to patients in Syria.

The importance of the training is recognized in its multidisciplinary focus and effectiveness, especially with regards to emergency cases during birth delivery. The training is also considered important as it was developed and adopted by the American Academy of Family Physicians, and as it is a mandatory requirement to renew medical licenses.

The training extended for two days, during which Dr. Shahla Namak, a specialist in Family Medicine and Obstetrics in Wake Forest University, delivered her lectures. The training was provided in accordance with the standards of international associations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Heart Association.

Endoscopy Surgery Training in Cooperation with the Italian Baggiovara University Hospital

The management of the Medical Education and Training program in SEMA conducted a training course on Endoscopy Surgery to build the capacity of the medical staff working in northern Syria on such kinds of precise medical surgeries.

The importance of the training lies in the facilitation that the endoscopy surgery offers in the health facilities, supported by SEMA, in north of Syria. The objective of the training was also to practically train gynecologists and surgeons working inside Syria on the ad-

vanced endoscopy surgery – as two training courses on the same discipline preceded this one. The training was provided by two famous trainers of the experts in endoscopy surgery in Italy, Dr. Francisca Pikini and Dr. Gian Carlo Apati. The endoscopic surgery training comprised two sections: a theoretical part which included lectures with video footages and explanation by the trainers, and a practical part through which boxes containing cameras and monitors were used by the trainees to learn how to properly conduct endoscopic surgery.



Protection and Psychosocial Support Program

In its constant efforts to serve our people inside Syria, and in deference to its wish to promote the efficiency of the provided services and ensure the mainstreaming of the basic Protection principles of dignity, safety and safe access, SEMA started its Protection project that aims at mainstreaming protection principles in the health facilities.

SEMA is considered one of the first organizations that used Gender-Based Violence (GBV) mainstreaming in its health facilities, especially in the facilities that included GBV case managers such as the Specialized Surgical Hospital, Ekha' Specialized Hospital, Al Farabi Hospital, Moaz Abu Mehdi Hospital, Kiwan Hospital, and Basmat Center, where the case managers provide Psychosocial First Aid, Psychosocial Support and referral services.

In 2019, SEMA's teams provided GBV response services through its health facilities, the most prominent of which was Basmat Center in Sharran, rural Aleppo, which offers awareness raising sessions on GBV topics like early marriage and domestic violence.

Moreover, training courses on life skills for women and girls were provided such as “My Safety, My Well-Being” program that is oriented for young girls; the courses were for empowering them as well as to raise their awareness. In addition, language courses (English, French, Turkish), sewing training courses, handicraft and computer courses (ICDL) were provided. Further, awareness raising sessions were conducted by the mobile Protection teams in Idleb, Sharran and Al-Bab areas. SEMA also added Protection program the Child Protection component through establishing three teams in Azaz, Sharran, and Idleb; these teams managed to reach more than 600 vulnerable children and assisted them to overcome their vulnerabilities.

SEMA sought to improve the access of beneficiaries to mental health services, increase the awareness on mental health problems and disorders, and provide psychosocial support and psychological first aid for beneficiaries, and this was achieved

through opening a mental health and psychosocial support center in Gaziantep city, south of Turkey. The center provides services of psychosocial support, awareness raising activities, empowerment programs, Gender-Based Violence case management services, and legal counselling. The Protection and Mental Health department in SEMA aspires to carry on the work and respond to the civilians and vulnerable people, especially women and children to reduce their suffering as possible, and to look for new partnerships to include Protection services in all of the health facilities and projects supported by SEMA.

The department currently works on raising the awareness in the field of civil documentation and Housing, Landing and Property, improving monitoring and evaluation tools for Gender-Based Violence, and developing toolkits and approaches for monitoring and evaluation to be used by SEMA and other working organizations in north of Syria, following a study that SEMA conducted with some of its partners.



Number of centers

14



Number of beneficiaries

43,149

Child Protection

Number of Centers	Name of the Center	Location of the Center
3	Idleb Surgical Hospital	Idleb
	Amal Child Protection Center	Afrin
	Moaz Abu Mehdi hospital	Azaz

Mental Health

Number of Centers	Name of the Center	Location of the Center
4	Al Dana Center	rural Idleb
	Baksraya Center	rural Idleb
	Sheikh Yusuf Center	rural Idleb
	Mobile Clinic #4, in Al Dana	rural Idleb

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) centers

Number of centers	Name of the Center	Location of the Center
7	Idleb Surgical Hospital	Idleb
	Jisr Ash-Shugur Hospital	rural Idleb
	Kiwan Hospital	Kansafra
	Ekha' Hospital	Atma
	Moaz Abu Mehdi hospital	Azaz
	Al Farabi Hopital	Al-Bab
	Basmat Center	Afrin



Nutrition and Community Health Program

The Nutrition Program aims at screening malnutrition and stunting cases among children under 5 years in the Syrian communities, as well as malnutrition cases among pregnant and lactating women in besieged and hard-to-reach areas. The program also focuses on proper feeding of infants, and securing nutrients for children, pregnant and lactating women to prevent malnutrition, stunting, anemia, and other cases that accompanies the lack of essential nutrients.

The Syrian Expatriate Medical Association (SEMA) concentrated on the preventive aspect that encompasses health awareness raising, and supporting nutrition of children and mothers with the different programs. SEMA integrated in its projects the services of community health, nutrition, and prevention and treatment of malnutrition in its primary healthcare centers and hospitals. This was applied in 14 facilities supported by SEMA.

SEMA also established community health teams in more than 34 villages. These teams offer nutrition and community health services, including consultations, individual and group counsel-

ling and distribution of nutritional supplements as well as referring the cases requiring treatment to specialized centers. Special tents were established for nutrition services to serve children and mothers. They were six tents distributed in three camps.

The Rapid Response Team (RRT) team focused on providing comprehensive services for mothers and their children through integrating Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Protection, and Mental Health services. The program was implemented in camps, and SEMA was one of the first organizations offering comprehensive services to mothers and their children all together.



Number of centers and teams

17



Number of beneficiaries

108,864

Nutrition and Community Health Centers and their locations

Name of the center	Location	Name of the center	Location
Idleb Surgical Hospital	Idleb	Mobile Clinic #3	Sharran, rural Aleppo
Kiwan Hospital	Kansafra, rural Idleb	Mobile Clinic #4	Kabbasin, rural Aleppo
Moaz Abu Mehdi Hospital	Azaz, rural Aleppo	Mobile Clinic #5	Ma'art Al Ikhwan, rural Idleb
Al Farabi Hospital	Al-Bab, rural Aleppo	Mobile Clinic #6	Kafar Lusin, rural Idleb
Mobile Clinic #1	Azaz, rural Aleppo	Mobile Clinic #7	Atma, rural Idleb
Mobile Clinic #2	Al-Bab, rural Aleppo		

Centers and Locations of the Community Health teams

Name of the team	Location	Name of the team	Location
Community Health Team #1	Harim, rural Idleb	Community Health Team #4	Al Janudieh, rural Idleb
Community Health Team #2	Salqin, rural Idleb	Community Health Team #5	Darkush, rural Idleb
Community Health Team #3	Jisr As-Shugur, rural Idleb	Community Health Team #6	Bdama, rural Idleb

Beneficiaries - Expenditures

Total number of beneficiaries in all of SEMA programs and projects for 2019

● Surgical Hospitals	393,583
● Primary Health Care	192,492
● Specialized Projects	2,272
● Nutrition Program	108,864
● Protection Program	43,149
● Mental Health Program	901
● Medical Education and Training Program	2,500



Total number of beneficiaries from all of SEMA's programs and projects

743,761

Total number of beneficiaries include other services not mentioned in the report.

SEMA's Total Expenditures in 2019



Total

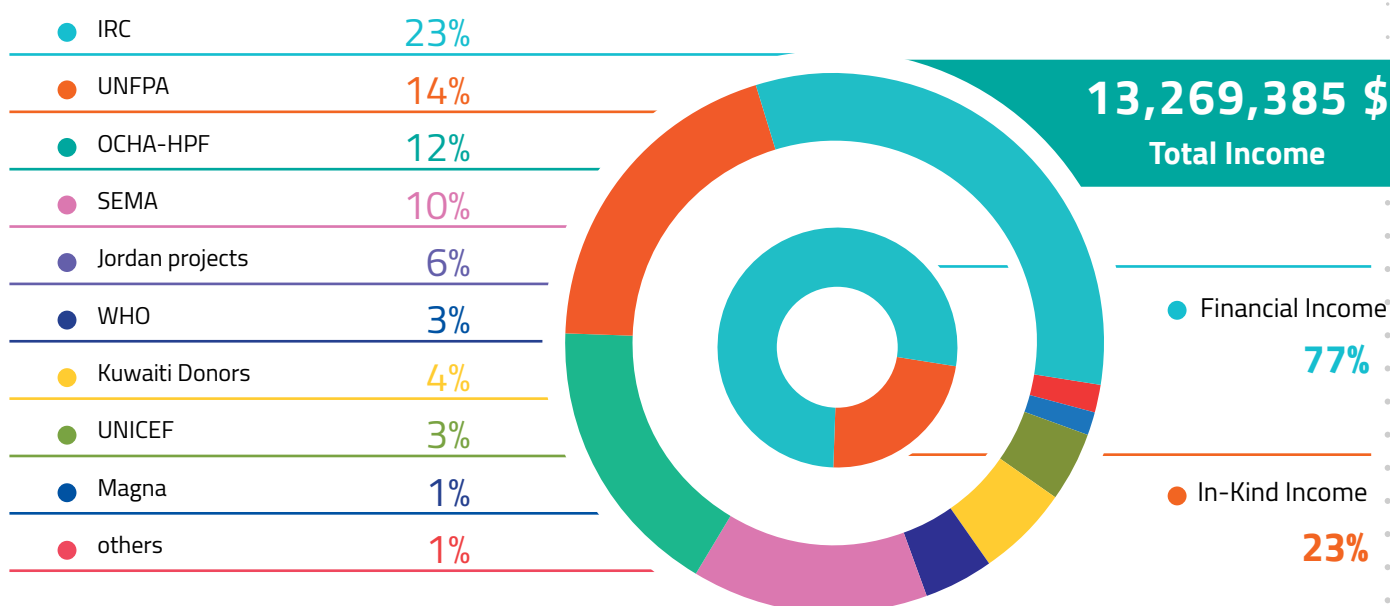
13,369,386 \$

● Primary Health Care	4,597,310	35%
● Surgical Hospitals	5,039,186	38%
● Administrative and Operating costs	933,613	7%
● Nutrition	517,036	4%
● Protection and Mental Health	778,272	6%
● Specialized Projects	897,427	7%
● Medical Education and Training	500,601	4%
● Others	105,942	1%

Income – Sources

Funding Sources in 2019

Donor	Income in 2019	Income in 2018
IRC	3,044,716	3,266,908
UNFPA	1,818,403	1,516,870
OCHA-HPF	1,574,263	809,015
SEMA	1,346,055	2,032,730
Jordan projects	761,918	1,744,768
WHO	399,658	315,493
Kuwaiti Donors	517,403	-
UNICEF	466,088	149,845
Magna	155,712	293,058
IOM	0	38,829
HIF - Elrha	57,052	-
others	27,171	-
Cash Income	10,168,439	10,586,475
In-Kind Income	3,100,946	3,699,777
Total Income	13,269,385	14,286,252



E-Marketing ... A New Space



At the beginning of 2018, the Syrian Expatriate Medical Association (SEMA) worked on looking for new funding sources through marketing its health and medical projects, which are concerned with saving lives of civilians in Syria. SEMA joined the e-marketing field through LaunchGood Platform for crowdfunding and through its own platforms on the different social media networks such as Facebook. SEMA seeks to subscribe to new international platforms such as Global Giving, Just Giving, and Go for Fund to secure funds for its charitable medical projects in Syria and the neighboring countries.

results of SEMA's Online Campaigns and Donations in 2019

Platform	Representative entity	Number of campaigns / projects	Total amount of donations \$
LaunchGood	SEMA Turkey/US	11	\$151,420
Facebook	SEMA US	4	\$70,745
Website	SEMA US	3	\$30,000
Total		18	\$248,165

Samples of some Campaigns

Platform	Representative entity	Name of the Campaign	Targeted Group	Amount of Donations \$
LaunchGood	Turkey	Double Your Reward in the Best Ten Days	SEMA Projects	\$33,702
LaunchGood	Turkey	Empower Me to Serve More	Medical Education and Training	\$2,488
LaunchGood	Turkey	I Have a Dream	a Protection Project	\$1,234
LaunchGood	Turkey	Let's Protect Them from Cold Winter	SEMA's health facilities in Syria and the Displaced people	\$20,829
LaunchGood	US	Let's Reduce Their Suffering in the Month of Giving	Ekha' Specialized Hospital	\$31,693
Facebook	US	Limbs of Hope	the National Project for Prosthetics	\$20,000
Facebook	US	Let's Be with Them	Iraq Projects	\$10,465
Website	US	Projects 3	Projects 3	\$30,000

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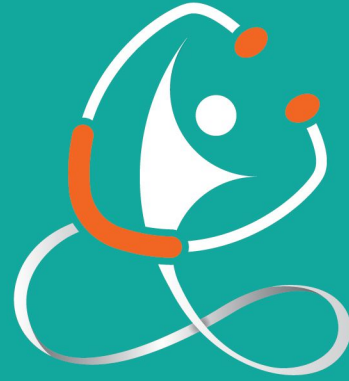
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