



SEMA

الرابطة الطبية للمغتربين السوريين
INSANI VE TIBBI YARDIM DERNEĞİ
SYRIAN EXPATRIATES MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Syrian Expatriates Medical Association

Annual Report - 2021



SEMA

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Who we are



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 Syrian Expatriate Medical Association – SEMA International – is a federation of affiliated organizations based in France, Turkey, Italy, the United States of America. 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 their efforts. This also allows for the federation to regulate and consolidate the general system, carry out strategic planning for each member organization, develop their structures, obtain recognition from international entities, and provide a high-level professional support in various fields.

Vision

Contribute 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

SEMA in 2021



01 January



- SEMA launches 3 new mobile clinics in rural Idleb.
- Idleb Specialized Surgical Hospital opens a special section for burns.
- In collaboration with consultants from SEMA, Al-Ikhaa hospital staff saves the life of a newborn girl after birth.

02 February



- SEMA signs a new MoU with Gaziantep University.
- SEMA conducts a special training under the title «Empowering facilitators to use Children Adaptability Program».

03 March



- SEMA launches a special training for dealing with people with disabilities.
- SEMA signs a cooperative protocol in the field of health humanitarian assistance.

04 April



- «Safe Emergency Movement of Neonates», SEMA's distinguished experience.
- Aamal Child Protection Center in rural Aleppo revives hope for war children.

05 May



- A new success added to the record of Al-Ikhaa Specialized hospital after the birth of female triplets.
- Idleb Specialized Surgical Hospital opens a new clinic for diabetic foot.

07 July



- SEMA opens the first dialysis center in Ra's Al-Ein.
- «Judy» enjoys a better life with a different face; a new success in vascular surgery.

06 June



- With Syrian hands, SEMA launches the first two mobile health centers in Syria.
- SEMA finalizes a training on special education skills to deal with children with disabilities.

08 August



- SEMA signs an MoU with Free Aleppo Health Directorate.
- SEMA signs an MoU with the Turkish Red Crescent to establish an educational center and launch a mobile clinic.

09 September



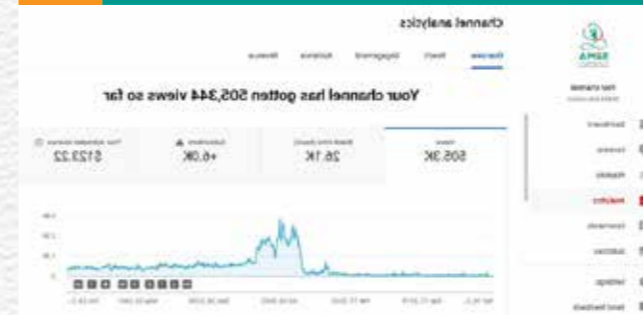
- SEMA commences the establishment of an Academic Health Complex in north of Syria.
- The Academy of Health Sciences obtains a membership in the American Education Council.

11 November



- SEMA opens the first isolation hospital for children infected with COVID-19 in northwest Syria.
- 88 nurses and midwives graduate from SEMA's Professional Medical Education center, rekindling hope for a recovered health system in north of Syria.

10 October



- SEMA conducts a specialized training on «Community management of acute malnutrition» aiming to hone the skills of nutrition teams.
- SEMA's YouTube education channel exceeds 6000 subscribers during a short period after it was launched.

12 December



- A new department is opened for specialized burn surgeries in Idleb Specialized Surgical Hospital.
- SEMA provides a training on «infection control» for the staff of some health facilities in north of Syria.

Success Stories

After his brother's death because of a respiratory complaint, Mohammad could survive in Al-Ikhaa hospital

We were astonished by the ability of newborns to cling to life when caring hands are extended to offer them intensive care. Mohammad Zeno was another survival case in Al-Ikhaa hospital and an exceptional success story that inspires us to give all that we can to save the lives of the little souls.

The supervising doctor, Dr. Manal Zahran, described the case of the newborn: «The child Mohammad Zeno arrived at the hospital at the age of one and a half day after he was referred from Jenderes hospital as an emergency case following a respiratory distress and a drop in oxygen saturation to a life-threatening level. Although he was getting oxygen in an incubator there, his condition was quite critical as the provided care was general and not specialized for newborns.»

His family experienced a huge psychological distress after the death of Mohamad's brother, who died shortly after he was born due to a similar complaint. As Mohammad passed his first week, his family were given a dose of hope. In turn, Al-Ikhaa hospital became a referral center that receives externally referred cases given its unique neonatal intensive care services.

SEMA's health consultants remotely supervise the cases received at the hospital and they provide the field doctors with recommendations and advice on the ideal treatment. Notwithstanding the financial difficulties that the health staff face, they continue to devote their efforts to support the little souls and push them for life gently and firmly at the same time.



I continued my father's commitment to save lives and resumed my professional health education in SEMA's Center for Professional Health Training.

I am Samah, a student at SEMA's Center for Professional Health Training, and I have a different story from my peers. I started working in field hospitals in 2017, and, for me, field work was not a choice but an imposed reality that I had to undergo to continue carrying my father's message who used to work as an assistant surgeon then he passed away in one of the hospitals.

I joined SEMA's center in cooperation with SPARK organization and with the support of Sheikh Abdullah Nouri Charity. The work environment was very encouraging, in terms of equipment and trainers as we received the trainings in laboratories that were fully equipped, and we were being taught from appropriate and focused scientific curricula.

I remember the beginnings and the moments that preceded my decision to practice nursing and provide healthcare, which was a primitive picture at that time. I made my decision due to the pressing need for these services, and as many doctors, technicians and nurses left us, where an acute shortage of healthcare providers resulted.

During the clinical training in the national hospital in Afrin, we attended in the emergency section, incubator sections and labor sections to see many cases of patients at risk like hypertension and diabetes. I cannot forget the newborns in the incubator section where I was assigned to supervise some of them with the help of the incubator nurses. We also helped children who were suffering from high bilirubin level.



I remember the day on which we had a distinguished success story when a patient visited us and was about to give birth with an eclampsia condition. The midwife started the delivery procedures, and the newborn came out with a completely blue skin and general weakness. The midwife was busy while helping the patient and was not capable of helping the newborn at the same time, so I conducted a resuscitation with the supervision of the doctor on duty, and I managed to do that, thanks to what I had learned. I am very proud that I could save an infant that had just came to life.

Saving a mother's life and her triplets' in Idleb Specialized Surgical Hospital

The health staff of the Specialized Surgical Hospital managed to rescue three little souls and their mother. The patient A.J, a displaced woman from Abu Adhuhur area, visited the gynecologic clinic, and she was in a very deteriorated health condition as she suffered from a hemorrhagic shock caused by a trauma on her abdomen after falling on the ground while walking. The incident threatened her life as well as the safety of her newborns given the reduced access of blood to the tissues particularly the placenta and the fetuses.

On the spot, the patient was examined, and it was realized that she had premature triplets who were not ready

after birth. The patient was also diagnosed with a severe bleeding caused by the detachment of the placenta of one of the fetuses, which was caused by the mentioned incident.

As for the three fetuses, their heartbeats were regular upon testing. The mother was referred immediately to the operation room after conducting the emergency tests and securing 4 blood units. The surgery was crowned with success and the surgical team managed to extract the three babies alive (a boy and 2 girls) and refer them to the incubator section to receive the proper healthcare.



A new success story surpassing traditional surgery in Idleb Surgical Hospital

When the objective is to give patients a new life, it is normal to achieve a new success every day, and that is what vascular surgery fulfilled in Idleb Surgical Hospital.

One of the common cases that we received was a 50-year-old patient who was suffering from arterial stiffness and complaining from intermittent limping for short distances accompanied by coldness in lower limbs. After a series of examinations and diagnosis, it was realized that a complete blockage at the end of the abdominal aorta at the ramus lumbalis existed, and it was one of the arterial hardening types that is known as atherosclerosis.

Accordingly, it was decided to place a catheter using the «kissing stents» technique and conduct a stent surgery at the end of the abdominal aorta at the ramus lumbalis. The medical intervention succeeded, and the perfusion was brought back to its normal condition.

We are very happy after the recovery of our patient and his return to a normal life as well as overcoming the life-threatening complications, but at the same time, we are also happy that we could spare him a large and complicated surgery, or may be, several major surgeries in the abdomen vessels. Thus, our patient got a better solution with the least pains and fastest recovery period.



Secondary Health Care Program (Surgical Hospital)



Number of hospitals
8



Number of beneficiaries
547,860



Catchment population
1,945,851

The Syrian Expatriate Medical Association (SEMA) continued to provide secondary health care services for the most vulnerable society groups in northwest Syria while simultaneously there has been an increase in displaced people near the borders doubling the load on the health facilities, and also a decrease in international funding.

Around 508044 displaced and resident people benefited from the primary health care services, as out of 5 million people, roughly 10% of the general needs,

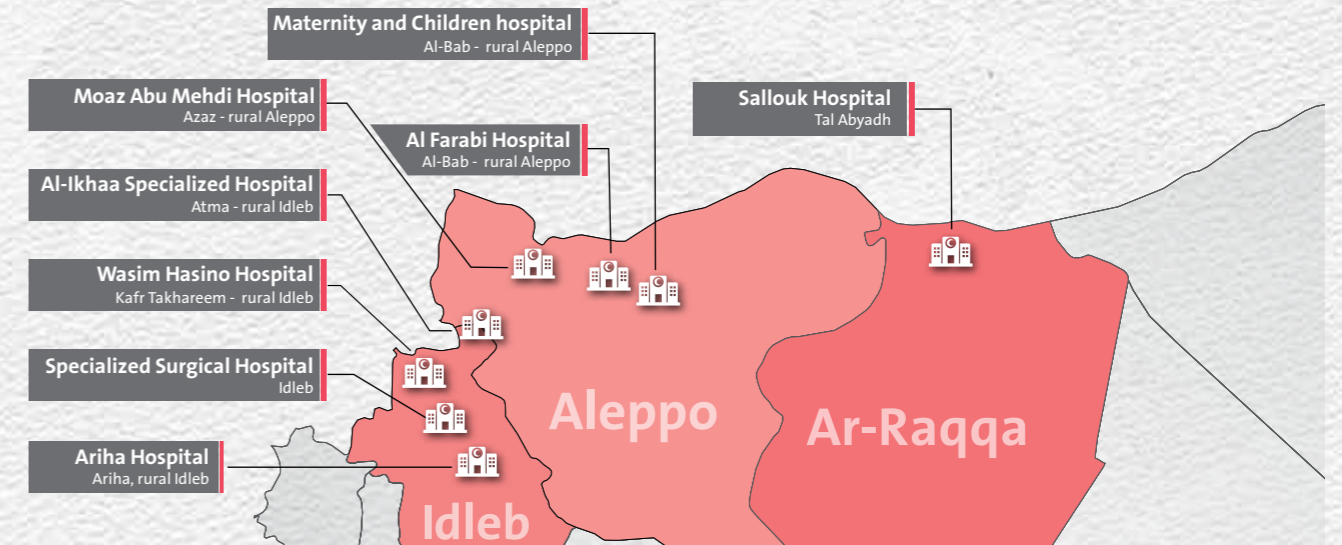
Regardless of the aforementioned circumstances, SEMA has been keen on ensuring strict quality standards in its services, as it has been providing these services through a specialized and trained health staff to guarantee highest quality and compliance to international protocols.

Our staff includes physicians, surgeons and resident doctors of different specializations as well as nurses, midwives, technicians and service and administrative teams.

During 2021, the program of surgical hospitals witnessed a paradigm shift in all aspects both quantitatively and qualitatively as recovery stories were recorded through the successfully conducted delicate surgeries like vascular surgeries.

Moreover, SEMA created new operation departments in the surgical hospitals and developed the sections and structures of the reproductive health hospitals to be in line with the highest disinfection, ventilation, and lighting standards.

Locations of the surgical hospitals



Surgical Operations



Major surgeries
11,247



Minor surgeries
4,736

Admissions

Obstetrics and Gynecology	15711
Internal Medicine	346
Intensive care	441
Incubators	5132
Kidney and nephrology	80
Orthopedics	243
ENT	112
Pediatrics	7405
Surgery	501

Details of major surgeries

gynecologic surgeries	6807
jaw surgeries	141
ENT surgeries	848
urologic surgeries	321
reconstructive surgeries	451
general surgeries	1366
orthopedic surgeries	1103
ocular surgeries	4
vascular surgeries	206



Total number of beneficiaries

29,971

Out-patient clinics

Gynecology clinic	163777
Pediatric clinic	109884
Internal medicine clinic	24636
Emergency and First Aid clinic	136784
General surgery clinic	5493
Orthopedic clinic	16584
ENT Clinic	9186
Urology clinic	10078
Ophthalmology clinic	15653
Cosmetic clinic	2717
Dental clinic	4296
Jaw clinic	2818



Total number of beneficiaries

501,906

Primary Health Care Program



Number of centers

16



Number of beneficiaries

311,671



Catchment population

1,471,217

Primary health care services formed the largest sector of the Syrian Expatriate Medical Association's activities in 2021, as it has been keen on continuously operating the primary health centers, especially among the far gatherings of displaced people and in the highly populated cities. These services are considered the first line of defense against common diseases. SEMA worked through two axes: delivering health services to the displaced populations especially in the far random camps, and, simultaneously, increasing the number of centers up to 16 centers in 2021 by establishing 3 additional facilities, compared to the previous year, for the purpose of covering more needs.

SEMA has also worked on improving the access to these services through activating referral mechanisms among the PHC centers, hospitals and specialized health centers to achieve the highest quality standards and inter-connect the health facilities for a better and comprehensive recovery experience for the beneficiaries. In addition, seeking a better response, SEMA opened 3 isolation hospitals in Idleb (Carelton), Jisr Ash-Shugur, and Kafr Takhareem, and also opened a specialized hospital for caring and isolating children infected with COVID-19 and respiratory diseases.



Children's Clinics

Male beneficiaries	67132
Female beneficiaries	108534
Displaced beneficiaries	137498
Resident beneficiaries	38168

Total number of beneficiaries

31,414



Specialized Clinics

Male beneficiaries	67132
Female beneficiaries	108534
Displaced beneficiaries	137498
Resident beneficiaries	38168

Total number of beneficiaries

175,666



Dental Clinics

Male beneficiaries	10625
Female beneficiaries	15433
Displaced beneficiaries	18105
Resident beneficiaries	7953

Total number of beneficiaries

26,058



Miscellaneous Services

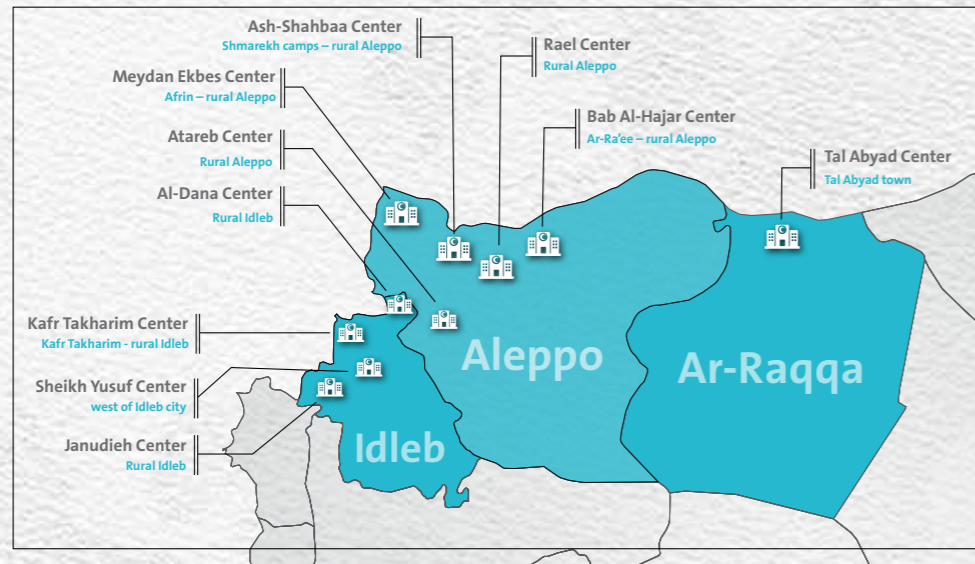
Radiographs	324
Pharmacy	214726
Laboratory	13757
Vaccination	15995

Gynecology clinic

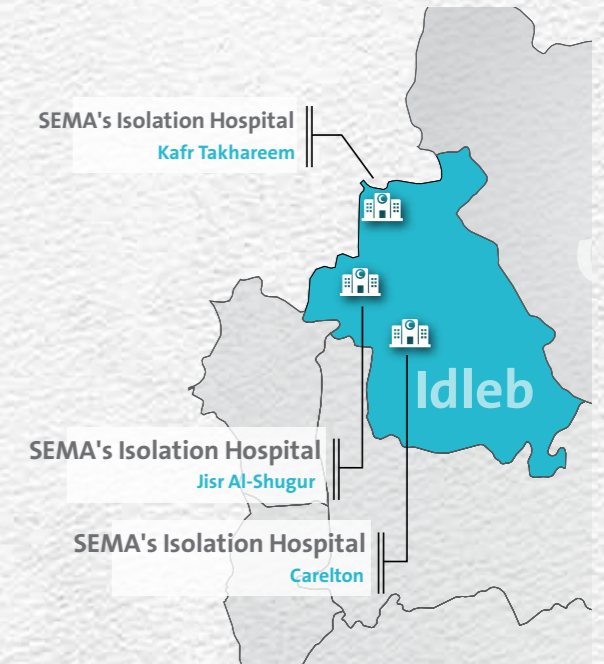
Total number of beneficiaries 47637



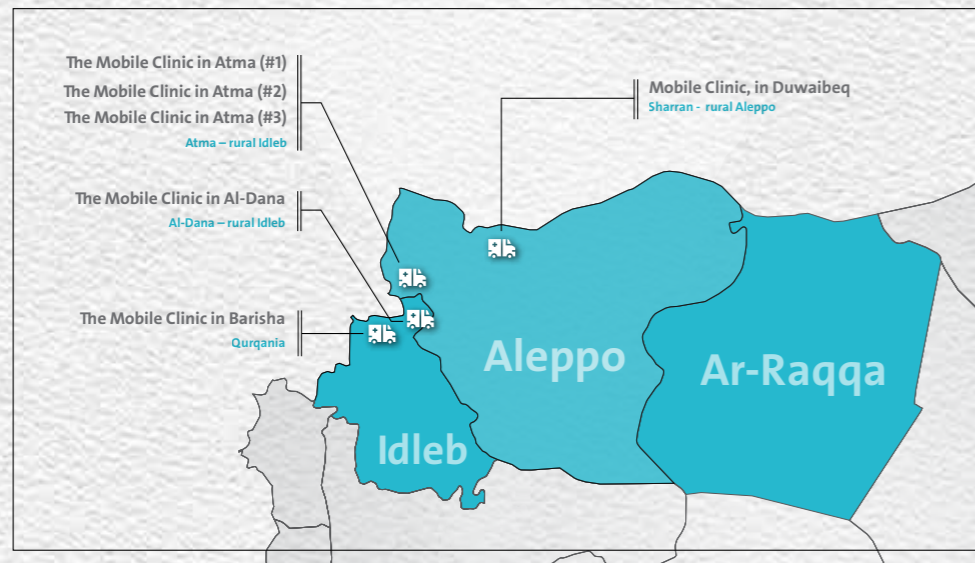
Health Centers



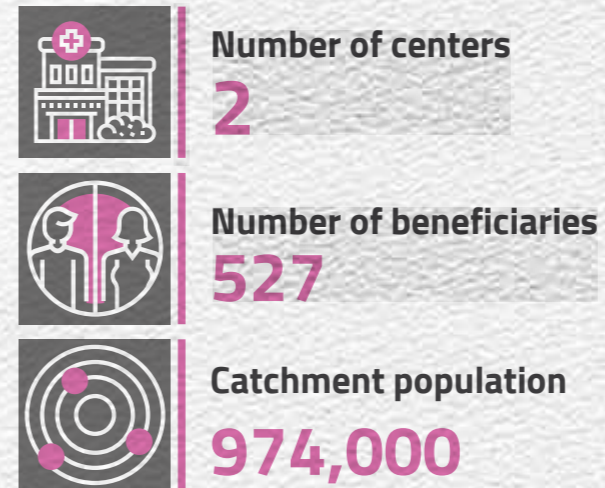
Isolation Hospitals



Mobile Clinics




Dialysis Centers



Medical Education and Training Program



 Number of institutes and academies
2

 Number of students
239

 Number of graduates
145

The Medical Education and Training Program in the Syrian Expatriate Medical Association (SEMA) works on qualifying professional health personnel for the purpose of strengthening the national capacity and adapting the education of the health cadres to meet the health needs of the displaced populations. The program ultimately aims to provide the best health services to the most fragile groups, especially in light of the huge gap between the numbers of in-need people and the number of healthcare providers. Through this program, we managed to achieve the highest standards in medical education and provide opportunities for a continued professional development for workers in the healthcare sector. We have also offered an exceptional educational experience to qualify future nurses and health technicians to specialize in the various health fields, like emergency medicine, rehabilitation, and primary health care.

The education process in SEMA's Medical Education Program comprises many paralleled paths including the continued medical education, professional medical education, and training and capacity building. The Medical Education Program has also activated the translation and studies program and it encourages scientific research. SEMA's Medical Education Program is a distinctive program as it is considered a sustainable project that can create more opportunities for the graduates and secure skilled health labor with international experience for the health sector. Additionally, this program has offered an educational platform that includes a series of educational specialized lectures directed for resident doctors and provided by experienced doctors around the world.



Medical Education

	Academy of Health Sciences	SEMA's Education center in Afrin
Location	Qah, northern Idleb, Syria	Afrin, rural Aleppo
Departments	Nursing - emergency – medicine – natural treatment	Midwifery – nursing
Number of students	139	100
Number of graduates	57	88



Online lectures (continued education)



Number of beneficiaries
2,500



Number of lectures
111



Number of watch hours
13,700



Number of views
200,000



Number of new subscribers (2021)
3,500



Total number of subscribers
7,150



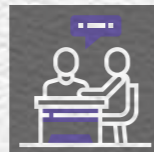
Protection and Psychosocial Support Program



Mental Health



Number of beneficiaries
9,103



Total number of consultations
19,620

In our Protection and Psychosocial Support program, we worked closely with the other health programs to improve the life of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups in the society, support their mental and physical wellbeing and ensure a safe environment that enhances their access to health, psychosocial and relief assistance.

We also worked on raising the community awareness of gender-based violence issues, the rights of people with disabilities and other issues concerned with the mental and psychological wellbeing of the beneficiaries. Through our package of projects and campaigns under this program, we endeavored to mitigate the impact and risks of war on children and women via a series of trainings, social events, and programs organized through our community centers and Child Friendly Spaces (Aamal centers).

We also worked on empowering the vulnerable groups through the referral system and through providing disabled children with the tools that support them in leading an independent life like electric and normal wheelchairs and hearing aids. In this program, we tackle our beneficiaries not only as patients, but also as humans, so we look at all their needs, including the needs for medical and non-medical assistance, psychosocial support and psychological first aid. We also support their return to education, help those with zero income to start their own businesses and support women with the skills they need. All of the above are real success stories that we already achieved and are still continuing to achieve through our Protection and Psychosocial Support program.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV)



Number of beneficiaries:
60,039

Nutrition and Community Health Program



In SEMA, we focus on the nutrition of infants and children under 5 as good nutrition is the basis for enhancing children's life and strengthening their growth especially the infants and children under 2 years since an ideal nutrition during this period can reduce mortality and morbidity rates and the risks of developing chronic diseases, and generally improve the children's growth.

SEMA also concentrated on the preventive aspect which involved health awareness and supporting the nutrition of children and their mothers through different programs. SEMA's projects worked on integrating community health services and malnutrition preventive and curative services with the services of the primary health centers and hospitals.

SEMA deployed its community health teams in more than 30 villages covering all nutrition and community health services which comprised provision of individuals and group counselling sessions, distribution of nutritional supplements and referral of cases that required specialized centers. Further, nutrition tents were established to provide nutrition services to mothers and their children. Moreover, the Rapid Response Teams (RRT) program focused on offering a comprehensive package of services to children and their mothers through integrating water and sanitation services as well as protection and mental health services, and this program was implemented in camps.

Nutrition Program



Number of centers and teams

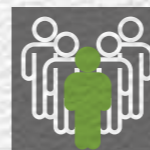
26



Number of beneficiaries

105,136

Community Health Program



Number of centers and teams

31



Number of beneficiaries

196,505

Total number of beneficiaries



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

1,445,612

Beneficiaries by program

Surgical Hospitals	547860
Primary Health Care	311671
Specialized Projects	527
Nutrition and Community Health Program	301641
Protection and Psychosocial Support Program	280,695
Education and Training Program	3218



SEMA's total expenditures in 2021.

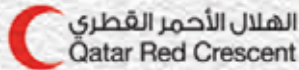
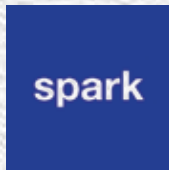
Programs	expenditure in USD	%
Surgical Hospital	2,455,229	12%
Primary Health Care (PHC)	2,097,010	11%
Administrative and Operational	3,174,119	16%
Nutrition	449,896	2%
Protection and Psychological Support (PSS).	2,243,471	11%
Specialized Projects	5,134,888	26%
Medical Education and Training	1,029,844	5%
Other	3,122,249	16%
Total	19,706,707	

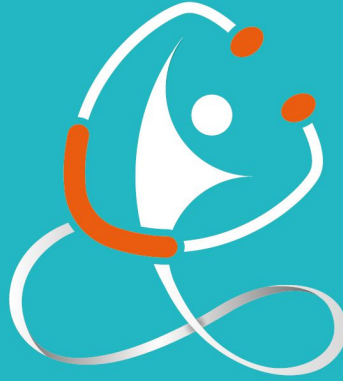


Funding sources for 2021

Donor	received in 2021 in USD	%
IRC	3,258,463	20%
HPF	2,708,137	17%
SEMA	2,125,075	13%
UNFPA	2,105,120	13%
QRC	1,711,523	11%
WorldVision	1,697,221	10%
WHO	698,089	4%
Kuwaiti Donors	686,559	4%
UNHCR	467,481	3%
HelpAge	234,293	1%
UNICEF	147,357	1%
MSF	126,056	1%
GOAL	120,215	1%
SPARK	87,344	1%
Other	529	0%
Cash received	16,173,461	
In-kind received	3,533,246	
Total received	19,706,707	

Our partners





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