

2023



Syrian Expatriates Medical Association

Organization Profile



SEMA

الرابطة الطبية للمغتربين السوريين

İNSANI VE TIBBİ YARDIM DERNEĞİ

SYRIAN EXPATRIATES MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Syrian Expatriates Medical Association (SEMA)

Medicine is more than just a profession for us, it is a humanitarian mission and responsibility. That is why we were at the forefront of responding to the humanitarian crisis in Syria. As Syrian doctors and expatriates, we established SEMA, a non-profit humanitarian health organization that is not affiliated with any political or religious group. Our journey began in mid-2011.

Over the years, we have been able to change the lives of many individuals in various regions of Syria through our services. We have reached them through a network of hospitals, health centers, and mobile clinics, and we continue to expand our networks to reach newly displaced populations and address their specific needs.

SEMA has been at the forefront of organizations that integrate protection and relief services alongside medical services. We recognize that beneficiaries have multiple needs beyond just medical care. That is why we have established social centers to address cases of violence, special needs children, and women's empowerment.

SEMA provides emergency relief to those affected by hotspots such as recent displacements and earthquake victims. We also provide regular relief services to the most vulnerable families.





Vision

SEMA believes in a world, where vulnerable people no longer exist, and provides access to health services while pursuing the highest standards of quality under the slogan: “We Hold Good for All”.

SEMA aims to be recognized as a leading humanitarian relief, medical and development organization, through implementing pioneering projects in relief work.



Values

- credibility
- independence
- transparency
- honesty
- community leadership
- cooperation and partnership

Medical Programs

Surgical Hospitals

Since its establishment, SEMA's name has been popular on signboards of surgical hospitals and it has been and still is the most prominent supporter for field and specialized hospitals in Syria that provide secondary health care services. We are proud today that we could move to the next level of tertiary care and perform qualitative and complex surgeries in some of our hospitals.

Despite the distance that separates us as expatriate doctors from our motherland, we chose to be in the field and to reconnect with the Syrian land and Syrians.

Since the emergence of our organization, SEMA, we have provided various types of support to secondary health care facilities, including trauma and surgical hospitals, maternity and pediatric hospitals and general hospitals, and today we lead a package of high-quality medical services.

The health staff consisting of medical care providers is one of our most important strengths, as we have been keen to hone their expertise through a series of training and educational support programs to ensure highest quality of health services offered to those affected by the war. Although we are still in the middle of the pandemic, we have demonstrated strict compliance with global protocols and standards as much as we show compassionate medical care to the most vulnerable.

Projects under this Program

Hospital Name	Location
Specialized Surgical Hospital	Idleb
Wassim Hussein Surgical Hospital	Rural Idleb
Al Rahma Hospital	Rural Idleb



Medical Programs

Reproductive Health

Although women and children are the space of peace and life amid wars and death, medical assistance is rarely specified for them. Nevertheless, we, in SEMA, operate six Reproductive Health hospitals, and perform 1,550 deliveries per month thanks to our supporters. Our services reach twenty thousand women and children every month, which is indeed a large number that we would not have reached had it not been through the support of many believers in the need to preserve women's health in the middle of war.

The truth is that Reproductive Health is more than just a project. It's more of a way of life because it affects both men and women from childhood to old age. According to the United Nations Population Fund, Reproductive Health challenges at any age has a profound impact on an individual's later health; such challenges can be faced by people at different times of their lives, and they may possibly be related to family planning, access to services that prevent sexually transmitted infections, and early diagnosis and treatment of reproductive health

diseases; therefore, SEMA works to strengthen the necessary services, such as health and educational services.

We still aspire to access and support all displaced and resident women and to provide a helping hand to them and their children for a bright future in which a strong generation can overcome the consequences of war. Reaching women in childbearing age means alleviating the war impact on them and their young children equally; it means transcending war to a more peaceful, recovered and fertile future.

Thanks to our supporters, the Reproductive Health Program has helped the most vulnerable group of the displaced population, namely women of fertile age, who do not have access to medical services that meet their special and necessary needs. This program constitutes a bridge that extends from the present to the future because we have the conviction that women and children are the future, and that Reproductive Health support is the highest form of supporting life against death.



Projects under this Program

Hospital Name	Location	Hospital Name	Location
Specialized Surgical Hospital	Idlib	Moaz Abu Mahdi Hospital	Rural Aleppo
Ariha Hospital	Rural Idlib	Maternity and Childhood Hospital	Rural Aleppo
Al-Ikhaa Specialized Hospital	Rural Idlib	Al-Farabi Hospital	Rural Aleppo

Medical Programs

Primary Health Care

SEMA leads a wide network of Primary Health Care centers, through which it aims to move from the treatment modality to the improved lifestyle of war-affected people. These centers provide preventive and community health services, with the purpose of reducing dependence on hospitals and shifting to a healthier and more recovering lifestyle for the people in northern Syria. These projects are considered the optimal humanitarian investment.

SEMA applies the essential package of Primary Health Care services, which covers the areas of: Reproductive Health, child health, mental health and psychosocial support, communicable and non-communicable diseases, nutrition and vaccinations.

SEMA provides Primary Health Care services by supporting different levels of fixed and mobile primary health centers in Idleb and

Aleppo governorates. These centers are equipped with expert medical staff trained on clinical standards and protocols.

SEMA proactively took the initiative to establish isolation rooms and triage rooms at the entrances of its hospitals and health centers to examine patients free of charge, then it began implementing more effective projects to fight against the pandemic through the establishment of three isolation hospitals in northern Syria.

Projects under this Program

Center Name	Location
Al-Shahba Center	Azaz, Rural Aleppo
Meidan Ekbis Center	Afrin, Rural Aleppo
Tell Abyad Center	Raqqa
SEMA Isolation Hospital	Idleb
SEMA Isolation Hospital	Meidan Ekbis Center



Projenin Adı	Location
Al-Dana Center	Al-Dana, Rural Idleb
Al-Sheikh Youssef Center	Al-Sheikh Youssef, Rural Idleb
Nabad Alhaya Project	Rural Idleb
El Feyha Project	Rural Idleb

Mobile Clinics

Clinic Name	Location
Mobile Clinic	Ma`arrat Misrin

Mobile Centers

Center Name	Location
Mobile Health Center	Rural Aleppo
Mobile Health Center	Rural Idleb



Dialysis Centers

Center Name	Location
Fadi Kashkash Dialysis Center	Salqin, Rural Idleb
Dialysis Center	Ras Al-Ein, Hasaka

Medical Programs

Medical Education and Training

The Medical Education and Training department in SEMA regularly implements and develops several programs, the most important of which are:

- Continued Medical Education Program: it offers a wide variety of specializations of (online) continued medical education packages and aims to help health service providers maintain and develop their efficiency and learn about the latest updates and developments. This program is as an innovative solution to the limited resources available and the difficulty of movement and direct communication.
- The Professional Health Education Program: it includes a group of health educational facilities in which students are trained and qualified in various professional health specialties such as emergency medicine, nursing, midwifery and physical therapy. This training program extends for two years after which the students are granted certificates accredited by official and international bodies to support their professional stability and connection with their local communities and to provide high-quality health services.

In addition, cooperation with several Turkish universities is made in order to provide the best educational and health training opportunities for our students and cadres inside Syria.

- Training and Capacity Building Program: It aims to promote the quality of performance of health service providers in their various specializations, equip them with the necessary skills to use modern technologies and protocols, and grant them quality training certificates that support their career path. The activities under this program are implemented in northwest Syria and in Turkey by relying on the experiences of the best trainers who are certified by reputable international universities.

The main objectives of the Medical Education and Training Department:

1. Building the capacity of medical personnel and health service providers in different specializations.
2. Raising awareness of proper procedures and scientific standards in providing health services.
3. Contributing to the development of the quality of services in the areas of emergency, rehabilitation and Primary Health Care.
4. Developing professional health educational academies and institutes from which qualified health workers graduate.
5. Encouraging a culture of scientific research in order to provide effective health services.
6. Striving towards sustainability and economic empowerment of youth, through obtaining the necessary accreditation for the conducted programs and trainings, and meeting the needs of the labor market.
7. Contributing to the recovery of the health sector.

Major Projects and Initiatives:

SEMA Continued Medical Education (Youtube Channel)

Pediatrics Residency Specialization Program

Translation, Studies and Scientific Research

Graduate Program in Public Health and Health Policy (Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University)

Medical Programs

Protection Program

SEMA is considered one of the first organizations to integrate Gender-Based Violence (GBV) services into its package of health services, in which case managers work to provide Psychological First Aid, psychosocial support and referral to the services available under mental health, all while taking into account the basic protection principles related to dignity, safety and safe access.

SEMA later expanded and established Women and Girls Safe Spaces that provide response services to Gender-Based Violence cases, through awareness-raising sessions, empowerment courses for women and girls, Young Mothers Club program, and recreational activities for girls and women, while ensuring the inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in these activities and ensuring that the centers are accessible and friendly to this vulnerable group through rehabilitation of the centers along with securing transportation services.

In 2018, Child Protection services were introduced, followed by the establishment of Child-Friendly Spaces. These centers provide case management services, psychosocial support sessions for children, parenting skills and awareness raising sessions for parents, in addition to establishing community networks concerned with children's rights and protection. These services are offered through Child-Friendly Spaces that pay special attention to rehabilitating the children with special needs and reintegrating them into the society.

Through its own funding, SEMA was able to provide more than 250 hearing aids for children with hearing loss, and to offer them rehabilitation services through these centers. It also provided dozens of normal and electric wheelchairs, glasses and mobility aids for children.



Medical Programs

Community Health Program

SEMA launched the Community Health Program to reduce the gap between the health centers and the community, and this program was one of the fruits of Primary Health Care devoted to improving the community health and maintaining the health of the population whom we target and work to improve their lives.

We, in SEMA, have developed the community health program to provide the necessary health advice that people need, correct their medical misconceptions, promote accurate concepts about health and consequently reduce the morbidity rates by establishing a healthy lifestyle in the targeted communities.

The Syrian Expatriates Medical Association, SEMA, designed the community health program to improve the health of individuals and families, and later this program was adapted to be an integrated work system that complies with the models approved by the World Health Organization and with the new developments such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have overcome the Coronavirus challenge smoothly and our teams shuttled among the camps to raise awareness of the importance of hygiene and reduce infections as much as possible. SEMA was one of the pioneering organizations in developing this type of programs.



Medical Programs

Nutrition Program

We realized early on that addressing child stunting in northern Syria requires constant investigation, starting with the homes and tents of these children, as their parents often do not realize the problem of malnutrition in their children. SEMA's teams worked on a program to combat malnutrition through daily investigation and follow-up of malnutrition and stunting cases in northern Syria, especially among children under the age of 5, where they accounted for 34% of total children. On the other hand, cases of malnutrition among pregnant and lactating mothers in besieged and difficult-to-reach areas have been also followed up under this program.

All of this has been achieved in parallel with focusing on proper infant feeding programs and providing nutrients for children and pregnant and lactating

women to prevent malnutrition and stunting cases, including anemia and cases associated with nutritional deficiencies.

The nutrition program also applies its integrated services for the mother and child by integrating water, sanitation, protection and mental health services, to provide a comprehensive support to the targeted beneficiary groups.

This program has been given a wider space for implementation in the camps, and SEMA is considered one of the leading organizations in implementing integrated services for the children and mothers simultaneously, in continuous coordination with the Nutrition Working Group and UNICEF. We are proud of our long record today of healthy children and their mothers, and we have an average of 200 admissions on monthly basis.



our partners





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