



Syrian Expatriates Medical Association

Annual Report

2024



SEMA

الرابطة الطبية للمغتربين السوريين
İNSANI VE TIBBİ YARDIM DERNEĞİ
SYRIAN EXPATRIATES MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



Report Content

Who we are	4
SEMA in 2024	6
Success Stories	10
Surgical Hospitals Program	16
Primary Health Care Program	20
Protection and Psychosocial Support Program	24
Nutrition and Community Health Program	26
Total Number of Beneficiaries	28
Expenditures - Funding	30
Our Partners	32

Who we are



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 envisions a world where no one remains vulnerable, and all individuals have equitable access to health, protection, nutrition, and relief services, ensuring dignity and well-being for all. Guided by our slogan, 'We Hold Good for All,' we are committed to making this vision a reality.



message

SEMA is a leading humanitarian organization committed to providing high-quality relief, medical, protection, nutrition, and emergency response services. Through pioneering projects and sustainable interventions, SEMA aims to alleviate suffering, empower communities, and build resilience in crisis-affected areas.



Values

- Transparency
- Integrity
- Community Leadership
- Independence
- Credibility
- Collaboration and Partnership

SEMA in 2024



01 January



- Saving the life of a teenager from certain death at Al-Rahma Hospital
- SEMA distributes 400 safe heaters to Al-Safa camp in Hatay

02 February



- Installation of the first free cardiac catheterization lab at the Idlib Specialty Surgical Hospital
- 256 heating supply portions distributed to families in rural Idlib

03 March



- New training on psychological first aid and facilitation skills
- Delivery of 300 wheelchairs to elderly individuals in northern Syria

04 April



- Opening of the Gastroenterology Clinic at Idlib Specialty Surgical Hospital
- UN team visit to Ariha Hospital supported by SEMA

05 May



- SEMA participates in the Istanbul Conference on Economic Empowerment and Sustainability in Syria
- Outdoor sessions for the elderly as part of the "Spring Blossoms" initiative

06 June



- A social event held alongside activities at the Al-Noor Community Center in Salqin
- Hundreds of portions of sacrificial meat delivered to our people in the camps of northern Syria

07 July



- Installation of 80 hearing aids for the elderly at the Al-Rafah Elderly Care Home
- Youth football tournament held by SEMA's Al-Noor Center with Al-Ruwad Organization

08 August



- The 101st case worldwide – a successful surgery for a youth with a rare condition.
- OCHA meets SEMA's protection teams in northern Syria.

09 September



- Protection teams hold an event for World Suicide Prevention Day.
- SEMA celebrates seniors on the International Day of Older Persons.

10 October



- Successful birth of triplets at Al-Ikhaa Hospital.
- Legal training to prepare trainers on documenting housing, land, and property rights.

11 November



- SEMA participates in the Geneva conference to strengthen global humanitarian relief strategies.
- SEMA's educational YouTube channel surpasses 15,000 subscribers and continues to grow.

12 December



- Joy of Liberation: Celebrations filled with hope and freedom in SEMA's protection centers.
- The birth of three tiny hearts brings light to life at the Surgical Specialty Hospital.

Success Stories



A Rare Condition Ends with a New Smile and a Normal Life for a Young Boy

At the age of twelve, a young boy carried the weight of a rare medical condition that filled him with anxiety and fear. A visible mass on the left side of his neck would swell noticeably with every deep breath or physical effort. It was always there—along with a hoarse voice—reminding him of something that set him apart.

He arrived at the Vascular Surgery Clinic at Idlib Specialty Surgical Hospital with silent hope. After detailed evaluations using Doppler ultrasound and a CT scan, the diagnosis was confirmed: a rare dilation of the internal jugular vein, over 5 cm in diameter. Only about 101 such cases have been documented in medical literature worldwide.

Surgery became unavoidable—to relieve pressure on nearby nerves and help restore his voice. Dr. Ali Al-Saeed, a vascular surgery specialist, led the operation using a vein wrapping technique with a Dacron graft. This method restored the vein's size without cutting or tying it.

By the next day, the boy walked out of the hospital with a brighter smile and a clearer voice.

This wasn't just a successful operation—it was a story of resilience, family hope, and medical excellence in one of the world's most challenging environments.



Early Detection of a Meningioma Saves a Patient's Life and Initiates Timely Treatment

Access to modern medical equipment is not a luxury—it's a necessity for saving lives. One such case is that of our 60-year-old patient, Z.A., who visited the neurology clinic at SEMA Medical Complex complaining of recurring headaches. The neurologist referred him for an MRI scan, using the only such device available in most of northern Syria.

The MRI revealed a mass in the left parietal region of the brain, surrounded by edema and causing compression of the left lateral ventricle—leading to symptoms of increased intracranial pressure.

A contrast-enhanced scan was then performed to further analyze the mass's nature, size, and

spread. The radiology specialist diagnosed it as a meningioma measuring 6 × 5.3 cm.

The patient was immediately referred to a specialist to determine the appropriate medical or surgical treatment plan.

This early detection of the meningioma played a vital role in diagnosing the condition and initiating timely care—potentially saving the patient's life.

This case underscores why we are committed to continually upgrading our equipment—to ensure the best possible treatment and to safeguard the lives of our patients.



Complex Surgery Performed to Remove a Retroperitoneal Mass from a 61-Year-Old Patient

A 61-year-old woman visited the general surgery clinic complaining of persistent abdominal pain around the navel for three months, radiating to the back, accompanied by loss of appetite, weight loss, and general fatigue.

After thorough examinations, imaging revealed a large retroperitoneal mass measuring 12 × 12 × 7 cm. The mass was pressing on the pancreas, sections of the intestines, the aorta, and the right renal artery, while also displacing the inferior vena cava.

A complex surgical procedure was performed by a skilled multidisciplinary medical team. During the operation, the surgeons carefully separated the mass from surrounding organs and successfully removed it, managing its invasion into the renal artery and vein.

The patient was admitted to the intensive care unit for several days, then transferred to a hospital ward, and eventually discharged home after confirming improved kidney function and overall recovery.

This procedure is considered one of the most complex and major surgeries, due to the size and sensitive location of the mass among critical organs and arteries. It required high-level expertise and coordination among multiple medical teams to ensure safe removal without damaging nearby structures—demonstrating the team's dedication, precision, and excellence in achieving this medical success.



Aaliya Rekindles Hope Through the Sewing Workshop in Atmeh

Nine years ago, Aaliya Al-Hassan (45) was displaced from rural Hama due to intense shelling. She and her husband, along with their seven children, spent four months living under olive trees near the Syrian border—without shelter or income. The hardship took a heavy toll on her physical and mental health. Over time, only three of her children remained with her in the camp; the other four had migrated abroad in search of a better future.

Amid these harsh conditions, Aaliya heard about a sewing workshop launched by SEMA in one of Atmeh's camps. She didn't hesitate to join.

"This project changed my life completely," Aaliya says. "It brought me out of isolation, helped me make new friends, and allowed me to overcome depression and regain my self-confidence."

Beyond vocational training, Aaliya benefited from awareness sessions that opened her eyes to vital issues such as early marriage and family planning. She became more capable of managing life's challenges and caring for her family.

She concludes, "What I'm most proud of is my determination to grow and my hope for a better future for my children. I truly wish the center expands so its benefits can reach everyone."



Hajj Mohammad Tawfiq: A Journey of Pain and Hope

While preparing a holiday meal, 73-year-old Hajj Mohammad Tawfiq Termanini stepped out to get cooking fat. When he returned, a barrel bomb had destroyed his home in Aleppo—killing his entire family.

"I left for just a moment," he recalls. "When I came back, they were all gone." That day marked the end of the life he knew.

Left alone and traumatized, he fled Aleppo in search of safety. His journey led him to Dar Al-Rafah Elderly Care Center in Idlib, where he was welcomed by the SEMA team with warmth, psychological support, and full medical care.

"The care here is excellent," says Hajj Mohammad. "They help with my foot injury, monitor my diabetes, and provide everything I need. I feel like I'm part of a new family."

Yet, the pain of losing his children—Majd, Tawfiq, Rasha, and his twin daughters—remains in his heart.

Despite the sorrow, Dar Al-Rafah has brought him comfort and a sense of belonging.

"My only wish," he says with a heavy heart, "is for this injustice to end. That's all I hope for."



Surgical Hospitals Program



SEMA's Surgical Hospitals Program stands as one of the most advanced healthcare models in northern Syria, offering high-quality, specialized surgical care—completely free of charge—to vulnerable populations in areas suffering from a dire shortage of medical services and unaffordable treatment costs.

In 2024, the program provided medical services to over 460,000 patients through a network of 8 surgical hospitals, all operating under strict quality standards. These hospitals performed nearly 24,000 diverse surgical procedures, directly contributing to saving lives and improving the quality of life for thousands.

To enhance the program's efficiency and safety, SEMA equipped its operating rooms with state-of-the-art sterilization and ventilation systems aligned

with international standards. Post-operative care and recovery units were also upgraded to ensure safe healing. Continuous training programs were held to improve the skills and performance of medical and technical staff, guaranteeing excellence in healthcare delivery.

Humanitarian & Medical Impact

This program is not merely a healthcare project—it is a lifeline. It has become a beacon of hope, reducing post-surgical complications and bridging a critical healthcare gap in underserved regions. By offering services free of charge, the program has significantly alleviated the financial burden on families who could not afford surgical care in the midst of an ongoing economic crisis.

Locations of the surgical hospitals



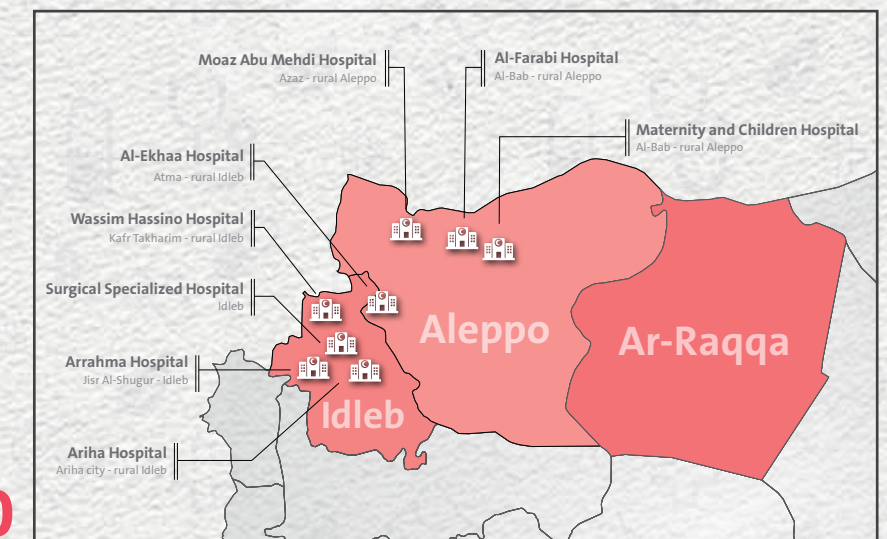
Number of hospitals
8



Number of beneficiaries
460,012



Catchment population
2,320,000



Surgical Operations



Major surgeries
12,355



Minor surgeries
11,314

Miscellaneous services

Intensive care	991
Pharmacy department	158595
x_ray department	56249
Laboratory department	281966

Details of major surgeries

gynecologic surgeries	3868
jaw surgeries	169
ENT surgeries	645
urologic surgeries	1511
reconstructive surgeries	303
thoracic surgeries	17
general surgeries	2338
orthopedic surgeries	2542
ocular surgeries	347
vascular surgeries	247
Neurosurgery	368



Out-patient clinics

Gynecology clinic	84963
Pediatric clinic	83843
Internal medicine clinic	23312
Emergency and First	140602
Aid clinic	6385
General surgery clinic	24736
Orthopedic clinic	10037
ENT Clinic	10195
Urology clinic	9985
Ophthalmology clinic	6262
Cosmetic clinic	6920
Dental clinic	8613

Total number of beneficiaries

415,835



Total admissions

44,159



Primary Healthcare Program

SEMA's Primary Health Care Program stands as one of the fundamental pillars of its health system development efforts. The program offers preventive and early curative services through a network of 10 fixed health centers and 2 mobile clinics, focusing on highly vulnerable areas and remote camps.

In 2024, the program served around 296,858 individuals, providing routine check-ups, vaccinations for children and women, early detection and management of chronic diseases, treatment for minor injuries, psychosocial support, and screening for malnutrition with appropriate referrals for specialized care.

Impact and Development

This program helped ease the pressure on surgical hospitals by offering effective community-level interventions. SEMA also enhanced the system's efficiency by digitizing medical referrals, and standardizing clinical protocols—ensuring better follow-up and improving healthcare quality.

SEMA continues to expand its network of health centers, aiming to build a resilient, accessible, and sustainable healthcare system across northern Syria.



Number of
centers
12



Number of
beneficiaries
296,858



Catchment
population
1,150,000

Children's Clinics	
Total number of beneficiaries	
55,002	

Gynecology clinic	
Total number of beneficiaries	
59,383	

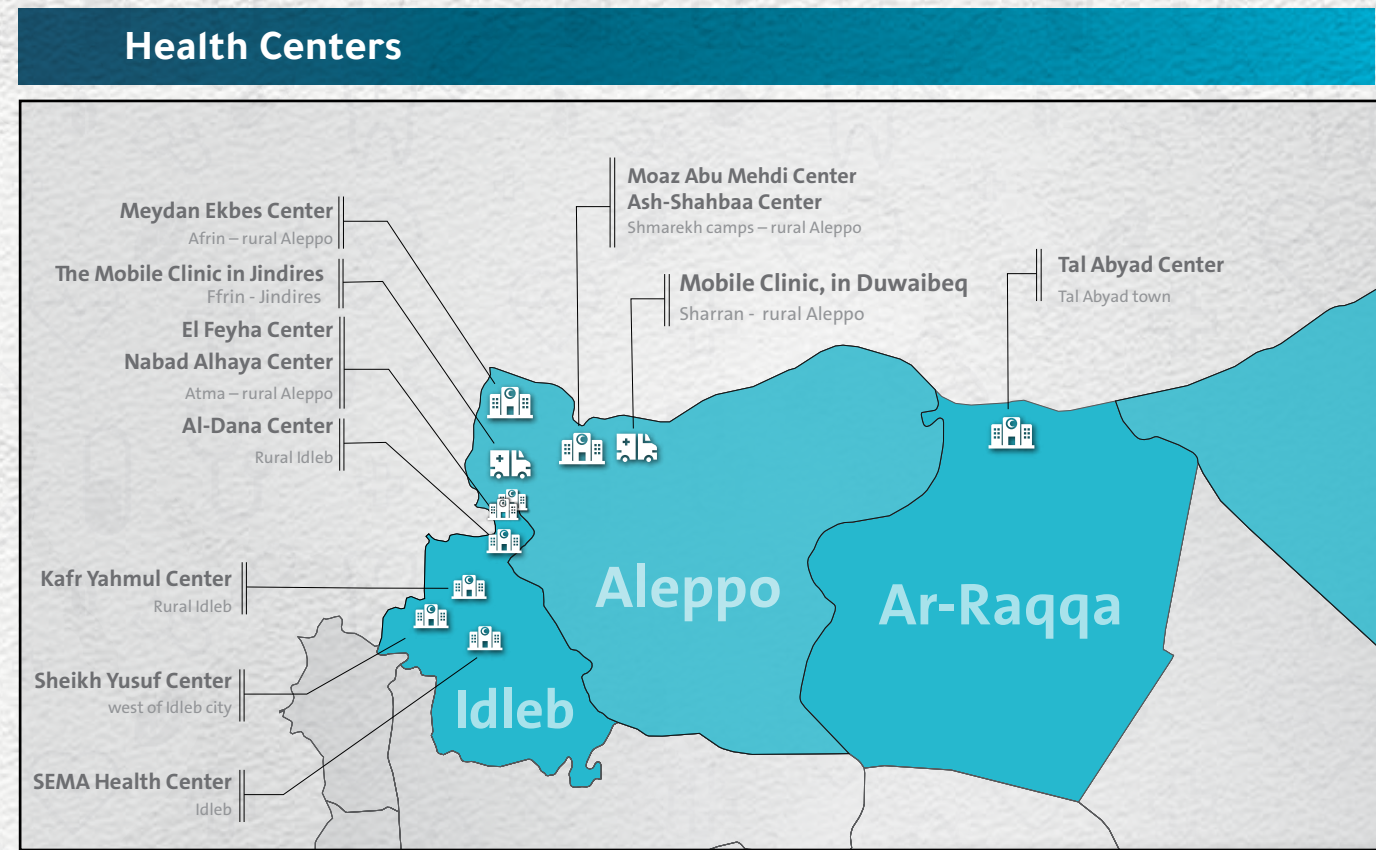
Specialized Clinics	
Total number of beneficiaries	
152,304	

Miscellaneous Services	
x_ray	3380
Pharmacy	142137
Laboratory	55122
Vaccines	23571



Dental Clinics	
Total number of beneficiaries	
30,169	

Mobile Clinics & Health Centers	
Total number of beneficiaries	
296,858	



Dialysis Centers			
	Number of centers		Number of beneficiaries
	2		765
	Dialysis sessions		Catchment population
	5,971		320,000





Protection and Psychological Support Program

SEMA's services extend beyond healthcare and humanitarian relief to include a strong focus on the psychological and emotional well-being of individuals through its Protection and Psychosocial Support Program. This program aims to improve the lives of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups by enhancing their resilience, recovery capacities, and mental health—especially among those affected by conflict, crises, and natural disasters.

Since its launch, the program has prioritized raising awareness around issues such as gender-based violence, the rights of people with disabilities, and psychological safety. Through a wide range of projects and campaigns, SEMA has worked to mitigate the impacts of war and natural disasters—such as earthquakes—on children and women by organizing sessions, activities, and support programs in our social centers and child-friendly spaces.

The lives of over 500 children with hearing impairments have been transformed through the provision of hearing aids and participation in behavioral therapy and speech correction programs. More than 300 children also received wheelchairs, restoring a significant degree of their independence. Elderly individuals benefited as well through access to hearing aids and mobility aids, improving their quality of life.

The program also helped reintegrate hundreds of children into the education system by providing support to their caregivers, enabling them to leave hazardous jobs and return to school to build a safer future.

In terms of empowerment, the program strengthened legal access by helping unregistered children obtain legal documents to enroll in school. Additionally, it supported hundreds of women through literacy education and vocational training such as sewing and hairdressing, enabling them to generate sustainable income.

Furthermore, SEMA focuses on empowering local volunteers, community networks, and women-led organizations by offering essential training and logistical support to help them launch protection initiatives within their communities.

We believe that by strengthening and empowering individuals, we can transform vulnerable groups into resilient agents of positive and lasting change in their societies.

Number of Beneficiaries

Child protection	25,793
Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	37,106
General protection	8,475
Psychosocial support	2,697

Community Health and Nutrition Programs



SEMA's Community Health and Nutrition Program serves as a key pillar supporting primary healthcare centers. It focuses on promoting health awareness, early detection of malnutrition, and encouraging healthy dietary practices.

In 2024, about 49,000 individuals benefited from the program, implemented through 14 mobile teams that carried out 47,001 field visits across various areas. These qualified teams conducted hundreds of free screenings monthly, resulting in the referral of approximately 1,500 children for treatment.

The program also launched awareness campaigns covering common diseases and their prevention, and contributed to spreading education-

al content on healthy nutrition and the dangers of poor dietary habits.

A range of services is provided, including therapeutic nutritional supplements, individualized nutrition plans and follow-up, and distribution of food baskets to the most vulnerable families. The program also ensures proper referral and case follow-up in close coordination with primary healthcare programs, guaranteeing integrated and continuous care.

The overall goal of the program is prevention and the promotion of community health by empowering individuals to adopt healthy and nutritious lifestyles.

Nutrition and Community Health Program



Number of teams
14



Number of beneficiaries
29,026

Number of home visits **47001**

Number of collective sessions **2056**

MUAC **27631**

Referrals **1495**



Beneficiaries by program



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

920,895

Beneficiaries by program

Surgical Hospitals	460012
Primary Health Care	299884
Specialized Projects	765
Nutrition and Community Health Program	49057
Protection and Psychosocial Support Program	111177
X Ray	59629
Prescribed Medicine	300732
Laboratory Tests	337088

SEMA's total expenditures in 2024

Programs	expenditure in USD
Surgical Hospital	3,860,451
Administrative and Operational	1,899,127
Reproductive Health	1,673,340
Protection and Psychological Support (PSS).	1,220,091
Primary Health Care (PHC)	1,073,216
Nutrition	97,994
Specialized Projects	91,183
Other	30,441
Total	9,945,844

Funding sources for 2024

Donor	received in 2024 in USD
IRC	2,965,196
SEMA Private Fund	2,277,265
UNOCHA	2,161,047
HelpAge	855,926
WHO	506,653
SV	450,078
GlobalGiving	232,419
MERCY USA	225,368
WorldVision	173,310
Other Donors	98,580
Total	9,945,844

Our partners





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