



SEMA

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

Syrian Expatriates Medical Association - SEMA

Annual Report

20 25





SĒMA

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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.



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



Success Stories

A Mark of Hope... A First-of-Its-Kind Medical Achievement in Northern Syria

Our medical team at the Specialized Surgical Hospital successfully performed the first procedure to treat coarctation of the aorta in northern Syria saving the life of a young man, Hani, and giving him a new chance at a normal, active, and hopeful life.

Hani arrived after being referred from another hospital, suffering from severe narrowing of the aortic isthmus. This condition had caused dangerously high blood pressure, persistent fatigue, and intermittent claudication that prevented him from living his life normally. Urgent intervention was his only option to secure his health and future.

With skilled hands and unwavering dedication, the team carried out the procedure using a covered

stent (BeGraft) through the cardiac catheterization lab. By God's grace, the operation was a remarkable success.

Hani's blood pressure returned to normal immediately after the procedure, and blood flow to his lower limbs was restored allowing him to move again without pain or exhaustion. After careful follow-up, he was discharged from the hospital in excellent condition, ready to begin a new chapter of life free from suffering.

This medical achievement is the result of dedication and tireless work by our medical staff, led by distinguished physicians, alongside catheterization and anesthesia technicians who played an integral role in this major success.

From Life-Threatening Pain to a New Beginning

A man in his fifties arrived at the emergency department of Al Rahma Hospital, burdened with both pain and fear.

He was suffering from severe, pressing chest pain and intense abdominal pain accompanied by constipation that had prevented him from carrying out his daily activities, along with a troubling sensation of coldness on the left side of his chest near the heart.

In those difficult moments, he sought nothing but relief. With a voice filled with pain, he told the medical team: "Do anything... I just want this pain to stop."

Urgent diagnostic imaging was immediately conducted, including CT scans of the chest, abdomen, and pelvis. The results revealed a large left-sided diaphragmatic hernia—a serious condition that was directly threatening his life.

During surgery, a critical issue was identified that was compressing his internal organs and endangering his life. However, the surgical team handled the case with high professionalism, successfully correcting the problem and taking all necessary measures to ensure a safe recovery.

The operation was successful. As his condition gradually improved, the pain began to fade, replaced by a sense of relief and reassurance. He was eventually discharged in good overall condition, ready to begin a safe recovery journey.

This story reflects just one example of the daily humanitarian work carried out by the staff of Al Rahma Hospital—where medical dedication meets a deep sense of responsibility to save lives and give patients a new chance at life.



Hussein's Journey... A Story of Resilience and Care

Hussein, a 41-year-old man from the city of Harem in rural Idlib, has not had an easy journey with illness.

His story began while he was living in Turkey, when his blood pressure suddenly spiked. He went to the hospital, only to be shocked by the diagnosis: his blood creatinine levels were extremely high, and his kidneys were no longer functioning properly. From that moment, his journey with dialysis began.

After returning to Syria seven months later, Hussein started searching for a center where he could continue his treatment. He eventually found the SEMA Dialysis Center in Kafr Takharim, where he discovered compassion, care, and genuine human support.



Hussein visits the center three times a week, with each session lasting nearly four hours. He leaves feeling somewhat exhausted, but with a deep sense of relief, knowing that his body has been cleansed of the toxins weighing him down.

Despite the long distance between his home and the center, the patient transportation service provided has eased the burden of travel, turning the road to treatment into a journey of hope rather than pain.

Between the hardship of illness and the warmth of care, Hussein has found in the SEMA center a window to life a place that restores his strength whenever dialysis drains him. Because true care is not only delivered through machines, but through hearts that beat with compassion.

Early Detection Saves Ahmad from Perthes Disease and Potential Disability



Thanks to the availability of advanced imaging equipment at the SEMA Medical Complex, four-year-old Ahmad Al-Masri was saved from the risk of permanent disability.

Ahmad arrived at the orthopedic clinic at the Specialized Surgical Hospital with a noticeable difficulty in walking. After a comprehensive clinical evaluation and review of his medical history, the physician suspected Perthes disease a rare condition affecting children that impacts blood flow to the hip joint.

To confirm the diagnosis, Ahmad was referred to the SEMA Medical Complex, where he underwent X-rays and a CT scan. The imaging results confirmed the suspicion: Ahmad was in the early stages of Perthes disease.

This condition most commonly affects boys between the ages of 4 and 10, and if not detected early, it can lead to severe joint deformities. The disruption of blood flow to the head of the femur causes bone deterioration, and recovery may take years specially if diagnosed at a later stage.

In Ahmad's case, early and accurate diagnosis made possible by the center's imaging services allowed for immediate initiation of treatment. His doctor now expects a full recovery within two years, provided he adheres to the treatment plan and undergoes regular check-ups every four months.

This case highlights the critical importance of early detection and the vital role specialized medical centers play in protecting children's futures and improving health outcomes in northern Syria.

Ten Years of Absence... and the Pulse of Reunion Returns

“Hakam Al-Mohammad,” a man in his sixties from Homs, spent long years in harsh isolation after losing his wife and son due to shelling. He found himself alone in a worn-out tent, working under difficult conditions without enough food or medical care.

He suffered from a painful skin disease and severe back pain that limited his movement, until he was identified by the case management team at SEMA and transferred to the Elderly Care and Welfare Home in Idlib, where his recovery journey began.

He received comprehensive medical care, including treatment for his back pain, chronic digestive issues, and dental rehabilitation, which helped him regain much of his health and independence.

Psychologically, he struggled for years with the effects of isolation, but gradually improved through support sessions until he stabilized without the need for medication.

The most significant transformation, however, was human. An extensive search led to the discovery of his family in the Al-Bayyada neighborhood of Homs. There, at the doorstep, the long-awaited reunion after ten years finally took place a deeply emotional moment filled with tears and joy.

The Elderly Care Home was not just a place of treatment and support, but a bridge that brought Hakam back from isolation to life, and from loss to the warmth of family.



From Despair to Steady Steps

Dr. Asmaa Al-Hassan, a pediatric specialist, shares a deeply moving story of a little girl who was just two and a half years old when she was brought to Al-Farabi Hospital in the city of Al-Bab, Aleppo. She was unable to walk or even stand, even with assistance.

Fear and exhaustion were evident on her parents' faces after a long journey of medical consultations that had yielded only alarming diagnoses suggesting brain damage leaving the family facing an uncertain future with little hope for their daughter.

Upon her admission to the hospital, a comprehensive medical evaluation was conducted, based on a careful review of her medical history and the necessary tests. Contrary to previous expectations, the assessment revealed that the child was suffering from severe iron-deficiency anemia a treatable condition, but one that can significantly affect a child's development if not addressed in time.

Following the correct diagnosis, an appropriate treatment plan was initiated, along with close and continuous monitoring. Over time, signs of improvement gradually began to appear. After three months, the child returned to the hospital able to stand and walk with assistance a moment that restored hope to her family and confirmed that timely and proper medical care can truly change the course of a life.





Surgical Hospitals Program

SEMA's Surgical Hospitals Program was one of the leading specialized healthcare initiatives during 2025, aiming to enhance access to free surgical services in areas suffering from limited medical care and a shortage of specialized resources. Following the changes witnessed in Syria after liberation, the program continued delivering its services while expanding into new areas across the country in response to the growing healthcare needs of the population.

Throughout the year, 284,713 patients benefited from the services provided through six SEMA-supported surgical hospitals. Approximately 17,569 surgical procedures were performed, including both emergency and specialized interventions, which significantly improved access to surgical care and reduced the need for patients to travel long distances in search of treatment.

SEMA also focused on strengthening the medical infrastructure of the hospitals by upgrading operating rooms and enhancing sterilization and ventilation systems in line with approved medical standards. In addition, intensive care and post-operative departments were improved to ensure the delivery of safe and effective healthcare services. The program further continued supporting and training medical and technical staff to improve performance efficiency and enhance the quality of healthcare services provided.

The program contributed to easing the health and economic burden on thousands of families by providing free, high-quality surgical services, while also supporting the continuity of specialized healthcare services in several regions across Syria, thereby reinforcing recovery efforts and improving the healthcare sector.

Locations of the surgical hospitals



Number of hospitals

6



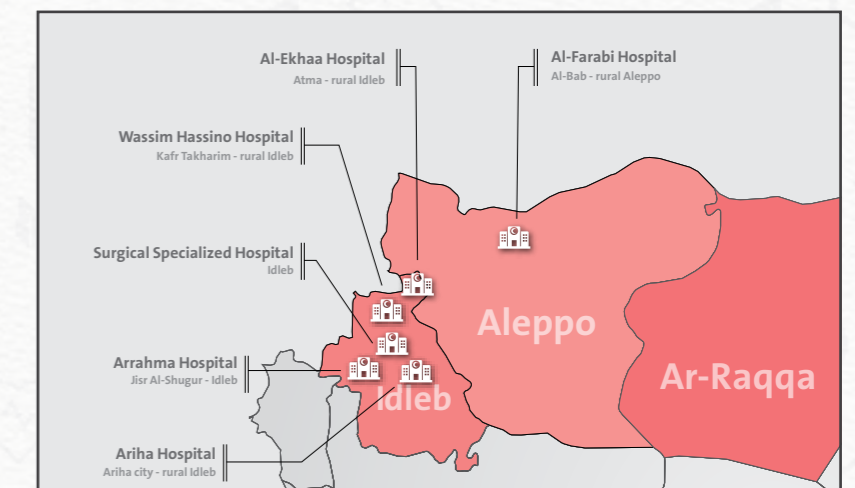
Number of beneficiaries

284,713



Catchment population

3,320,000



Surgical Operations



Major surgeries

10,181



Minor surgeries

7,388

Details of major surgeries

gynecologic surgeries **2273**

jaw surgeries **1144**

ENT surgeries **456**

urologic surgeries **1625**

reconstructive surgeries **104**

general surgeries **4341**

orthopedic surgeries **6101**

ocular surgeries **673**

vascular surgeries **294**

Neurosurgery **454**



Out-patient clinics

Gynecology clinic **51011**

Pediatric clinic **42041**

Internal medicine clinic **13459**

Emergency and First Aid clinic **100918**

General surgery clinic **7965**

Orthopedic clinic **24779**

ENT Clinic **5923**

Urology clinic **9404**

Ophthalmology clinic **6644**

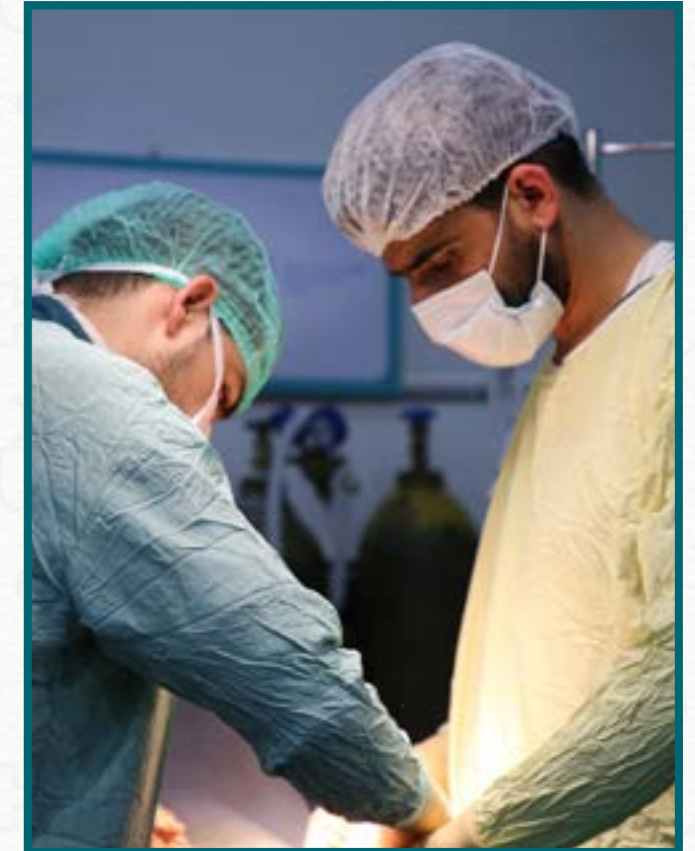
Cosmetic clinic **1796**

Dental clinic **5857**

Neurosurgery Clinic **12111**

Total number of beneficiaries

281,908



Miscellaneous services

intensive care **555**

Pharmacy department **142697**

x_ray department **34701**

Laboratory department **20394**



Primary Healthcare Program

SEMA's Primary Healthcare Program represents one of the key pillars in strengthening the healthcare system that the organization seeks to develop. The program provides preventive and early curative services through a network of seven fixed healthcare centers and five mobile clinics, primarily targeting vulnerable areas and remote camps.

During 2025, approximately 99,923 individuals benefited from the program's services. These services included routine medical consultations, vaccination services for children and women, early detection and follow-up of chronic diseases, treatment of minor injuries, psychosocial support, and the monitoring and referral of malnutrition cases to specialized services.

The program also played a vital role in reducing pressure on surgical hospitals by delivering effective primary-level interventions within communities. Furthermore, healthcare system efficiency was strengthened through the development and electronic integration of the medical referral system, alongside the standardization of clinical protocols, contributing to improved follow-up processes and enhanced quality of healthcare services.



Number of centers

12



Number of beneficiaries

99,923



Catchment population

2,323,100

Children's Clinics

Total number of beneficiaries

18,698

Gynecology clinic

Total number of beneficiaries

20,515

Miscellaneous Services



x_ray

150



Pharmacy

41,838



Laboratory

29,589

Dental Clinics

Total number of beneficiaries

9,320

Specialized Clinics

Total number of beneficiaries

51,390

Dialysis Centers



Number of centers

2



Number of beneficiaries

644



Catchment population

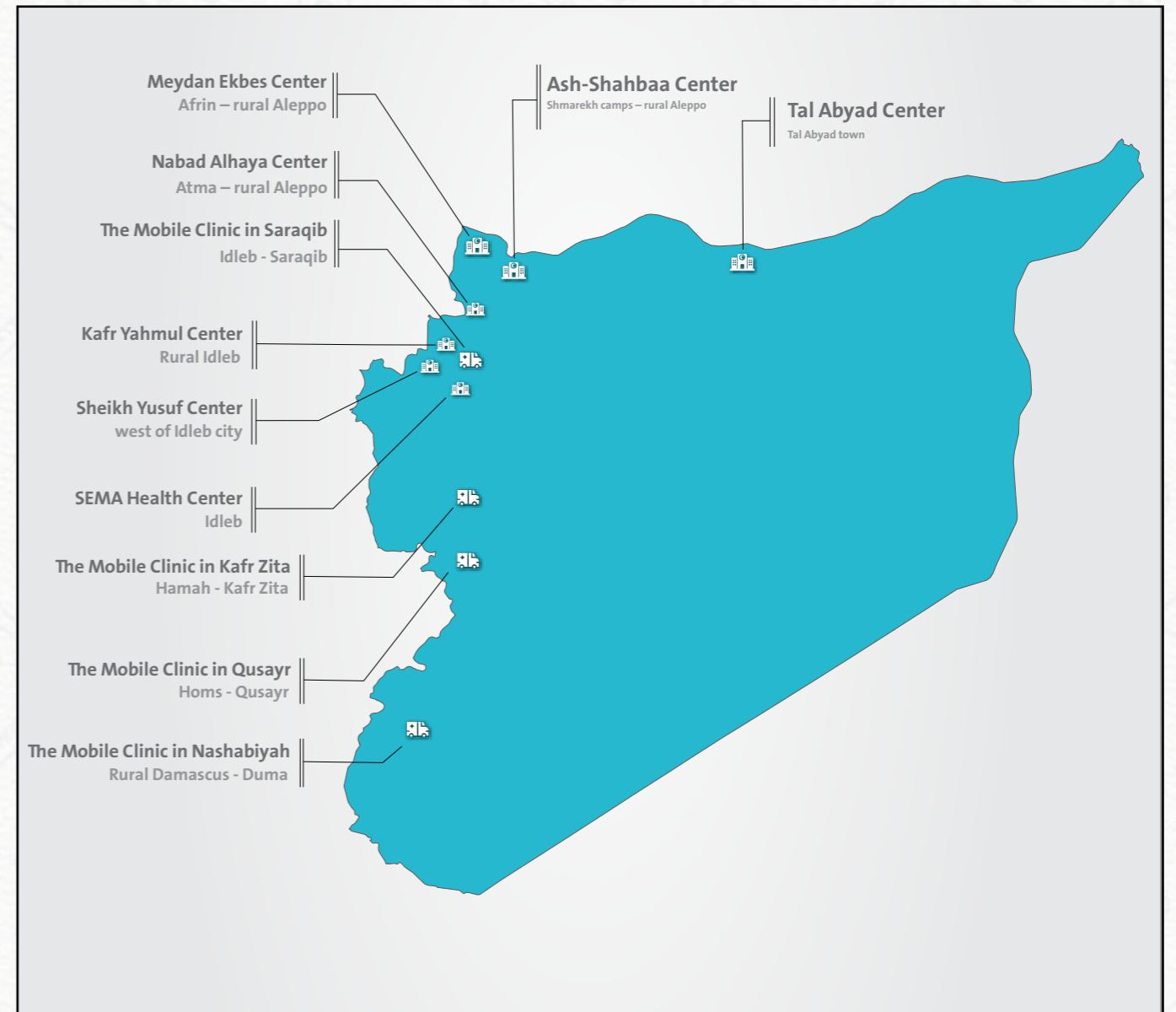
250,000



Dialysis sessions

5,549

Health Centers





Protection and Psychosocial Support

Believing in the importance of mental and social well-being alongside healthcare and humanitarian services, SEMA continues to implement its Protection and Psychosocial Support Program to enhance the well-being of individuals and communities, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable groups affected by conflict, crises, and natural disasters. The program aims to support mental health and strengthen individuals' capacity to recover and rebuild their lives.

Since the launch of the program, SEMA has implemented numerous awareness activities and initiatives addressing gender-based violence, the rights of persons with disabilities, and concepts related to protection and psychosocial safety. These efforts have included organizing training sessions, support sessions, and a variety of community-based activities within community centers and child-friendly spaces, with the aim of reducing the psychological and social impact of war and disasters.

The program has also contributed to reintegrating hundreds of children into education by supporting their families and providing livelihood opportunities for caregivers. This has helped reduce children's exposure to hazardous labor and given them the opportunity to return to school and build a safer and more stable future.

As part of its empowerment efforts, SEMA has adopted a referral system to facilitate beneficiaries' access

to essential services. This included supporting unregistered children in obtaining the legal documents required for school enrollment. Women have also been empowered through literacy programs and vocational skills training, such as sewing and hairdressing, helping them improve their opportunities for sustainable income and better living conditions.

In addition, the program provides legal counseling services to beneficiaries, helping them understand their rights and access the necessary legal procedures and services. These efforts include supporting individuals in obtaining and renewing identification papers and official documents, which contributes to facilitating their access to education, healthcare, and humanitarian assistance, while also enhancing their protection and integration within the community.

Miscellaneous Services

General protection	1143
Case Management Services	1284
Psychosocial support	2753
Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	2421
Child Awareness Services	2800
Mental Health Services	1089



Community Health and Nutrition Program

SEMA's Community Health and Nutrition Program is considered one of the essential supporting components of primary healthcare centers. The program focuses on promoting health awareness, early detection of malnutrition cases, and encouraging healthy nutritional practices within communities.

During 2025, more than 24,000 individuals benefited from the program's services through six mobile teams that conducted over 30,000 field visits across various areas. Qualified teams also carried out hundreds of free screenings each month, resulting in the referral of around 1,200 children for appropriate treatment.

The program additionally implemented awareness campaigns addressing the most common diseases and methods of prevention, while disseminating educational content focused on healthy nutrition and the risks associated with unhealthy dietary habits.

Moreover, the program provides a range of services including therapeutic nutritional supplements, the development and follow-up of individualized nutrition plans, and the distribution of food baskets targeting the most vulnerable families. It also works to strengthen referral and follow-up mechanisms in coordination with primary healthcare programs, ensuring service integration and continuity of care.

Nutrition Program



Number of teams

3



Number of beneficiaries

15,467

home visits **14420**

collective sessions **1092**

MUAC **9974**

Referrals **624**

Community Health Program



Number of teams

3



Number of beneficiaries

8,707

home visits **13755**

collective sessions **687**

MUAC **5328**

Referrals **512**



Beneficiaries by program



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

690,313

Beneficiaries by program

Surgical Hospitals	284713
Primary Health Care	99923
Specialized Projects	644
Nutrition and Community Health Program	24174
Protection and Psychosocial Support Program	11490
X Ray	34851
Drugs	184535
lab tests	49983

SEMA's total expenditures in 2025

Programs	expenditure in USD
Surgical Hospital	3,219,230
Administrative and Operational	1,369,568
Reproductive Health	994,112
Protection and Psychological Support (PSS).	217,732
Primary Health Care (PHC)	583,885
Specialized Projects	105,397
Other	5,768
Total	6,495,693

Funding sources for 2025

Donor	received in 2025 in USD
UNOCHA	2,257,200
IRC	2,240,640
SEMA	1,117,860
HelpAge	122,808
Relief International	54,405
WHO	665,602
SEMA-France	28,113
Other	9,066
Total	6,495,693

Our partners





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