

MFA

MULTIFAITH ALLIANCE
FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

2018 ANNUAL REPORT





MULTIFAITH
ALLIANCE
FOR SYRIAN
REFUGEES



Multifaith Alliance for Syrian Refugees

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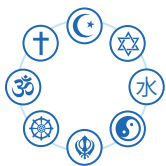
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OUR MISSION



MOBILIZE
Mobilize the interfaith response to the crisis.



CREATE
Create awareness of the facts, the needs, and the opportunities for positive action.



ADVOCATE
Advocate for sensible and humane refugee policies.



DELIVER
Deliver humanitarian aid and raise funds for direct services on the ground.



CULTIVATE
Cultivate groundbreaking partnerships in the region.

2018 SNAPSHOT

HUMANITARIAN AID



\$55
MILLION IN
VALUE



29
CONTAINERS
SHIPPED



340
TONS OF
RELIEF

AWARENESS



11
MEDIA
IMPRESSIONS



24
SPEAKING
EVENTS

ADVOCACY



9
CALLS TO
ACTION



2
OP-ED
ARTICLES



15
LETTERS &
STATEMENTS

JAN

WOMEN'S MARCH

MFA organized and led a contingent for the Women's March on New York City. The activists marched to advocate for Syrian refugee women.



APR

SUPREME COURT ARGUMENTS

MFA joined an amicus brief submitted in oral arguments for *Trump v. Hawaii*. The brief supported the lifting of the Administration's travel ban that targeted primarily people from Muslim-majority countries.

JUN

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Held at the Metropolitan Club in New York City over a cocktail hour and dinner, MFA honored World Refugee Day with a program of featured presentations by F. Murray Abraham — MFA Spokesperson — as well as renowned actor-activists, Kathryn Grody and Mandy Patinkin.



JUL

SYRIAN VOICES LAUNCH

MFA launched its new video series to share the personal stories of people affected by the crisis. By letting Syrians speak in their own words, Syrian Voices aims to help us all better understand the impact of the crisis and share the lives, challenges, strengths, and successes of the Syrian people.

AUG

FIRST CONTAINERS TO THE NORTHWEST

As thousands fled the fighting in southwest Syria, the already overburdened communities in Idlib and Aleppo struggled to meet the needs of the newly displaced people. MFA responded by shipping 7 containers of relief supplies to support hospitals and medical centers as well as respond to emergency needs.



NOV

FIRST CONTAINERS TO THE NORTHEAST

MFA shipped its first three containers of clothing, food aid, and medical supplies to northeast Syria. MFA created new partnerships in coordination with local community councils and coalition forces, including the U.S. military, to establish a new, northeast channel for humanitarian aid.

**MORE THAN \$120 MILLION IN
RELIEF SUPPLIES SHIPPED**

FOREWORD

The purpose of a Year In Review is to tell you the story of our impact over the past year.

You will certainly find the numbers compelling...

Now in its eighth terrible year, the Syrian crisis has left more than 500,000 dead. There are 5.6 million Syrian refugees registered in neighboring countries; and 6.6 million internally displaced people. An estimated 13.1 million are in need of humanitarian assistance. The equivalent would be denying food, medicine, and shelter to the entire populations of New York and Los Angeles – and leaving them to fend for themselves amidst the chaos of war.

On the other hand, in just two years, the Multifaith Alliance for Syrian Refugees (MFA) has shipped more than \$120 million of relief to those in desperate need. In southwest Syria, MFA brought lifesaving aid through Israel to a region of 1.2 million people. MFA helped establish a maternity hospital that delivered 38 newborns in just its first month of operation. With our partners on the ground, we opened a baking facility that produced 15,000 loaves of pita a day – and then we supplied it with 80 tons of flour.

Most recently, MFA has expanded its humanitarian relief efforts into northwest Syria. In Idlib and the Aleppo suburbs, 3.2 million people – including 1 million children – struggle without access to the basic necessities of life. In northeast Syria, MFA recently began coordinating with coalition forces – including the U.S. military – and local community councils to deliver relief to a region where ISIS and other extremist groups have left destruction and prevented the flow of humanitarian relief.

However, impact is not numbers – it's people.

Impact is a mother whose injured child can now be treated with antibiotics – previously unavailable because the regime has deliberately targeted medical facilities.



HELPING SYRIAN REFUGEES TODAY WHILE PLANTING THE SEEDS FOR A MORE PEACEFUL TOMORROW

It's a young doctor, with access to a newly-delivered CT scanner, who can finally provide patients with a thorough diagnosis. And the smile of a young boy, carrying food and a water purification kit back to his family... Isn't that how you measure impact?

Numbers can be so large that we lose context. So, when you read this report, we ask that you think of the people of Syria.

We ask that you think of their strength and their resilience – and what they endure on a daily basis. We ask that you remember that their struggle began with the graffiti of young boys simply requesting the most basic freedoms from a repressive regime. These are men, women, and children, like us. They are people with hopes and aspirations, just like ours. The impact is not in the numbers, but in real lives – like those you know and love.

We thank you for your generosity and support.

Dr. Georgette Bennett
Founder

Bennett Gross
Executive Director

Making an impact through humanitarian aid.

HUMANITARIAN AID

In 2018, MFA shipped 29 containers of humanitarian aid with a total value of more than \$55 million to Syria. MFA worked closely with its trusted NGO partners on the ground in Syria to identify the precise relief needed. Then, MFA determined how to best fill the need.

SUPPORTING HEALTHCARE

The conflict has decimated the healthcare system in Syria, with the Assad regime and its proxies having weaponized healthcare — systematically targeting hospitals and medical staff as part of their war strategy. As a result, hospitals and medical centers are unable to provide anything but the most basic care to people suffering from illnesses and the traumatic injuries of war.

In response, MFA sent medicines and supplies that supported 11 hospitals and medical centers in Quneitra and Daraa provinces in southwest Syria, as well as four mobile clinics that served rural and hard-to-reach populations.

The supplies included basic, life-saving medicines that ER nurses administer to patients needing emergency care, like antibiotics and local anesthetics. Other medicines ranged from pain relievers and antidepressants, to blood pressure and heart medications.

SOUTHWEST SYRIA

In the first six months of the year, MFA shipped 17 containers of humanitarian relief to southwest Syria. This relief has had a far-reaching impact — for example, the Breqa maternity hospital and the Jubata bakery.

BREQA MATERNITY HOSPITAL

To focus on just one of the medical facilities in southwest Syria, MFA worked with its partner NGOs to establish the Breqa maternity hospital in the village of Bariqa in Quneitra province.

As a result of the conflict, access to healthcare for women in Syria is now often determined by where they live. An estimated 360,000 women in Syria and 112,800 Syrian refugees in neighboring countries were pregnant in 2016, according to the United Nations Population Fund. Most did not have access to proper healthcare and facilities for safe childbirth.

The Breqa maternity hospital has 17 beds, four delivery rooms, x-ray and ultrasound equipment and two surgery rooms, including one to provide C-section procedures. The average stay in the hospital is two days. At full capacity, the hospital can service 510 women a month.

MFA shipped a wide range of medicines and medical equipment used by the hospital, including, for example, ultrasound portable dopplers, semi-electric beds, and examination chairs.

HUMANITARIAN AID SNAPSHOT





A newborn baby wrapped in a blanket at Breqa maternity hospital established by MFA and its partners. In the first month of operation alone, the hospital staff welcomed 38 newborns.

JUBATA BAKERY

MFA worked with its partner Syrian NGOs to support the opening of a new bakery in the village of Jubata al-Khashab in Quneitra province. The development project was part of the expansion of MFA's humanitarian efforts to promote self-sufficiency in southwest Syria.

The wheat-to-bread market in Syria has been disrupted since the beginning of the conflict in 2011. The shortages of flour and bread continue today with gaps in every step of the supply chain.

Jubata Bakery
To celebrate the grand opening in February 2018, the bakery staff hung balloons over pallets of flour waiting for production. MFA shipped 80 tons of flour to support operations.



The bakery became operational in February 2018. In just five months following the groundbreaking, the entire bakery was constructed from the ground up, the machinery was purchased in Turkey and containers of flour were shipped from the US. MFA shipped all of the bakery equipment and 80 tons of flour to support operations.

The bakery produced approximately 15,000 loaves of pita per day, serving a population of over 40,000 people. Every two days, the bakery used approximately 2 tons of flour to produce 2,200 kilograms of pita.

Jubata Bakery
The bakery produced approximately 15,000 loaves of pita per day, serving a population of over 40,000 people. MFA shipped all of the bakery equipment from Turkey.



Jordanian Border
At the height of the Syrian government assault in southern Syria, 325,000 people were displaced at the Israeli and Jordanian borders.

SOUTHERN SYRIA EMERGENCY

In June 2018, the Assad regime – supported by Russia and Iranian-backed militias – launched a major assault into southern Syria. As a result, the government retook the entirety of the region that had been receiving relief through MFA's southwest channel. With the regime in control, further deliveries to this region have been suspended.

In response, MFA expanded its deliveries of relief supplies to other areas of Syria. Through its extensive network of partners on the ground, MFA was able to quickly redirect shipments to northwest Syria – initially to Idlib and Aleppo provinces, the likely sites of the next humanitarian crisis in Syria.

CONTINUING RELATIONSHIPS

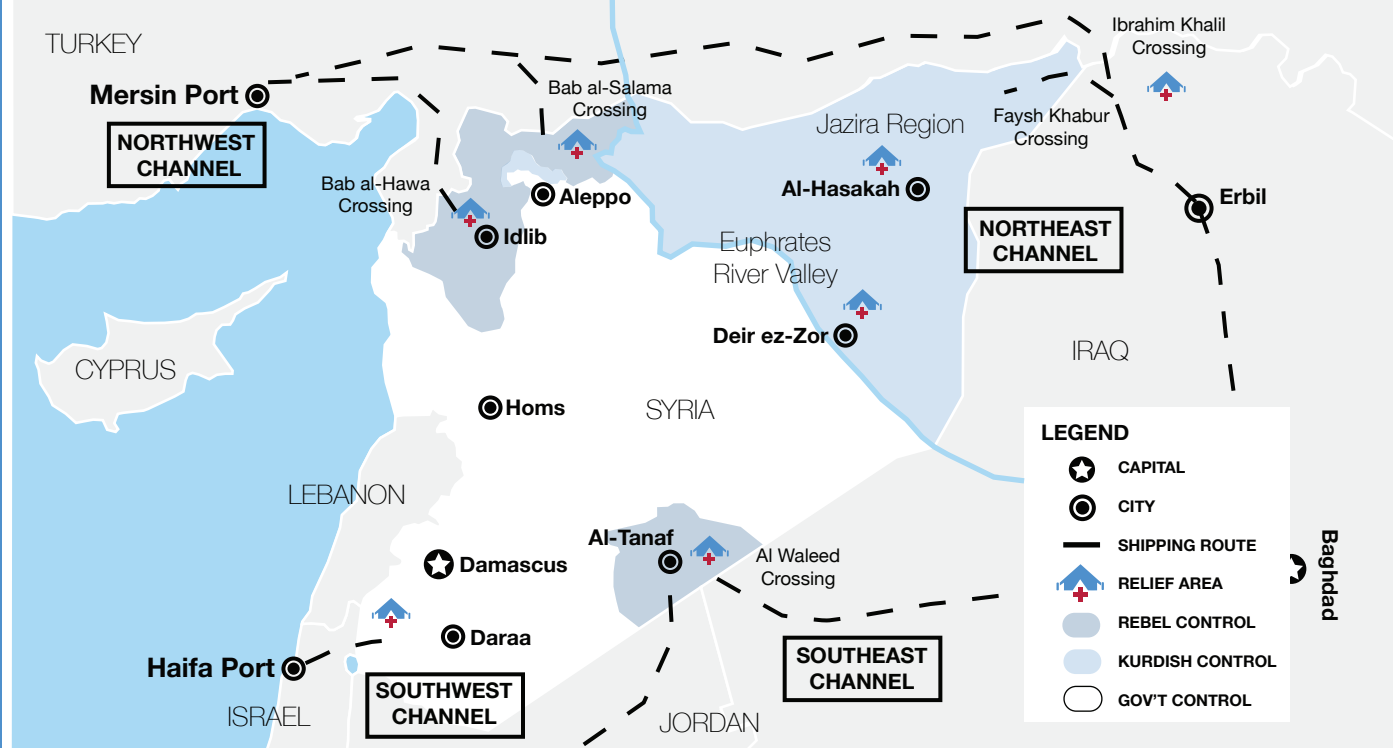
The southwest channel of relief through Israel has been suspended. Nevertheless, MFA and its Israeli and Syrian partners remain committed to the groundbreaking partnerships that were responsible for delivering millions of dollars of relief. Their dedication and achievements served as a model of cooperation for the region, and an inspiration for a new generation on both sides of the border.

MFA and its partners continue to maintain and build upon these relationships in ways that will serve their shared humanitarian objectives for the future of the Syrian people.



A bakery worker loads pita into a truck for distribution to neighboring villages in Quneitra in March 2018. To establish the bakery, MFA shipped all of the bakery equipment and 80 tons of flour to support operations.

HUMANITARIAN AID CHANNELS



NORTHERN SYRIA EXPANSION

In the last six months of the year, MFA shipped 10 containers to northern Syria. This relief has supported hospitals and medical centers as well as responded to emergency needs in internally displaced persons (IDPs) camps.

IDLIB AND ALEPPO

Idlib and Aleppo are home to approximately 3.2 million people – including 1 million children.

In response to the targeting of the healthcare system by the regime, Syrian NGOs have built a network of largely underground hospitals throughout Idlib and Aleppo. Since September 2018, MFA has shipped more than 3 containers of medicines, medical supplies, and equipment to support these hospitals, including a CT Scan that will greatly increase the range of services offered to improve the quality of care.

In addition, the communities in Idlib and Aleppo have struggled to meet the needs of the thousands who have fled fighting elsewhere in Syria.

In March 2018, more than 130,000 people fled eastern Ghouta to camps for IDPs in Idlib and Aleppo. In addition, in the summer of 2018, thousands more arrived to escape the fighting in southwest Syria.

To respond to this great need, MFA shipped 14,000 food kits, 13,000 water purifiers, and 18,000 personal hygiene kits to IDP camps across Idlib and Aleppo.

NORTHEAST CHANNEL

The size, scale, and efficiency of MFA's humanitarian relief efforts in southwest Syria – and now in the northwest – have led to even greater opportunities. MFA is in the process of expanding even further to reach the vastly underserved and strategically-critical areas of northeast Syria.

Throughout Syria, the regime has prohibited the shipment of relief into areas not under its control. In the northeast, in particular, the complex web of intersecting international interests – ranging from Turkey and the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG), to the Syrian Democratic Forces, the U.S. military, the last vestiges of ISIS – has severely inhibited the flow of humanitarian aid into the region. As a result, there is an urgent and overwhelming need for the most basic medical care and necessities of life for the vastly underserved population. Resisting extremism and Iranian-backed militias requires restoration of the infrastructure, support for local community councils, and the stabilization of civil authority.

To address these needs, MFA has begun coordinating with local community councils and coalition forces, including and the U.S. military, to establish a new, northeast channel.

In November and December 2018, MFA shipped its first two containers of food and medical supplies through the northeast channel, which will serve IDP camps in al-Hasakah as well as hospitals in the Euphrates River Valley.



A boy balances food kits atop a box of water purifiers and personal hygiene kits in rural Aleppo in September 2018. In 2018, MFA delivered X food kits, X water purifiers, and X personal hygiene kits to IDP camps across Idlib and Aleppo.

Keeping attention on the Syrian crisis.

RAISING AWARENESS

As the war continued into its eighth year, keeping the public focused on the Syrian crisis continues to be a key priority for MFA. MFA brought attention to the crisis through an array of activities ranging from media interviews and speaking engagements, to webinars and volunteer relief packing events.

IN THE NEWS

MFA appeared in 11 different media outlets in 2018. From appearances on *CNN* and bylines in *The Detroit Free Press* to in-depth interviews on *The New Yorker Radio Hour*, Shadi Martini — Syrian refugee and MFA’s Director of Humanitarian Relief and Regional Relations — continues to provide his expertise to keep focus on the crisis. MFA’s Founder, Dr. Georgette Bennett, remains one of our most important voices in the media and in-person outreach.

MFA leadership has also met repeatedly with the editorial boards of *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal* to offer their key insights and provide the latest information from on the ground.

SPEAKING EVENTS

MFA staff has spoken at events in venues ranging from conferences in Tangier, Tel Aviv and Toronto, to community groups in Seattle and New York City. MFA speakers regularly engage religious communities at events to mobilize the interfaith response to the crisis.

Northampton, Massachusetts
Ahed Festuk, Syrian refugee and MFA’s Assistant Coordinator of Outreach, takes a question at an interfaith service about Syria, held at First Churches in Massachusetts in April 2018.



SYRIAN VOICES

In July 2018, MFA launched **Syrian Voices**, its new video series that shares the personal stories of people affected by the crisis.

Dedicated to providing a forum for Syrians to speak in their own words, Syrian Voices aims to help us all better understand the impact of the humanitarian crisis and share the lives, challenges, aspirations, strengths, and successes of the Syrian people.



Syrian Voices
From Dr. Osman al-Haj Osman who worked at a front-line hospital in Aleppo to the twelve-year-old gymnast Zeinab Shurom, Syrian Voices gives space to hear from and about Syrians in their own words.

Visit multifaithalliance.org/voices

UNIVERSITY OUTREACH

MFA also expanded its outreach to university student groups to raise awareness and raise funds for humanitarian aid. MFA participated in speaking events at Columbia University, New York University, Vassar College, and Wesleyan University.

In December, Georgetown and George Washington University students partnered to hold a benefit gala, and Wesleyan University students organized a series of events — all to support MFA’s **Fund A Container** program.

F. Murray Abraham — MFA Spokesperson — at a New York cafe with Syrian refugees Waheed and Ghena Safour, and their son, in an *AARP* magazine feature. Photograph by Reed Young.



Building power through joint action.

ADVOCACY

In response to the anti-refugee posture characterized by the rightward, nationalist swing in the U.S. and Europe, MFA continued to advocate for sensible and humane refugee policies that reflect American values and the contributions of refugees to the fabric and strength of American society.

In 2018, MFA's advocacy priorities included: opposing the Administration's travel ban; the extension and re-designation of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Syrians in the U.S.; greater appropriations to assist refugee resettlement; and the adoption of higher refugee admission thresholds.

New York City MFA joined thousands of activists for the Women's March on New York City in January 2018. MFA's 50-person contingent advocated for Syrian refugee women.



ACTIVISM

MFA began the year by participating in the Women's March on New York City in January 2018. MFA organized a contingent of more than 50 activists to advocate for Syrian refugee women.

In the spring, MFA joined an amicus brief submitted in support of lifting the Administration's travel ban that targeted people from Muslim-majority countries. As oral arguments in *Trump v. Hawaii* began, MFA rallied with immigrant rights groups outside the Supreme Court.

OP-EDS

From *Foreign Policy* to *The National Interest*, MFA penned op-ed articles to advocate for sensible and humane refugee policies. In one op-ed, partnering with the Center for a New American Security, MFA brought attention to the role of humanitarian diplomacy in furthering national security goals.

COALITIONS

Working with groups such as Refugee Council USA (RCUSA) and the American Relief Coalition for Syria (ARC), MFA issued statements and signed letters throughout the year consistent with MFA's 2018 Policy Platform, addressing issues such as TPS, resettlement, appropriations for humanitarian assistance, and the setting of the Administration's limit on refugee admissions.

TOOLKITS

To mobilize both its Participating Organizations and the general public, MFA created toolkits, materials, and resources, and distributed information about the crisis; including updates on pertinent court cases and the Supreme Court decision on the Administration's travel ban; scorecards on refugee admissions; and calls to action with our constituents to reach out to their representatives to advocate for Syrian refugees.



Looking forward to positive change.

LOOKING TO 2019

As MFA mobilized during the past year to meet the intensifying humanitarian crisis in Syria, we found that our successful delivery of \$120 million in relief opened new opportunities for expansion into northeast and northwest Syria. MFA will look to capitalize on these opportunities in 2019 with the following key priorities:

1. Geographical Expansion

MFA's critical expansion into northwest and northeast Syria will be a central focus for MFA in 2019. The destruction and shifting political and military landscapes in both areas have left a tremendous gap in international relief, and MFA's expanded efforts in these areas in the coming year will help bring relief to a war-ravaged population of approximately 5.5 million people.

2. Operations with Partners

MFA's geographic expansion will also enable us to undertake a wider array of operations in Syria. In the northwest, we are vetting new partners and extending our shipments with an existing partner that operates through 14 hospitals and medical facilities and works in more than 17 camps for displaced persons. This means that MFA can place relief directly into the hands of doctors, medical professionals, and facilities that can utilize it most efficiently.

In the northeast, MFA has a unique opportunity to coordinate with both new partners and coalition forces, including the U.S. military. This will provide MFA with the ability to respond directly to the needs of local community councils and civil authorities – meaning that MFA's relief will contribute to the stability that will help defend against the resurgence of ISIS and other extremists, and help ward off Iranian expansionism.

3. Network of Donors and Relief

MFA's operational efficiency continues to attract greater commitments from existing partners and new donors with additional types of relief. We have recently added new relief suppliers from the U.S., as well as from Canada and Germany that will provide water purification units, emergency food kits, and medications. MFA will continue to add new suppliers and new relief. We are also exploring more efficient approaches to getting our relief to those in need.

4. Advocacy and Awareness-Building

Over the last two years, the growth of MFA's humanitarian aid footprint in Syria has sharply increased interest among legislators, government officials, news outlets, universities and the general public. During 2019, MFA's expansion into these two strategically-important new regions will create even greater opportunities as we look to build our outreach programs, increase our public speaking and volunteer efforts and begin working with members of the new Congress.

MFA is able to set these goals for 2019 solely because of the many relief donors, partners on the ground, foundations, funders and members of the public who share our vision, and have made our work possible.

We look forward to your continuing partnership, and thank you for your dedication to alleviating the suffering of the Syrian people.

Donate at: multifaithalliance.org/donate

WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2018

MFA joined people across the United States to celebrate World Refugee Day on June 20th, 2018. The event commemorated the courage and resiliency of refugees past and present, recognizing the hardships they have faced, and the determination with which they have created new lives.

Held at the Metropolitan Club in New York City over a cocktail hour and dinner, the event's program featured presentations by F. Murray Abraham — MFA Spokesperson — as well as Kathryn Grody and Mandy Patinkin.

MFA MAJOR SUPPORTERS

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to the numerous major donors that have supported MFA over the years. Your generosity and belief in our mission is a source of daily inspiration.

ALLIES 4 Innovation
The Arnow Family Fund
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The Shapiro Foundation
Schwab Charitable Fund



New York City
Mandy Patinkin,
Kathryn Grody,
and F. Murray
Abraham
together on
World Refugee
Day.



New York City
A small, but
mighty team,
MFA is based in
New York City.
In 2018, MFA
welcomed three
new staff
members.

2018 FINANCIAL SUMMARY*

REVENUE	
IN-KIND DONATIONS	\$3,614,009
INCOME FROM PUBLIC SUPPORT**	\$1,165,506
TOTAL EXTERNAL REVENUE	\$13,250
TOTAL OTHER REVENUE	\$21,015
TOTAL REVENUE	\$4,813,780

IN-KIND DONATION EXPENSES	\$3,614,009
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PROGRAM SERVICES EXPENSES	
ADVOCACY	\$153,536
PUBLIC OUTREACH & COMMUNICATIONS	\$244,637
HUMANITARIAN RELIEF	\$306,810

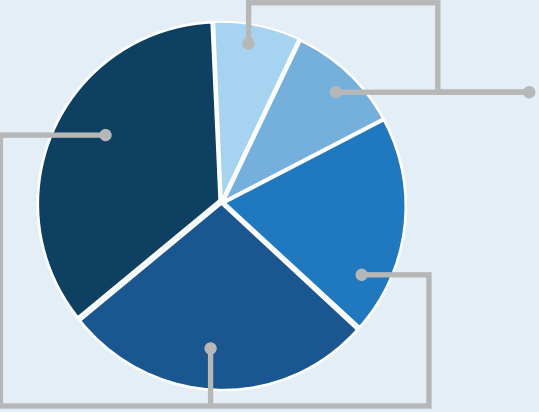
SUPPORTING SERVICES EXPENSES	
ADMINISTRATION	\$67,462
DEVELOPMENT	\$82,454
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,468,909

* The Financial Summary reflects actual results for the closed months of January through October 2018, and projected results for November and December 2018.
 **Total Net Income includes surplus of \$470,353 from 2017.

2018 SERVICES OVERVIEW

PROGRAM SERVICES
 82% | \$704,984

- Advocacy - 18%
- Public Outreach & Communications - 29%
- Humanitarian Relief - 36%



SUPPORTING SERVICES
 18% | \$149,916

- Administration - 8%
- Development - 10%

To better reflect results of operations, in-kind donations are not included in expense percentages for the respective programmatic areas.



MULTIFAITH ALLIANCE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

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Donate multifaithalliance.org/donate

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