



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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MULTIFAITH
ALLIANCE

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Dear Friends:

It is our great pleasure to welcome in another year with you, and highlight some of the events the Multifaith Alliance (MFA) put into motion in 2022 that have set us on a dynamic new course for the future.

But before launching in with our news, our immediate focus is the catastrophic humanitarian emergency caused by the recent earthquake that struck Turkey and northern Syria. MFA has already responded with tons of food, warm clothing, thousands of tents – and our efforts intensify daily – along with profound gratitude to our donors.

Multifaith Alliance, Inc. is the largest U.S. interfaith response to the Syrian crisis, and a significant actor in the humanitarian aid sphere inside Syria and the surrounding region. Our effectiveness has led us to fulfill a long-held ambition of spinning off as an independent 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

As a free-standing 501(c)(3), MFA is now poised to receive sizeable grants to build our capacity – especially urgently needed infrastructure projects that provide impactful solutions to clean water shortages, hunger, and shelter. In the immediate wake of the earthquake and the ongoing threats of climate change, these could not be more timely or critical.

Our work in Europe, the Middle East, and Israel has linked us with innovative groups that are providing practical solutions to some of the world's greatest challenges. One such company is Watergen, whose solar-powered generators convert droplets of moisture from the air into clean fresh drinking water.

MFA will place these units in schools and medical facilities in northern Syria – an area that often is without access to water. Two have already been installed. Two more will follow. Another six units are on deposit, and with additional funding are slated to be installed in 2023.

We are currently exploring solar-powered green solutions to treating and recycling wastewater for use in the safe irrigation of food crops. Technologies like these are game changers for countries in crisis, like Syria, with millions displaced, and for developing countries as well. Bringing solar power, water, and wastewater treatment into devastated and barren communities enables crops to be grown, hospitals to function, schools to operate, and young girls to be educated. The implications are huge, not only for alleviating suffering, but for fostering life-changing opportunities moving forward.

MFA envisions how innovation and technology can catapult our humanitarian work on a global scale. This is our next chapter. We have established ourselves as a successful and trusted source for filling critical aid gaps throughout Syria. Going forward, we plan to be at the forefront of more broadly implementing these new developments.

Thank you for your unwavering support,



Dr. Georgette Bennett
Founder & Board Chair



Shadi Martini
Chief Executive Officer

Situation on the Ground

Syria faces a multitude of challenges that make it one of the world's most complex humanitarian and protection emergencies. After twelve years of crisis, the country has dropped 42 places on the Human Development Index and most Syrians face the threat of continuing humanitarian decline.

Life in Syria is increasingly unaffordable. The crippled economy, which is characterized by high inflation, currency depreciation, and increases in the prices of commodities, remains one of the biggest drivers of need. The economic decline creates additional obstacles for people – especially the most vulnerable and marginalized – to access services. And yet, Syria is more affordable than Turkey, driving many Syrian refugees to return to their own beleaguered country. This will strain Syria's resources even further.

The ongoing conflict in several parts of the country continues to leave people in fear of attacks and at risk of new displacement. While large-scale hostilities have subsided following the March 2020 Idlib ceasefire agreement, localized hostilities, and the lasting impact from previous clashes, have continued throughout 2022. Artillery shelling, air strikes, land mines and unexploded ordnance devastate civilians and humanitarian activities. With ever-increasing pressure from host countries for refugees to return home, the geopolitical context is also creating a climate of fear among millions of Syrians who have known nothing but conflict and displacement. Safety and security concerns remain a gendered issue as women and girls continue to be disproportionately affected by various forms of violence.

Compounding the impact of protracted conflict, Syrians face the added catastrophic consequences of climate-related shocks, including severe drought and flooding. Syria's long-term and persistent drought has created poor vegetation conditions, and water deficits have been exacerbated by abnormally high temperatures and unusually dry conditions during the wet season.

Combined with low water levels in the Euphrates River and damaged water infrastructure, these conditions have reduced access to drinking and domestic use water for millions of Syrians. They have triggered substantial harvest and income losses, an increase in malnutrition rates, as well as more displacement.

The water crises, along with socio-economic conditions, have also contributed to an increase in waterborne diseases. A cholera outbreak was declared by the Syrian Ministry of Health (MoH) in September 2022. At the time of this writing, the cholera outbreak is spreading fast and has reached all 14 governorates as well as neighboring countries.

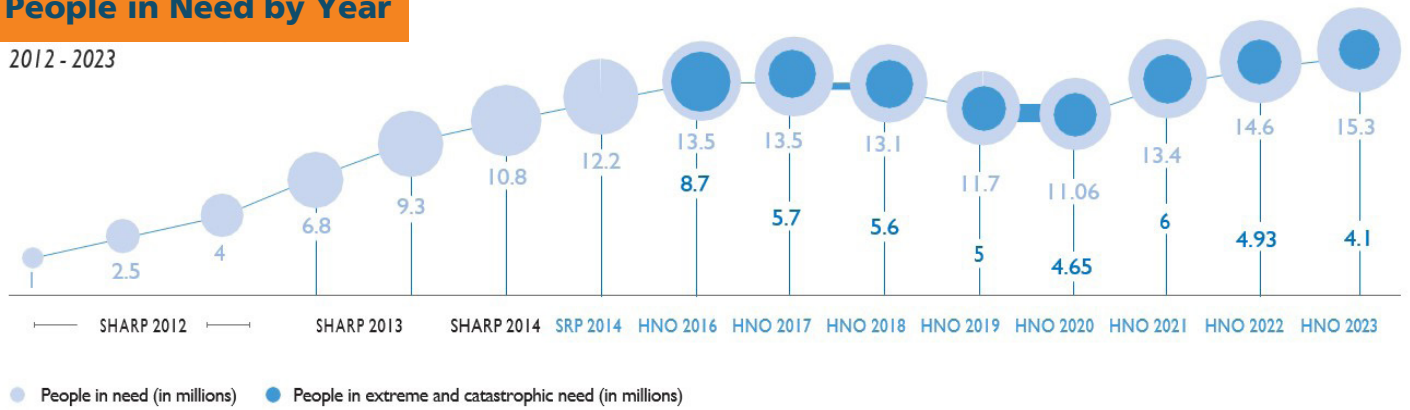
These crises, combined with poor infrastructure, lack of electricity and poor WASH conditions, continue to stretch an already weak health system. Only 59% of hospitals, 57% of primary health care facilities, and 63% of specialized centers are fully functioning.

This has a direct impact on vulnerable communities and patients by increasing morbidities and mortality. Female-headed households, older persons, persons with disabilities, and children are disproportionately affected by the compounding drivers of the crisis in Syria.



People in Need by Year

2012 - 2023



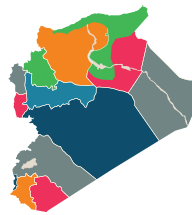
● People in need (in millions) ● People in extreme and catastrophic need (in millions)

For the first time, Syrians living across every sub-district in Syria are experiencing some degree of humanitarian stress. There are 700,000 more people in need compared to last year.



Almost seven out of ten people are in need

of humanitarian assistance



6.8 million IDPs

(internally displaced people) in Syria, the most in the world



Only 10% of the population fully vaccinated

against COVID-19



Only 57% of health care facilities

are fully functioning

Humanitarian Projects

MFA's Primary Healthcare Center (PHC) opened in the Ar-Raqqa governorate of Syria to provide critical healthcare services directly to the community, and distribute aid throughout northeast Syria.

In 2022, our staff provided free services to more than 50,000 patients:

- General health consultations
- Newborn and child health consultations
- Management of communicable and non-communicable diseases
- Sexual and reproductive care
- Distribution of free medications
- Clinical management of sexual assault and rape
- Identification of gender-based violence cases – safe and coordinated referrals to secondary care, trauma services, and social services
- Routine immunization and leishmaniasis treatment in cooperation with the Ar-Raqqa health directorate and The Mentor Initiative, respectively

Our PHC is critical to this region where access to early and preventive care is mostly unavailable. Health facilities are entry points for supporting women and girls (who comprise about 66% of our patients), which is why MFA has prioritized hiring female medical staff to increase accessibility.

Thanks to our PHC staff and local partner organizations, in 2022 MFA continued to provide emergency humanitarian services throughout northeast and northwest Syria. Also in 2022, MFA shipped and distributed 17 containers of relief supplies worth nearly \$85 million to over 600,000 beneficiaries. These shipments included essential medicines, prenatal vitamins, medical supplies, personal protective equipment (PPE), emergency food kits, hygiene kits, and water filters.

In total, MFA has now provided almost \$400 million of humanitarian aid to over 3.3 million displaced Syrians:

- \$386 million in medicine and medical equipment
- \$8.2 million in WASH support
- \$2.4 million in non-food items
- \$2.4 million in food items

Our fresh water Watergen project identified our PHC as the premier installation site for our first system. The Watergen system connects to the plumbing of the PHC to provide fresh drinking water for approximately 800 people per day, amply covering the needs of PHC patients and staff throughout the year. Enhancing the benefits of the project, solar panels were installed that not only power the unit, but also generate enough electricity to support the electrical needs of the PHC, which is now 100% powered by renewable energy.

With the success of the first unit, a second Watergen system was installed in the National Hospital in Raqqa, which is the main public hospital in the city. It mainly serves the hemodialysis unit, where the availability and quality of water is critical for treatment. The unit contains 21 hemodialysis machines and provides an average of 2400 dialysis sessions for 350 registered patients on a monthly basis, not including the typical 200 emergency sessions. The Watergen system has successfully fulfilled the unit's need for clean and high quality water.



Success Stories

6-year-old Muhammad Othman



Muhammad and his mother visited the children's clinic supported by Multifaith Alliance in Idlib city. The child was complaining of abdominal pain and general fatigue. After examining him, the pediatrician requested several laboratory tests. Thanks to the advanced and accurate equipment available in the clinic laboratory, the results were quickly available and indicated anemia and calcium deficiency. The appropriate medication was prescribed and given to him free of charge. Mohammed's mother says, "We always come to this clinic to receive treatment, especially to conduct all kinds of laboratory and clinical services for free." She added: "We were displaced from Homs a few years ago, and Idlib was the only option at that time. Our living situation is difficult, and we cannot afford tests in private laboratories. That is why we come here; everything is provided free of charge." MFA is proud to be able to provide medicine and medical equipment for multiple facilities for free in northeast and northwest Syria.

Soad Amiri

Soad Amiri, 60, was paralyzed three years ago due to a bombing of her village in Ahsem, Jabal Al-Zawiya, south of Idlib. After several surgeries, she required a wheelchair for mobility, but could not afford to buy one and has spent most of her time inside. Recently, through MFA, she received a new wheelchair and can now leave her house and move around her village. Her son said, "It is such a relief to see my mother can move on her own, and her psychological condition has improved since she got the chair. We tried previously to get a chair, but we were not able to buy it due to our financial situation." He expressed that the efforts of Multifaith Alliance in providing the chair free of charge is enormous, which improved his mother's ability to move around without him around.

Noor Ezz

Noor is 31 years old and has been trying to get pregnant since she got married four years ago. Despite the fact that she lives in a camp in northwest Syria, she is optimistic about building a new family. She came to a MFA-sponsored facility to see whether she was pregnant, and received good news: yes, she was expecting! Our local partner provided her with all needed vitamins, including Multiple Micronutrient Supplements (Prenatal Vitamins) that MFA is sending to Syria. Noor said "I know I live in a tent, but life will continue. I love children, and I want to have a healthy child. I'm so grateful to Multifaith Alliance for being able to supply me with Kirk Humanitarian Vitamins throughout my pregnancy for free."



Raising Awareness

Raising public awareness of the crisis, and the opportunities to help Syrian internally displaced persons (IDPs) rebuild their lives is key to MFA's mission. With the Syrian crisis now in its twelfth year, a vital part of MFA's work is to dispel the "Three Great Fears" about resettling Syrian refugees – economic displacement, terrorism, and Islamophobia.

On Capitol Hill, MFA counters anti-refugee sentiments by advocating for sensible and humane U.S. refugee policies that reflect American values and the contributions refugees make to the fabric and strength of our country. MFA's policy reform platform supports U.S. policies that recognize that our national security and economic interests are enhanced by restoring robust numbers of Syrian refugee admissions, and we urge appropriate funding for refugee resettlement and commensurate foreign aid to assist Syrians.

This past year's areas of focus included:

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) – MFA has played a key role in briefing senior staff of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to ensure the renewal and redesignation opportunities for 8,000 Syrians under TPS. TPS provides a work permit and stay of deportation for those nationals temporarily in the U.S. who would otherwise face deportation back to their war-torn homeland. It was last renewed in January 2022, and we expect it to be renewed again in the year ahead.

Refugee Resettlement – There are 29,000 Syrians currently awaiting refugee resettlement, many of whom have been fully-vetted and stuck in the pipeline for several years. MFA has taken a leadership role in pressing the Hill and the Administration to open refugee resettlement to these Syrians. While President Biden pledged to admit 125,000 refugees from all over the world in 2022, a frail resettlement system impacted by years of lost funding and COVID meant that the U.S. only settled 25,400 refugees in 2022 – a mere 20% of the allocated spaces. President Biden has again set 125,000 as a goal for 2023.





We consistently raise the plight of refugees at the highest levels of government. This year we had meetings with the staff of the Syria desk at the U.S. State Department – a group at the heart of decision making in this Administration on Syria. MFA is also working to provide strong support for a private resettlement program that the Department of State hopes to launch in Spring 2023 – opening up the possibility for a group or individuals to sponsor a Syrian family or Syrian individual for resettlement in the U.S. This program consistently has proven to be successful in Canada and the initiative here in the U.S. will not only help beleaguered Syrians long awaiting resettlement, but ensure smooth transitions into American life for them in communities across the nation.

Finally, an illicit stimulant drug called Captagon has bolstered the Assad regime with as much as \$6 billion in revenue – enabling it to avoid the full impact of sanctions. Cheaply produced, the drug has quickly flooded countries throughout the Middle East, Europe and Africa. MFA not only helped gain passage of Rep. French Hill (R. AR)'s Captagon bill but pressed hard for this vital measure to be included in the recently passed National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for 2023. The measure requires the Administration to initiate an interagency review of the scope, methods, and distribution of the drug, and then, within six months, submit to Congress an action plan to stop this global trade. With its passage within the NDAA, we are confident that considerable focus will now be given to this drug and its implications for national security, public health and Assad's ability to dodge some of the economic impact of sanctions. MFA has also been asked to participate as a member of a working group on Captagon organized by New Lines, a think tank, which has investigated and researched all aspects of Captagon for the last three years. MFA participation will begin in the early months of 2023.

In addition to our work in Washington, this past year MFA continued to connect virtually and in person with our vast network of Syrian-American, civic, community, and faith-based groups throughout the country. To keep the Syria crisis in both public view and as a political priority, MFA participated in educational events in NYC, Michigan, and California with partner organizations such as American Coalition for Syria (ACS) and the Orange County Jewish Coalition for Refugees. We also hosted our long-awaited Judy Collins concert – rescheduled from March 2020 – and enjoyed seeing many of our board members and supporters in person.

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- Martin Kalin
- Dr. Yahya Basha
- Dr. Leonard Polonsky CBE
- Dr. Abdalmajid Katranji
- Dr. Malaz Atassi
- Jonathan Wiesner
- Shadi Martini

The generosity of our supporters ensures that MFA can continue delivering life-saving humanitarian aid to displaced Syrians. Thank you to our donors, board members, and staff for their ongoing dedication to alleviating the suffering of displaced Syrians, and reinforcing their strength and resilience to survive and rebuild their lives.

Donors

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***Our special thanks to
F. Murray Abraham and Judy Collins***

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6 East 43rd Street, 22nd Floor
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Fund A Container

For \$6,500, individuals or groups can cover 100% of shipping and logistical costs to send a 40-foot container of relief supplies to Syria. Once the supplies are distributed, donors receive a comprehensive report with photographs and detailed information about the container's contents, its value, the location and number of people reached, and the impact it had on them.

Invite an MFA Speaker

By sharing their compelling personal stories, MFA leaders will help your organization better understand the Syrian refugee crisis. Our team offers its expertise in collaborating to create a speaking event, virtually or in-person that assuredly will be inspiring and memorable.

By providing in-depth knowledge of the ongoing crisis, MFA will help you and your organization discover opportunities to become involved in projects and programs that strengthen and empower displaced Syrians to begin rebuilding their lives.

On the home front, with a new administration has come revitalization of our advocacy efforts for rational U.S. refugee policies. Invite MFA's speakers to motivate your community to take action and become voices for policy changes that not only are lifesaving, they also honor the precepts of all of our faiths to help the needy, the oppressed, the stranger and the disadvantaged, and reinforce American values.



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