

ANNUAL REPORT | 2024



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Letter from MFA's Founder & Board Chair



Dr. Georgette Bennett

Dear Friends:

2024 was a year of growth and expanded partnerships for MFA. Our board of seven welcomed three dynamic new members, Rodney Archer of Andersonville, TN, Michael Swidler of NYC, and David Weiss of Bethesda, MD. Their talent, experience, and commitment have already added depth and value to our efforts. We are grateful to them and all of our board members for their selfless and outstanding support.

As Founder and Chair of MFA, I am focusing today on Syria and Gaza and their acute state of humanitarian crisis at the very time that the U.S. has dismantled USAID, defunded major international aid organizations, and ordered the shutdown of critical lifesaving operations. But this calamity is a unique opportunity for independent NGOs and their supporters to fill a yawning gap.

The Syrian conflict has left more than 16 million people in urgent need of humanitarian aid. MFA has always considered...*(continued on next page)*

...the “day after” scenario in Syria, and with the ousting of Bashar Al-Assad and his regime by opposition forces, that time seems to have come. To that end, MFA recently established an office in Aleppo to help returning Syrians begin the process of rebuilding their homes and communities.

The return of refugees could become the largest repatriation operation in decades, with over six million Syrian refugees abroad and seven million displaced within Syria. Syrians continue to endure dire conditions, with 80% of them being women and children. Many are housed in deteriorating shelters, while others return to damaged or destroyed homes.

A similar opportunity exists in Gaza. Nearly two million Gazans have been displaced by the war. All the impact points I listed for Syria apply to Gaza. Fewer than half of its hospitals are functioning. Food, clean water, and shelter are all urgently needed. As with Syria, allyship is proving to be an effective way to circumvent obstacles.

To fill the emergency gap, MFA has been at the helm of the MENA Aid initiative, an alliance with Israeli, Palestinian, and international humanitarian aid organizations working together to safely deliver aid directly to vulnerable families in Gaza. Since September 2024, the coalition has overcome the unique challenges of aid delivery into Gaza, helping over 100,000 families with more than 300 truckloads of essential aid. Currently, Israel has temporarily halted all aid deliveries into Gaza. Once the politics of the ceasefire are resolved, MENA Aid can resume being an important resource for Gaza.

Witnessing Syrians, Israelis, and Palestinians working together to alleviate the suffering of others is a perfect example of “humanitarian diplomacy.” MFA also continues to leverage its network of faith-based, secular, and civic partners to provide humanitarian aid to Ukraine and Türkiye.

What makes MFA unique is its ability to work in the crevices. As a small NGO with more than a decade of experience in delivering humanitarian aid, MFA remains committed to alleviating the suffering of those in displacement crises that others cannot reach.

With that, I invite you to join us for the next phase of actionable strategies by supporting our work at a time of increasing urgency. Thank you.

CONTAINERS TO COMMUNITIES

2024 AID DELIVERIES

Multifaith Alliance provided \$108 million worth of essential humanitarian aid in 2024:



Medicines & prenatal vitamins



Medical equipment & healthcare products



Hygiene kits, soap, & cleaning supplies



Emergency food kits & shelf-stable provisions



Tents, blankets, mattresses, winter clothing



Fresh produce





These resources supported:



129,600

Pregnant & Lactating Women



345,812

Households



102

Primary & Secondary Health Facilities



SYRIA

MFA's Mansoura Healthcare Center

Our center continues to serve the community of Northeast Syria with **free primary health services, medicines, and referrals.**

Since 2021, our primary healthcare center (PHC) has served as the sole PHC for a catchment area of more than 50,000 people. In the wake of geopolitical shifts and a USAID stop-work order, multiple health facilities in the region have shut down – making our continued presence more critical than ever.



4000 patients served each month



The clinic provides very good care. Each of us has a patient card, and we receive exams, medical advice and medications, all for free.

- Muna

A mother of two, Muna regularly visits our clinic with her children

SYRIA

Modular Clinic Update

After the fall of the Assad regime, we are moving one of our modular clinics to an area with increased needs. The other remains serving the Christian minority village of Al-Quinyah in Northwest Syria.



260,490
Households



30
Health Facilities
reached by
2024 Aid Deliveries

TÜRKIYE

Continued Earthquake Recovery

In 2024, in partnership with JDC, MFA supported ongoing recovery efforts in Türkiye by providing medical equipment, wheelchairs, and other mobility devices to healthcare facilities and individuals affected by the earthquake disaster.



\$250K worth of equipment provided to **2 hospitals**



I didn't have an electrical wheelchair before but now I am happy to be able to move without needing any support from anyone.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this work.

- Sulieman

*Electric Wheelchair Recipient,
Hatay Municipality*

200 people



provided with **mobility devices**

UKRAINE

Sustaining Health Services

In 2024, Multifaith Alliance continued working with local partners to deliver medicines, medical supplies, and equipment to healthcare facilities near active combat zones.



\$900K worth of equipment provided to **72 hospitals**



I am very grateful to Multifaith Alliance and Razom for Ukraine Foundation for their help, for the vitamins they provide, personal hygiene, gynecological kits, all free of charge.

I feel much better.

- Natalia

Patient, Chernihiv Central District Hospital

GAZA



Collaborative Aid Delivery

Multifaith Alliance is powering the **MENA Aid** initiative, which has brought together humanitarian organizations from across the region who are working together to securely deliver aid into Gaza.



With each of its partners contributing their respective positioning and expertise to overcome the unique challenges of aid delivery in Gaza, MENA Aid has securely delivered aid directly to vulnerable families in need.



85,322

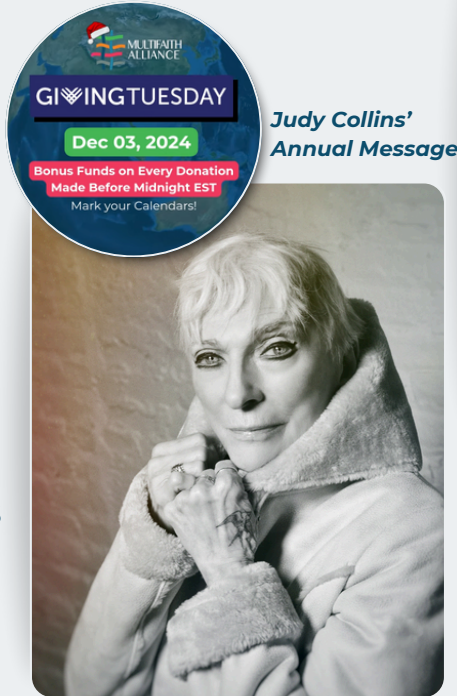
Households

reached by
2024 Aid Deliveries

RAISING AWARENESS

Informing and Engaging our Network

In 2024, we leveraged our online platforms to spread the word about the needs of refugees & internally displaced people (IDPs) and opportunities to make a positive impact, including opportunities to participate in resettlement initiatives.



GIVINGTUESDAY
Dec 03, 2024
 Bonus Funds on Every Donation
 Made Before Midnight EST
 Mark your Calendars!

Judy Collins' Annual Message



multifaithaid and 2 others
 Washington, D.C.

AURORA DIALOGUES

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO SUPPORTING DISPLACED POPULATIONS

DECEMBER 5, 2024
3:30-5:00 PM

On December 7, join us at the #AuroraDialogues for a special discussion featuring:

- Marguerite Barankitse, 2016 Aurora Prize Laureate & Founder of @maisonshalomofficial
- Shadi Martini, CEO of @multifaithaid
- @dulcevalencias, Associate Director at @defineamerican



Did You Know?

In northern **SYRIA**
19.2% female-headed households reported **not having access to sufficient water** for more than 20 days per month.

Raising public awareness of displacement crises and opportunities to help refugees rebuild their lives is key to our mission.

We engage our faith-based, secular, and civic partners to involve them in our work and advocate for sensible refugee policies.



New Webinar - Now LIVE!

PRIVATE RESETTLEMENT FOR REFUGEES

In conversation with:



Matthew La Corte
 Deputy Director of Immigration (Niskanen Center)



Claire Holba
 Immigration Policy Analyst (Niskanen Center)



Betsy Dribben
 Head of Advocacy (MFA)

BUILDING CONNECTIONS

NEWSLETTER | SEP 12, 2024



Insights to Syria's Path Forward US HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Key Questions for Candidates: Voter Guide on Syria Crisis and Refugee Resettlement

Election campaigns are kicking into high gear, and what better time to remind new or returning candidates of the importance of addressing the effects of the war in Syria? "Meet and greet" coffees, town meetings, fundraisers, and rallies may offer you the opportunity to briefly speak with candidates. You can use this opportunity to remind them that Syria and resettlement are important to you, and their answers may be helpful as you formulate how you wish to vote. We have developed this resource to help you think about what you will want to say.



Community Event
December 2024 | Washington DC



2024 Voter's Guide:
SYRIA CRISIS &
REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

Election campaigns are kicking into high gear, and what better time to remind new or returning candidates of the importance of addressing the effects of the war in Syria? "Meet and greet" coffees, town meetings, fundraisers, and rallies may offer you the opportunity to briefly speak with them. You can use this opportunity to remind candidates that Syria and refugee resettlement are important to you, and in turn their answers may be helpful as you formulate how you wish to vote.

We have put together some material to help you develop questions for candidates on the following issues:

- Federal resettlement of Syrian refugees
- Private resettlement of Syrian refugees - *WelcomeCorps* program
- The war in Syria
- The possibility of the US normalizing relations with President Bashar al-Assad

In the linked Voter Guide, we have included additional information.

Thank you,

Betsy Dribben

MFA Head of Advocacy
Washington DC

[Access the Voter Guide Here](#)

Following 2024 election results, these are chaotic and worrying times for Americans and those seeking refuge in our country.

The changes coming to areas we care about have already started. MFA is pivoting to address a new political reality and to ensure that those who support us here at home and those we serve in war torn areas receive the help they need.

Here are some of the areas where we now face challenges: *(continued on next page)*

US ADVOCACY

Overhaul or Removal of Resettlement & Immigration Pathways

- Welcome Corps, which offered an effective and speedy way to bring American sponsorship to those seeking to resettle here, was immediately shut down.
- The US government has indefinitely suspended the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP), potentially impacting Ukrainian refugees. This administration is also considering whether to revoke the legal status of Ukrainian refugees who came to the U.S. after Russia's invasion, and whether to revoke the Biden-era program.
- Temporary Protected Status (TPS) is a target for being dismantled and has already been eliminated for Haitians. Some 4,000 Syrians have been able to live and work in the US for 18 months at a time (with renewal) while the war raged. This entire program will likely end very soon.

The Trump administration is considering targeting the citizens of as many as 43 countries as part of a new ban on travel to the United States. America is entering a lockdown for those desperate to escape war, to come here for education or to make their own contributions to American life and to visit or reunite with families.

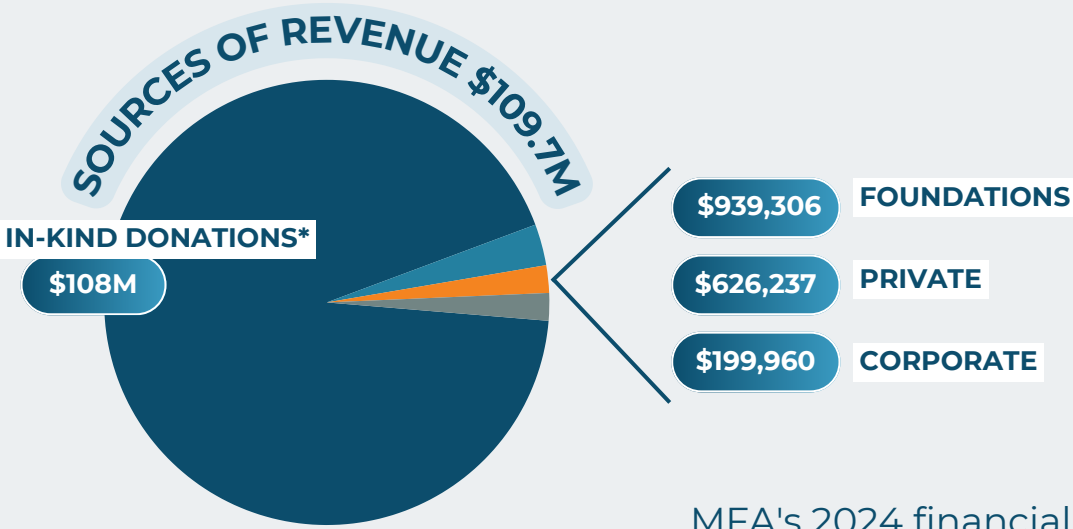
Can there be any hope and, if so, where should energy be directed?

Congress is not totally without a heartbeat. There are legislators who still care about Syria, about Ukraine and other regions where Multifaith Alliance brings supplies and assistance.

For example, MFA has voiced its support on the Hill for a greater focus on the plight of religious minorities in Syria — Christians, Druze, and Kurds among them. This includes supporting S. Res. 52, a bipartisan Senate Resolution put forward by Sen. James Lankford (R-Okla.) and Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA) directing the US State Department to empathize in bilateral and other international meetings “...support for international religious freedom as a fundamental right and a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy amid concern over increased attacks on religious freedom worldwide”.

With federal programs in turmoil, we believe that state and local communities can and should be playing a greater role in political decision making. To this end, MFA is providing civic, faith based and other organizations with the materials and training they need. Our objective is to have their voices effectively heard on policies to assist refugees already resettled in the US and to thwart anti-semitism and Islamophobia.

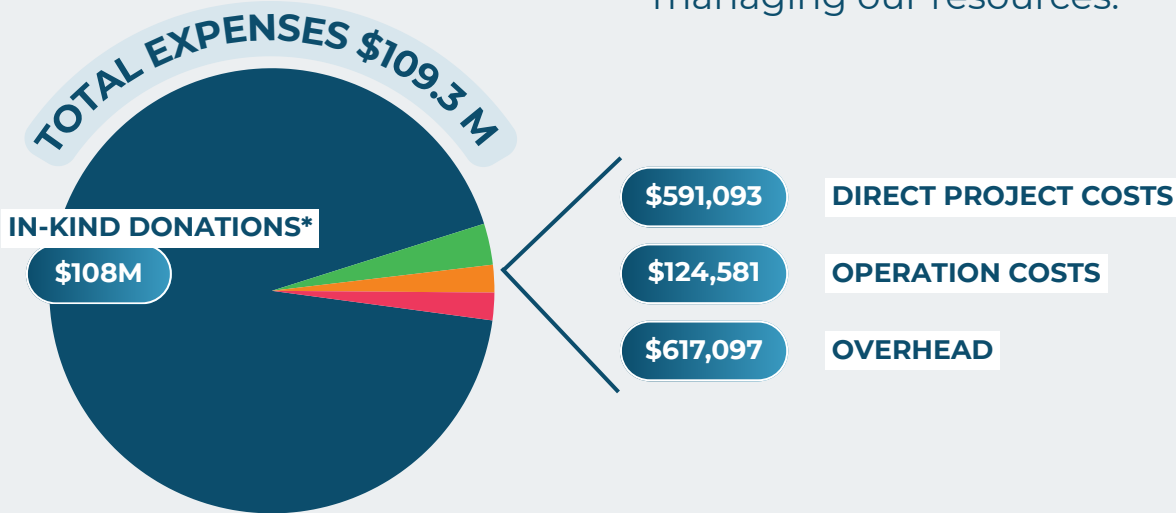
2024 FINANCIAL SUMMARY



*In-kind donations of \$108M are valued at fair market prices. They are not reflected in the 990 for 2024.

MFA's 2024 financial overview highlights our strength and the tangible impact of our donor contributions.

In 2024, we responded to increased need for humanitarian aid beyond Syria while efficiently managing our resources.



Since we began our humanitarian shipments in 2016,
MFA has provided aid worth:



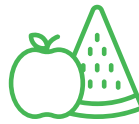
\$531.8M
Medicine &
Equipment



\$8.98M
WASH
support



\$3.56M
Non-food
items



\$4.53M
Food
items

**This would not be possible without the support
of our partners, donors, and advocates.**

MFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Georgette Bennett, Chair
Rodney Archer
Martin Kalin, Secretary
Dr. Yahya Basha
Dr. Leonard Polonsky CBE

Dr. Abdalmajid Katranji, Treasurer
Shadi Martini
Michael Swidler
David Weiss
Jonathan Wiesner



IN MEMORIAM

DR. LEONARD POLONSKY CBE

April 13, 1927 – March 14, 2025



We deeply mourn the loss of Dr. Leonard Polonsky, a much-beloved and loyal friend to Multifaith Alliance and all who knew him.

Leonard was a founding member of MFA's Advisory Board and later served as a Board Director. He was a generous supporter of MFA's work since its inception, and he funded the Watergen Program that provided thousands of displaced Syrians with clean drinking water where none was available.

Dr. Polonsky had a successful business career in the financial services sector and was a philanthropist with particular interests in cultural heritage, higher education in the humanities, and the arts.

He was the Founder and President of Hansard Global Plc, an international financial services firm listed on the main board of the London Stock Exchange since 2006.

He was the founding chairman of the board of trustees of The Polonsky Foundation, which supports charitable projects in the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Israel, and Europe.

Principal activities of The Polonsky Foundation include: the digitization of significant

collections at leading libraries (the Bodleian Library, Oxford; Cambridge University Library; the British Library; the New York Public Library; the Library of Congress; the Vatican Apostolic Library); support for Theatre for a New Audience at the Polonsky Shakespeare Center in Brooklyn, New York; and The Polonsky Academy for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, and the post-doctoral fellowships it offers.

Dr. Polonsky's extensive philanthropic contributions earned him the distinguished title of Commander of the British Empire (CBE) by HM Queen Elizabeth II in 2013.

He will be profoundly missed, but the breadth of his work and generosity that continues to inspire and impact the lives of millions of people will be his enduring legacy.

Thank you for empowering our mission!

F. Murray Abraham
 Dr. Yahya Basha
 Dr. Georgette Bennett
 Riad Cachecho
 Judy Collins
 Combined Jewish Philanthropies
 Private Donor
 Toby Crystal
 Angela Cunningham
 Norman Fein
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 Josh Tanenbaum
 William Weir
 David Weiss
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 Shira White
 Jonathan Wiesner
 Nancy Wright
 Joelle Zito



GLOBALMEDIC



Leichtag Foundation



Jewish Coalition for Disaster Relief



HEARTS & HOMES FOR REFUGEES



HANAN FOUNDATION



KIRK HUMANITARIAN



cmmb



CLINTON GLOBAL INITIATIVE



VIRGINIA WELLINGTON CABOT FOUNDATION