



المنتدى
السوري
SYRIAN FORUM

Annual Report
2020

Annual Report 2020
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Mustafa Sabbagh

Co-Founder
Chairman of the Board

We start a new year and our greatest goal is - as it was since the establishment of Syrian Forum - to employ all efforts and harness the utmost energies to develop the capacities of the Syrian people and create more opportunities for Syrians to face the growing challenges.

We are determined to continue to invest in the Syrian individual, promoting self-sufficiency and supporting sustainable development projects.



Ghassan Hitto

Co-Founder Board Member
Chief Executive Officer

Despite the 2020's exceptional challenges, Syrian Forum's teams continued to accumulate new accomplishments, achieving most of the goals set in the past year. 2020 also witnessed a growth in the workforce of our programs, reaching more than 2,300 members of field teams, specialists and qualified calibers.

And here we are, starting the new year, with our focus, as always, on building the capabilities of the Syrian people and working restlessly to meet their aspirations for freedom and dignity.



Ammar Kahf

Co-Founder Board Member
Omran's Executive Director

In parallel with the emergency response plans, Syrian Forum's programs contributed in 2020 to providing quality projects, reaching all components of the Syrian community, striving to improve their living conditions and achieving self-sufficiency.

We also succeeded in building more strategic partnerships with international and civil society organizations to serve new segments of the Syrian community.



Yaser Tabbara

Co-Founder Board Member
Chief Strategist

In 2020 and through the integration of our programs, we were able to implement economic empowerment projects, providing professional and vocational trainings and job placement services. We were also able to empower the local councils and develop the skills of their members and activate coordination mechanisms between them.

We begin the new year with great determination to expand the scope of our projects to rebuild more Syrian lives.

About Us

- A nonprofit organization with 5 programs dedicated to rebuilding Syrian lives, established in 2011
- Syrian Forum and its partners are comprised of 17 offices in Syria, Turkey, Austria, the United States and Qatar
- Employs 2,318 dedicated staff members

Vision

A stable and dignified Syrian society in Syria and abroad, that can build a just and prosperous future for its children, rooted in both contemporary universal values and Syria's rich culture and history.

Mission

To enhance social stability and economic self-reliance among Syrians affected by the conflict at home and abroad through sustainable development projects, educational opportunities, innovative job training and placement, effective self-governance, policy advocacy and media representation.

Objectives

- Empower and develop Syrian civil society and invest in local administration
- Develop Syrian institutions in order to promote efficiency, integrity and professionalism in civil society
- Foster economic development and create employment opportunities for Syrians in need
- Offer strategic solutions and policy alternatives in matters related to Syria and its surrounding region
- Reinforce a political culture with the capacity to develop and strengthen democratic institutions in Syria

Why Us

- Our programs are proven yet innovative. We collaborate with organizations from around the world to address the most significant issues facing Syrians
- Our team is capable, dedicated and constantly improving. Through special trainings and education programs, we continually invest in the professional development of our staff
- Our organization is diverse. From different sectors and professional backgrounds, each staff member offers unique knowledge and skills. Most important, our team reflects the diversity of Syrian society
- Our mission is empowerment. We enable Syrian communities to help themselves, to build their own future

Departments



Programs Development
and Partnerships



Admin and
Human Resources



Accounting and
Legal Support



Information
Technology



Internal
Audit



Media and
Communications

Since 2011, **KPMG** has conducted a comprehensive financial audit of Syrian Forum annually



Programs



Relief and
Development



Economic
Empowerment



Development
and Innovation



Public Policy
and Research Center



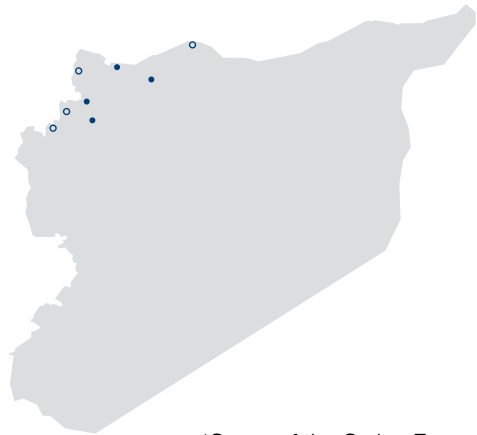
Media

Where We Work

- SF Offices
- SF Partners
- Service Offices

Syria

- Al Bab
- A'zaz
- Sarmada
- Idlib
- Afrin
- Jarablus
- Kharbet Eljoz
- Armanaz



*Some of the Syrian Forum's programs are implemented by researchers and correspondents in east Euphrates, the southern and central regions and the coast, in addition to the offices in north and northwest areas.

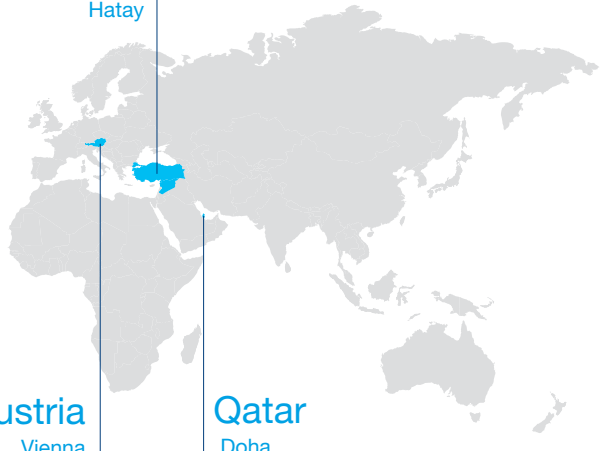
United States

- Washington, DC
- Chicago
- Dallas



Turkey

- Istanbul
- Gaziantep
- Urfa
- Mersin
- Hatay



- Austria
- Vienna

- Qatar
- Doha

COVID-19 Pandemic

The Pandemic that has created multiple challenges across the world, have affected the Syrian people severely who have been suffering from an ongoing humanitarian crisis for 10 years already, in addition to an acute shortage of water, hygiene and cleaning supplies, unemployment and hard working conditions.

Syrian Forum responded by prioritizing prevention measures and continued serving Syrian people and empowering them economically according to health and safety conditions, through the following:

- Installing automatic sanitizer gates in 9 schools
- Distributing over 100K hygiene baskets
- Providing 2M m³ of clean water
- Distributing over 150K face masks to 30K beneficiaries
- Training 667 health workers on COVID-19 prevention and protection methods
- Conducting more than 73K awareness sessions to more than 300K beneficiaries
- Distributing more than 47K flyers and sending more than 10.7K brochures over 145 sites to raise awareness about the virus
- Supporting 66 beneficiaries (56 females, 10 males) through Cash for Work Program dedicated to producing face masks
- Providing 140 schools with COVID-19 prevention equipment and conducting awareness sessions for students and their families

In addition to producing and publishing educational visual materials on Syrian Forum's social platforms in cooperation with specialized Syrian doctors

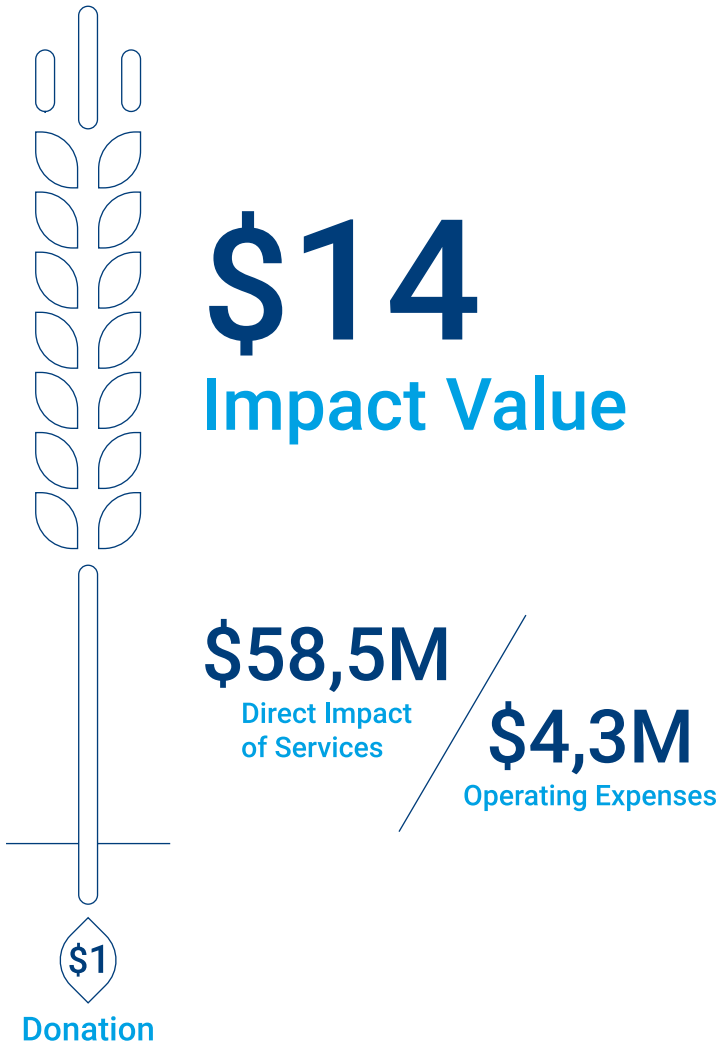


Mazen Kherallah
MD, MHA, FCCP





Syrian Forum's Impact



\$58,524,324

Direct Impact for
Syrian Forum's Services

3,408,479

Total Number
of Beneficiaries

4,127,612

Total Number
of Services

7.63%

Administrative
Cost

	Impact Value	Number of Services	Number of Beneficiaries
Value of Relief and Development's completed projects, in addition to 25% of projects value that started in the last quarter of 2020	\$47,728,749	4,116,324	3,002,352
Income generated by trained and employed Syrians through Economic Empowerment program	\$8,899,200	6,748	16,739
Value of training hours through Training and Innovation program	\$178,125	1,465	175,249
Value of outputs through the Public Policy and Research Center	\$1,365,900	766	3,878
Value of outputs through the Media track	\$352,350	2,349	210,261

Strategic Partners



Syrian Forum USA

Established in 2015 and operates through its offices in Chicago, Dallas and Washington DC,

Syrian Forum USA works in partnership with the Syrian Forum to support programs related to vocational rehabilitation, employment and research that target academics and decision makers through:

- Organizing 23 fundraising events to support humanitarian and developmental projects in Syria and Turkey and provide a briefing on the Syrian situation in general
- Holding more than 20 public and private meetings with the Arab community across different states to educate them about the Syrian cause
- Building partnerships with international and local organizations such as New America, the Islamic Cultural Center of Willow Grove, the Islamic Association of West Virginia, Hope for Relief and Development and ADAMS Center
- Raising awareness of the Syrian plight by hosting joint events with other Syrian American organizations such as the Syrian American Council (SAC) and the American Relief Coalition for Syria (ARCS).

Syrian Forum USA earned GuideStar by Candid Gold Seal of Transparency





وحدة المجالس المحلية Local Administration Councils Unit

Local Administration Councils Unit

One of the most important partners of the Syrian Forum, as it focuses, through its programs, on the development of communities and local councils and activating local governance practices to serve the Syrian society and its individuals.

The Local Administration Councils Unit helps the Syrian society rise by providing local communities with active roles in running their operations, facilities and resources through local services and administration units, in addition to reinforcing the concept of local administration by providing the services needed to support local councils in Syria, monitoring their work, building their capacities and enhancing community participation in local governance, in line with the political and military changes.



Life Makers Educational Center

Since its establishment in 2017 the center has been working on supporting Syrians with special needs, through developing and improving their skills to enable them resume their life based on their qualifications and capabilities.

The center focuses on people who mainly suffer from:

- Amputation injuries
- Hemiplegia
- Mobility impairment
- Multiple disabilities

Throughout 2020, the center provided courses for 125 beneficiaries, (85 females, 40 males), ages ranged between 16 to 40 years old, in addition to more than 25 of their children, in the following sectors:

- Computer programs
- Educational programs for kids
- Psychosocial support
- Turkish and English language programs
- Hand crafts
- Hair dressing program





Partnerships



وحدة المجالس المحلية
Local Administration Councils Unit



قطر الخيرية
QATAR CHARITY



Relief and Development



This program is implemented by Ihsan team, and it focuses on the following sectors:



Food Security
& Livelihoods



Shelter & NFI



WASH



Education



Protection

Accomplishments 2020

58

Implemented Projects

3M

Beneficiaries

4M

Services Provided
to Beneficiaries

\$28.9M

Total Value of Implemented
Projects - Cash Donation

\$12.7M

Total Value of Implemented
Projects - In-kind Donation

\$24.6M

Total Value of Ongoing
Contracts Signed in 2020

\$66M

Total Value of Projects
and Ongoing Contracts

Accomplishments through 2020

\$244M

Total Value of Projects

461

Implemented Projects

43.3M

Services Provided
to Beneficiaries

How We Work

Needs Based

Our approach to programs is one that is built on listening to the local communities and identifying their needs through various assessment tools including key informant interviews, focus group discussions and sample surveys.

Quality Implementation

We placed a concerted effort in building the capacity of all staff, including those on the front line. The experience of the staff has contributed to their ability to implement programs with high quality, ensuring the integration of key stakeholders and in line with humanitarian principles.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability & Learning

Through this function, we are able to monitor the outputs of programs and measure their impact throughout baseline and endless assessments. It also provides access to beneficiaries to give their feedback and complaints. Our MEAL department allows us to learn lessons from previous projects and apply them moving forward in order to strengthen our future programming.



Strong Program Design

The next step is ensuring a strong program design whereby the Programs Departments takes the identified gaps and creates a program that aims to address the root causes of these needs. Key community leaders and local councils are often consulted at this stage in order to better understand the feasibility of such programming.

Policies and Standard Operating Procedures

The program operates within policies developed based on the requirements of each sector. Each of these policies follows the standard operating procedures, which explain the mechanism of work within the departments in detail, in addition to the roles and responsibilities of those within the department.

Institutional Support

The program works to support Local Councils and Civil Society Organizations by implementing joint projects, programs and workshops.





325,362

Beneficiaries

\$7,002,920

Cash Donation

\$1,566,150

In-kind Donation

Development Projects

- Distributing 150K face masks to 30K beneficiaries
- Providing technical training to over 4,100 farmers and supporting them with the main inputs for farming
- Supporting 1,073 beneficiaries through the “cash-for-work” program in various projects such as olive harvesting and face mask manufacturing
- Rehabilitating and operating two bakeries to supply bread to more than 70K families
- Providing inputs for the livestock sector such as fodder, vaccines and veterinary medicines for over 650K livestock
- Establishing 4 veterinary clinics and providing technical training to over 1,000 livestock breeders’ beneficiaries

Rapid Response

- Distributing monthly food kits directly or through electronic food vouchers and cash vouchers to 40K families
- Distributing bread rations to 19K families



Small Business Grants

Number of Direct Beneficiaries: **174**

Number of In-direct Beneficiaries: **966**

Number of Grants: **166**

Value per Grant: **\$1,300**

The projects targeted different segments of the displaced and hosting community, especially families headed by women or people with special needs who are able to work and generate income.

The projects relied on a specific structure and work plan that begins with building the administrative capacities of the beneficiaries by training them on small projects' management principles in terms of planning activities, budgets, market study and profit calculation.

The proposed projects included:

- Grocery
- Clothes shop
- Sewing machines
- Library and stationary shop
- Dairy production
- Mobile phones maintainance
- Beauty salon for women
- Household tools and accessories



Shelter & Non-Food Items

179,410

Beneficiaries

\$6,019,041

Cash Donation

\$2,271,863

In-kind Donation

The program focused primarily on providing life-saving aid to families fleeing violence and offered support to those enduring harsh winter conditions in host communities:

- Rehabilitating 3,616 houses to host 5,494 families
- Distributing 12.5K cash for winter vouchers
- Preparation of 164 dunums of land to build 2,716 housing units
- Rehabilitating 44 collective shelters and 16 camps for more than 4,100 displaced families
- Providing 2,000 house restoration kits for displaced families
- Providing winter blankets, solar lights, sleeping mats, heaters and heating fuel
- Distributing 21K multi-purpose cash vouchers
- Providing 13.5K kits containing non-food items and tools for shelter rehabilitation



1,881,922

Beneficiaries

\$7,269,262

Cash Donation

\$2,890,132

In-kind Donation

- Installing 2,014 drinkable water tanks in 180 locations within camps, schools and health centers
 - Constructing 1,484 toilets blocks; 50 of them are designated for people with disabilities
 - Distributing 3,635 containers within camps, schools and health centers and transporting waste to landfills
 - Distributing 91.5K hygiene kits for families and women
 - Conducting 73.5K COVID-19 awareness sessions for over 300K beneficiaries
 - Providing 35 liter/day of drinkable water to over 100K beneficiaries in 300 camps
- Using solar energy for operating water stations and supply drinkable water to 17.8K beneficiaries
 - Rehabilitating 40 water stations and 5 sanitation systems to serve more than 1.2M beneficiaries in 23 communities
 - Distributing 47.5K flyers and 10.7K brochures to 145 sites to raise awareness about the COVID-19
 - Distributing water testing tools and remote monitoring systems to water stations
 - Providing operational support to these stations, including fuel, sterilization materials, workers' wages and technical training programs for stations' employees



Education

141,630

Beneficiaries

\$2,421,848

Cash Donation

\$34,807

In-kind Donation

68

Rehabilitated Schools

Program services included providing support for formal and informal education programs through:

- Installing automatic sanitizer gates in 9 schools
- Providing teachers and students with educational materials and stationery kits
- Rehabilitating 68 schools and 78 educational centers and providing them with the monthly operating expenses
- Raising the level of security and safety in schools, by providing them with fire extinguishers and first aid kits
- Providing 140 schools with COVID-19 prevention equipment and conducting awareness sessions for students and their families
- Providing schools with fuel and heaters
- Securing over 800 job opportunities for the educational and administrative staff and building their capacities
- Providing transportation service to schools for students who live in areas far from their schools and those with special needs
- Conducting activities related to child protection such as awareness sessions, back-to-school campaigns and special courses for out-of-school students



474,028

Beneficiaries

\$6,180,362

Cash Donation

\$5,925,300

In-kind Donation

19

Mobile Teams

3

Case Management Centers

13

Child-Friendly Spaces

8

Women Safe Spaces

Child Protection

The program continued supporting child protection centers which provide the following services:

- Recreational psychosocial support activities
- Case management and specialized individual assistance for the most vulnerable children
- Distributing personal hygiene kits and supporting bags through the creative activities
- Capacity building for members of local child protection networks
- Awareness sessions for children and parents on child protection principles and COVID-19 risks and precautions



Women Support Program

- Providing awareness sessions for men and women on GBV issues (Gender-Based Violence)
- Providing vocational training such as first aid, hairdressing and sewing, where five beneficiaries of the sewing course were integrated into the face masks manufacturing project
- Providing case management and referral services for other sectors such as medical services, shelter and NFI
- Offering individual assistance and life skills training programs for women on dealing with children and self-confidence
- Providing educational trainings such as computer and robotics program for adolescents



General Protection

This program conducts emergency response activities to displacement through emergency projects, which included:

- Providing psychosocial support activities
- Providing awareness sessions and legal consultancy regarding civil status, property and real estate documents
- Offering Individualized assistance services for most vulnerable cases
- Building capacity of humanitarian workers and non-protection specialists

Agreements

Signed with Turkish Government Institutions across different provinces to develop the services provided to Syrians inside Syria

Gaziantep

- Distributing food vouchers to 1,900 families in Al-Bab
- Distributing bread to 8,045 families in Al-Bab and Jarablus districts, in coordination with AFAD
- Delivering drinkable water to 175.3K beneficiaries in Al-Bab, Qabasin, Bzagha, Sandi, Susian and Zulf, in coordination with the General Directorate of Water
- Providing general protection services to over 50K beneficiaries in Women Empowerment centers in Qabasin, Al-Bab and Jarablus

Hatay

- Rehabilitating 2,250 houses in Afrin, Al-Bab, Jandairis, Qabasin and Bzagha
- Delivering drinkable water to 6K beneficiaries in Jandaires, in coordination with the General Directorate of Water
- Providing protection services to over 18.5K beneficiaries in Women Empowerment centers in Jandaires, in coordination with the National Education Directorate
- Distributing bread to 3,977 families in Jandaires, in coordination with AFAD

Kilis

- Rehabilitating 500 houses in Mare'
- Rehabilitating the land and road of Akhtarın camp, in coordination with AFAD
- Graveling and leveling Almukaveme camp's land in A'zaz to build 700 housing units, in coordination with AFAD
- Graveling and leveling Mulham camp's land in A'zaz to build 1,000 housing units, in coordination with AFAD
- Providing multi-purpose cash assistance in Mare', Suran, Akhtarın, A'zaz and Sejjo, in coordination with AFAD
- Providing protection services to over 12K beneficiaries in Women Empowerment centers in A'zaz and Akhtarın, in coordination with the National Education Directorate



Cooperation and Partnerships



Economic Empowerment



This program is implemented by Rizk team, and it focuses on:



Vocational Training



Job Placement



Creating Job Opportunities



Legal Consultancy



Supporting Entrepreneurs

Accomplishments 2020

3,833

Registered Applicants

2,791

Jobs Found

1,661

Employed

159

Orphans Beneficiaries

1,456

Trainees
(Vocational Trainings)

722

Training Hours

3

People With
Disabilities Employed

3,785

Beneficiaries of
Career Consultancy

530

Beneficiaries of
Legal Consultancy

962

Beneficiary Companies

10,006

Beneficiaries
from Employment

16,739

Total Number
of Beneficiaries

Accomplishments through 2020

53,671

Registered Applicants

20,809

Employed

1,339

Orphans Beneficiaries

4,728

Trainees

113,230

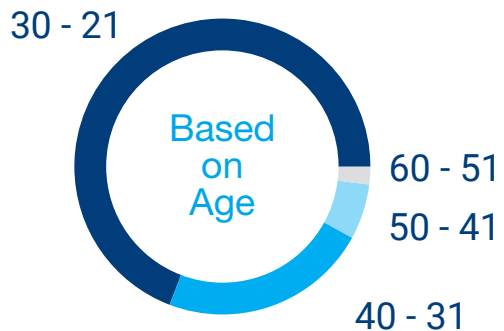
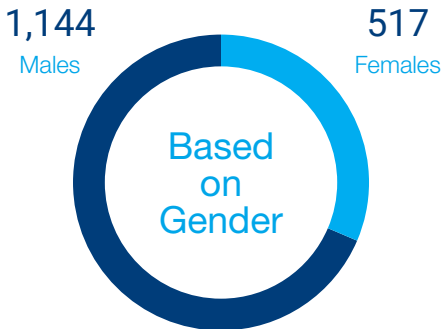
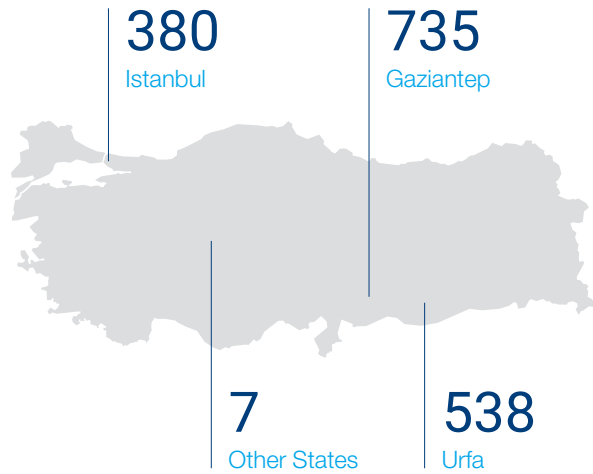
Total Number
of Beneficiaries

How We Work



Employment Statistics

Per Region



Per Occupation

Occupation	Trainees	Occupation	Trainees
Lab Technicians	2	Machines' Maintenance	20
Nursing	2	Shoemaking	8
Psychosocial Support	15	Cars' Repair	17
Accounting	49	Auto Painting	2
Trainers	11	Haircut	10
Translation	39	Tailoring	135
Teaching	12	Tiles	7
Administrative Work	202	Painting	5
Marketing	197	Carpentry	50
Graphic Design & Production	36	Metal Work	36
Programming	14	Lathing	22
Chef	56	Plumbing	1
Driver	22	Electrician	12
Farming	17	Air Conditioning	8
Workers	586	Electric Elevators Installation	2
Textile	18	Solar Cells Installation	6
Handicraft	34		

Vocational Training Programs

Course Title	Location	Trainees Number	Training Hours
Strategic Planning for Profit and Non-Profit Projects	Urfa	12	4
E-Secretarial		42	12
English Language - Conversation		59	50
Work Culture in Turkey		136	50
Graphic Design		28	20
Marketing Skills		30	3
Online Job Interviews	Gaziantep	28	4
Applied Chemistry		2	480
Accounting Principles	Istanbul	522	48
Al-Mizan Accounting Program		342	12
E-Marketing		83	2
E-Secretarial		20	4
Excel Principles		15	6
Sales & Customer Services		137	27
Total		1,456	722



Events

- Brussel's Refugee Conference - Online
- Arabs Businessmen Conference - Istanbul
- Launch of ENHANCER Project of ICMPD - Urfa
- Immigration Testimony - Harran University - anlurfa
- The Difference in Similarities - Harran University - Urfa
- The Founding Conference of the Syrian Students' Union - Istanbul
- Exhibition of Agricultural and Livestock Products - TÜMSİAD - Urfa



Cooperation and Partnerships



ŞANLIURFA
İL SAĞLIK MÜDÜRLÜĞÜ



Development and Innovation



This program is implemented by Bousla team and it focuses on:



Capacity Building
& Development



Social Cohesion
& Peace Building



Women & Youth
Empowerment



Civil Development
& Civic Engagement

Accomplishments 2020

21

Number of Projects

78

Training Courses

1,346

Training Hours

2,260

Trainees

79

Awareness Sessions

40

Small Business Grants

992

Certified Participants

172,949

Beneficiaries of
Awareness Sessions

175,249

Total Number
of Beneficiaries

Accomplishments through 2020

14,953

Trainees

547

Training Courses

11,431

Training Hours

8,967

Certified Participants

187,942

Total Number
of Beneficiaries

Objectives

- Developing capabilities to reach an empowered and active society
- Spreading the general culture that is capable of building and developing institutions
- Finding innovative sustainable solutions and policies that address local needs
- Empowering and supporting civil society through embracing innovative initiatives and investing in community capital

Programs 2020

Training	Location	Trainees Number	Training Hours
Genetic Sources	Idlib	96	25
Reviving Communities Through Democracy Support and Success Stories		60	59
Civic Awareness		383	396
Communication Skills	Idlib & Rural Idlib	16	42
Cost Recovery in Water Stations		8	35
Medical Supply Chain	Idlib & Rural Aleppo	49	83
Water Stations Operation and Maintenance	Idlib, Rural Idlib & Rural Aleppo	120	52
COVID-19 Infection Prevention & Control (IPC)		182	667
Protection Against Sexual Exploitation & Abuse (PSEA)		48	35
Interactive Video Design	Online	6	64
Institutional Change and Development		12	274
Tools to Increase Productivity at Work		12	305
Entrepreneurship Program for Refugees	Urfa	100	40
Business Correspondence	Gaziantep	12	66
ToT for Teachers		50	18
Enhancing Social Cohesion between Refugees and the Host Community Through Entrepreneurship		110	99



Programs' Highlights

Reviving Communities Through Democracy Support and Success Stories

- Targeting activists, influencers and leaders from Syrian NGOs, civil society organizations and the local community
- Developing the capacity of active actors and community leaders on human rights and democratic principles to be a change-maker in their communities
- The initiative also seeks to encourage civic engagement by highlighting Syrian role models

Strengthening the Capacities of Civil Society Actors and Enhancing Civic Engagement in Communities

- Targeting Syrian community leaders, influencers, community-based and civil society organizations, university students, volunteer teams and union members in Syria
- Reinforcing basic human rights like the rights of expression, associations establishment and to negotiate for change through participation
- Promoting social justice through the following topics:
 - Conflict resolution
 - Human rights
 - Social responsibility
 - Democratic participation and values





Entrepreneurship Academy

Beneficiaries: 40

Grants: 37

Total Value of Grants: \$50,000

- Targeting Syrian and non-Syrian refugees and asylum seekers in Turkey (20 women and 20 men) who have the potential to start their own businesses or expand an existing small business
- It also helped beneficiaries understand basic principles of entrepreneurship, develop their business plan and start their businesses to improve income opportunities and social integration

Enhancing Social Cohesion between Refugees and Host Community through Entrepreneurship

Beneficiaries: 99

Grants: 3

Value per Grants: ₺20,000

The project aims to encourage joint start-up projects between Syrians and Turkish youth through:

- Capacity development in small business management
- Promoting competition to receive funds for joint (Syrian-Turkish) business ideas
- Create a small fund to establish businesses selected by the committee



Cooperation and Partnerships



Public Policy and Research



This program is implemented by Omran team and it focuses on the following:



Public
Policies



Governance &
Political System



Security
& Military



Rule
of Law



Regional &
International Affairs



Economic Recovery
& Development

Accomplishments 2020

2

Studies

21

Research Papers

213

Conferences & Events

148

Media Appearances

11

Editorials

4

Books

23

Field Maps

4

Surveys & Polls

44

Published and
Unpublished Reports

Accomplishments through 2020

52

Studies

445

Research Papers

547

Conferences & Events

689

Media Appearances

125

Editorials

16

Books

Why Omran?

Promoting a Comprehensive Reform Agenda

in Syria as an entry point for stability, security and development

Accurate Field Data

through a network of relationships, field researchers and partnerships

Extensive Reach

among Syrian, regional and international decisions makers and provide analysis and opinion for Arab and international actors

Bridge-Building Platform

Provides a platform for Syrian policy makers, human rights activists, local council members and scholars to exchange and develop new ideas and solutions for Syria

In-depth Assessment

conducts critical analysis of current political and social issues in Syria and the surrounding region through direct access to information on the ground

Issues

- Security & Military
- International Forces
- The Political Process
- Rule of Law & Accountability
- Terrorism & Extremist Groups
- Constitutional & Election Process
- Identity, Social Contract & Community Cohesion

- Education
- Healthcare
- Refugees Resettlement
- Local Economic Development
- Youth & Women Empowerment
- Livelihood Development Policies
- Regional & International Geopolitical Affairs

Research Programs

- Governance
- Security & Military
- Kurdish Affairs
- Rebuilding Syria

Omran's Impact

Continuous engagement with public opinion and decision makers. Omran provides a range of solutions and policies that drive political change and stability.

Social Engagement

- 650K people reached through social media and online platforms
- 3,851 people engaged in physical meetings
- 26 agencies republished outputs of the Omran Center, while 18 local and international institutions relied on the Center's outputs as a main source for their published materials
- 44 local, regional and international media organizations engaged with the aim of informing the public on the developments and events of the Syrian issue
- 8 field meetings inside Syria with local activists and local groups: Ihsan's Women Empowerment Centers, Ihsan's Child Protection Centers, Local Councils and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Research Collaboration

- 6 research products published by several Arab and foreign intellectual institutions
- Research consultations for 18 researchers working on the completion of studies and research related to the Syrian issue in various political, economic and social aspects
- 62 events through which the center provided a number of academic lectures and training workshops for a number of youth activists
- Training 9 university students with the aim of developing their skills and research tools through 125 training hours and employing 3 of them

Engagement with Decision Makers

- 28 events with local activists (civil society organizations, activists, human rights defenders, military personnel, academics)
- 20 research meetings with Arab and foreign think tanks institutions
- 51 meetings with representatives of local, regional and international states and political figures

Highlights

Studies & Research Papers

- Turkey's New Approach After the Attack on Turkish Soldiers in Idlib - February
- Power Centers in The Regime's Army 2020: "The Al-Safa Alawite Approach" - March
- The Issue of Refugees and Displaced Persons at the Heart of the Crisis and Settlement in Syria - April
- East of the Euphrates: Competition of International Forces and Dialogue of Local Forces - May
- The Commission and Restructuring of Jihadi Space ... Internal Arrangements and External Messages - June
- Replacement of the Syrian pound with the Turkish pound in northern Syria: The Extent of Success - July
- Soft Coordination to salvage early recovery in opposition areas - September
- Baath democracy... the 2020 elections and approaches to consecrating Article 8 - October
- Religion and the State: Between Liberal and Conservative groups in Syria: a reading of three Syrian constitutions 1920 -1950 -1973 - November

Editorials

- Elections in Syria... a right or privilege - January
- The military campaign against Idlib... a reading in the stages of international highways - January
- Hayat Tahrir al-Sham... Questions of the future and possibilities of dismantling - February
- The most prominent military orders with the March 8 coup and their impact on Syria's current ordeals - March
- Positive messages between Kurdish parties... Wishes burdened with challenges - March
- Makhoul as a change in the regime's intentions... Attempts to return to Hafez al-Assad's balance - May
- The Syrian Army's Doctrine: Transformations of reducing the homeland to the party and then the leader - June
- The chemical massacre and the criminalization of al-Assad - August
- The Front for Peace and Freedom... a hope of effectiveness and a reality full of challenges - August
- French politics falter in fragile European geopolitics - October

Special Reports

- The governance situation and reconstruction in the areas of the Syrian regime during November and December 2019
- Assassinations in opposition areas during the period from August to December 2019
- Indicators of early economic recovery in opposition-held areas from July to December, 2019
- The Assad regime's policies to confront the Corona virus: between denial and manipulation
- Briefing on the latest developments in Idlib - (in English)
- Autonomous Administration and the Corona Virus crisis: a weak health sector and increasing challenges
- Hurras al-Din: emergence, dynamics and future trends
- The economy in regime areas... low growth indicators in 2019 and downside scenarios during 2020
- Indicators of early economic recovery in opposition-held areas during the first half of 2020
- Assassinations in opposition areas during the period from January to June 2020.

Research Training Program

Out of 65 applicants, 9 Syrian students, Bachelor and Master's level, selected according to specific criteria, underwent 125 training hours divided in two parts:

Part 1: Methodology, analysis and field work approaches:

- Public policy research and its dynamics in Syria
- Think-tanks approaches, role, and importance
- Concepts of social sciences research
- The political process and the multiple negotiation tracks
- Map of actors and their interests
- The political and military scene
- The economic, administrative and development scenes

Part 2: Practical / field work

- Preparing and conducting a research paper
- Research production cycle till publication
- Event/ workshop organization: design of the event and size, choice of main theme, title and sub-topics
- Managing discussion and facilitating sessions
- Logistic preparations

Omran’s Research Projects

1 Local Communities as Agents of Cohesion and Stability

	Number	Women	Men	Total Reach
Individual Interviews	362	104	258	362
Focus Groups	82	156	268	424
Round-table Discussions	30	97	196	293
Polls	3	40	107	147
Workshops	4	41	116	157

The project aimed to promote a culture of dialogue in local communities to reach common views on the future vision of Syria. Conversations centered around public affairs, governance, state building and social cohesion. The project also worked on raising awareness among local actors on issues that affect state building in a future stage

A major component to the project was related to managing conflicts. Local communities were exposed to collective knowledge based on several different dynamics and proposed realistic frameworks aimed at developing community capital, social cohesion and promoting issues of governance and accountability

2 Stability Indicators in Syria and Its Link to the Return of Refugees and Displaced Persons

	Number
Published Works	4
Discussion Tables	2
Polls	1/600 sample
Workshops	1

This project was implemented with the aim of developing measurable indicators to study local security and safety conditions in Syria that may affect the return of refugees and internally displaced persons. This was done through surveys in select Syrian regions as well as neighboring countries among refugees. Questionnaires, personal interviews, desk surveys and field monitoring methods were used to implement this project

3 Developing a Road Map Towards a Decentralized Syria

	Number
Research Outcomes	1
Focus Groups	10
Bilateral Interviews	10
Workshops	2

At the start of 2020, Omran Center and LACU launched a project to develop a community-based Roadmap to Decentralization for Future Syria to serve as a live document, while outlining the path and range of options for decentralization in post-conflict Syria and challenges thereof based on a multi-track consultative process. The Roadmap to Decentralization for Future Syria thus had two complementary purposes: Creating a space for dialogue and linkages across and within Syrian Political Tracks I-III both inside and outside Syria; and providing a roadmap to decentralization, a framework for discussion on future governance of Syria



Books

The results of a research project launched by the center at the beginning of 2020, titled: **“Stability Indicators in Syria & Its Link to the Return of Refugees & Displaced Persons”** and included four components:

The Security Landscape in Syria and its Impact on the Return of Refugees Opinion Survey (Ar & En)

The aim of survey is to identify realities of the sub-indicators related to the security stability index in Syria, which include efficiency of security services and the legal system, the behavior of these agencies and their security

operations, as well as the accountability and follow-up systems related to complaints. The paper also analyzed the extent these indicators have on the return of Syrian refugees from neighboring countries

Indicators of Security Stability in Syria and Refugees Return

An Evaluation of Select Cases (Ar & En)

The report focused on four indicators of critical importance encompassing individual and community security. These indicators are:

- Assassinations
- Bombings
- Arrests
- Kidnappings

This was conducted through a selected sample representing different cities and geographic locations. The purpose was to assess the rates of security stability associated with early recovery and social stability processes, whether related to those residing inside Syria, those displaced from other areas and refugees abroad who demand a dignified, safe and voluntary return

Safe Environment as a Precondition for the Return of Refugees and the Internally Displaced People

(Ar & En)

The paper served as a summary of the research project, focusing on three areas:

- Refugee perspectives on the issue of return and its security links
- The concept of civil-military relations as the legal, institutional and governance regulator for a stable and secure environment

- Security indicators that affects the life of citizens in general, by monitoring all security operations related to assassinations, bombings, arrests and kidnappings throughout Syria

The paper was based on two focus group meetings that were held inside Syria, in areas retaken by the regime after 2018. The paper is also based on a dialogue workshop and individual interviews conducted in Turkey

An Assessment of Civil-Military Relations in Syria

(Ar & En)

This paper focused on the readiness of security environments in areas controlled by different ruling patterns, while demonstrating its effect on the criteria for safe return

The paper also drew on the extent of civil-military relations being a factor driving the return of refugees



Events and Conferences

Hosted by Omran

- **Overview of Idlib: Challenges and Expected Scenarios:**
Discussion session focused on latest developments in Idlib and expected scenarios that could occur in the near future. (online)
- **Reality of the Political Process and Extent of a Solution in Syria:**
The event was co-hosted by ORSAM Center for Middle Eastern Studies and discussed dialogue of the political process and its gaps. (online)
- **The Political Process in Syria and What is Nationally Required:**
In collaboration with the LACU and the Syrian National Coalition Office, the political process was discussed as well as the role of national entities in strengthening their partnerships (A'zaz City)
- **Indicators of Security and Stability and its Consequences on Safe Returns:**
In collaboration with LACU, the event attempted to strengthen social dialogue around the factors influencing refugee decisions to return and challenges of defining a 'safe environment'
- **Disputes between Assad and Makhlouf and its Potential Consequences on the Syrian File:**
Research group presented recommendations to the Syrian opposition revealing national economic corruption and its effects on the public and international general opinion. (online)
- **Syrian Civil Society in an Unstable Environment:**
This event discussed the importance of independent Syrian civil society organizations, its shared interests and their responsibilities. (online)
- **Dissecting Stalemate of the Syrian File:**
The event focused on efforts of the international community overcoming stalemate of the Syrian file and reaching a political solution. (online)
- **Kurdish Dialogue - Successes, Failures and its Effects on the Syrian File:**
The event was conducted as a follow up to Omran's research paper related to overcrowding of international actors and dialogue of local actors in NE Syria. (online)
- **Developments of the Political Scene and Challenges on a Local Scale:**
In partnership with the Independent Syrian Kurdish Group - the event was hosted inside Syria and centered around developments of the Syrian political scene and its local challenges
- **Stability Indicators in Syria and its Link with Refugee and Internally Displaced Returns:**
A public event to present results of a research study. Among the attendees were researchers, media personalities and representatives from local, regional and international civil society organizations.

- **Decentralization as an Entry Point to a Political Resolution:**
Dialogue workshop conducted at the Middle East Research Institute (MERI) in Erbil, Iraq. The framework was to understand local dynamics and assess guarantees for stability conditions within the Syrian context
- **Roadmap to a Decentralized Future Syria:**
10 Focus groups were conducted to develop a roadmap encompassing decentralized elements for a future Syria
- **Field Visits to Local Organizations in Northern Aleppo Suburbs:**
In an effort to strengthen partnerships and develop common goals between Omran and local organizations in Syria. Talks centered around increasing collaboration and strengthening dialogue
- **Through Omran's Fellowship Program:**
Select students presented their research papers to a panel of activists and civil society representatives and experts. (Gaziantep, Turkey)



Attended Events

- **The Crisis in Idlib and the Evolving War in Syria:**
Discussion panel hosted by SETA Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research - Ankara, Turkey
- **Effects of Migration on Labor Markets:**
Research symposium organized by RAND Corporation to discuss published reports with experts. (online)
- **Supporting Livelihoods of the Most Vulnerable People:**
Side event to the Brussels Conference; the United Kingdom's governmental development section discussed mechanisms on supporting continuous education and health services to displaced and refugee Syrians.
- **The Security Sector and its Role in Preserving a Safe Environment:**
A workshop conducted by the Syrian Platform through its Stabilization Committee at the Middle Eastern Studies Center - University of Hasan Kalyoncu (Azaz, Syria)
- **Changes of Religious Institutions in Damascus after 2011's Uprising:**
Discussion panel hosted by Carnegie Middle East Center
- **Results of the Kurdish Dialogue:**
A workshop conducted by ORSAM discussed the possibility of dialogue success or failure within the American presence in the region
- **Connection of the Lebanese and Syrian Economy:**
Workshop organized by Refugees - Partners, the American University in Beirut and the Syrian Center for Policy Research. Workshop was attended by experts and organizations working on Syrian refugee issues. (online)
- **Voices of Syrian Locals on the Constitution:**
Discussion hosted by the Stabilization Committee to discuss the Constitution and what is required by the Constitutional Committee.



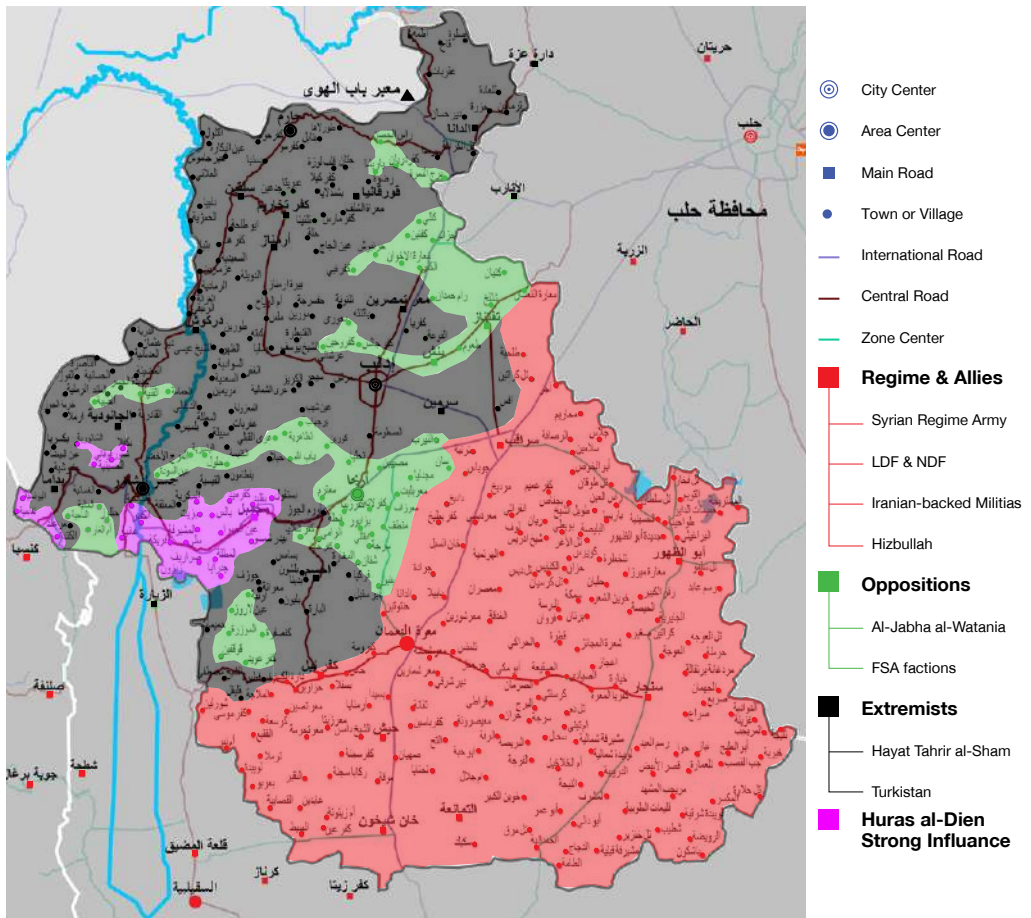
■ **Turkey's Steadfastness Towards Refugees-Expanding and Improving Economic Inclusivity of Syrians in Turkey:**

Workshop organized by the Atlantic Council and the United Nations Development Program. A joint report was launched. (online)

■ **Developing a Decentralization System in Post-Conflict Syria for the Sake of Sustainable Development:**

Interactive event organized by the United Nations ESCWA on introductory mechanisms on developing a decentralized system in Syria..

Maps



Media Coverage



Cooperation and Partnerships



Media Track



This program is implemented by AlSouria.net team and it publishes daily reports and opinion articles:



Objective and
Moderate Content



Comprehensive
Coverage of the
Syrian Affairs



Support Freedom
of Speech

Accomplishments 2020

1,823

News & Multimedia

526

Opinion Articles

210,261

Monthly Reach

AlSouria.net Statistics through 2020

21M

Sessions

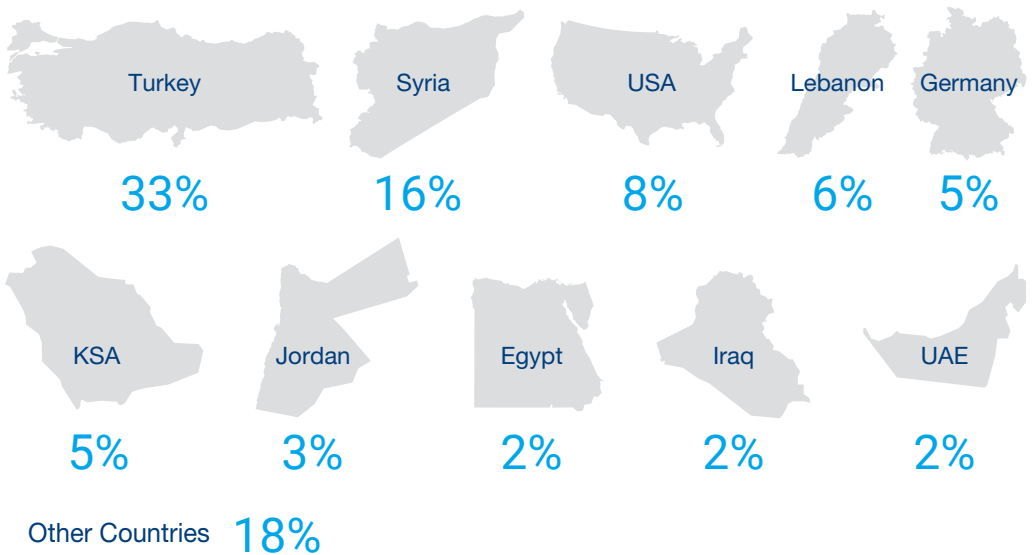
32.8M

Page Viewers

Why Alsouria.net?



Our Reach





مخلب النسر - 3: متى وأين؟

أعلن الرئيس التركي رجب طيب أردوغان، أن أنقرة ستوسّع نطاق عملياتها العسكرية في المرحلة المقبلة ضد مسلحي "حزب العمال الكردستاني"



رأي

استثمار داعش في اللعبة السياسية



سورية

غداة الحديث عن دفع إسرائيل لثمنه.. نظام الأسد يعتمد لقاح "سه تنك v"

سورية



Sections

News

- **Syria:** This section covers political, military, humanitarian and local news, through reporters who conduct interviews with prominent political, military and national figures.
- **International:** This section provides an overview of relevant international news by offering accurate information and analysis.
- **Economy:** This section focuses primarily on key economic and financial developments affecting Syrians and their livelihood through the publication of situation briefs on Arab and international economic relations.

In-Depth Studies

Specializes in reviewing and analyzing the most important studies on Syria and other regional actors.

Multimedia

Focuses on presenting news in a more visually artistic manner such as infographics, drawings and short films.

Book Review

Reviews books on the Syrian conflict and its repercussions for the world, as well as English and French books not available in Arabic.

Opinion

This section is dedicated to political analysts and writers who specialize in Syrian and regional affairs. It seeks to share a wide range of opinions and analysis on Syrian and regional issues from multiple perspectives. AISouria.net also sheds light on how Arab media outlets cover Syrian affairs.

Highlights

Reports and Opinion Articles

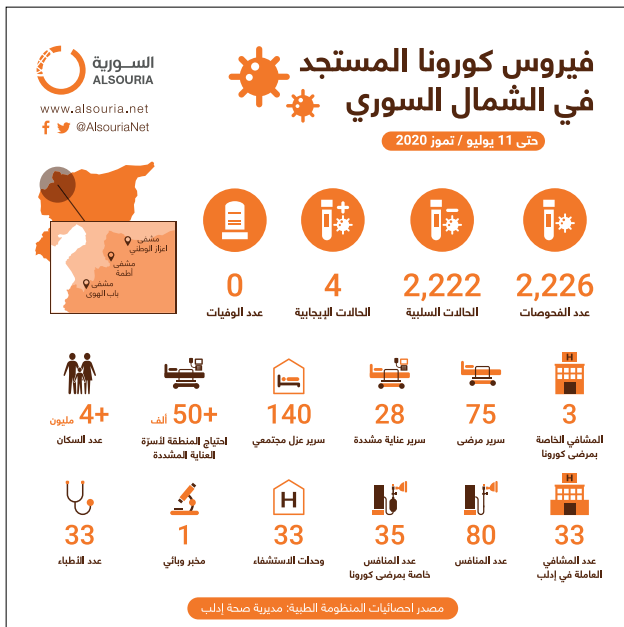
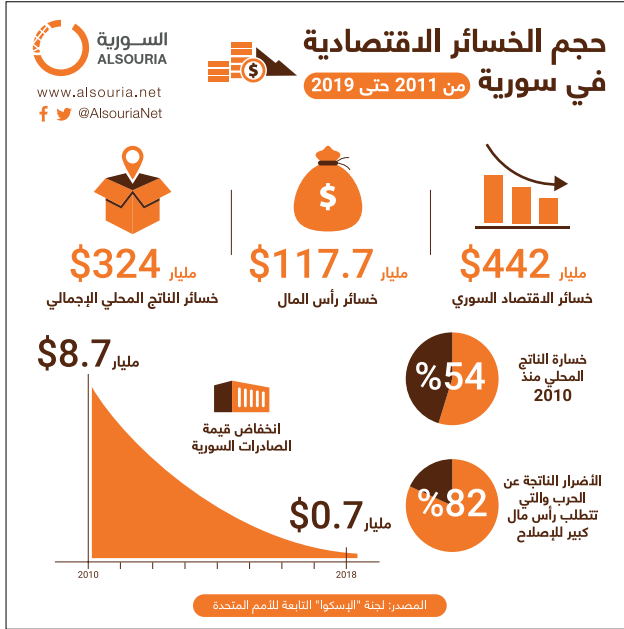
- **Fighters Without Borders: Syrians in Distant Wars ... A Reading of the Motives and Facts**
- **New Arrests ... An Earthquake and an Attack: What is Happening in "Syriatel"?**
- **Expulsion or Setting the Rhythm? The Consequences of Iranian Influence and The Divergence of Assad's Allies Strategy**
- **Exclusive: A list of the Most Prominent Managers Arrested from "Syriatel" in Damascus**
- **University of Aleppo in the Liberated Areas Celebrates Graduation of its First Doctors**
- **East Euphrates and the Game of Balances: Future Probabilities and Scenarios**

- The Lion is Corrupt in Russia's Eye ... Is it Regret or Blackmail that Precedes Investment?
- Relief Organizations Demand Urgent Action by the United Nations: The Disaster in Idlib Is Getting Worse
- Two Committees for Redressing Grievances and Reform in Aleppo's Countryside: A Step in the Thousand Miles' Journey

Impact



Infographics



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