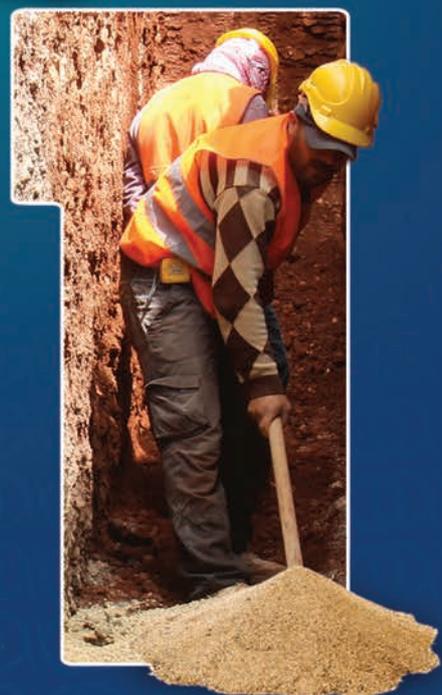




ANNUAL REPORT





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Word from the **WATAN President**

(Hope is the driving force behind our humanitarian efforts, and with your unwavering support, we have been able to make a real difference in the lives of those in need).

In 2021, WATAN implemented a diverse range of projects across various sectors, addressing the urgent needs of vulnerable communities affected by conflict, displacement, and disasters. Our healthcare programs played a vital role in providing life-saving medical services to those in need. We conducted emergency medical care and vaccination campaigns, reaching thousands of individuals in conflict-affected areas and ensuring access to critical healthcare services. Furthermore, our reproductive health and nutrition programs contributed to improving the health and well-being of vulnerable women, children, and families.

(As we face unprecedented challenges, we remain steadfast in our commitment to serving with compassion, innovation, and excellence. We are determined to positively impact the lives of vulnerable communities).

Education remains a core focus of our efforts, as we firmly believe that access to quality education is essential for the empowerment and future prospects of children in crisis-affected areas. In 2021, our education initiatives helped ensure that children in displacement camps had access to formal and non-formal education, enabling them to continue their learning journey and build a brighter future. We also provided psychosocial support and recreational activities to help children cope with the trauma of displacement and conflict, promoting their well-being and resilience.

(WATAN's livelihood programs have been instrumental in empowering vulnerable communities to build sustainable livelihoods, fostering economic resilience and self-reliance).

Our livelihood programs have significantly empowered vulnerable communities to build sustainable livelihoods, fostering economic resilience and self-reliance. In 2021, we implemented various income-generation and vocational training programs, equipping individuals with valuable skills and resources to generate income and support their families. Through our microfinance initiatives, we provided access to capital and financial services to help individuals establish and grow their businesses, creating opportunities for economic empowerment and social inclusion.

(One of the key strengths of WATAN is our ability to find flexible and innovative solutions to overcome difficulties and deliver assistance to those in need).

One of the key strengths of WATAN is our ability to find flexible and innovative solutions to overcome challenges and deliver assistance to those in need. Despite operating in complex and challenging contexts, we remain agile and adaptive, constantly seeking ways to improve our impact and reach. In 2021, we implemented creative approaches, such as leveraging technology for remote assistance, employing community-based solutions, and partnering with local organizations, to address the unique needs of the communities we serve. These innovative approaches have enabled us to reach more beneficiaries and deliver assistance more efficiently and effectively.

(Alongside our challenges, we are proud to share our successes. In 2021, we provided

critical humanitarian assistance to thousands of individuals and families affected by conflict, displacement, and disasters. Our projects made a tangible difference in their lives, providing essential services, restoring their dignity, and giving them hope for a better future. We witnessed positive changes in the lives of those we served, and their resilience and strength in the face of adversity have been truly inspiring).

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to our donors and partners in international and global organizations, whose support has been crucial in driving our achievements. Your unwavering commitment and partnership have enabled us to reach more beneficiaries and deliver assistance promptly and effectively. We are deeply grateful for your trust and support, and we remain committed to upholding the highest standards of transparency, accountability, and impact in all our programs and initiatives.

Despite the challenges we faced, we are proud to share our successes in 2021.

Sincerely,
Moaz Al-Sibai

Who We Are

WATAN is a leading Civil Society Organization delivering emergency relief, third-sector support, and long-term international development projects.

WATAN is committed to helping people and reviving communities. WATAN is an independent, non-governmental, apolitical, and non-sectarian organization.

We operate several integrated programs with the aim of addressing humanitarian emergency response and sustainable community revival through a holistic and transformative approach.

We believe in the role of Civil Society in the various phases of intervention. Thus, we invest in supporting and developing Civil Society in our areas of reach. We also create platforms for coordination and integration to maximize impact on communities served.

To achieve our goal, we seek to be the preferred partner for international agencies in areas of specialization and reach.

WATAN was established in 2012 as a framework merging a number of organizations and groups that had extensive community development work going back to 2006.

Mission

Our mission is to develop a sustainable, healthy, and educated community, based on an inclusive society that positively engages, supports, and improves the lives of each individual, regardless of gender, faith, or ethnicity. We deliver programs that rebuild lives and maintain community social cohesion by providing transformative programs in reliefs, post-conflict-peace-building, education, economic empowerment, advocacy, and development of a strong Civil Society.

Vision

Free and dignified world based on tolerance, respect, and social justice.

Sustainability Framework



WATAN's offices around the world



Jordan - Germany - Canada
Offices under construction

Syria - Turkey - United Kingdom - United States
Active offices

Iraq
Licensed Offices
Without external activity

WATAN HISTORY

2006

Syrian Business Club

- The founder, Moaz Al-Sibaci, started a network for young Syrian professionals in the diaspora.
- 2008: Syrian Business Club - Growth
- A total of 200 annual events were held.
- Activities held included professional skills training and networking events.

2011

The Syrian Dream and SYAN

- In early 2011, The Syrian Dream was established. The project aimed to advocate peaceful positive change. As the war started, the group became a strong media voice for Syrians.
- In parallel, SYAN was launched and held a conference for the Syrian civil community in July 2011, which was the seed for WATAN Network.
- Inside-Syria, Lebanon-based, and Lebanon cross-border humanitarian operations started. WATAN leads several health and psychosocial support programs.

2012

Founding Conference Re-Branding WATAN

- In early 2012, the number of volunteers exceeded 1000, and 30+ volunteer teams worldwide.
- This prompted the founder to call several preparatory meetings to join the efforts. This was crowned by launching the organization under the new name of "WATAN" which covers 8 organizations.
- All 8 organizations were registered in the UK and then in Türkiye.

2013

Gaziantep & Globally

- WATAN Conference: Activists today... Pioneers of institutions of civil society tomorrow, with 1000+ attendees.
- A regional cross-border office opened in Gaziantep.
- Opening the first school for the displaced inside Syria.
- Established 2 psychotherapy centers in Lebanon, benefiting 10,700 individuals through collaboration with OTI and US AID.
- WATAN's Network was launched (Empowerment - Excellence - Sustainability Participatory Approach).
- Afaq, a new institute was established under We to support university students.

2014

Mature Turkiye Programs & WCBP

- WATAN Conference: Shaping Our Future
- Launching WATAN Capacity Building Program (WCBP; a comprehensive leadership program to develop project leadership expertise in the Syrian 3rd sector.
- In the conference, WATAN launched its 4 strategic priorities for Türkiye, targeting Syrian refugees: their social cohesion and economic empowerment, their youth, and the civil community.
- Continuing to lead advocacy in international and local forums for the Syrian people and the 3rd sector.
- MOUs on economic empowerment were signed.
- 1,2 million Beneficiaries

2015

Protection, Education, and Integration

- WATAN Conference: Together
- Launching psychological support programs with the University of Manchester, UK.
- Facilitating workshops addressing integration challenges for Syrian and Turkish students in Turkish universities.
- Engaged 50 civil community organizations through WATAN Network members.
- 1,3 million Beneficiaries

2016

Strategic Relation, and Integrated Projects

- Receiving accreditation as a formal partner for UN Agencies.
- The first integrated mobile health unit was established in Northern Syria.
- An infrastructure project was set up for sewage systems across various villages in Aleppo.
- 2,5 million Beneficiaries

2017

Consolidation / Sustainable Intervention

- WATAN Conference: Sustainable Impact
- Consolidating the nine organizations into eight specialized programs within WATAN as a unified entity.
- Launching the Sustainable Intervention Forum at WATAN's annual convention (conference)
- Continuing to play a pioneering role in civil community development through capacity building for more than 300 NGOs.
- 2 million Beneficiaries

2018

Strategic Donor and Agriculture Value Chain

- WATAN Conference: Aspiring future
- We became a direct partner working with the EU.
- We played a leading role in supporting the agricultural value chain in Syria, particularly for olive oil and wheat.
- The first exhibition of olive products in Syria /Ladleb was held.
- WATAN's Aid Expo is launched in Istanbul.
- 4,3 million Beneficiaries

2019

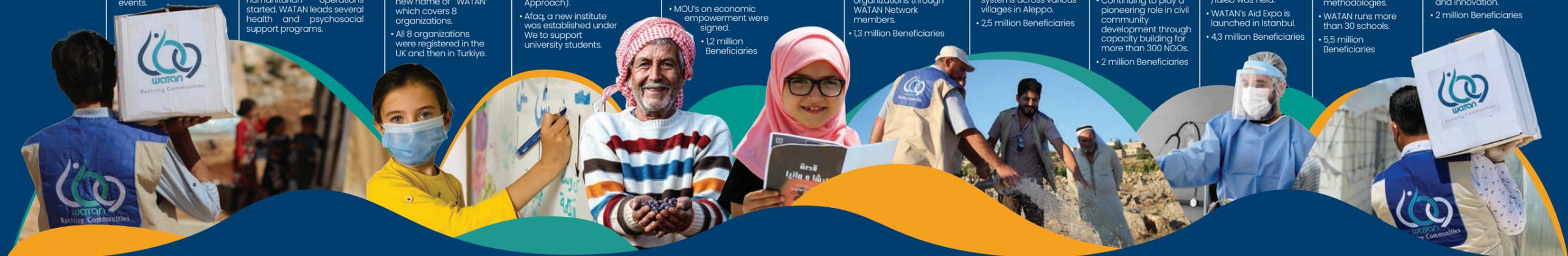
Innovate for Humanity/ Youth and Education

- WATAN annual convention is held in Gaziantep with an Innovate for Humanity theme. We explicitly add innovation to its global messaging and advocate for more innovation in the sector with specific solutions and clear methodologies.
- WATAN runs more than 30 schools.
- 5,5 million Beneficiaries

2020

Innovation in Action/ 2025 Roadmap

- Establishing the innovation lab and implementing a new innovative shelter as part of establishing two camps, housing thousands of families.
- The 2025 roadmap was released.
- With COVID-19, We re-adjusted our operating model demonstrating agility and innovation.
- 2 million Beneficiaries



Board of Directors of WATAN



Moaz Al-Sibaai

Chairman

Founder of WATAN organization; 26 years of experience in the private sector in Uk and Arab Gulf; volunteered in a number of non-profit organisations for 31 years.



Majed Salem

Board Member

Joined WATAN in 2014; 18 years experience in Marketing, Sales and Business Development; 5 years experience in essential strategic development for start-ups; experience in being a founder, participant, and consultant in Voluntary work.



Iman Ahmado

Board Member

One of WATAN's founding members; 29 years of work experience and 16 years of experience in Voluntary work.



Fatema Obeid

Board Member

Joined WATAN in 2012; 12 years experience in voluntary work.



AbdulRahman Alhamdo

Board Member

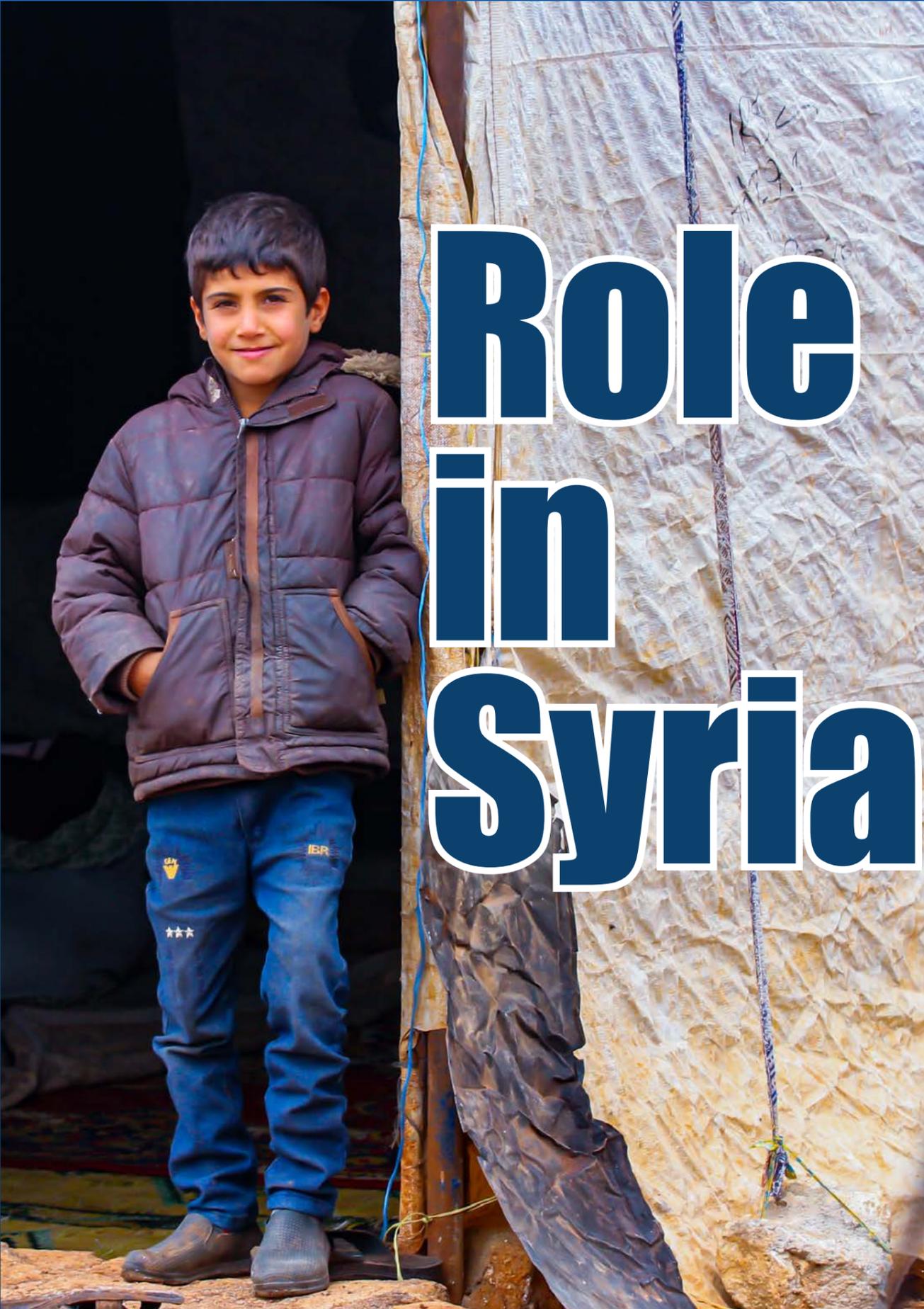
One of WATAN's founding members; with 16 years of experience in business entrepreneurship in information technology; 11 years of volunteer work in vocational training networks and managing business start-up initiatives.



Hikmat Walid

Board Member

Joined WATAN in 2015; 18 years experience in Network and Communication Technology in the UK and in the Gulf; a volunteer in a number of non-profit organisations for 8 years.



Role in Syria



Early Recovery

Early Recovery aims to contain and control the fire before it spreads and causes more harm by focusing on three main routes of action including rehabilitation to restore and recreate what has been destroyed as early as possible. Secondly, by supporting farmers in the sector of agriculture. Finally, we focus on the early stages of the calamity to raise funds via mini-fundraising projects to quickly accumulate enough finances to partially recover from any disaster. These strategies help ease the suffering by ensuring it does not develop and expand by providing the necessary emergency care and finances needed when disaster strikes.



Education & Youth

The conflict did not only end lives and destroy homes but also dreams and hopes of a better future which WATAN aims to resuscitate by providing educational programs to the most vulnerable youth that helps them to develop life skills and gives them an opportunity to face the challenges of life more effectively



Social Harmony

Community centres and peace buildings aim to address the issues raised by crisis-stricken societies, which provide platforms for discussion and peacebuilding allowing new communities to gather to compensate for the ones lost in the conflict.



Economic Empowerment

WATAN largely depends on Economic Empowerment to compensate for destroyed infrastructure and to deliver basic necessities to those displaced and harmed by the conflict. This strategy includes new market development, capacity building for skilled workers, and business incubators. These strategies ensure the security of finances in emergencies and new plans are tested to develop our finances and fundraising prospects.



Innovation

The Innovation strategy aims to apply new approaches and adapt quickly to any crisis where WATAN depends on its different labs, for example, the Physical Innovation Lab and the Innovation Lab Relief, to analyse and draw out new methods to tackle the challenges faced when providing relief and care to the vulnerable people struck by calamity.



Advocacy

WATAN employs its advocacy abilities and strategies in many cases, for example, when finding alternative tents for the refugees so they can endure the bitterly cold winter and have better protection and privacy. Our campaigns are not restricted to relief work but we also advocate for the ending of violence in north-western Syria in global events by pressurising human rights agencies to respond and end the conflict.

Situation in Syria

10 years on It has been 10 years since the war in Syria broke out and 10 years since the beginning of what many have coined the largest humanitarian crisis of the 21st Century. It is easy to distance oneself, however, on the ground, things are, unfortunately, very real. According to the UNHCR, nearly 13 million Syrians have been internally or externally displaced, and an estimated 13.4 million Syrians were in need of assistance. As Covid-19 shook our world, Syrians in isolated camps fell further from returning to some sense of normality, facing an increased lack of support in the face of further economic and social stresses.¹

Fareed tells us his story in one of these northern Syria camps. He began by describing his life back in his small hometown, where they would farm, harvest, and raise cattle on their lands. They were comfortable. Content. When the war began with all the uncertainty and fear, like many Syrians, they tried to carry on with their lives. Fareed, a young, ambitious man, just 20 years old, in 2011 decided to enter university intending to finish his education. However,

this sheltered reality only remained so long; by 2017, the war had finally come too close to home. The army attacked and took over their village. It was the beginning of what they knew would be a difficult journey. Still, with the pride of every Syrian, he said, “Our dignity is dearer to us than our houses, so of course, we left”. When asked what his hopes were as he left home, he told us candidly that he knew to expect nothing; with displacement levels being in the millions, how could he do otherwise? Instead, they looked only for a place to live and sleep, taking nothing but the clothes on their backs and hope of return.

Since then, his life has drastically changed “Living through it is different from hearing about it. We have faced many things we hadn’t heard about”. Problems that hadn’t crossed his mind suddenly became part of his reality: the challenging roads, the lack of help, and the impossible nature of finding a job. Small things made it all the more difficult to keep going. They moved from one camp to another, each worse than the next- the best standard was the first,

where he shared a tent with up to 15 people. “The camp we are currently in is that in a very literal sense, there are no services or necessities of life- just a tent.”

He points behind him as he explains the difficult conditions and the issues that come “you can see for yourself”. He points to the roads; they are not roads at all, but rather dirt tracks flooded with water from the winter rain. People are walking with caution across the mud to get from one side of the camp to the other, going about their daily lives. But the inconvenience is not the primary concern; instead, it has meant that they have been cut off from any outside help as the camp is too difficult to access. Water and power outages have become the norm; it was the same in Syria even before the war. Still, this time there has been no water for 15 days since the water trucks cannot make it on the flooded dirt roads.

“God forbid if someone gets ill,” he adds, as there are no services in the camp, they would have to carry them across to find the closest paved road to reach an ambulance to take them to the hospital. With the rampant



spread of Covid-19 over the past two years this lack of infrastructure has become an increasingly apparent problem everywhere. Here, in displacement camps, the health infrastructure is lacking, and the cramped conditions mean prevention is considered a luxury. It’s impossible to measure the full scale of those affected because of the limited materials and availability of tests across the region, but the spread is becoming increasingly worrying with 342 people testing positive per day by the end of September.²

Road and infrastructure issues are not the main things that come to many people’s minds when they think of refugees. However, they have been the root cause of many problems- something simply fixed yet largely neglected. A lot of the issues of the camp

seem to be this way.

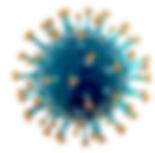
Yet, infrastructure is hardly the main problem on the mind of those in camps: food is scarce with help being few and far between. Even the issues most charities work on have not managed to reach the isolated camps in northern Syria.

He seems incredulous as he tells us “Can you imagine someone trying to keep their family alive for seven months without getting even a kilo of rice or a food basket?” Many large charities find difficulty accessing these areas, and WATAN is one of the few on the ground who can reach these people- however, we cannot do it alone without your help.

Despite all these difficulties he has told us about, he is still hopeful. When he narrates to us his story, he is not grief-stricken. There is pain, but

not resignation. He believes in his Arab and Muslim brothers and sisters and in the world to help the Syrians out of these difficult times. When we asked him about his future and whether he thinks he will return, he says, “Of course,” with a small smile, “God is generous”.

Fareed’s story is not an exceptional one. There are so many lives, and so many stories of hardship. All have ended up here in these camps. A meeting of struggle, and fear, but also hope. Hope to rebuild their lives. WATAN, being on the ground since very early on during the outbreak of the conflict, has been able to see the issues of the hard-to-reach, isolated displaced and connected with these stories and hopes. It is these sentiments that we want to nurture and support.



COVID RESPONSE



The pandemic changed lives worldwide, and for those vulnerable in Syria, the impact on mental and physical well-being was devastating. The spread of the pandemic within the country was fast with nearly 47,000 cases confirmed in Syria and at least 1,972 deaths by mid-March 2021. It increased pressure on an already drained country's healthcare system with half the centers being partial or non-functional. Since WATAN has experience on the ground and within the healthcare industry, we were able to respond swiftly, with expertise and efficiency. Hygiene kits were distributed and oxygen tanks to hospitals and centers. Awareness sessions were also set up for residents to educate as well as setting up isolation centers to manage the spread of the illness.

WATAN's Crucial Role in Alleviating the Impact of

COVID-19 on Syrian Communities

As the pandemic swept across the world, the already vulnerable communities in Syria, particularly in the northwest, faced significant challenges. However, thanks to the effective and crucial work carried out by WATAN, the impact of COVID-19 was mitigated to a great extent. Through awareness sessions, supply provisions, and training, WATAN was able to support the communities in dealing with the repercussions of the pandemic, easing tension, and providing vital assistance in a challenging context.

Dr. Mo'tasem reflects on the initial tension that gripped the camps when the pandemic first hit, as the death toll and infection rates started to rise. However, he emphasizes that the awareness sessions set up by WATAN played a significant role in alleviating worries and fostering a positive response within the camps. Through their commitment to preventing the spread of the virus, including adherence to social distancing measures and isolation facilities for the sick, WATAN's efforts were effective in minimizing the impact of COVID-19 on these vulnerable communities.

Moreover, WATAN's support went beyond awareness sessions. In 2021, WATAN provided critical supplies such as oxygen tanks and organized COVID training for staff and residents, equipping them with the necessary tools to combat the virus. Despite the strain on hospitals, WATAN's readiness to deal with COVID-19 patients helped alleviate the burden on the already stretched healthcare system in Syria.

The situation in Syria has been particularly challenging due to the ongoing war, exacerbating the impact of the pandemic on vulnerable communities. Dr. Mo'tasem highlights that the effects of the pandemic were heartbreaking and felt across all corners of the earth, but were particularly acute in Syria. The tireless efforts of WATAN, powered by donations and hard work, have been crucial in saving countless lives and alleviating the pain faced by these communities.

The impact of WATAN's work in mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable communities in Syria cannot be overstated. WATAN's effective response to the pandemic, including awareness sessions, supplies provision, and training, has made a tangible difference in the lives of those in need.

Water, Sanitisation, and Hygiene

In 2021, more than half the Syrian population requires WASH assistance; those most in need are those living in IDP camps and informal sites.¹

WATAN has been working for these communities in northwestern Syria to ensure they have clean, safe drinking water and also improving sanitation and living conditions. This includes the distribution of hygiene kits, and improving sewage waste removal by extending networks and installing septic tanks.

Living in an IDP camp would make you entirely dependent on the aid of humanitarian organisations to fulfill your WASH needs. So, while the work which WATAN carried out under this project has been distributing what they need, there has been a focus on building sustainable solutions which are low cost and low maintenance. Such as installing water systems powered by solar panels - renewable energy.



188,719
Beneficiaries



Idlib & Aleppo
Areas of Implementation

Changing Lives on the Frontlines

“WATAN’s Hygiene Intervention in War-torn Syria”

The ongoing war in Syria has resulted in numerous challenges for displaced persons, including healthcare, education, security, food, and shelter. One critical issue is the deteriorating health situation in camps in northern Syria, exacerbated by the fear of COVID-19 outbreaks due to overcrowded and unsafe living conditions.

Technical assessments have identified problems such as inadequate sanitation and septic tank

drainage, leading to the spread of diseases and foul odors.

However, thanks to the WATAN project, a large-scale initiative aimed at raising preventive security measures and promoting personal hygiene, positive changes have been observed in camps. Through interviews with camp residents like Abdul Salam Al-Amr from the «Ad-Dwaya» camp in rural Aleppo, the impact of the WATAN project on improving health and sanitation in the camps becomes evident.

Abdul Salam Al-Amr, a displaced person residing in the «Ad-Dwaya» camp in rural Aleppo, shares his experience of living

in the camp and the challenges faced by its residents.

He highlights the lack of drinking water, solid waste disposal, and septic tank emptying, compounded by the rocky nature of the land, which makes digging technical trenches difficult and costly.

Al-Amr expresses his appreciation for the WATAN project, which has brought about significant improvements in the health and sanitation conditions in the camp. He mentions that the organization has addressed the issue of septic tank drainage, resulting in the elimination of diseases and germs caused by unhygienic conditions. The project has also provided solutions to the problem of water scarcity by arranging for daily water tank deliveries

to the camp, and distributing hygiene kits to residents, promoting general and personal cleanliness.

Al-Amr notes that prior to the

intervention of the WATAN project, camp residents used to throw trash on the sides or roads of the camp, leading to the spread of diseases and insect infestation. However, with the introduction of a waste disposal system and the provision of chlorinated water, the situation has improved significantly. Clean and sanitized water has reduced cases of diarrhea, especially among children, which were previously caused by unclean water sources.

WATAN project has made a significant impact in addressing health and sanitation challenges faced by displaced persons in Syrian camps. Through initiatives such as septic tank drainage, provision of clean water, waste disposal systems, and distribution of hygiene kits, the project has improved living conditions, reduced diseases, and promoted personal hygiene among camp residents. The positive outcomes of the WATAN project demonstrate the importance of humanitarian efforts in addressing critical needs and improving the well-being of displaced persons in crisis situations. As the project continues to receive support from donors, international organizations, and stakeholders, it continues to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable populations in Syria.



Health

4.44 million individuals were estimated to be in need of humanitarian health services in 2021. With worsening economic conditions and increased pressure on health sector workers due to the COVID-19 pandemic, WATAN's work within north-western Syria in 2021 has been vital to helping alleviate the strain on the healthcare industry. WATAN worked to increase the accessibility of primary healthcare centers and the availability of blood products by opening a blood bank in Salqin. As well as this, four primary and secondary centers are provided for, in the following regions: Azaz, Mara, Idlib City, and in Salqin. There is also Amal Hospital which specialises in orthopedic surgery, operating thousands of major and minor surgeries throughout the year.

In 92,884 ,2021 Covid-19 cases were reported in northwestern Syria. WATAN operated three community-based treatment centers and increased the availability of oxygen in hospitals and Primary health care centers and distributed PPEs and hygiene kits. As part of the Covid-19 response, sessions to raise awareness of the importance of hygiene were also held alongside the distribution of hygiene kits.



92,924

Beneficiaries



Idlib & Aleppo

Areas of Implementation



Transforming Lives Through Compassionate Care

The Inspiring Tale of Hajjah Ramezya's Journey to Recovery"

Hajjah Ramezya's story is emblematic of the plight faced by many Syrians who have been rendered helpless by the devastating war, forced to upend their lives, and lost the sense of security and peace they once knew. Her family's ordeal began with the aerial bombardment of their village, Al-Fateeri, in the countryside of Hama, which compelled them to flee in search of safety and refuge from the imminent danger of injury or death.

Their displacement was further compounded when the house they sought shelter in was once again targeted from the sky, shattering their sense of security and leaving Ramezya injured and unable to walk. Despite her excruciating pain and the

inability of painkillers to provide relief, accessing medical care posed significant challenges due to the lack of financial resources, high costs, and limited availability of medical facilities in northern Syria. Adding to their struggles, Ramezya's elderly husband is deaf, further complicating their dire situation.

In her own words, Ramezya recounts, «I went to Al-Amal Surgical Specialty Hospital, one of the hospitals supported and managed by WATAN, after a relative informed me about the availability of medical services for residents there.» Following thorough examinations and X-rays, the doctor confirmed the need for joint replacement surgery for her foot. With reassurance from the hospital staff that the expenses would be covered and surgery would be conducted promptly, Ramezya

underwent the procedure and received exceptional care during her two-week stay, which included

provisions such as heating, food, and regular check-ups.

As laboratory tests revealed elevated values that indicated possible inflammation, Ramezya remained under observation at the hospital for an additional week, with a sample sent to a specialized laboratory to confirm her full recovery. Finally, the much-awaited news arrived, confirming that her test results were normal.

The hospital staff came to know Hajjah Ramezya well during her extended stay, as she stood out among other patients for her gracious demeanor and behavior. Upon leaving the hospital, she expressed her profound gratitude, stating, «If it weren't for the joint and the efforts of the hospital, I wouldn't have been able to walk, and I would have remained sitting all the time.

I am immensely grateful to all those involved in this humanitarian project.»

This powerful story of resilience and the life-changing impact of access to medical care in the midst of conflict serves as a poignant reminder of the dire circumstances faced by many Syrians, and the critical role played by WATAN, supporters, donors, and global organizations in providing essential aid and relief to those in need.



Shelter & Non-Food Items (SNFI)

Lack of adequate shelter is a major problem in north-western Syria. Since 2020 the number of people requiring shelter has continued to grow up to 5.88 million people at the end of 2021.¹ Covid-19 and the deteriorating economic conditions have also significantly impacted the number of people in need of aid with respect to non-food items by %37 to 4.69 million in 2021.

WATAN collaborated with different groups inside and outside of Syria to help those in need in northwestern Syria. These groups, including UNHCR in Gaziantep, in Turkey, as well as local authorities and councils in northwestern Syria, design services to address shortages in the region. 500 refugee housing units were built and there was also a focus on making current living situations safer, more durable, and more comfortable. This included graveling roads and tents, constructing sewage lines in camps, and installing lights. WATAN teams worked to reinforce the cement for construction, leveling, and backfilling for the site buildings, and building blocks. Non-food aid included the distribution of Core Relief Kits (CRIs) as well as 300 vouchers for orphans to purchase winter clothes.



415,296
Beneficiaries



**Idlib & Aleppo
Sanliurfa**
Areas of Implementation

Beyond Shelter:

WATAN's Vision for Rebuilding Lives in Syria's Refugee Crisis

The war in Syria has caused immeasurable suffering, leaving hundreds of thousands dead and injured, and millions displaced and homeless inside and outside the country. For those displaced from their homes, the struggle to find safe and dignified shelter has become a daily nightmare. Tents that offer little protection from harsh weather conditions have become makeshift homes for many, with no access to basic facilities such as clean water, sanitation, healthcare, and education. However, amidst this dire situation, WATAN is making a tangible difference in the lives of displaced people. Through their innovative prefabricated housing units, WATAN is providing a glimmer of hope to those who have lost so much, restoring their sense of safety, dignity, and hope for a better future. Let us hear the stories of those whose lives have been transformed by WATAN's impactful work.

Um Ahmad, a displaced person from the Maarat Dibsah in eastern Idlib, shares her harrowing experience of fleeing from the shelling and seeking refuge in makeshift camps. «The scenario of escape was worse than

the previous time,» she recalls, «as the place was also bombed, and people were killed while trying to escape from the barrel bombs.» With no money to buy a tent, Um Ahmad and her family were given a temporary tent by a generous man but were later asked to return it. They found themselves in a makeshift camp with no services, no sanitation facilities, and no access to clean water. The extreme weather conditions added to their misery, with scorching summers and freezing winters making their living conditions unbearable. Um Ahmad speaks passionately about the challenges they faced, including the lack of a school for their children and the inability

to afford healthcare due to high examination fees.

Um Ahmad's story took a positive turn when she heard about the prefabricated housing units established by WATAN in Kafr Jales on the outskirts of Idlib. These units are designed to be resistant to heat, cold, and storms, and are waterproof, providing safe and dignified shelter for displaced people. With the support of the local administration, Um Ahmad and her family fulfilled the conditions to move into one of these housing units. «We feel much safer and more at ease than in the tent,» she expresses with gratitude. The housing units come with lighting, sanitation facilities, clean water, and even a school for the children. Um Ahmad and her family also received emergency food baskets from WATAN, which provided them with much-needed assistance. She is deeply grateful to WATAN and all those who have contributed to making

a difference in their lives.

The dreams of displaced people, whose lives have been upended by the decade-long war in Syria, have yet to be realized even with the end of hostilities. With millions of people displaced and homeless both inside and outside the country, the need for safe and dignified shelter has become a pressing humanitarian concern. Many families, like Um Ahmad's, have found themselves living in makeshift camps, enduring extreme weather conditions and lacking access to basic facilities such as clean water, sanitation, healthcare, and education. However, amidst this dire situation, WATAN has stepped in to provide innovative solutions that are making a tangible impact on the lives of displaced people.



Food Security and Livelihood (FSL)

With a shocking drop in food security in 2020, with %60 of the total population being food insecure, it's more important than ever to support Syrians in the agricultural sector so that they can continue to sustainably grow and provide food.¹ Being unable to access enough nutritional food weighs heavily on many Syrian families and can have devastating impacts on their physical health as well as causing a mental strain and burden. By providing them with the tools they need, they can more efficiently and effectively produce food which will help sustainably solve this problem for years to come.

This year, WATAN's food security and agricultural campaign focused on two main areas including livestock vaccination and on improving livestock breeding. Hundreds of thousands of cattle, sheep, and goats have been vaccinated, as well as providing fertility treatment to over 1000 cattle and 1000 sheep. Alongside these activities, Syrians in local communities were invited to attend different training sessions. Hundreds of people attended sessions that covered topics such as best livestock breeding practices and teaching how to provide animal healthcare and veterinary services. Empowering these communities with knowledge and skills is vital to ensuring that these positive changes are consistent and will have a long-term impact.

- 7,290 cattle received the LSD vaccine
- 660,226 sheep and goats vaccinated
- 25 local veterinary service providers were trained
- 36 animal health workers were trained



15,250
Beneficiaries



Idlib & Aleppo
Areas of Implementation



Seeds of Change

WATAN's Resilience-focused Approach to Supporting Syrian Farmers

The Syrian war has taken a devastating toll on the local population, resulting in widespread displacement, internal instability, and food insecurity. Among the sectors deeply impacted is agriculture, with farmers in northwest Syria facing numerous challenges including a deteriorating economy, high prices of agricultural supplies, and the effects of climate change. However, amidst these difficulties, a beacon of hope has emerged in the form of WATAN's agricultural

project, which has been providing critical support to farmers in the region. In this story of impact, we hear from Abdulghafour Khalifa, a farmer from the village of Aynata in the Idlib countryside. He shares how WATAN's intervention has transformed his life and the lives of many others in his community.

As a farmer in Aynata, Abdulghafour Khalifa has faced numerous challenges in recent years. «Farmers in our village and neighboring villages are struggling greatly with



economic pressures and the high prices of seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides, not to mention the exploitation of traders in selling these supplies,» he explains. The dependence of the local population on agriculture and livestock farming, coupled with the lack of job opportunities, has further exacerbated the situation, with rising bread prices affecting both the local population and the displaced in camps. However, Abdulghafour's hope was reignited when he learned about WATAN's agricultural project and decided to register for assistance.

Abdulghafour's life took a positive turn after he was accepted into WATAN's

agricultural project. «WATAN provided us with the necessary agricultural materials such as wheat seeds, fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides, which relieved the burden on the farmer,» Abdulghafour shares. This support had two significant impacts: firstly, it ensured that farmers had access to essential supplies at the right time, helping them avoid losses incurred in the past; secondly,

it resulted in increased wheat crop production due to the provision of necessary agricultural requirements. Moreover, WATAN established a field school to educate farmers about wheat crop care in the field, and formed teams for fire prevention and field rodent control, with expert monitoring and supervision by agricultural engineers throughout the season.

Abdulghafour expresses deep gratitude for the impact of WATAN's agricultural project on his life and the lives of fellow farmers. «The project has relieved us of a significant burden, and without it, we wouldn't have been able to obtain a bountiful crop or cultivate our land fully due to financial weakness,» he says. The project has provided farmers with a decent income, enabling them to support their families throughout the year. Abdulghafour sincerely thanks the supporters and WATAN for their invaluable assistance. He hopes the project will continue in the coming years, bringing hope and empowerment to more farmers in need.

WATAN's impact in northwest Syria extends beyond just Abdulghafour's village. The organization has purchased 700 tons of wheat from beneficiary farmers in the Mahambal area, distributing 280 tons of sanitized and screened crops to 1,400 beneficiaries in seven villages in the southwestern countryside of Idlib. The wheat was processed into flour and distributed as bread to eight camps in the Maarat Misrin and Sarmeen sub-districts. Additionally, WATAN has provided barley fodder to 2,000 beneficiaries who are livestock farmers in the wheat project villages, as well as in other neighboring villages, further amplifying the positive impact of the project.

Education

The lack of educational opportunities and resources has become a major problem in northern Syria that cannot be overlooked. In 2020, an estimated 2.45 million children were out of school and 1.6 million children were at risk of dropping out.¹

WATAN had focused on targeting school-age children through a 'Back to School' campaign to encourage them to rejoin school and raise awareness of the importance of education. As to provide a suitable educational environment, WATAN established a new school that included spaces for younger kids, ages 8-3 years, to enjoy. A key initiative this year was conducting sessions promoting children's cognitive and social-emotional skills and their early childhood development, and this was done as part of the Hello Sesame campaign. A Parents Teachers Association (PTA) has also formed to follow up on all relevant educational rising issues.

- 1816 young children have access to Early Childhood Education
- 4169 Parents and caregivers of young children were educated about the importance of nurturing care.
- 225 elementary students were provided with formal education.
- 225 students were provided with psychosocial activities.
- 15 individuals have a stable monthly income.



4,545
Beneficiaries



Idlib
Areas of Implementation

Unlocking Potential:

Sesame Project's Journey of Empowerment for Children with Special Needs in Northern Syria

The plight of families fleeing conflict and seeking refuge in overcrowded camps in Northern Syria is heart-wrenching. Amidst the challenges of displacement, lack of educational support, and limited resources, children with special needs face additional barriers to their healthy growth and development. However, amidst these dire circumstances, a beacon of hope shines through the Sesame Project, implemented by WATAN in cooperation with the International Rescue Committee. This story of

impact showcases the transformative power of the Sesame Project, and how it is making a positive difference in the lives of children like Jihad, Shahid, and Marwa, and their families in the Siraj camp in Deir Hassan.

Abu Jihad, a resident of the Siraj camp, shares his family's journey from the southern Idlib countryside, their displacement to Aqrabat, and then to Siraj camp in Deir Hassan. Despite facing heavy burdens and pains, Abu Jihad works tirelessly as a laborer and guard to provide for his three children, including Jihad, Shahid, and Marwa, who

suffer from a rare disease called cerebral atrophy. He expresses the challenges of taking care of his special needs children in the camp, where freedom of movement is limited, and their well-being is his constant priority.

The conditions in the camps in Northern Syria are challenging, with overcrowding, lack of educational support, and limited resources. Families like Abu Jihad struggle to find suitable education and relief for their children, especially those with special needs. The hardships of staying in tents for long periods of time take a toll on the physical, cognitive, and emotional development of the children, exacerbating the effects of traumatic experiences they have faced.

Amidst these challenges, Abu Jihad heard from family friends about the Sesame Project, an awareness project implemented by WATAN in cooperation with the International Rescue Committee, focusing on early childhood education and development for families and children in the camps. He was overjoyed when he learned that the school principal could accept his children. The Sesame Project has a multifaceted approach that aims to welcome children with special needs, promote their integration into the community, enhance parent-child interaction, increase caregiver capacity, and promote comprehensive development in cognitive, physical, social, and emotional domains.

Abu Jihad speaks passionately about the impact of the Sesame Project on his children. The laughter and joy he witnesses as his children play with other children in the project are priceless to him. He finds strength and motivation in seeing the positive impact, kindness, and utmost care provided to the children through the Sesame Project's children's center. Abu Jihad expresses his heartfelt gratitude to the Sesame Project for restoring hope to his children and for the opportunity for them to thrive despite the challenges they face in the camp.

The Sesame Project implemented by WATAN in cooperation with the International Rescue Committee is making a tangible and positive difference in the lives of children with special needs in the overcrowded camps of Northern Syria. Through its comprehensive approach, the Sesame Project is promoting early childhood development, restoring hope, and facilitating the integration of these children into their communities. With the support of donors, supporters, and international organizations, the Sesame Project continues to be a beacon of hope for vulnerable children in crisis-affected areas, contributing to their well-being and building a brighter future for them.



Protection

Since the start of the crisis, millions have been left in dire need of protection, including the need for mental and psychological support after the trauma they've encountered. The armed conflict, economic deterioration, and pandemic have all disproportionately impacted women and girls in the form of gender-based violence. The protection program encompasses activities that ensure Syrians have the human right to protection from harm and access to relief. This includes mental health referrals, support of psychologically affected children and this year a focus on combating gender-based violence. Training sessions were held with the aim of strengthening protection from sexual exploitation. Thousands were able to attend the sessions across 200 main centers in the local communities. By taking preventative actions as opposed to reactive ones in regard to these topics, we are able to address a problem before it occurs and minimize the damage caused. Most importantly, the program aims to respond quickly and have a sustainable impact.

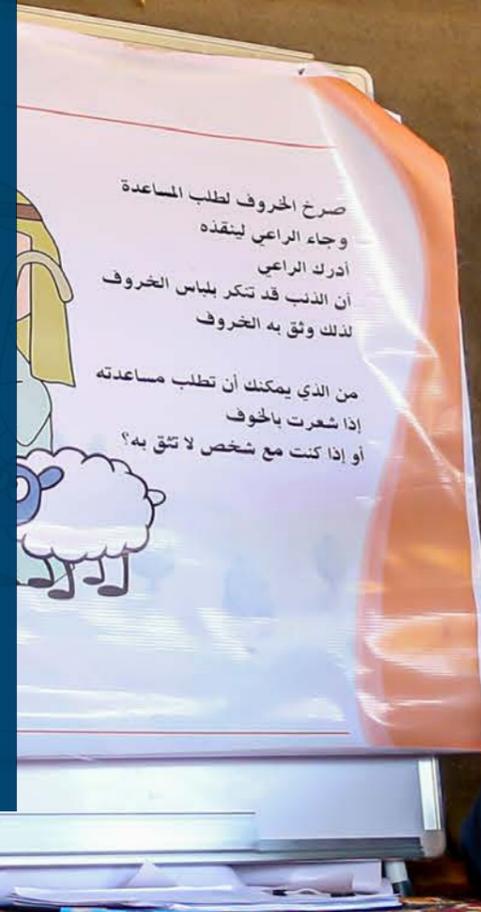


100,709
Beneficiaries



Idlib & Aleppo
Areas of Implementation

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



Supporting Survivors and Preventing Exploitation

WATAN's Holistic Approach to Protection

The ongoing crisis in Syria has left millions in desperate need of protection, including critical mental and psychological support to cope with the traumatic experiences they have faced. Women and girls have been disproportionately impacted by the armed conflict, economic deterioration, and pandemic, experiencing gender-based violence and exploitation. In response, WATAN's comprehensive protection program has been making a meaningful difference in the lives of Syrians, ensuring their human right to protection from harm and access to relief. Through a range of initiatives including mental health referrals, support for psychologically affected children, and a focused approach to combatting gender-based violence, WATAN is making a sustainable impact on the lives of vulnerable communities. Somaya, a beneficiary of WATAN's protection program, shares her story of how the program has empowered her to protect herself and her daughters from exploitation. In times of war and disasters, girls, women, and even children are often exposed to various forms of exploitation, including sexual exploitation, in displacement camps or countries of asylum due to their physical vulnerability and local customs. Somaya

recalls being in a constant state of fear for herself and her daughters, wary of dealing with anyone. She was even afraid to seek medical treatment at hospitals. However, after attending WATAN's training courses on protection from sexual exploitation, she regained hope and realized she was not alone. She learned about the mechanisms and avenues available to access her rights and humanitarian aid without being exploited by any party. She gained knowledge on how to access civil services, obtain necessary legal documents for enrolling her children in schools or seeking medical care, and developed self-confidence in defending herself and her children through legal means. Somaya expresses her sincere gratitude to WATAN for providing her with the tools to overcome fear, depression, and hopelessness, and for offering her a vision of a peaceful future for her and her children.

WATAN's protection program goes beyond addressing the immediate needs of vulnerable populations. It takes a proactive approach, focusing on prevention rather than just reaction, to address the underlying causes of gender-based violence and exploitation. By providing comprehensive training sessions on protection from sexual

exploitation, WATAN is equipping individuals like Somaya with the knowledge and skills to safeguard themselves and their children. Through these initiatives, WATAN is not only addressing the immediate impact of the crisis but also building sustainable solutions for the long term.

One of the core aspects of WATAN's protection program is the focus on gender equality and women's empowerment. Women and girls in conflict-affected areas often face heightened risks of violence, discrimination, and exploitation. WATAN recognizes the importance of addressing these gender-specific vulnerabilities and promoting women's empowerment as a key strategy for protecting their rights and promoting their well-being. By providing training on protection from sexual exploitation, WATAN is empowering women and girls with the knowledge

and skills to assert their rights, access services, and safeguard themselves from harm.

WATAN's protection program is made possible through collaborative efforts with various partners and stakeholders, including local communities, international organizations, and donors. WATAN works closely with communities to ensure that the program is culturally sensitive, contextually appropriate, and responsive to the unique needs and challenges faced by the beneficiaries. The program also seeks to engage with international and global organizations to raise awareness about the critical importance of protection and gender-based violence prevention in.



Challenges *and* Successes

2021 was another year of significant challenges and successes for WATAN as we continued our humanitarian efforts in Syria. Despite the ongoing conflict, economic struggles, and the global COVID-19 pandemic, WATAN remained committed to providing assistance to those in need, particularly in hard-to-reach and isolated areas.



Challenges:

- **Access to Remote Areas:** One of the main challenges we faced in 2021 was the limited access to remote areas in Syria where displaced populations were in dire need of assistance. Ongoing conflict and poor infrastructure, including damaged roads and flooded dirt tracks, made it difficult for aid to reach these isolated areas. This posed a significant challenge in delivering life-saving aid, including food, water, and medical supplies, to vulnerable communities.
- **Limited Resources:** Another challenge we faced in 2021 was the limited availability of resources, including funding and supplies. As the humanitarian crisis in Syria continued for a decade, the needs of displaced populations increased, but resources remained limited. This made it challenging to provide assistance to all those in need and meet the growing demand for humanitarian aid.
- **Health Risks:** The COVID-19 pandemic continued to pose health risks for displaced populations in Syria in 2021. Overcrowded living conditions in camps and limited access to healthcare made it difficult to implement effective preventive measures, putting vulnerable communities at risk of contracting the virus. This required additional efforts to provide COVID-19 prevention and response measures, including awareness campaigns, distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE), and support for healthcare facilities.

Successes:

- **Continued Assistance to Displaced Populations:** Despite the challenges, WATAN was able to continue its assistance to displaced populations in Syria in 2021. Through our dedicated team on the ground and our partnerships with local organizations, we were able to provide life-saving aid, including food, water, shelter, medical care, and education to thousands of families in need.
- **Expansion of Services:** In 2021, WATAN expanded its services to reach more vulnerable communities, including those in remote and hard-to-reach areas. Our efforts to overcome access challenges resulted in the increased distribution of aid to isolated camps, providing vital support to those who had limited or no access to humanitarian assistance before.
- **COVID-19 Response:** Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, WATAN successfully implemented preventive measures and response efforts in camps to reduce the risk of infection. This included

awareness campaigns on COVID-19 prevention, distribution of PPE, and support to healthcare facilities to enhance their capacity to respond to the pandemic.

- **Partnerships and Collaboration:** WATAN continued to work in close partnership with local organizations, other humanitarian actors, and donors to maximize our impact and reach more vulnerable communities. These partnerships allowed us to leverage resources, expertise, and local knowledge to effectively deliver assistance and address the needs of displaced populations.

Looking Ahead:

As we reflect on the challenges and successes of 2021, we remain committed to providing humanitarian assistance to those in need in Syria. We recognize that the needs of displaced populations are ongoing, and we are determined to continue our efforts to alleviate suffering, provide life-saving aid, and support the resilience and recovery of affected communities in 2022 and beyond. We are grateful for the support of our donors, partners, and supporters, whose generosity and commitment make our work possible. Together, we will strive to make a positive impact on the lives of those affected by the Syrian crisis.



Financial Report

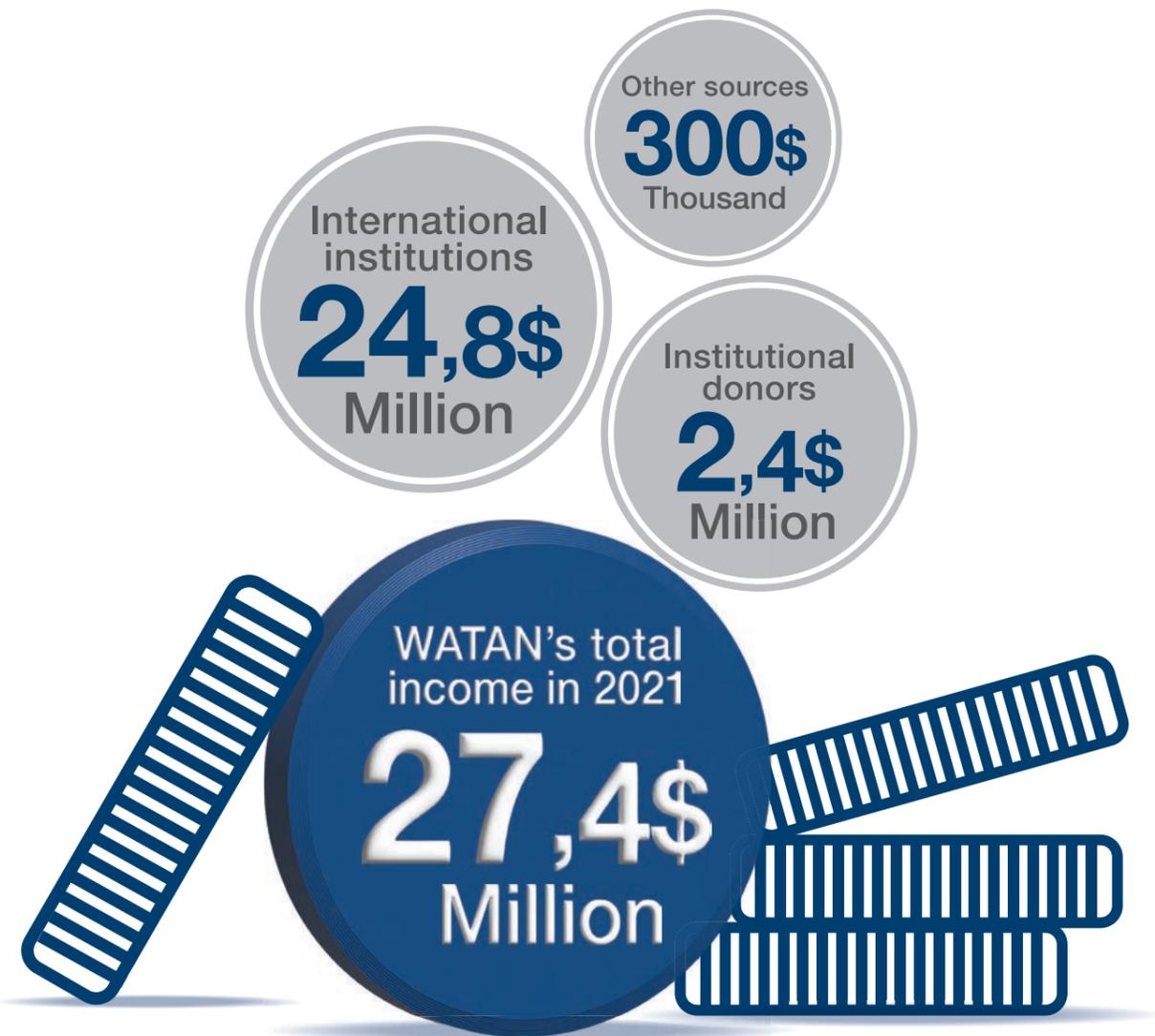
Income

WATAN's total income in 2021 is \$ 27.4 Million.

The income was received from different sources as the following:

- Institutional donors: \$ 2.4M compared to \$1.5M in 2020.
- International institutions \$24.8M compared to \$ 37.6M in 2020.
- Other sources of income: \$300K individual donations and income from fundraising is compared to \$499K in 2020.

The Total income for aid and development interventions in Syria was \$ 27.2M, \$ 71K in UK and \$88K in Turkey.



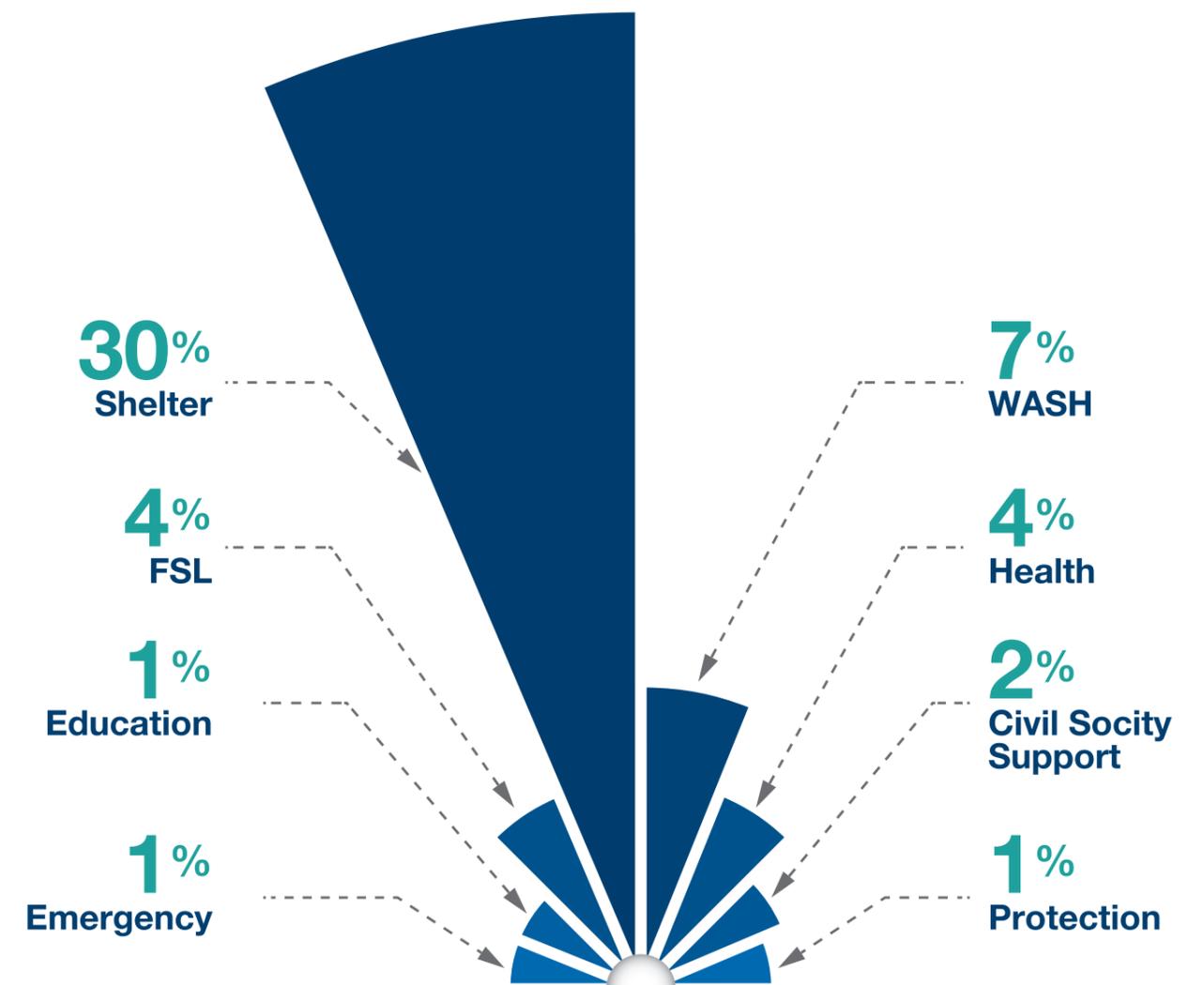
Expenditures

WATAN total expenditure in 2021 was \$27.4 M Which is less than 2020 by \$ 12.6M.

The expenditures were split into two main categories as the following::

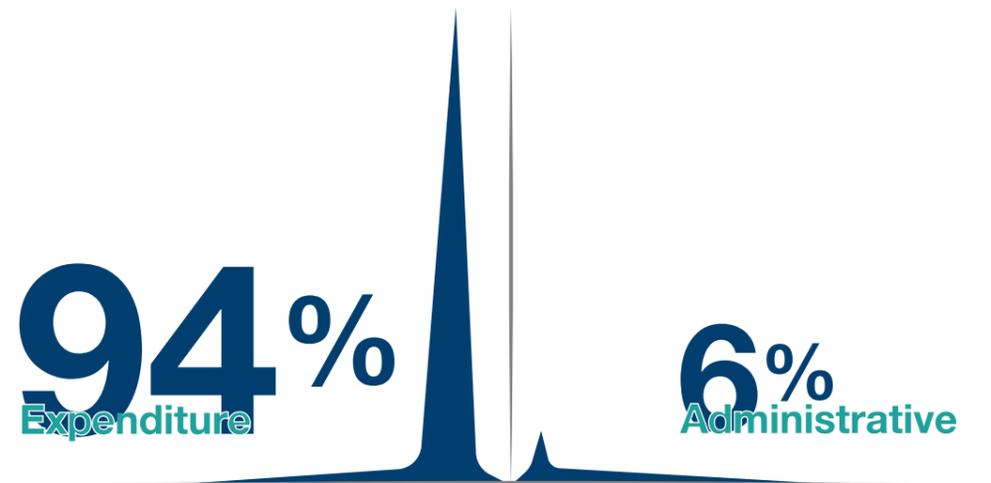
- Operational expenditures: \$ 25.8M for the cost of direct implementation and related staff.
- Administrative expenditures: \$ 1.6M for the cost of running the organization and the indirect supervision of the program's implementation.

The Structure of the Expenditures per Sector was as the following:



Unrestricted Income & Admin Share

As per WATAN expenditure for the year 2021, the percentage of operational expenditure is equal to %94 of the total expenditure while %6 was administrative cost.



Fund Distribution by Region

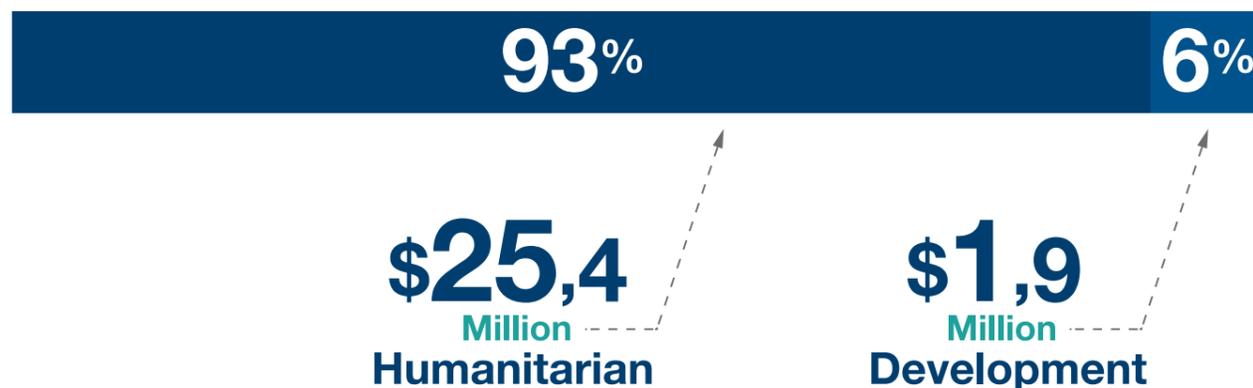
The fund spent by WATAN came from Syria \$ 27.2M, \$ 71K in UK and \$88K in Turkey. as the following:



Source and Nature of Fund

WATAN has spent \$ 26.7M of the total fund for the year 2021 from International Programs and \$ 653K from individual donations and fundraising events.

The fund represents \$ 25.4M aid and \$ 1.9M development as the following:



ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES OF THE ORGANIZATION

- Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis of accounting with respect to income and on an accruals basis with respect to expenditure, in accordance with the accounting policies as set out below. These accounting policies are in accordance with the policies and guidelines of WATAN. However, in relation to the accounting treatment of the inventories, WATAN's Policy is to expense these immediately to the statement of financial activities at acquisition. This is deemed to be a more appropriate accounting treatment than the treatment normally afforded to such transactions in generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), which would require these transactions to be recorded as assets subject to annual accounting charges as these assets are utilized or consumed. These policies are in line with the normal accounting policies applied by International Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), which are observed due to their working environment.

- Fund Accounting Policy

Restricted funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose. Restricted revenue is generated from the projects whose terms are specified with the Donor before the implementation starts. These types of contracts mainly include type and scope of work, implementation duration, expense type and contract value. Restricted revenue is generated as the same amount as the expenses charged on the Project.

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

- Incoming Resources

The principal accounting policies adopted is revenue recognition revenue is recognized under the percentage of completion method which allocates the expenses to the donors based on approved financial reports.

Voluntary income including donations and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognized where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Income from charitable activities includes income recognized as earned (as the related goods or services are provided) under contract.

- Resources Expended

Liabilities are recognized as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Costs of generating funds are the costs associated with attracting voluntary income.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

- Admin Support Costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.



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