SAMS

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



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Our Mission

SAMS is dedicated to delivering life-saving services, revitalizing health systems during crises, and promoting medical education through a network of committed humanitarians in Syria, the United States, and beyond.

Our Vision

SAMS envisions a future in which every patient receives dignified medical care, no matter the circumstances. We strive to strengthen Syria's healthcare system and extend our impact to crisis-affected populations globally through ethical, sustainable care.




SYRIAHEALTH
2030
AMERICAN MEDICAL SOCIETY
SYRIAN
1998

Restoring Hope, Rebuilding Health

In this historic moment, SAMS is launching one of its most impactful efforts to date: Syria Health 2030, a transformative vision to heal the wounds of war and establish a resilient, self-sustaining healthcare system for all Syrians.

From Emergency to Empowerment

For years, SAMS was on the frontlines, providing emergency relief in the darkest hours of the crisis, dispatching mobile clinics, saving lives through trauma care, and reaching the unreachable. This was: survival.

Now, as Syria takes its first steps toward recovery, and reconstruction, SAMS is rehabilitating damaged hospitals, restoring pharmaceutical supply chains, training the next generation of Syrian doctors, and rebuilding health infrastructure, laying the foundation for long-term resilience.

Why It Matters Now More Than Ever

16.7 million Syrians still need humanitarian aid. Entire cities remain without adequate medical services. Chronic illness, mental health crises, and disease outbreaks remain a daily threat.

Liberation is not the end of the journey, it is the beginning of healing. And health is the first building block of peace.



A Message *from* SAMS President

Reflecting on 2025:
A Year of Hope and Healing

Dear SAMS Supporters,

The year we inaugurated the First International SAMS Conference in Free Syria will remain one of the most defining chapters in our collective journey.

It was not merely a professional achievement, but a moral statement—a declaration that healthcare, dignity, and hope must exist everywhere in our homeland, without exception. Launching our first International SAMS Conference on Syrian soil, alongside the First SAMS Youth Conference associated with our national Poster Presentation initiative, sent a powertul message: a new generation of Syrian healthcare leaders is rising— grounded in knowledge, guided by ethics, and driven by service.

Even in the face of uncertainty, education persisted , ideas flourished, and belief in the future prevailed.

Throughout this year, SAMS expanded its presence across all Syrian governorates. We operated in new medical centers, reinforced existing facilities, and reached communities long deprived of reliable, quality care.

From major Syrian cities to the most remote areas, our teams persevered—day after day—ensuring that no Syrian is forgotten and no hardship faced alone. None of this would have been possible without the extraordinary dedication of our members, volunteers, and hardworking staff who performed valiantly and courageously in tough conditions. We salute our volunteer physicians who left their families and practices to travel to Syria, serving with courage, humility, and compassion. Their commitment embodies the very soul of SAMS. When circumstances are difficult and the road is long, they show us that the mission does not pause, retreat, or falter.

Challenges remain, and the work ahead is demanding. Yet our resolve is stronger than ever.

The mission endures. The band will play on—relentlessly, faithfully, and with purpose. Together, we are not only delivering healthcare; we are rebuilding trust, restoring systems, and shaping the future of medicine in a free and unified Syria.

We are deeply grateful for your continued belief in SAMS, for your partnership, and for standing with the Syrian people.

With your support, we will continue forward-with compassionate medical care, integrity, and unwavering hope.

With deep appreciation,

Dr. Aref Rifai
SAMS President



A Message *from* SAMS Foundation Chair

Dear Members, Donors, and Partners,

The year 2025 marked a historic turning point for the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS) and for Syria's healthcare system. Following the liberation that began on December 8, 2024, SAMS gained expanded access across the country, allowing us, for the first time in more than a decade, to reach communities long cut off from essential healthcare. This milestone opened a new chapter of hope and reaffirmed our commitment to helping build a healthier future for Syria.

Throughout the year, I had the privilege of visiting many of these communities and witnessing firsthand the resilience of the Syrian people and the dedication of our healthcare teams. Seeing mothers safely deliver their babies, children receive life-saving treatment, cancer patients continue their care, and families return to once-silent hospitals was both humbling and inspiring. These moments remind us that healthcare restores not only health, but also dignity, stability, and hope.

In 2025, SAMS delivered more than three million medical services, supporting over one million people across Syria and the region. Our teams performed 65,000 surgeries, safely delivered 22,700 babies, cared for 25,800 cancer patients, provided 13,500 dialysis sessions, and restored and sustained more than 65 healthcare facilities, laying the foundation for long-term recovery.

Guided by our Syria Health 2030 vision, SAMS is evolving from an emergency humanitarian organization into a development-focused healthcare institution committed to building a resilient, accessible, and sustainable healthcare system. This year, we launched our Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC) Committee, advanced standardized quality initiatives, strengthened governance, and expanded sustainability efforts to ensure our hospitals continue serving patients for generations to come.

As humanitarian funding evolves, SAMS continues to diversify support through private donors, institutional partners, and gifts-in-kind programs while remaining committed to transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship.

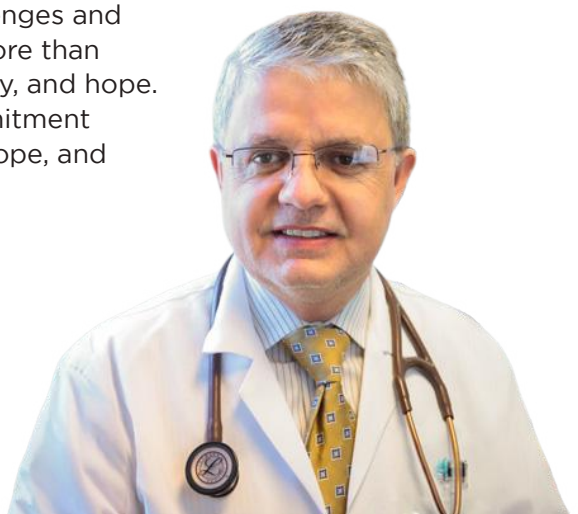
These achievements would not have been possible without the dedication of our physicians, nurses, pharmacists, technicians, volunteers, staff, donors, and partners around the world. I am also grateful to the Syrian Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Higher Education, and our many national and international partners who are helping rebuild Syria's healthcare system.

Looking ahead to 2026, we will expand quality systems across our network, advance our Centers of Excellence, complete Phase One of Al-Afiah Hospital, launch new hospital projects, strengthen oncology and medical education, and continue building sustainable healthcare models for future generations.

Rebuilding Syria's healthcare system is one of the defining challenges and greatest opportunities of our time. Together, we are doing far more than restoring hospitals and clinics. We are restoring trust, opportunity, and hope. Thank you for your partnership, generosity, and continued commitment to our mission. Together, we are transforming health, restoring hope, and building a healthier future for every Syrian.

With deepest gratitude,

Dr. Abdulfatah Elshaar
SAMS Foundation Chair





SAMS Impact 2025

Impact In Syria

SAMS Offices Across Syria

SAMS has the following regional offices:

- North office (Aleppo and Idlib)
- Northeast office (Deir ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa, and Al-Hasakeh)
- Central office (Hama and Homs)
- Costal office (Latakia and Tartous)
- Southern office (Damascus & Countryside, Daraa, Qunaitra, and Sweida)

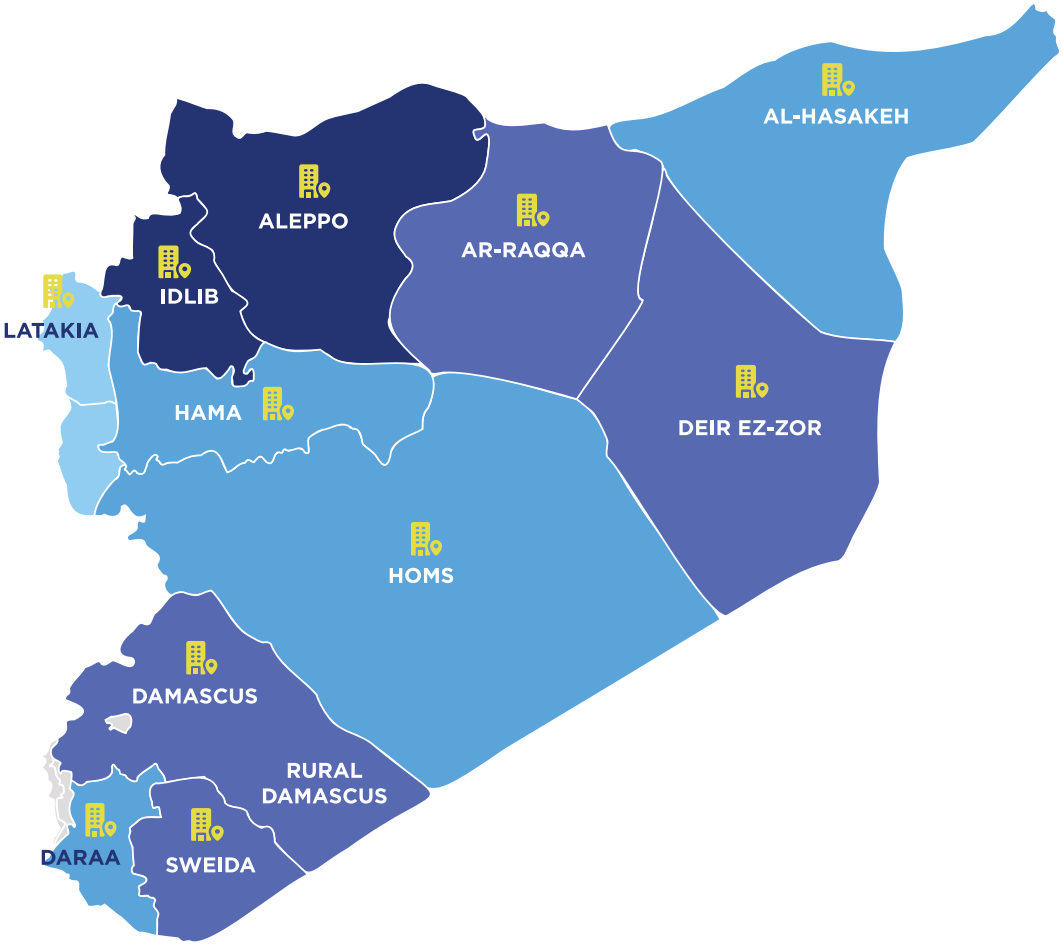
Facilities Supported by SAMS Across Syria

LOCATION	FACILITIES
Aleppo	15
Idlib	14
Rural Damascus	5
Damascus	5
Ar-Raqqa	6
Deir ez-Zor	8
Sweida	5

LOCATION	FACILITIES
Al-Hasakeh	2
Daraa	3
Hama	2
Homs	2
Latakia	1

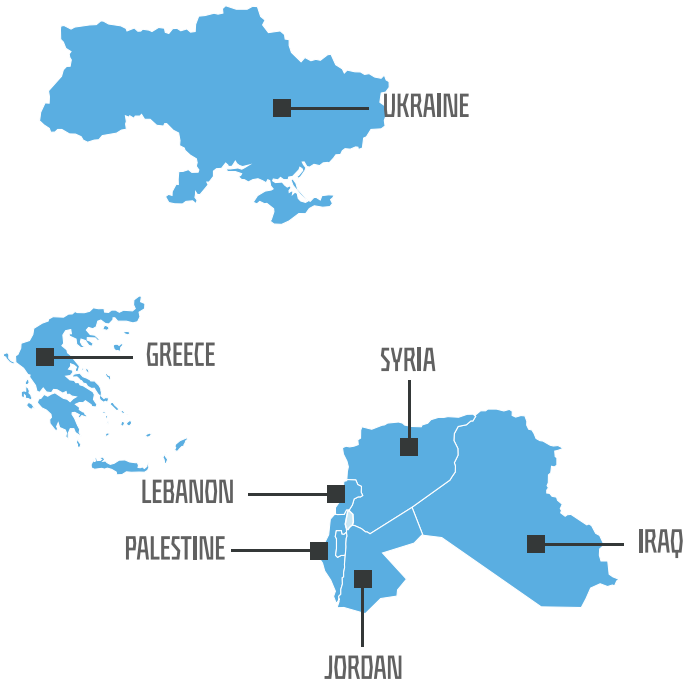
TYPE OF FACILITIES

- Blood Bank
- Cardiac Cath Lab
- Dental Clinic
- Dialysis Unit
- Education & Training Facility
- Forensic Medicine Center
- General Hospital
- Maternity Hospital
- MHPSS Center
- Mobile Clinic
- Multi-Specialty Hospital
- Oncology Center
- Physical Therapy Center
- Primary Health Center



Total Impact

SYRIA	720,788 patients	2,550,506 medical services
IRAQ	5,458 patients	10,916 medical services
JORDAN	22,458 patients	50,568 medical services
GAZA	102,682 patients	129,889 medical services
LEBANON	29,811 patients	87,689 medical services
GREECE	5,119 patients	21,439 medical services
UKRAINE	104 patients	173 medical services



In 2025, SAMS delivered more than three million medical services in six countries, including Syria, Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, and Greece.

SAMS also provided humanitarian relief to people in Turkey, Ukraine, Morocco, and Libya.

SERVICES
More than **3 Million**

PEOPLE SERVED
More than **1 Million**

SURGERIES
65,000+

BABIES DELIVERED
(Includes C-Sections)
22,000+

FACILITIES (TOTAL)
74

MEDICAL STAFF (GLOBAL)
2,251

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
76,000+

MOBILE CLINIC SERVICES
278,000+



"Syria deserves life and we will continue working to build for Syria's future. May the coming years bring peace, stability, and prosperity to Syria and to all Syrians."

Dr. Aref Rifai, Ophthalmologist,
President of SAMS

SAMS Centers of Excellence

SAMS - Al Afiah Specialty Hospital

Give today: fundraise.givesmart.com/vf/AlafiaDamascus

The SAMS–Al Afiah Damascus Hospital — Center of Excellence will deliver urgent specialty care across Syria, including pediatric and adult cardiology, oncology, hearing services, and pre-bone marrow transplant support. Serving children, mothers, and elders, the center eliminates critical delays, restores trust in healthcare, and trains hundreds of Syrian doctors and nurses. Phase One seeks $6 million to launch essential services, renovate facilities, and create life-saving care pathways, building a foundation for a healthier, more resilient Syria.



Idlib Heart Hospital

The SAMS Heart Hospital in Idlib, Northwest Syria, is a specialized Cardiology Center of Excellence providing advanced cardiac care, including aortic surgeries, angioplasty, valve replacements, and congenital defect repairs. Equipped with Cath Labs, ICU beds, and expert staff, the hospital serves displaced and underserved populations, offering life-saving procedures such as emergency catheterizations and open-heart surgeries. SAMS missions regularly expand services, ensuring critical cardiac care is accessible to those who need it most.



Hama Radiation & Oncology Center

Give today: fundraise.givesmart.com/vf/HamaCancerCare

The SAMS Hama Oncology & Radiation Center is Syria's first comprehensive facility providing local cancer care, including radiation therapy, chemotherapy, diagnostic imaging, and pediatric oncology. Designed to reduce long, dangerous travel for treatment, the center brings life-saving care and hope to patients in Hama. This initiative strengthens healthcare infrastructure, expands access to essential services, and supports vulnerable communities, as part of SAMS's ongoing commitment to delivering high-quality medical care across Syria.



SAMS Oncology Centers Network

The SAMS Oncology Centers Network is a rapidly expanding system of specialized cancer care centers across Syria, providing free chemotherapy, hormonal therapy, and diagnostic services to patients in regions with severely limited resources. As of early 2026, the network spans Daraa, Deir Ezzor, Hama, Damascus, and longstanding centers in Northwest Syria, including Idlib and Northern Aleppo. By reducing the need for patients to travel long distances and addressing critical shortages of specialized care, the network delivers life-saving treatment, strengthens local healthcare capacity, and brings hope to vulnerable communities across the country.



> ***"The opportunities that we see in front of us are greater than ever! There is a renewed sense of hope and excitement. This is truly the happiest moment of our time."***
>
> Dr. Abdulfatah Elshaar, Internist, SAMS Foundation Chairman





Country Impact



SYRIA

In 2025, SAMS delivered a comprehensive, integrated model of care across Syria, reaching 720,788 beneficiaries through 2,550,506 services. With a network of 61 supported facilities and a workforce of over 2,098 medical staff, SAMS continues to strengthen health systems while addressing critical gaps in specialized and primary care.

- **820,951** Labs
- **373,969** Nutritional Services
- **137,799** Radiology
- **115,810** MHPSS Services
- **86,505** Dental
- **335,126** Reproductive & Pediatric Services
- **22,356** Vaccines
- **21,072** Oncology
- **14,564** Dialysis
- **9,808** Blood Bank
- **6,270** Ophthalmology Interventions
- **775** Physical Therapy

IMPACT IN 2025

SERVICES
More than **2.5 Million**

PEOPLE SERVED
More than **720K**

FACILITIES (SYRIA)
61

MEDICAL STAFF (SYRIA)
2,098

SURGERIES
30,971

BABIES DELIVERED
(Includes C-Sections)
22,346

EMERGENCY ROOM SERVICES
582,009

MOBILE CLINIC SERVICES
155,793

Maternal and Newborn Healthcare

SAMS provides integrated maternal and newborn care through hospitals and nearby primary health centers, ensuring safe deliveries, essential follow-up services, and ongoing support for mothers and babies close to where they live.

Locations Served

Al Dana Hospital, Qah Maternity Hospital, Raju Hospital, Al Shifa Hospital in Afrin, and Specialized Maternity Hospital in Idlib.

Medical Services

- Safe delivery and emergency obstetric care
- Newborn screenings and postnatal care
- Family planning services
- Psychosocial counseling
- Case management and referrals
- Community health awareness and education

A Race Against Time: Aya's Emergency Delivery

Inside Bab Al-Hawa camp in northern Syria, 24-year-old Aya faced an extraordinary pregnancy, carrying triplets in conditions that far exceed the limits of camp life. When she arrived at the SAMS Maternity Hospital in Qah, Idlib in critical condition, the medical team, led by Dr. Aisha, immediately prepared for an emergency C-section. Thanks to the hospital's specialized newborn care unit, all three babies were delivered safely.

The triplets received close monitoring in the neonatal unit until they were stable enough to return home with their mother.

With generous support from UNFPA and our generous donors, SAMS continues to provide safe maternity care in some of the most challenging settings, because every birth deserves a chance at life.



22,300+ newborns safely delivered across SAMS-supported facilities



Stories of Hope

Mohammad was born in a displacement camp, taking his first breaths under the weight of uncertainty. Severe respiratory distress and pneumonia, complicated by pulmonary hypertension, made his earliest days a fight for survival.

At Qah Maternity Hospital in Syria, supported by SAMS, Mohammad received intensive, life-saving care. Through close monitoring and the dedicated efforts of the medical team, he was gradually weaned off the ventilator until he was able to breathe on his own once again.

Day by day, Mohammad grew stronger. He soon began feeding normally and was discharged with a follow-up plan to support his continued recovery.

Mohammad's journey is a powerful reminder of why we remain committed to supporting mothers and children living in displacement camps. At SAMS, we stand by those who need us most, providing care, dignity, and hope, until the last refugee.

Oncology

In 2025, SAMS conducted 21,672 oncology services across 7 cancer care centers in 5 governorates: 2 in Idlib, 2 in Aleppo, and 1 each in Deir Ez Zor, Daraa, and Hama. While the Hama center did not serve patients in 2025, SAMS also supported Al Bairouni Cancer Center in Damascus with medications. A slightly higher proportion of consultations were for female patients (60%), largely due to the high incidence of breast cancer. Most patients were adults over 50, followed by adults aged 19–49, with individuals under 19 representing the smallest share.



Locations Served

Idlib, Deir Ez Zor, Aleppo, Daraa and Hama

21,672 oncology services across its five cancer care clinics in Idleb, Deir Ez Zor, Aleppo, Daraa, and Hama.



Pediatric Oncology – Aleppo (Balsam Center)

The Balsam Center provides comprehensive pediatric cancer care in northern Syria, including chemotherapy, diagnostics, medical supervision, psychosocial support, and patient assistance. Services are delivered by a specialized team through well-equipped outpatient facilities.

Oncology Center – Daraa

Serving a population of 1.5 million, the Daraa Oncology Center has expanded access to cancer care, supporting 225 patients with consultations, follow-up care, and free or subsidized treatment. The center provides reliable chemotherapy access and specialized oncology services closer to home.

Oncology Center – Deir Ezzor

The Deir Ezzor Hematology and Oncology Center provides consultations, treatment planning, medications, and chemotherapy services through a multidisciplinary team. During the reporting period, 37 patients received care, including 9 new patients, and 106 chemotherapy sessions were administered.



Radiotherapy Center – Hama

As the only radiotherapy center serving central and northern Syria, the Hama facility is equipped to treat more than 600 patients annually. Scheduled to begin operations in 2026, it will significantly expand access to life-saving radiotherapy services.



> ***"My feelings are indescribable... What matters most now is my recovery."***
>
> Maryam, SAMS Patient at Bab Al-Hawa Hospital

Stories of Hope

For years, Mrs. Maryam lived with constant stomach pain without answers, without diagnosis, and without access to care in Hama. Over time, her condition worsened, silently and steadily.

When she finally reached Bab Al-Hawa Hospital with SAMS support, she was already critically ill, needing urgent transfusions and a CT scan. The diagnosis was heartbreaking: advanced stomach cancer, untreated for too long.

But her story did not end there.

With SAMS-supported care, Maryam began free chemotherapy—finally receiving the treatment, dignity, and chance to fight she had been denied for years.

Cochlear Implants

SAMS operates one of the few comprehensive cochlear implant programs in Syria, providing life-changing care to children with hearing impairments. The Cochlear Implant Project started in 2022 and addresses critical gaps in specialized hearing care caused by limited equipment, high costs, and a shortage of qualified professionals. The program focuses on children aged 1–5, the group that benefits most from early intervention. In 2025, SAMS also started a pilot for hearing screening in some of the maternity hospitals under its sponsorship for early identifications of newborns who are in need for further hearing evaluation and early intervention.

The program supports cochlear implant devices and surgeries, offering pre operative auditory and anatomical evaluation, and post operative comprehensive care including device calibration and long-term rehabilitation. SAMS also invests in local capacity by training medical professionals in cochlear implant surgery, as well as hearing and speech therapists, in partnership with specialized organizations.

Cochlear implantation is a sophisticated procedure that opens new opportunities for children to communicate, learn, and engage with the world around them. Each case is supported with comprehensive care and careful follow-up to ensure optimal outcomes.



40 cochlear implant surgeries were successfully performed

6–12 months of rehabilitation services

3 doctors trained in cochlear implant surgery

6 hearing and speech therapists trained in rehabilitation and device calibration



Hope is the first step toward healing

As part of its ongoing efforts to improve quality of life, SAMS performed a cochlear implant surgery for 10-year-old Amin Al-Khatib at Bab Al-Hawa Hospital in northwest Syria. Amin, who suffers from both hearing and vision impairments due to Usher Syndrome, was in urgent need of this complex procedure. Despite exceeding the age limit, SAMS' cochlear implant committee approved his case due to his unique medical condition and the high success rate of the surgery.

Dr. Hamza, an ENT specialist, shared: *"Post-surgery tests showed excellent results. We will continue advanced speech therapy sessions to help him integrate and communicate effectively."*

To date, SAMS has conducted 46 cochlear implant surgeries in northwest Syria, reaffirming its commitment to delivering advanced healthcare to those most in need.

> ***" I was filled with both anxiety and hope. This is the second cochlear implant SAMS has performed for my child, and I am deeply grateful for this incredible humanitarian work."***
>
> Amin's father



Cardiology

In 2025, SAMS' cardiology program provided 8,270 lifesaving interventions across facilities in Idlib, Al Bab, and Homs, addressing the growing burden of cardiovascular disease in Syria. Services included cardiac consultations, advanced diagnostics, catheterization procedures, pacemaker implantation, structural heart repairs, and open-heart surgeries. By combining specialized care with local capacity-building and training, the program improved access to essential heart services, reduced the need for costly referrals, and enhanced the quality of life for thousands of patients.

Stories of Hope

Difficulty breathing and chest pain were not just passing symptoms for 78-year-old Mahdiya—they were a daily struggle that affected every aspect of her life. The cause: severe aortic valve stenosis.

As part of SAMS' Summer 2025 Medical Missions, performed a groundbreaking procedure using the TAVI technique (Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation), eliminating the need for open-heart surgery.

The results were immediate and remarkable. The pressure gradient across the valve dropped to normal levels confirming the success of the procedure , and Mahdiya was finally able to breathe with ease after years of suffering.





8,270 cardiology interventions





A New Heart, A New Beginning

For six years, Yaman struggled with three complex congenital heart defects that left him breathless and unable to enjoy a normal childhood. His parents searched for treatment across Syria, but every hospital gave the same answer: “The case is too complex.”

Hope arrived when Dr. Basil Narjis, a Syrian pediatric cardiologist from the United States, joined a medical mission at the SAMS Cardiovascular Hospital in Idlib. In a groundbreaking procedure—the first of its kind in Syria and the region—Dr. Basil repaired all three defects through a single catheter-based intervention, avoiding open-heart surgery.

While his mother prayed outside the operating room, the SAMS team gave Yaman a second chance at life.

Today, Yaman is finally running alongside other children, leaving six years of struggle behind with a heart ready for the future.



“He watched other children run while he could only stand and watch. Today, thanks to Dr. Basil and the SAMS team, I have my son back.”

Yaman’s Mother

Support for Released Prisoners

Following the release of 24,973 detainees across Syria in December 2024—many of whom had been held for years—SAMS launched a comprehensive mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) response. Supported by the Schooner Foundation and SAMS members, the program provides trauma-informed care to former detainees and their families, supporting recovery, resilience, and reintegration into society.

Locations Served

Aleppo, Homs, Damascus, and Rural Damascus

Medical Services

- Individual psychological assessments and tailored care
- Specialized psychiatric consultations
- Psychosocial support sessions using CBT, EMDR, and PM+
- Multi-sectoral referrals (medical, legal, protection, livelihood, social services)
- Community awareness and mental health education

Stories of Hope

In December 2024, a survivor was released from one of Syria's harshest prisons. Yet freedom did not bring peace. Arrested in 2019 upon returning from Lebanon, this person spent years in detention under conditions they never expected to survive.

> ***"I was freed physically, but inside I remained a prisoner. I was restless, anxious, avoiding people, and constantly alert, fearing another arrest. Images of torture and interrogation haunted me—being suspended, the screams, the voices of women under questioning—it was all still alive in my head."***



24,973 detainees released (including 1,721 women, 74 children)

228 former detainees supported

296 psychiatric consultations delivered

570 psychosocial support sessions provided

380 referrals to essential services

912 individuals reached through awareness sessions



Autism Support

SAMS is advancing autism care in Syria through the country's first Center of Excellence for Autism Care and Professional Training in Damascus. The center provides early diagnosis and specialized therapies while building national capacity through professional training and certification.

When SAMS Autism Academy opened its doors in December 2025, eight children became the first participants in its intensive therapy program. Following comprehensive assessments, each child received individualized treatment plans focused on communication, social interaction, and daily living skills.

Early progress has already been observed in communication and attention skills, while parents report increased confidence and support through caregiver training and guidance. This is just the beginning of a long-term commitment to helping children with autism reach their full potential.

Locations Served

Damascus, Syria

Medical Services

- Early screening and diagnostic evaluations for autism
- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy
- Speech and language therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Professional training and QABA certification for autism care providers



123 ABAT (Applied Behavior Analysis Technician) candidates trained

44 children received diagnostic evaluations

280 professionals reached through workshops and lectures

1 Center of Excellence established





JORDAN

In 2025, SAMS Jordan operated in an increasingly complex humanitarian landscape, marked by funding constraints, shifting needs, and growing pressure on national health systems. Despite these dramatic changes in the humanitarian sector, SAMS remained a reliable provider of essential healthcare, adapting its approach to ensure continuity, efficiency, and quality of care for the most vulnerable.

Throughout the year, SAMS supported 30 staff members, including 15 medical and non-medical staff members and 15 technical MHPSS staff members. In addition, 483 volunteers contributed to delivering 50,568 medical services to 22,458 beneficiaries across Jordan. Our teams prioritized high-impact interventions while strengthening service integration across facilities, ensuring patients received timely and appropriate care despite resource limitations.

SAMS Jordan focused on sustained access to essential medical services, including primary healthcare, mental health support, dental care, diabetes management, and diagnostic services. By optimizing clinical workflows and reinforcing referral pathways, SAMS ensured that vulnerable populations, particularly refugees and underserved host communities, continued to receive life-saving and life-maintaining care.

Preserving Vision Through Retina Care

In 2025, the SAMS Jordan Retina Program served 253 beneficiaries, primarily patients with diabetes-related retinopathy requiring ongoing monitoring and treatment to prevent vision loss. Patients received quarterly ophthalmologic exams and individualized care plans, including intravitreal Avastin injections,

IMPACT IN 2025

SERVICES

More than **50,568**

PEOPLE SERVED

More than **22,458**

SITES

5

Special Projects

- MHPSS
- Rehab
- Medical Missions
- Dental
- LFAC
- AHI



laser therapy, and other retinal treatments as needed. Through regular follow-up and timely interventions, the program helped preserve vision, slow disease progression, and improve quality of life for those at risk of visual impairment and blindness.

Supporting Children with Type 1 Diabetes

In 2025, SAMS Jordan, in partnership with Life for a Child (LFAC), supported 244 children and adolescents living with Type 1 diabetes through glucometer distribution and diabetes education. Newly enrolled patients received glucometers, a one-year supply of testing strips, and ongoing follow-up support. Caregivers and beneficiaries were also trained on insulin administration, recognizing and managing hypo- and hyperglycemia, and proper use of glucometers through hands-on demonstrations and education sessions.

Jawaher – A Journey Toward Inner Peace and Family Healing

Jawaher, a 47-year-old Syrian volunteer, joined a SAMS psychosocial support program after struggling with anxiety and persistent sadness. Through group sessions, she learned to manage her emotions, develop self-awareness, and build greater compassion for herself and others.

The program also positively impacted her relationship with her daughters, who participated in SAMS' Helping Hands program. As they gained emotional awareness and coping skills, they became more supportive and resilient, strengthening family bonds and easing Jawaher's emotional burden.

Today, Jawaher feels more balanced, connected, and empowered, demonstrating the lasting impact of community-based mental health support on both individuals and families.





LEBANON

In Lebanon, SAMS continued to expand access to essential healthcare services for underserved communities, delivering care across multiple regions including Beirut, the Bekaa Valley, and districts such as Baalbek, Nabatieh, Shouf District, and Hasbaya District. Through a combination of clinic-based services, mobile medical units, and targeted programs in primary care, mental health, oral health, and chronic disease management, SAMS supported tens of thousands of beneficiaries. Collaborative initiatives and emergency response efforts with partners further strengthened healthcare delivery for both Syrian refugees and vulnerable host communities across the country.

Emergency Response - Mobile Medical Units:

As the humanitarian situation in Lebanon continued to deteriorate, with widespread displacement, rising injuries, and disruptions to healthcare services, SAMS expanded its emergency response to ensure affected communities could continue accessing essential medical care. The escalation of hostilities in the region placed additional strain on Lebanon's healthcare system, forcing some health facilities to reduce operations or become inaccessible while increasing the needs of internally displaced populations.

Through partnerships with Direct Relief and Muslim Aid, SAMS launched mobile medical unit interventions to provide primary healthcare, medications, and essential services to displaced families and vulnerable communities across Beirut,

IMPACT IN 2025

SERVICES

More than
87,689

PEOPLE SERVED

More than
29,811



the Shouf District, Hasbaya District, Baalbek, the South region, and Nabatieh. These efforts complemented SAMS' existing healthcare programs in Lebanon by extending medical support to communities facing increased barriers to care.

Global Miles for Smiles/SAMS Oral Health Prevention and Infection Control

This community-based outreach project served 5,207 vulnerable children and young adults (ages 3–23) through schools and community centers. Services included dental screenings, infection control, oral health awareness sessions, hygiene kit distribution, medications, extractions, and referrals. The team conducted 142 visits across 44 locations, delivered 343 awareness sessions, distributed medications to 457 beneficiaries, performed 521 dental extractions, and made 97 referrals.

Dental Clinic Services at Ghiras Al-Khair Medical Clinics

The project improved access to essential dental care for Syrian refugees and host community members by covering patient costs at MAPS dental clinics. Services included surgical, restorative, endodontic, and periodontal treatments, along with oral health education and hygiene promotion. A total of 5,944 beneficiaries received 13,763 dental services.

Life for a Child (LFAC) – Support for Young People with Diabetes

This community-based project supported 350 young people under age 30 living with Type 1 diabetes (150 in Bekaa and 200 in North Lebanon). Beneficiaries received diabetes awareness and education services, essential testing kits, and ongoing support through coordination with local community health centers.





GREECE

In 2025, SAMS Hellas delivered over 49,772 total services to more than 5,100 beneficiaries of all ages through its Mobile Medical Team Program and MHPSS Program.

2025 marked a milestone year for SAMS' presence in Greece, as the organization celebrated a decade of continuous service and commitment through SAMS Hellas. Over the past ten years, SAMS Hellas has worked alongside communities, partners, and supporters to advance equitable access to healthcare for all individuals, regardless of background or legal status. This anniversary year provided an opportunity not only to reflect on shared achievements, but also to reaffirm the collective responsibility and solidarity that continue to guide the organization's work in Greece.

IMPACT IN 2025

MEDICAL SERVICES

More than **19,961**

MHPSS SERVICES

More than **29,811**

Beneficiaries country of origin:

- Syria
- Afghanistan
- DRC
- Egypt
- Iraq
- Sierra Leone
- Sudan
- Ukraine
- Greece



From Survival to Stability: Journeys of Resilience and Hope

M.Y.B., originally from Cameroon, arrived in Greece alone in 2025 and, after being found in a vulnerable situation, was introduced to SAMS through a local couple. Facing significant psychological distress upon arrival, he sought support from SAMS and was quickly connected with comprehensive care, including a psychologist, social worker, and legal assistance. He describes SAMS as a source of stability and support, emphasizing how organizations can play a critical role for newly arrived individuals. Now in a safer and more supportive environment, he expresses gratitude for the freedom he experiences in Greece and looks ahead with hope, aspiring to work, travel, and build a meaningful future.





IRAQ

In 2025, SAMS continued to expand access to essential healthcare services across Iraq, delivering targeted, community-based interventions designed to meet both immediate and long-term needs. Through its SAMS Dental Clinics, implemented from January to June with support from the Syrian American Medical Society Private Fund, services were brought directly into five refugee camps, Domiz 1 Camp, Domiz 2 Camp, Bardarash Camp, Koya Camp, and Gawilan Camp. Operating in these underserved and resource-limited environments, SAMS dental teams provided a comprehensive range of services, including emergency dental treatments, routine care, and preventive interventions. By integrating treatment with oral health education, the program not only addressed acute dental issues but also helped reduce the risk of future complications.

In parallel, and in partnership with Life for a Child, SAMS strengthened its support for pediatric diabetes care across Erbil and Mosul. Serving 1,360 children living with diabetes, the program focused on ensuring uninterrupted access to essential monitoring supplies, including the distribution of 24,000 glucose strips and 12,000 lancets. To further support self-management and caregiver involvement, SAMS also distributed 1,000 glucometers, enabling families to conduct regular blood glucose monitoring at home. Complementing these material resources, the program placed significant emphasis on education and capacity building, delivering 1,257 awareness sessions. These sessions covered critical topics such as proper glucometer use, interpretation of blood glucose readings, routine monitoring practices, and safe handling of medical consumables.

IMPACT IN 2025

CHILDREN SUPPORTED
1,360

AWARENESS SESSIONS
1,257

REFUGE CAMPS SERVED
5



Together, these integrated efforts reflect SAMS' broader approach to healthcare delivery in Iraq, combining direct service provision with education, prevention, and sustained support systems to strengthen health outcomes among vulnerable and displaced populations served by the Syrian American Medical Society.





UKRAINE

In response to the growing humanitarian and mental health needs in Ukraine, SAMS expanded its programming in 2025 to support healthcare workers affected by ongoing conflict. Recognizing the increasing strain on frontline providers, SAMS prioritized the development of targeted Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) interventions to strengthen both individual well-being and system-wide resilience.

The initiative began in July 2025 with a comprehensive start-up and planning phase. During this period, SAMS convened a series of preparatory and coordination meetings with key stakeholders, including the World Health Organization, the MHPSS Technical Working Group, Ukrainian national and international NGOs, and hospital leadership. Parallel to these engagements, project and support staff were recruited and onboarded to ensure a strong operational foundation and timely implementation.

Project activities formally launched in October 2025, focusing on expanding access to structured MHPSS services for healthcare workers in conflict-affected regions. SAMS delivered group-based and individual MHPSS sessions for healthcare professionals, including those working in facilities engaged in Mass Casualty Management (MCM) Preparedness and Response activities. In addition, SAMS provided capacity-building training to Ukrainian MHPSS providers, strengthening local expertise and contributing to sustainable service delivery.

IMPACT IN 2025

BENEFICIARIES	MHPSS SERVICES
104	173



Between October and December 2025, the program delivered 173 services to 104 individuals. These interventions addressed acute psychological distress, promoted emotional well-being, and reinforced coping mechanisms among healthcare workers operating in high-pressure environments. Complementary MCM-focused trainings further enhanced preparedness and response capabilities, equipping healthcare teams with the skills needed to effectively manage conflict-related emergencies.

Through these integrated efforts, SAMS continued to support the resilience of Ukraine's healthcare workforce while contributing to the broader strengthening of mental health and emergency response systems in a complex humanitarian setting.





GAZA

In response to the escalating humanitarian crisis in Gaza Strip, SAMS Foundation significantly expanded its lifesaving health and humanitarian operations throughout 2025, delivering critical services across multiple sectors despite extreme access constraints and ongoing conflict. Building on prior efforts initiated in 2024, SAMS strengthened its logistical partnerships to ensure the continued flow of essential medical supplies into the region.

In January 2025, a SAMS-funded medical shipment was successfully facilitated through the Rafah Crossing and delivered to the Palestinian Red Crescent for distribution. The medications, procured through SAMS' partner in Egypt, Mersal Foundation, were distributed to frontline healthcare workers to help alleviate severe shortages and sustain essential medical services at a time of heightened demand. Throughout the year, and with a dedicated team of 21 frontline medical professionals, SAMS scaled up its clinical response through a network of five static and mobile medical teams operating across both southern and northern Gaza. In the south, services were delivered in Khan Younis, Deir Al-Balah, Nuseirat, Maghazi, and Bureij, while northern operations covered Remal, Sheikh Radwan, Central Gaza, and Al-Galaa. This dual geographic coverage allowed SAMS to reach populations with limited or no access to functioning healthcare systems. In parallel, SAMS-supported dental clinics in partnership with Health Care and Development Association (HCDA).

IMPACT IN 2025

SERVICES
129,889

PEOPLE SERVED
102,682

DENTAL SERVICES
17,830



SAMS adopted an integrated service delivery model combining mobile maternity and child health units with emergency medical teams and two fixed primary healthcare points located in northern and southern Gaza. This flexible approach enabled rapid response to shifting population needs while maintaining continuity of care. Across all services, psychosocial support was embedded as a core component, recognizing the profound mental health impact of displacement, loss, and prolonged instability.

As food insecurity intensified, SAMS integrated nutrition screening into its programming for children under the age of three and provided milk formula to 1,400 malnourished children, addressing urgent needs linked to rising famine conditions.





EGYPT

In 2025, SAMS marked a significant milestone in its regional presence with the formal registration of SAMS Egypt in June. This development strengthened the organization's operational footprint in the region and enhanced its ability to support ongoing humanitarian response efforts, including improved coordination, partnerships, and access to technical expertise in support of populations affected by crises in neighboring contexts such as Gaza Strip.

Building on this expanded capacity, SAMS Egypt advanced strategic partnerships to address urgent mental health needs. In collaboration with Action for Child Trauma International (ACT International), SAMS Egypt delivered a four-day Children's Accelerated Trauma Treatment (CATT) training in October 2025 at the Embassy of the State of Palestine in Cairo. The training brought together 28 mental health professionals from a range of organizations across Egypt, fostering a collaborative, multidisciplinary environment dedicated to strengthening child and adolescent mental health care.

The CATT training focused on equipping participants with evidence-based, trauma-informed approaches to support children and adolescents affected by conflict, displacement, and psychological distress. Through interactive, hands-on sessions, participants strengthened their ability to help young people process traumatic experiences, regulate emotions, and rebuild a sense of stability, safety, and resilience.

IMPACT IN 2025

- 1 SAMS Egypt office formally registered (June 2025)
- 1 CATT training conducted
- 4-day training delivered
- 28 mental health professionals trained



The training concluded on October 29, 2025, with a closing session attended by H.E. Ambassador Diab Al-Louh, Ambassador of the State of Palestine in Cairo. His presence underscored the importance of cross-sector collaboration in addressing the mental health needs of children impacted by crisis, and he commended both the participants and organizers for their commitment to advancing child-focused mental health support.

Through these efforts, SAMS Egypt continues to expand its regional engagement while contributing to the strengthening of specialized mental health capacity for vulnerable populations, particularly children and adolescents affected by conflict and displacement.





LIBYA

Throughout 2025, the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS Foundation), in partnership with Speetar, continued to strengthen and expand healthcare delivery in Derna, with a strategic focus on mental health services and sustained community engagement. Building on prior efforts, the program prioritized both direct service provision and long-term capacity strengthening within the local health system.

A total of 1,816 mental health consultations were delivered, addressing a wide spectrum of psychological needs arising from displacement, trauma, and ongoing socioeconomic challenges. These consultations were complemented by 1,132 community outreach activities designed to increase public awareness of mental health, reduce stigma, and promote early help-seeking behaviors. Through these engagements, the program fostered stronger community connections and improved access to reliable mental health information.

In parallel, significant investments were made in workforce development, with 465 doctors and healthcare workers receiving targeted training to enhance their clinical knowledge and practical skills in mental health care. These training sessions emphasized evidence-based approaches, culturally sensitive care, and the integration of mental health services into primary healthcare settings, contributing to a more resilient and responsive health workforce.

IMPACT IN 2025

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

1,132

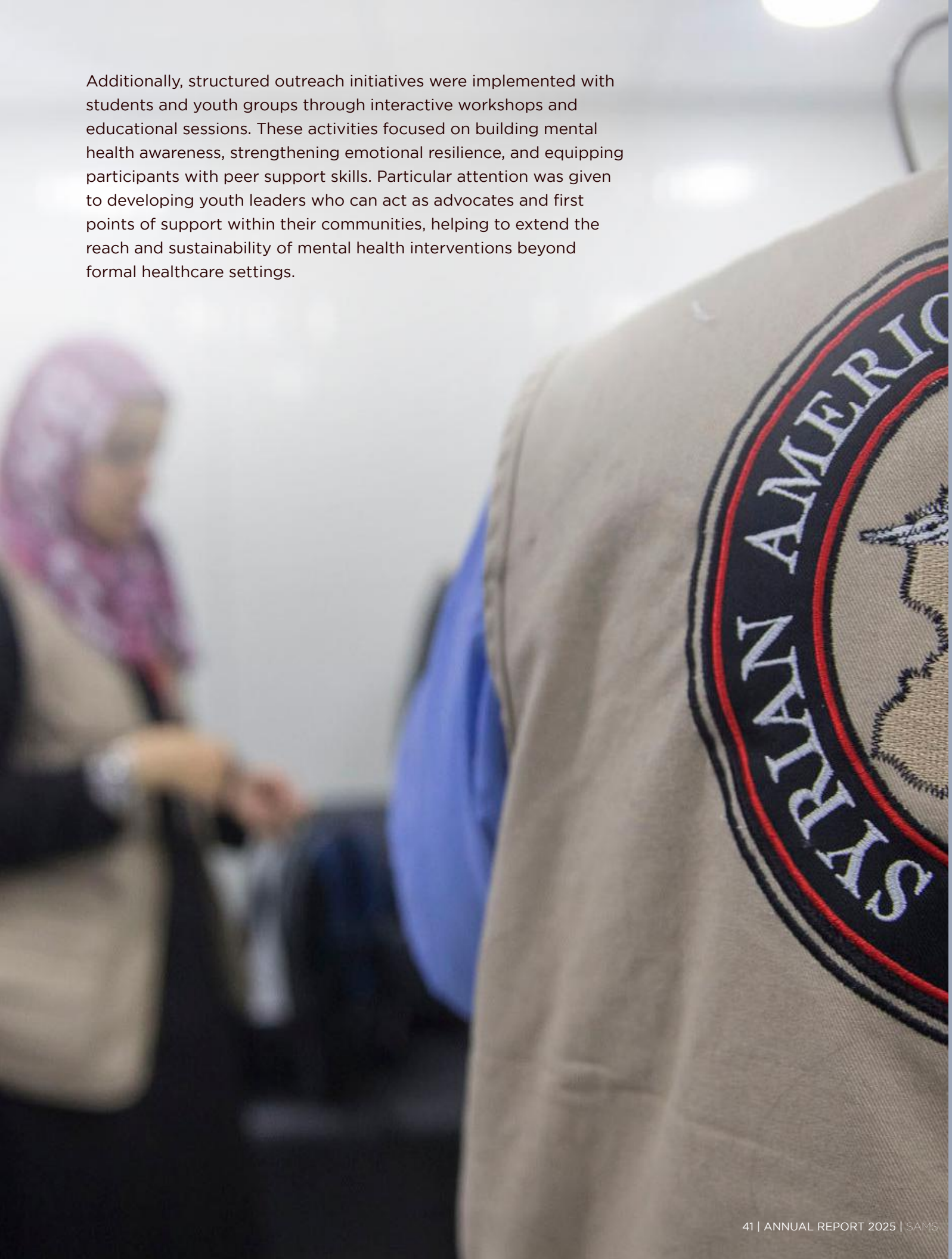
MENTAL HEALTH SESSIONS

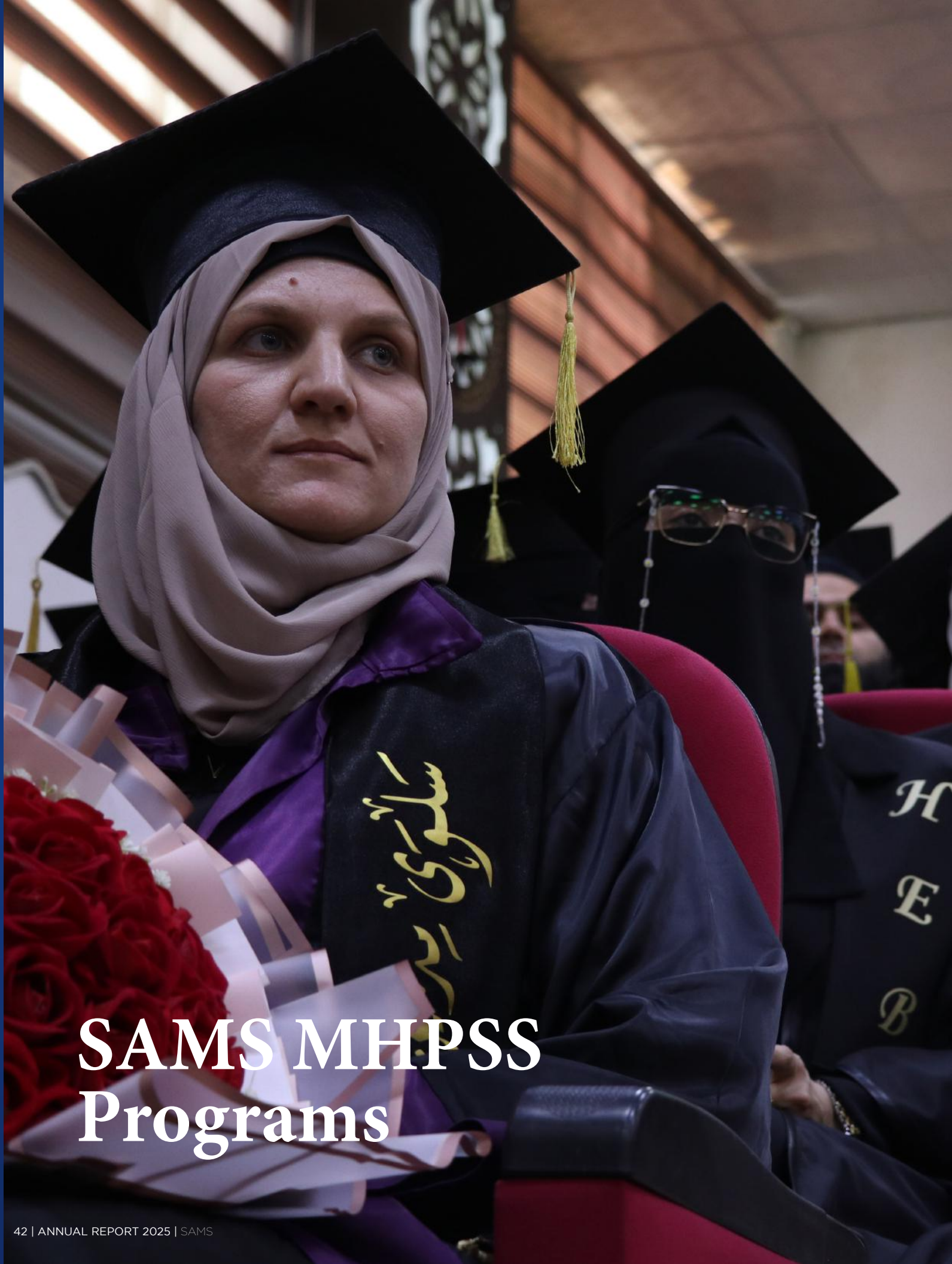
1,816

HEALTHCARE WORKERS TRAINED

465

Additionally, structured outreach initiatives were implemented with students and youth groups through interactive workshops and educational sessions. These activities focused on building mental health awareness, strengthening emotional resilience, and equipping participants with peer support skills. Particular attention was given to developing youth leaders who can act as advocates and first points of support within their communities, helping to extend the reach and sustainability of mental health interventions beyond formal healthcare settings.





SAMS MHPSS Programs

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

MHPSS in Jordan

SAMS Jordan office has provided mental health and psychosocial support services since 2015, including individual and group therapy, psychiatric care, gender-based violence response, and training of frontline providers from government ministries, universities, and community-based organizations.

Jordan continues to host over 500,000 refugees, the majority from Syria, alongside smaller populations from Gaza, Iraq, Yemen, and Sudan. In 2025, referrals to SAMS MHPSS centers increased by 40% following significant reductions in international funding, which have had a major impact on mental health and protection services. SAMS has become a key provider of comprehensive mental health support for Syrians in northern and central Jordan, directly serving 6,648 individuals in 2025 and indirectly reaching an estimated 23,300 people through family and community networks.

Many refugees face significant barriers to accessing affordable mental health care and often rely on out-of-pocket payments. UN agencies and NGO partners continue to refer cases to SAMS daily, with a high proportion presenting with severe psychological distress, including suicidal ideation.





115,610 MHPSS Services

Key Achievements and Impact

- **Cognitive Awareness:** Participants demonstrated an increased ability to distinguish between negative and positive thought patterns, improving self-perception and interpersonal understanding.
- **Social Development:** Group sessions fostered a strong sense of collaboration and teamwork, enhancing participants' ability to engage constructively with others
.
- **Problem-Solving Skills:** Adolescents acquired practical strategies to identify and manage daily challenges in healthier, more productive ways.
- **Emotional Expression:** The safe and supportive environment enabled participants to express themselves openly and confidently.
- **Behavioral Application:** A marked improvement was observed in participants' motivation levels and their ability to apply learned skills beyond the sessions, particularly in peer interactions.

Mental Health Education in Syria

SAMS partners with universities in Syria and regional academic institutions to strengthen mental health education and workforce development.

Funded by the European Union's Delegation to Syria, this initiative includes:

- Master's Program in Clinical Psychology (23 graduates)
- Diploma in Psychiatric Nursing (58 graduates)

These programs are implemented in partnership with Free Aleppo University (Azaz) and Al Sharq University (Ar-Raqqa), marking the first structured academic mental health programs of their kind in Syria.

Additional training components include:

- Diploma in Psychosocial Support (27 graduates)
- Trauma-focused interventions:
  - Children's Accelerated Trauma Technique (CATT)
  - Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT)

In 2025, 108 students graduated from academic programs, and 70 mental health providers were certified in evidence-based trauma therapies.

SAMS continues to expand partnerships with academic institutions and support efforts to strengthen national mental health systems, including regulation, training, and professional standards.

CETA Counselor Training

To address the shortage of mental health services for children and adolescents, SAMS has strengthened community-based counseling capacity using the Common Elements Treatment Approach (CETA), an evidence-based intervention developed at Johns Hopkins University for delivery by trained non-specialists in low-resource settings.

CETA provides structured one-on-one support for children with moderate to severe mental health needs, while CETA Psychosocial Support (CPSS) addresses mild symptoms and crisis-related distress among children and caregivers.

Since its introduction, CETA counselors in Syria have supported more than 1,000 children, adolescents, and caregivers.

In 2025, SAMS expanded the program by training six CETA supervisors as trainers. With support from the CETA Global team, they delivered new trainings for 30 providers in Hama, who will continue to provide mental health and psychosocial support services to children, adolescents, and caregivers.

This initiative is supported by Creating Hope in Conflict: a Humanitarian Grand Challenge, a partnership between the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office and Global Affairs Canada, with support from Grand Challenges Canada.



Helping Hand

The Helping Hand program, developed by Dr. Solfrid Raknes and implemented by SAMS since 2021, provides stigma-free, digital mental health support for youth aged 12–17. Through a guided game-based approach, participants address challenges such as anxiety, depression, trauma, and bullying while building resilience in small, peer-supported groups. covery, resilience, and reintegration into society.

Locations Served

Lebanon, Jordan and expansion planned in Syria

Medical Services

- Game-based mental health intervention (10–12 weeks)
- Peer-led group sessions and mentorship
- Training for peer leaders, teachers, and community facilitators
- Caregiver support curriculum
- Youth Clubs serving as mental health hubs (mindfulness, public speaking, participatory theatre)

Breaking the Silence: Hussein's Journey with the "Helping Hand" Program

For 14-year-old Hussein, a Syrian teenager struggling with social anxiety, the program was transformative. Through ten sessions in Irbid, he learned to manage stress, communicate more confidently, and overcome negative thinking. By the end of the program, Hussein had grown so much that he was invited to lead a group session, sharing his experiences and newfound confidence with others.



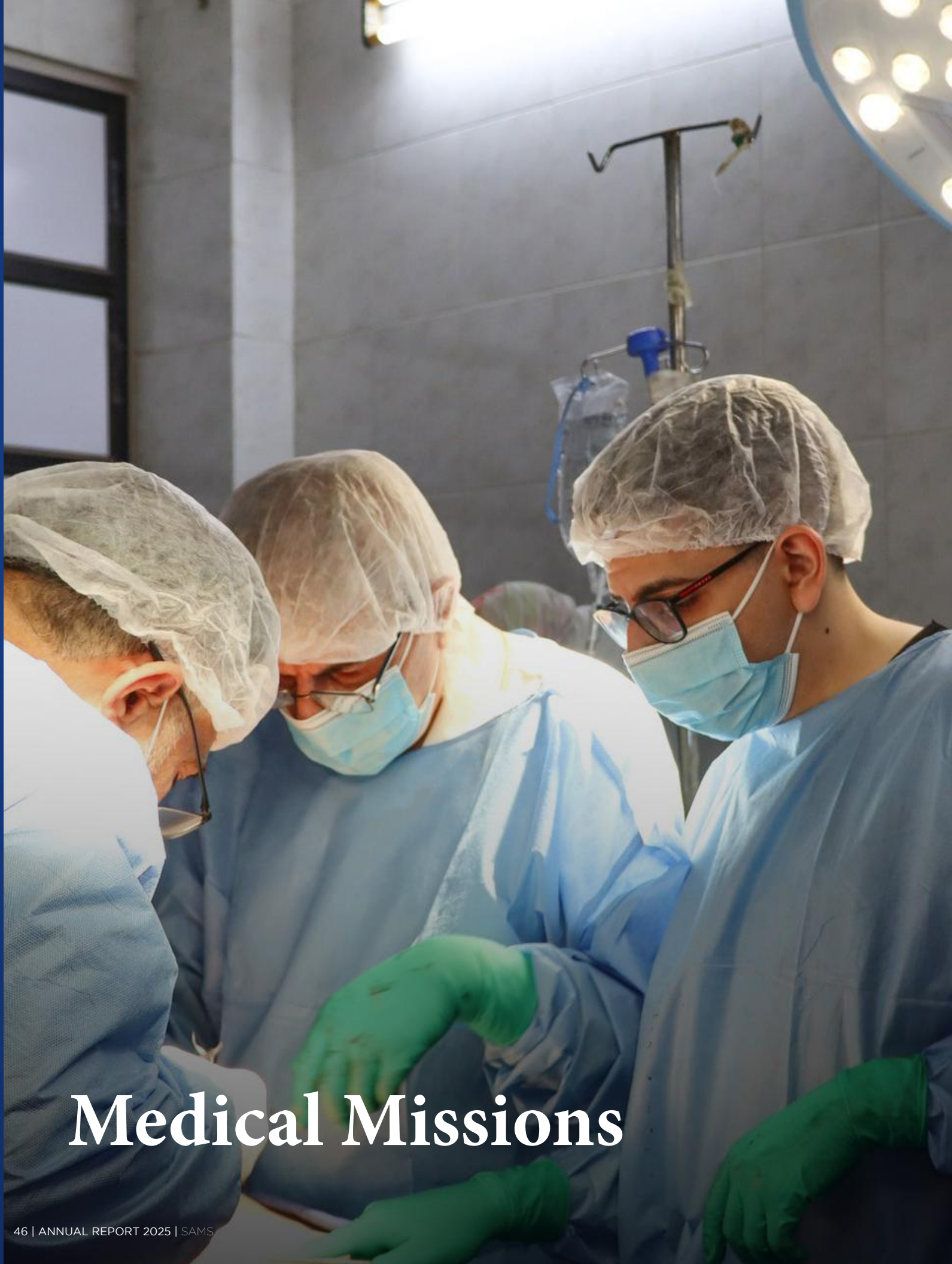
5,249 youth graduates

523 peer leaders trained

81% of participants showed reduced depression and anxiety (Lebanon pilot)

"I am proud of myself. To any child or teen who feels socially anxious: don't stay silent—ask for help. You deserve to succeed."





Medical Missions

Medical Missions

In 2025, SAMS conducted a total of **50+ medical missions** across Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Morocco, supported by 665 international volunteers. The missions provided specialized medical and dental care across key fields, along with preventive services and essential treatments for underserved and refugee communities. They also included capacity-building efforts through training, mentorship, and medical education for local healthcare providers.

Syria

In 2025, SAMS implemented an extensive medical mission program across Syria, comprising **33 individual specialized missions and eight large-scale multispecialty group missions.** These missions brought together experts across key specialties, including surgery, cardiology, ophthalmology, obstetrics and gynecology, oncology, urology, and dentistry, expanding access to lifesaving and advanced care for underserved communities. Across seven governorates—Deir Ezzor, Daraa, Homs, Aleppo, Idlib, Damascus, and Hama—the program reached patients through thousands of consultations and surgical and interventional procedures, benefiting large numbers of individuals in high-need areas. In addition to direct service delivery, SAMS strengthened local capacity through structured medical education, hands-on clinical training, mentorship, and knowledge exchange sessions for healthcare workers and trainees, reinforcing both immediate care provision and longer-term health system resilience.

Jordan

In 2025, SAMS carried out three medical missions in Jordan, addressing critical clinical needs while **strengthening education and mental health support for refugee and host communities**. The missions brought together multidisciplinary teams across key specialties, including cardiology and cardiac surgery, ophthalmology, pediatrics, internal medicine, family medicine, plastic surgery, dentistry, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), expanding access to specialized and preventive care in underserved settings. Across the missions, SAMS engaged large numbers of beneficiaries through consultations, referrals, school-based preventive services, and continuity of care, while also supporting coordinated regional care pathways that extended into Syria. In addition to clinical services, the missions placed strong emphasis on capacity building through structured medical education for hundreds of medical students, hands-on training, mentorship, and clinical exposure for local healthcare providers, alongside dedicated MHPSS interventions and referral systems to strengthen long-term psychosocial support services.



Lebanon

In October 2025, SAMS conducted a dental mission in Lebanon in coordination with the Kuwait Dental Mission, bringing together 18 volunteers to deliver essential oral healthcare services to underserved communities. The mission focused on preventive and basic dental care, expanding access for children and young adults, and strengthening community-level oral health outcomes. Across the mission, hundreds of beneficiaries received care through clinical examinations, treatment, and preventive interventions, supported by strong local coordination and engagement that ensured effective outreach and service delivery in high-need settings.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Conducted 50+ medical missions across Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Morocco with 665 international volunteers.
- Expanded access to specialized medical, surgical, dental, and mental health services for underserved and refugee communities.
- Strengthened local healthcare systems through training, mentorship, and medical education for healthcare providers.
- Delivered critical dental care and preventive services to vulnerable populations, including 2,000+ children in Morocco.

Morocco

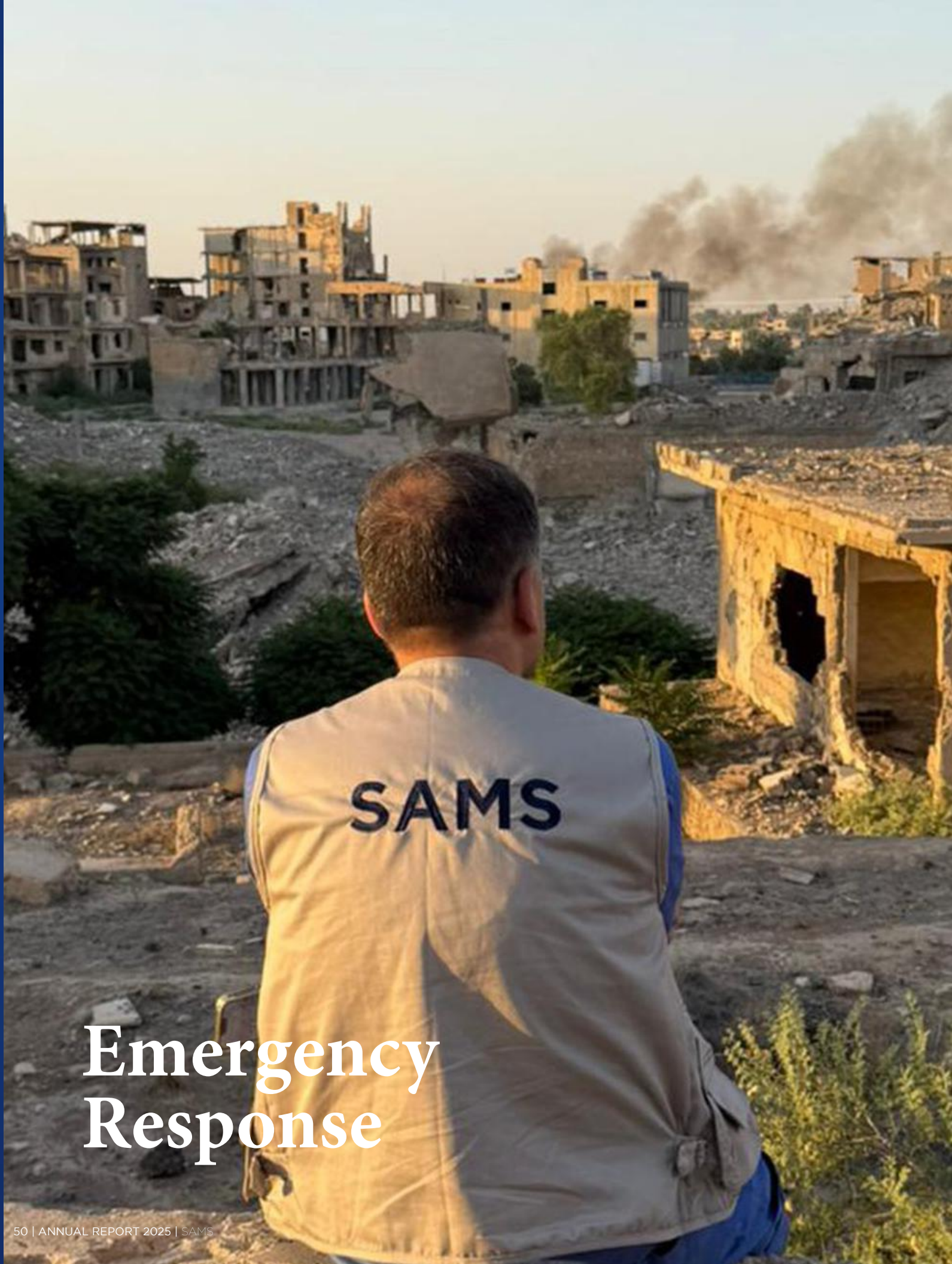
In December 2025, SAMS Foundation carried out its second dental mission in Morocco in Touma Village, in collaboration with local partners and Taghdouine Central School Group. The mission brought together a team of 12 volunteer dental professionals from Kuwait, alongside 11 local volunteers, to deliver essential oral healthcare services to more than 2,000 children with limited access to care. The program focused on preventive and basic dental services, including screening and triage, urgent pain and infection management, fluoride and SDF applications, extractions, oral health education, and toothbrush distribution to support long-term hygiene practices. Cases requiring advanced care were referred for follow-up treatment. Through strong local coordination and partnership-based implementation, the mission ensured culturally appropriate and sustainable service delivery, helping reduce untreated dental disease, relieve pain and infection, and strengthen long-term oral health outcomes in the community.





> ***"I have seen the courage and dedication of Syria's healthcare professionals, who work tirelessly to protect lives under incredibly challenging circumstances. Their resilience, and the perseverance of their patients, is a reminder that hope endures even in the face of immense hardship."***
>
> Dr. Mohammad Al-Khudari,
> Ophthalmologist

Watch the Video



Emergency Response



Syria Emergency Response and Restoration

Response in Southern Syria

In 2025, SAMS launched a targeted emergency health response to address urgent needs arising from the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in southern Syria, particularly in Sweida and Daraa.

The intervention focuses on closing critical health service gaps through two integrated pillars. Pillar 1 supports internally displaced persons (IDPs) through two Mobile Medical Units providing life-saving primary health care, staffed by a general practitioner, nurse, pharmacist, and data entry support, and equipped with essential medicines and supplies.

Between July and December 2025, the mobile clinics delivered primary health, reproductive health, and trauma consultations, reaching a total of 1,652 patients—primarily in Daraa, with additional services provided in Sweida— aiming to serve up to 11,000 patients overall and maintain at least 80% patient satisfaction. This pillar has improved access to essential health services in hard-to-reach areas, ensured continuity of care despite facility closures, and delivered flexible, mobile health services in insecure contexts. Pillar 2 focuses on strengthening health system resilience by supporting Shahba Hospital to maintain secondary and diagnostic care. This includes the procurement of MRI and C-ARM equipment in late 2025 to enhance diagnostic and surgical services, alongside the designation of a hospital focal point to oversee installation, operation, maintenance, and safeguarding of the equipment.

1,652 patients treated through mobile clinics

2 mobile medical units deployed

11,000 patients targeted for health services

7,000 patients treated through mobile clinics





Response to Wildfires in the Coastal Region

Response to Latakia Wildfires

As part of SAMS' emergency response to the Latakia fire, SAMS implemented a rapid procurement process to ensure the immediate availability of essential medical supplies and fuel, directly supporting the delivery of emergency and lifesaving health services.

By prioritizing surgical consumables, essential medications, and fuel, SAMS enabled affected health facilities to remain fully operational during a critical period, ensuring uninterrupted care for communities impacted by the fire. Key medical and surgical supplies were procured to strengthen emergency medical response capacity, allowing health teams to promptly treat fire-related injuries and manage other urgent, life-threatening conditions. These supplies were delivered in August 2025, ensuring that frontline facilities were adequately stocked at the height of response needs. In parallel, fuel was secured and delivered by mid-July 2025, safeguarding the continuous operation of health facilities, ambulances, and emergency services when access and infrastructure were under strain. All items were delivered within exceptionally short timeframes—fuel within two days and medical supplies on the same day or within days of approval—demonstrating SAMS' ability to act decisively in emergencies.

Overall, the timely and efficient procurement under the Latakia Fire Response had a direct, positive impact on the continuity and quality of lifesaving health services.

TIMELINE

August 2025
Delivery of medical and surgical supplies

Mid-July 2025
- Fuel delivery completed
- Medical supplies delivered after approval





> ***"I really tried to spend [time in] the clinic not just checking the heart or lungs, but also checking on them. How many kids do you have? What they're doing? How do you spend your time."***
>
> Dr. Mohammad Saleh,
> Internal Medicine

Watch the Video



SAMS Institute

Strengthening Medical Education & Healthcare Capacity Across Syria

In 2025, the SAMS Institute reinforced its role as a national leader in advancing medical education and healthcare workforce development across Syria. In close coordination with the Syrian Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Higher Education, the Institute implemented integrated academic, clinical, and vocational programs designed to address critical workforce shortages and strengthen the resilience of the healthcare system.

Throughout the year, SAMS supported thousands of healthcare workers and students through high-impact training initiatives, innovative learning platforms, and strong institutional partnerships—ensuring that education continues to serve as a foundation for improved patient care and long-term system sustainability.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Expanded integrated academic, clinical, and vocational training in coordination with Syria's Ministries of Health and Higher Education.
- Over 1,000 professionals trained in advanced simulation labs, plus residency, fellowship, and CME programs across 12 specialties.
- Scholarships and technical training (nurses, ICU technicians, midwives) strengthened frontline capacity and health system resilience.

Key achievements in 2025 included the expansion of the Simulation Lab Center, which trained more than 1,000 healthcare professionals through advanced clinical simulation programs aligned with international standards. Graduate Medical Education initiatives supported many physicians through residency, fellowship pathways, and specialized lectures in priority fields such as pathology, nephrology, and cardiology. Continuing Medical Education activities spanned 12 specialties, delivering hundreds of scientific lectures to keep providers aligned with global best practices.

The Student Scholarship Program continued to invest in Syria's future by supporting students in medical, health, and social science fields in partnership with leading educational institutions. Meanwhile, the Medical Technical Institute graduated a new cohort of nurses, intensive care technicians, and midwives who are now filling critical frontline workforce gaps across the country.





Health Research

Health Research in Transition

In 2025, SAMS continued to strengthen its research portfolio around priority health challenges in Syria, including health and conflict, emergency response, oncology care, and chronic disease management. Across these themes, SAMS research contributed to evidence generation for care delivery, health system planning, and broader understanding of health in crisis-affected settings. As SAMS and Syria begin a gradual transition from conflict response toward recovery and rebuilding, this body of work also helps lay the foundation for an evolving research agenda focused on resilience, recovery, and health system strengthening.



PUBLISHED RESEARCH:

CANCER CARE IN NORTHWEST SYRIA

Led by Dr. Mohamed Hamze and colleagues, this case series examined breast cancer care at Idlib Oncology Center (2017–2022), highlighting late-stage diagnoses, treatment delays, limited radiotherapy access, and the challenges of delivering cancer care in a conflict-affected setting. The findings underscore the need to expand localized oncology services in northwest Syria.

REBUILDING ONCOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE

Authored by Dr. Diala Tawfiles, Dr. Aula Abbara, Dr. Kaveh Khoshnood, Dr. Fouad Fouad, Dr. Mohamed Hamze, and colleagues, this paper explored the long-term rebuilding of Syria's oncology infrastructure, emphasizing workforce development, continuity of care, and access to specialized treatment. It positioned cancer care as a key component of broader health system recovery.

HUMANITARIAN LOGISTICS DURING THE SYRIA–TÜRKIYE EARTHQUAKES

Led by Dr. Sarah Almidani and colleagues, this study analyzed supply chain and logistics challenges during the 2023 Syria–Türkiye earthquakes, identifying barriers to delivering essential medicines and supplies. The paper highlights lessons for disaster preparedness, including stronger logistics systems, prepositioned supplies, and improved emergency coordination.

HUMANITARIAN LOGISTICS DURING THE SYRIA–TÜRKIYE EARTHQUAKES

Led by Dr. Sarah Almidani, Dr. Aula Abbara, Dr. Mohamed Hamze, and colleagues, this study examined supply chain challenges during the 2023 Syria–Türkiye earthquakes, highlighting barriers to delivering essential medicines and supplies. The findings provide key lessons for disaster preparedness, including stronger logistics systems, improved coordination, and more resilient humanitarian supply chains.

Academic and Institutional Engagement

SAMS also expanded its academic and institutional engagement during 2025. At the SAMS 23rd International Conference in Damascus, Dr. Mohamed Hamze, on behalf of the Research Committee, presented the SAMS research portfolio and used the opportunity to strengthen links with Syrian researchers, universities, and potential academic partners. This reflected a growing emphasis on academic engagement inside Syria, including relationship-building with institutions in Aleppo and Damascus and closer alignment between research, programs, and medical education.

In collaboration with the SAMS Youth Committee, SAMS also supported the launch of a youth-focused research journal club. This created a space for students and young professionals to engage with SAMS research priorities and discuss selected papers relevant to Syria and other conflict-affected settings, helping connect research work with the next generation of Syrian and diaspora learners.

Global Dissemination of SAMS Research

SAMS continued to share earlier research findings in international forums in 2025. At the Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) in Atlanta, Dr. Maia Tarnas presented findings from earlier SAMS-supported work on conflict, forced displacement, and attacks on healthcare in Syria. This marked the third consecutive year of SAMS participation at CUGH and extended the reach of SAMS evidence into a major global health forum.

SAMS also participated as a panelist in an SAEM webinar on health workforce challenges in crisis contexts, alongside speakers from Syria, Sudan, and Gaza. Drawing on SAMS' experience in Syria, the webinar highlighted pressures facing health workers in crisis settings and the importance of protecting the workforce sustaining essential care.

At the Royal College of Surgeons conference in London for the second year, SAMS prepared to present its research on attacks on healthcare together with documentation and artwork from field health workers affected by attacks on healthcare in Syria. This helped extend the visibility of SAMS' long-standing work documenting attacks on healthcare and sharing those experiences in international medical discussions.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Expanded academic partnerships with Syrian universities and researchers.
- Engaged future researchers through a youth research journal club.
- Presented SAMS research globally at leading health conferences and forums.
- Raised awareness of attacks on healthcare and workforce challenges in crisis settings.



SAT_176

Exploring relationships between conflict intensity, forced displacement, and healthcare attacks: a retrospective analysis from Syria, 2016-2022

Tarnas MC[1], Hamze M[2], Tajaldin B[2], Sullivan R[3], Parker DM[1,4], Abbara A[2,5]

1. Department of Population Health and Disease Prevention, UC Irvine; 2. Syrian American Medical Society;
3. King's College London; 4. Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, UC Irvine; 5. Department of Infection, Imperial College

Introduction

- Attacks on healthcare facilities have become a new global 'norm' in conflict

Key Takeaways

Healthcare attacks play an important role in larger conflict dynamics in the Syrian conflict in three primary ways: **1)** healthcare facilities are not avoided in conflict, **2)** healthcare attacks significantly precede other conflict events, and **3)** healthcare attacks are significantly associated with displacement

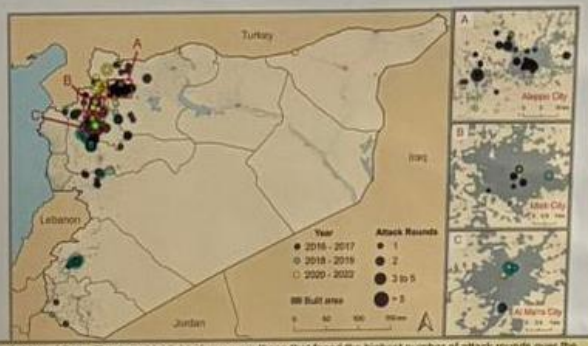


Fig. 2: Map of Syria. The three highlighted areas are those that faced the highest number of attack rounds over the study period. Built area indicates areas with buildings, housing, roads, or other infrastructure.

Results: Models 1 and 2

- Conflict events were associated with healthcare attacks in the same week (IRR: 1.14; 95% CI: 1.12 - 1.17)
- Healthcare attacks were associated with increased risk of conflict events in the week following the attack(s), even when accounting for the number of conflict events in previous week

Covariate		IRR (95% CI)	p-value
No. of healthcare attack rounds in prior week	None	Comparison	
	1	1.37 (1.16-1.61)	0.0003
	2	1.44 (1.08-1.91)	0.01
	3+	0.84 (0.64-1.10)	0.19
Conflict events	1 – 1wk	1.10 (1.09-1.11)	<0.0001
	1 – 2wk	1.03 (1.02-1.05)	<0.0001
	1 – 3wk	1.02 (1.01-1.03)	0.0002
	1 – 4wk	1.02 (1.01-1.03)	<0.0001

Methods: Model Building

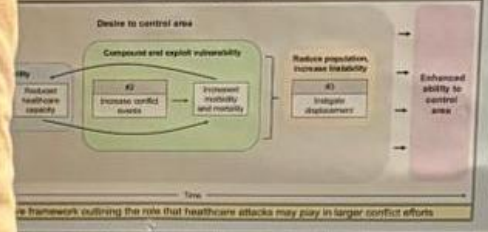
- Applied three generalized additive models (GAMs) with negative binomial distributions
- Model 1: assessed association between healthcare attacks (outcome variable) and general
  nflict at the district-week level
  ssessed whether healthcare attacks in one week were associated with conflict events
  ng week (outcome variable) at the district-week level
  utoregressive terms for conflict events in the prior 1 - 4 weeks
  ssed relationship between healthcare attacks and displacement (outcome variable)
  rate-month level. Model was run with healthcare attacks lagged 0, 1, 3, and 6 mo.
  toregressive terms for displacement in prior 1, 2, and 3 months

Results: Model 3

ciated with displacement; this is still present 3mo. after the attacks, but not 6mo.

No lag		1-mo lag		3-mo lag	
IRR (95% CI)	p-value	IRR (95% CI)	p-value	IRR (95% CI)	p-value
Comparison					
0.91 (0.69-1.21)	0.53	1.35 (1.01-1.81)	0.02	1.52 (1.13-2.04)	0.01
0.89 (0.63-1.26)	0.51	0.89 (0.63-1.27)	0.66	0.92 (0.65-1.31)	0.65
2.46 (1.71-3.53)	<0.0001	1.14 (0.78-1.66)	0.11	0.84 (0.58-1.20)	0.34
1.41 (1.26-1.57)	<0.0001	1.48 (1.33-1.66)	<0.0001	1.49 (1.33-1.65)	<0.0001

Proposed Framework



framework outlining the role that healthcare attacks may play in larger conflict efforts

Discussion

- **Healthcare attacks may be a better predictor of future conflict than prior conflict levels**
- Perpetrators may attack healthcare prior to other violent actions as a military tactic
- **Conflict parties do not avoid healthcare facilities in conflict, violating IHL**
- Hospitals may be strategically targeted as they provide expanded care and are larger than primary care centers
- **Healthcare attacks are an important precursor to displacement** and may be a decisive factor for individuals to leave
- Given our findings, we propose a framework to explain one potential pathway through which healthcare attacks play into larger conflict tactics (*Fig. 3*)
- This work adds to evidence supporting accountability and justice for victims of attacks on healthcare in Syria
- **As Syria transitions into a new era, it is essential that healthcare facilities are safeguarded from further attacks and respected by all emerging authorities**

Read more in *Conflict and Health*

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Advocacy

Advocacy and Policy Engagement Report 2025

Throughout 2025, SAMS carried out an ambitious advocacy agenda focused on protecting healthcare workers, safeguarding humanitarian access, and influencing policy decisions that shape the wellbeing of communities across Syria and the wider region, including the lifting of economic sanctions on Syria. The year brought major shifts in humanitarian funding, new diplomatic openings, and renewed violence, all of which required sustained engagement with partners, stakeholders and institutions. Within this evolving context, SAMS strengthened its role as a trusted technical partner and policy voice, grounding its advocacy in operational evidence and field-based expertise. Engagement spanned governments, the United Nations, international financial institutions, and Syrian stakeholders, including direct technical engagement with the Government of Syria on health sector priorities, recovery needs, and coordination frameworks.

A central theme of SAMS advocacy in 2025 was the transition from short-term emergency assistance toward long-term, equitable, and locally driven recovery. In support of this shift, SAMS launched SAMS Health 2030, a strategic vision that reorients the organization's work toward health system strengthening, supporting the health workforce, and sustainable recovery and durable service delivery models. Across all engagements, SAMS consistently emphasized that meaningful health system recovery requires predictable financing, improved access to medical imports, and the removal of unnecessary barriers created by sanctions, financial de-risking, and inconsistent banking compliance.

Engagement with the U.S. Government

Early in the year, SAMS responded to the U.S. Government's temporary pause on foreign assistance, publicly urging a reversal of the decision due to its direct impact on life-saving programs serving millions of Syrians. This moment shaped SAMS's engagement throughout the year, as the organization continued to emphasize the essential role of U.S. humanitarian support for stability and health system recovery.

In Washington, SAMS held targeted meetings with Members of Congress in April, focusing on accountability for attacks on healthcare facilities, conditions facing frontline health workers, and the impact of shifting U.S. policy on service delivery. These discussions increased understanding of the urgent needs inside Syria and highlighted SAMS's role as a critical implementing partner.

May marked an important policy change when the U.S. announced a shift in its Syria sanctions policy. SAMS welcomed this decision and underscored how easing restrictions could improve access to medical supplies and humanitarian goods. SAMS leadership followed up by meeting with U.S. Government officials to discuss post-sanctions needs and ongoing challenges in accessing financial channels, importing medical equipment, and sustaining healthcare operations.

Throughout the year, SAMS advocated for the renewal of humanitarian waivers, sanctions exemptions, and broader relief measures, while keeping U.S. policymakers informed about the humanitarian impact of sanctions, financial de-risking, and barriers to aid delivery. In December, SAMS welcomed the repeal of the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act through the FY2026 National Defense Authorization Act as an important step toward Syria's economic recovery and reintegration. SAMS recognized the leadership of U.S. policymakers, allied partners, and Syrian-American advocacy organizations, while emphasizing the continued need for clear regulatory guidance, expanded licensing pathways, and practical assurances to enable responsible humanitarian and economic engagement.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Advanced healthcare-focused advocacy with governments, the UN, and key stakeholders.
- Launched SAMS Health 2030 to support long-term health system recovery in Syria.
- Influenced U.S. policy discussions on humanitarian aid, sanctions, and healthcare access.
- Advocated for removing barriers to medical imports, funding, and humanitarian operations.

Engagement with Regional, Global Partners and Multilateral Institutions

At the international level, SAMS worked to reposition the health system recovery as a cornerstone of Syria's stabilization. Engagements with the United Nations, international financial institutions, and donor governments focused on moving beyond fragmented emergency assistance toward sustained investment in essential services.

Through sustained dialogue with UN agencies and Member States, **SAMS emphasized expanded access to healthcare** in underserved areas, stronger donor coordination, accountability for attacks on medical facilities, and the critical role of credible non-UN actors in delivering specialized and high-impact health services. These discussions reflected growing international recognition that recovery will depend on practical, field-informed approaches grounded in service continuity and local capacity.

SAMS reinforced these messages through participation in major global and donor forums. At the **Brussels Conference on "Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region,"** SAMS welcomed renewed international commitments while underscoring that funding levels alone are insufficient if health systems remain under-resourced and fragmented. SAMS consistently highlighted persistent gaps threatening primary care, hospital operations, and workforce sustainability.

This advocacy continued through engagement with international financial institutions, including the World Bank–IMF Annual Meetings in Washington, DC in October, where SAMS contributed field-driven perspectives on reconstruction financing, economic deterioration, and infrastructure recovery, with particular emphasis on primary care, the health workforce, and early recovery priorities.

In parallel, **SAMS deepened engagement with European governments and regional partners** to translate policy commitments into longer-term support for Syria's health sector. Through sustained diplomatic outreach across multiple European capitals, SAMS advanced dialogue on predictable financing, recovery programming, and health system strengthening. These efforts culminated in two comprehensive EU advocacy tours in March and October, which generated strong interest in SAMS's health system strengthening approach, early recovery frameworks, and specialized care portfolio, reinforcing SAMS's role as both an operational and strategic partner.

At the **Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) in Oslo**, SAMS played a leading role working alongside an alliance of Syrian NGO to develop and present a recommendation paper outlining a shift from fragmented emergency relief toward a sustained, locally driven recovery approach. The recommendations emphasized localization, financial access, early recovery, durable solutions, protection of rights, and the need to integrate humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding efforts within a coherent framework.

Crucially, SAMS ensured that global and regional advocacy remained grounded in realities inside Syria. Through participation in the **EU-organized Day of Dialogue in Damascus in November**, SAMS elevated field-based health priorities directly to international partners and national stakeholders, highlighting sustained strain on the health system and the need for disability inclusion, workforce support, early recovery investments, independent humanitarian access, and solutions to financial and regulatory barriers affecting service delivery.

This approach was reinforced through direct leadership engagement on the ground. In December, SAMS leadership, Dr. Aref Rifai, SAMS President, Dr. Abdul Rahman Zanabli, SAMS Vice President, and Foundation Chair Dr. Abdel Fatah El Shaar, conducted a field visit to Syria in December that combined direct participation in medical missions with high-level engagement with key partners and stakeholders. **The leadership took part in meetings with United Nations agencies, national health and higher education authorities**, and diplomatic representatives. These engagements focused on assessing needs, addressing operational challenges, strengthening essential and specialized healthcare services, and advancing coordination to support sustainable health system recovery.

SAMS further expanded its engagement with Syrian stakeholders and civil society by participating in the Diaspora Conference and engaging in national health governance processes, including the launch of the Syrian Ministry of Health's Strategic Plan. SAMS welcomed the emphasis on coordination and planning, while reiterating the importance of inclusive, evidence-based strategies that prioritize workforce development, service quality, and sustainable financing as foundations for long-term recovery.

Throughout 2025, SAMS engaged extensively with the United Nations and UN Member States in New York. In March, SAMS conducted a high-level mission meeting with WHO, UNICEF, and OCHA to advocate for expanded access to healthcare in underserved areas, stronger donor coordination, and greater accountability for attacks on medical facilities. This engagement continued in November through a series of meetings with UN Member States, where discussions reflected growing interest in health system recovery, specialized medical services, and the role of credible non-UN actors in delivering high-impact programs, underscoring SAMS's ability to bridge field realities with high-level policy forums.

Advocacy on Protection of Healthcare and Emergency Response

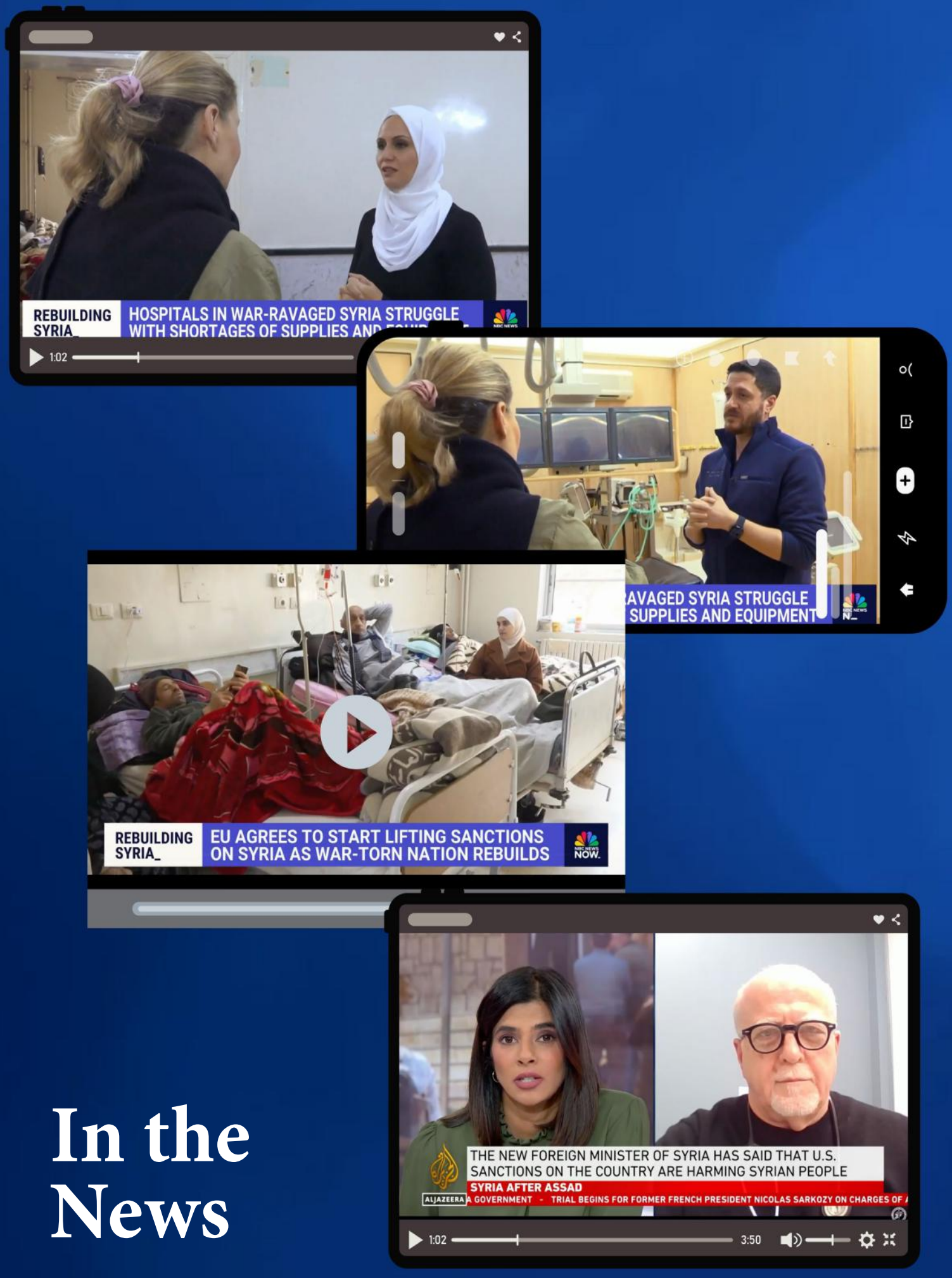
Throughout 2025, SAMS remained a leading advocate for the protection of healthcare workers and medical facilities in conflict zones. In Syria, SAMS responded to renewed violence in Latakia, Tartous, Damascus, Suwayda, Daraa, and Idlib, condemning attacks on healthcare, sustaining emergency services, and calling for accountability and humanitarian access. Despite ongoing insecurity, SAMS teams continued delivering lifesaving care, including treating more than 90 casualties following a mass-casualty explosion near Idlib.

Beyond Syria, SAMS advocated for the protection of healthcare in Gaza and Ukraine. The organization called for a ceasefire and respect for medical neutrality in Gaza, particularly after the destruction of a SAMS-supported clinic serving 1,600 patients monthly. In Ukraine, SAMS highlighted attacks on healthcare infrastructure and expanded mental health support, urging stronger international action to uphold humanitarian law and safeguard healthcare worldwide.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Promoted shift to long-term health system recovery in Syria.
- Engaged key global forums and policy platforms on Syria's health response.
- Strengthened coordination with UN, governments, and donors on access and financing.
- Grounded advocacy in field realities, including protection of healthcare and emergencies.




REBUILDING SYRIA_
HOSPITALS IN WAR-RAVAGED SYRIA STRUGGLE
1:02
AVAGED SYRIA STRUGGLE
SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT
REBUILDING SYRIA_
EU AGREES TO START LIFTING SANCTIONS ON SYRIA AS WAR-TORN NATION REBUILDS
NBC NEWS NOW
THE NEW FOREIGN MINISTER OF SYRIA HAS SAID THAT U.S. SANCTIONS ON THE COUNTRY ARE HARMING SYRIAN PEOPLE
SYRIA AFTER ASSAD
ALJAZEERA
A GOVERNMENT - TRIAL BEGINS FOR FORMER FRENCH PRESIDENT NICOLAS SARKOZY ON CHARGES OF
1:02
3:50

In the News

SAMS Featured in Global Media

In 2025, the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS) received prominent international media attention that underscored its growing role in stabilizing and rebuilding Syria's healthcare system after more than a decade of conflict. Coverage across major outlets like NBC News, Al Jazeera, the Associated Press, NPR, CBS, and Chicago Sun-Times, highlighted how SAMS is addressing urgent medical needs while also investing in long-term recovery of the country's health infrastructure.

NBC News

Hospitals in war-ravaged Syria struggle with shortages of supplies and equipment

"The salary of the doctors in this hospital is only $20 a month, enough for about four sandwiches"

Coverage from NBC News highlighted the severe challenges still facing Syrian hospitals, including shortages of trained medical staff, essential medications, and functioning equipment. Within that context, SAMS was presented as a key humanitarian partner helping to fill critical gaps by providing emergency medical supplies, deploying healthcare professionals, and supporting hospital operations in underserved areas.

Chicago Sun-Times

Chicago-area doctor returns to native Syria to revive war-torn nation's ailing health system

"The people of Syria, especially young doctors and medical students, need to know they are not alone." - Dr. Muffadal Hamadeh

"Through SAMS, we are not only delivering aid but helping rebuild a health care system that can sustain future generations."- Dr. Muffadal Hamadeh

Reporting by the Chicago Sun-Times focused on the leadership of Dr. Mufaddal Hamadeh, a Chicago-area physician and SAMS president, who traveled to Damascus to support efforts to restore healthcare services and train local medical professionals. The story illustrated how Syrian diaspora physicians are contributing expertise and resources to strengthen hospitals and clinics that were heavily damaged or depleted during the war.

Al Jazeera

SAMS President Dr. Mufaddal Hamadeh Speaks on recent Syria-Related General License

"The lifting of the sanctions comes at a perfect time and has been eagerly awaited. We hope this is the first step toward lifting all sanctions against Syria." - Dr. Muffadal Hamadeh

Meanwhile, an interview on Al Jazeera featured Dr. Hamadeh discussing the importance of humanitarian licensing mechanisms that allow aid organizations to operate despite complex sanctions and regulatory barriers. The discussion emphasized how SAMS leverages these frameworks to deliver lifesaving medical assistance and sustain healthcare services for vulnerable communities.



SAMS Society

Education Programs & Initiatives – 2025

Throughout 2025, the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS) continued to expand its educational programs, providing comprehensive support to medical students, graduates, and residents at different stages of their professional journeys. These initiatives focused on mentorship, career development, research promotion, and accessible learning opportunities for the global Syrian medical community.

Web-based Interview Skills Workshop

In 2025, SAMS continued its long-standing Virtual Interview Skills Workshop, marking the 20th consecutive year of this flagship program. The workshop prepared residency applicants for one of the most critical stages of their careers—the residency interview. Participants engaged in mock interviews followed by individualized feedback, along with practical guidance on interview preparation and post-interview expectations. Over the years, this program has supported hundreds of applicants, contributing to stronger applications and improved outcomes.

SAMS Observership Connection Program (OCP)

The Observership Connection Program continued to provide international medical students and graduates with valuable clinical exposure across a range of specialties. Through the support of volunteer physicians, participants gained insight into the U.S. healthcare system, strengthened their clinical knowledge, and explored different fields of medicine under the guidance of experienced mentors. The program remains a vital bridge connecting aspiring physicians with real-world clinical learning environments.

SAMS Scholarship Program

In 2025, the SAMS Scholarship Program maintained its commitment to reducing financial barriers for Syrian medical graduates pursuing U.S. residency opportunities. The program provided interest-free financial assistance to eligible applicants, helping them navigate the costly residency application process and supporting their transition into postgraduate medical training.

Residency Application Review Program

Through the Residency Application Review Program, applicants received personalized mentorship from senior physicians across multiple specialties. Volunteer mentors reviewed CVs and personal statements, offering detailed feedback and practical recommendations. This individualized guidance helped applicants strengthen their applications and improve their competitiveness in the residency match process.

Applicant Support Program

The Applicant Support Program continued to facilitate mentorship connections between Syrian residency applicants and practicing physicians and residents in the United States. By fostering meaningful mentor–mentee relationships, the program provided guidance, encouragement, and practical advice throughout the application journey. The dedication of volunteer mentors and the commitment of applicants contributed to the program's continued success.

ERAS Residency Application Webinars

Throughout the year, the Education Committee hosted interactive webinars focused on the ERAS residency application process. These sessions offered practical tips, answered applicants' questions in real time, and provided insights from experienced physicians and mentors. The webinars complemented the individualized review programs by offering broader, community-based support.

Residency Essentials Bootcamp

The Residency Essentials Bootcamp, a two-day intensive program, was designed to support incoming residents as they transitioned into this pivotal stage of their careers. Participants received practical strategies for success, including guidance on professional development, time management, teamwork, and avoiding common challenges during residency. The program aimed to equip new residents with the confidence and tools needed to thrive from their first day.

Educational Outreach Through YouTube

SAMS continued to expand its digital educational outreach in 2025 through its dedicated YouTube channel. The platform provided accessible educational content covering key aspects of the residency application process, including step-by-step guidance on completing ERAS applications. With thousands of subscribers and strong engagement—particularly for Arabic-language content—the channel served as an important resource for applicants worldwide.

Conference-Based Education Initiatives

Research Poster Exhibition – Damascus
In a historic milestone, SAMS launched the first Research Poster Exhibition in Syria during the 23rd SAMS International Conference in Damascus. The initiative reflected SAMS' commitment to promoting scientific research and academic excellence.

Nearly 200 research abstracts were submitted, including the majority from within Syria. After a competitive review process, 60 posters were selected, including original research projects and case reports. Notably, most of the selected submissions came from researchers based in Syria, highlighting the growing interest in research and academic development within the country. The exhibition created a dynamic platform for scientific exchange, direct discussions, and collaboration among medical professionals and researchers.

SAMS One-Day Young Professionals Conference

As part of the 23rd SAMS International Conference, SAMS organized the first-ever Young Professionals Conference in Damascus in July 2025. The event brought together medical students, residents, and fellows from Syria and abroad to explore career pathways in medicine and research.

With more than 400 students in attendance, the full-day program featured expert-led sessions, interactive workshops, and inspirational talks. Participants gained practical knowledge, mentorship opportunities, and valuable networking experiences. The conference highlighted SAMS' ongoing commitment to nurturing the next generation of medical leaders and supporting their professional development.





SAMS is proud to be at the forefront of global medical relief efforts and professional medical development.

Through annual conferences, medical missions, global partnerships, and a wide range of educational and service initiatives, SAMS creates a platform for collaboration, training, and impact.

Today, SAMS includes over 1,500 grassroots members and 13 active chapters across the United States, each contributing to a shared vision of supporting dignified, high-quality care and advancing medical education.



Community Outreach

Community Outreach

SAMS Community Clinic in Willowbrook, Illinois

Since its establishment in 2019, the SAMS Community Clinic in Willowbrook, Illinois, has provided free medical services to underinsured patients in the local community. Operating twice per month, the clinic is fully run by volunteers from the SAMS Midwest Chapter and reflects SAMS' commitment to service, compassion, and community-based healthcare. The clinic is unique among free clinics in Illinois for its ability to provide specialty services, including endocrinology, cardiology, pulmonology, and gynecology. Due to this expanded scope of care, the clinic frequently receives referrals from other community health centers. In 2025, the clinic continued to broaden its services, building on the recent addition of adult primary care, with plans underway to introduce dental services in the coming year.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Provided 125 patient encounters throughout the year.

Participated in the Back-to-School Bash at Hinsdale South High School, offering free school and sports physicals to students.

Hosted a special visit from Illinois State Representative Nicole LaHa, recognizing the clinic's impact on the local community.

Maintained a strong volunteer network, including:
- 16 physicians
- 20 students
- 2 pharmacists
- 1 echocardiography technician
- 2 healthcare administrators

Community Partnerships

In 2025, the clinic continued to benefit from the support of several community partners, including:

- Consolidated School District 180, including Anne M. Jeans Elementary School and Burr Ridge Middle School
- American Medical Lab in Chicago Ridge
- Advanced Urgent Care in Orland Park
- Middle Eastern Pharmaceutical Association of Midwestern University (MePA)

The SAMS Community Clinic is also an active member of the National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics and the Illinois Association of Free and Charitable Clinics.

Acknowledgment of Volunteers

The success of the SAMS Community Clinic is made possible by the dedication of its volunteer team of physicians, students, and healthcare professionals who generously contribute their time and expertise to serve patients in need. Their commitment continues to be the foundation of the clinic's impact and growth.





SAMS Assemblies

Assemblies

SAMS Assemblies are member-led, specialty-focused platforms that serve as the primary technical advisory bodies supporting SAMS programs. Each Assembly brings together members with shared expertise to advance the organization's mission in Syria and beyond. Through these collaborative groups, SAMS physicians and healthcare professionals contribute their knowledge, leadership, and technical guidance to strengthen medical services, education, and humanitarian initiatives.
Assemblies provide a structured platform for peer-to-peer engagement across a wide range of medical specialties and sub-specialties. Members share their scientific knowledge and professional experience to support program development, enhance healthcare delivery, and mentor colleagues working in challenging environments.

Core Areas of Engagement

Medical Education
Assemblies play a key role in designing and delivering educational programs based on approved curricula and scientific best practices. Activities include lectures, workshops, short-term training programs, and continuing medical education courses tailored to healthcare professionals in Syria and the region.

Medical Missions
Assembly members participate in structured, short-term medical missions focused on capacity building and the delivery of specialized medical services. These missions support healthcare facilities by providing expert care, hands-on training, and knowledge transfer to local teams.

Project Development and Fundraising
Assemblies contribute to the development of new medical and educational initiatives by proposing project ideas, advising on program design, and supporting fundraising efforts. Their expertise ensures that projects are practical, scientifically sound, and responsive to community needs.

Technical Assistance
Members provide ongoing technical support through quality assurance, remote supervision, case consultations, and mentorship for healthcare providers in Syria. This continuous engagement helps maintain high standards of care and strengthens local capacity.

In-Kind Donations and Financial Support
Assemblies also contribute to the procurement and distribution of essential medical supplies and equipment, helping ensure that critical resources reach healthcare facilities serving vulnerable communities.

Through their Assemblies, SAMS members actively contribute to program development and implementation. They provide expert guidance, support medical education initiatives, help organize medical missions, and collaborate on projects that directly improve patient care.

Active Assemblies

- Anesthesia and Pain Management
- Internal Medicine and Subspecialties
- Surgery and subspecialties
- Women's Health
- Pediatrics and Subspecialties
- Diagnostic Specialties
- ENT
- Cardiovascular and Subspecialties
- Gastroenterology and Subspecialties
- IT and Informatics
- Oncology, Hematology, and Pathology
- Ophthalmology
- Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep
- Mental Health and Psychiatry
- Neurology
- Dental
- Endocrinology
- Nephrology
- Pharmacy
- Students

SAMS Assemblies & Leaders (2025)

Medicine — Dr. Nabeel Alzaeim

Surgery — Dr. Osama Alomar
Vice Chair: Dr. Moutamm Sadoun

Ophthalmology — Ahmad Al-Moujahed

Women's Health — Dr. Radwan Asaad

Pediatric Specialties — Dr. M. Khaled Al-Ahdab
Vice Chair: Dr. Tarif Bakdash

Diagnostic Specialties — Dr. Ihsan Mamoun

Cardiovascular and Subspecialties —
Dr. Waddah Maskoun
Vice Chair: Dr. Ibrahim Kassas

GI and Subspecialties — Dr. Saud Suleiman Atassi
Vice Chair: Dr. Ihab Herraka

Oncology / Hematology — Dr. Sawsan Rashdan

Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep —
Dr. Anas Moughrabieh
Vice Chair: Dr. Ahmad AlHaj Husain

Mental Health and Psychiatry —
Dr. Amjad Bahnassi & Dr. Yousef Abouallaban

Neurology — Dr. Maher Saqquor
Vice Chair: Ahmad Yousuf Alsulaiman

Dental — Dr. Samer Al-Khudari

Endocrinology — Dr. Amir Habra
Vice Chair: Dr. Ula Abed Alwahab

Nephrology — Dr. Abdul Rahman Zanabli

Pharmacy — Dr. Maher Chaar
Vice Chair: Dr. Amir Merstani

Students — Dr. Ammar Ghanem

IT and Informatics — Dr. Fares Al-Ahdab

ENT — Dr. Samer Al-Khoudari

Anesthesia — Dr. Hisham Naji

Assembly Highlights

SAMS Autism Academy

In 2025, SAMS Autism Academy advanced from planning to implementation, launching community engagement, workforce training, diagnostic services, and therapy programs in Damascus. Key achievements included raising $181,882, training 123 autism professionals, conducting 44 autism evaluations, initiating therapy for 8 children, and educating 280 healthcare and therapy professionals.

SAMS Cochlear Implant Program

With conflict disrupting access to hearing care, SAMS conducted over 1,600 hearing assessments and performed 83 cochlear implant surgeries in Syria, followed by rehabilitation services. Children like Ghazal gained the opportunity to hear, communicate, and fully participate in daily life.

Radiotherapy Center in Hama

To address critical gaps in cancer care, SAMS is establishing and expanding a radiotherapy center in Hama. The project will increase access to lifesaving treatment, reduce travel burdens for patients, and strengthen oncology services for underserved communities across central Syria.



SAMS 2025 Leadership

Society Board of Directors

Dr. Aref Rifai | SAMS President
Dr. Abdul Rahman Zanabli | Vice President
Dr. Mufaddal Hamadeh | Former President
Dr. Muhammad Alsayid
Dr. Ammar Sukari
Dr. Kamal Al Fakiani
Dr. Tarek Jazaerly

Foundation Board of Directors

Dr. Abdulfatah Elshaar | Chair
Eng. Ismaail Aajoukah | Vice Chair
Dr. Kamal Alfakiani | Treasurer
Dr. Ahmed Al-Hazzouri | Secretary
Dr. Basel Termanini | Past Chair
Dr. Abdul Rahman Zanabli | Board Member
Dr. Aref Rifai | Board Member
Dr. Sawsan Rashdan | Board Member
Dr. Anas Kawayeh | Board Member
Dr. Mohammad Luay Alkotob | Board Member
Dr. Tarek Jazaerly | Board Member

Senior Staff

David Lillie | Executive Director
Dr. Randa Loutfi | Director of Programs
Safaa Aladham | Director of Finance
Dr. Mazen Kewara | Regional Director



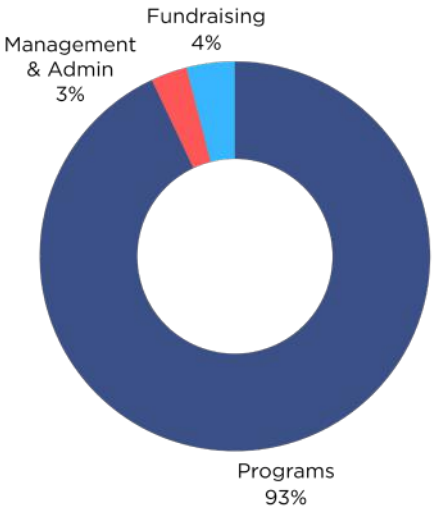
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS OF DEC 31, 2025

	2025	2024
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 7,946,080	$ 7,418,417
Investments	18,153,682	17,148,559
Grants and contributions receivable	3,600,460	6,185,873
Other receivables	219,352	422,368
Medical student loans receivable	114,928	120,077
Prepaid expenses and other assets	351,254	334,399
Property and equipment, net	2,115,701	2,061,319
Operating lease right-of-use asset, net	131,887	50,935
Total assets	$ 32,633,344	$ 33,741,947
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	$ 4,146,115	$ 3,376,323
Refundable advances	3,439,153	2,224,620
Operating lease liability	141,917	61,559
Total liabilities	7,727,185	5,662,502
Net assets		
Without donor restrictions	24,332,379	27,363,659
With donor restrictions	573,780	715,786
Total net assets	24,906,159	28,079,445
Total liabilities and net assets	$ 32,633,344	$ 33,741,947

FINANCIALS & DISBURSEMENTS

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Support and revenue			
Grants	$ 19,955,377	$ -	$ 19,955,377
Contributions	6,787,658	11,460,561	18,248,219
In-kind contributions	29,322,213	-	29,322,213
Net assets released from restrictions	11,602,567	(11,602,567)	-
Total support and revenue	67,667,815	(142,006)	67,525,809
Expenses			
Program			
Medical relief program	66,786,240	-	66,786,240
Total program	66,786,240	-	66,786,240
Supporting services			
Management and general	2,209,657	-	2,209,657
Fundraising	2,535,532	-	2,535,532
Total supporting services	4,745,189	-	4,745,189
Total expenses	71,531,429	-	71,531,429
Change in operating net assets	(3,863,614)	(142,006)	(4,005,620)
Other income	157,097	-	157,097
Investment income	675,237	-	675,237
Change in net assets	(3,031,280)	(142,006)	(3,173,286)
Net assets, beginning of year	27,363,659	715,786	28,079,445
Net assets, end of year	$ 24,332,379	$ 573,780	$ 24,906,159





Ways to Give

Website:
www.sams-usa.net/donate

Please mail your check to:
SAMS Foundation
P.O. Box 34115 Washington, DC 20043

To donate real estate, stocks, cryptocurrency, vehicles, or other assets, please email **info@sams-usa.net.**
To make a wire transfer, please email **safaa.aladham@sams-usa.net.**

TAX ID: 16-1717058 | CFC 25147





Here's how you can stay engaged:

Donate to support emergency relief and medical care:
sams-usa.net/donate

Volunteer your time and expertise:
sams-usa.net/volunteer

Advocate by amplifying our message and engaging with policymakers



Thank you for being part of the SAMS family.
Together, we are healing, rebuilding, and inspiring hope.

SAMS

Follow us for real-time updates and stories from the field:

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Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS)

Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS)

Address:
1012 14th ST. NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20005

Contact:
info@sams-usa.net
(202) 930-7802 | (866) 809-9039



SAMS-USA.NET