



ŞAM KARDEŞLİK VE
YARDIMLAŞMA DERNEĞİ

2023 Annual Activities Report

www.wifak.org



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A non-profit civil association with an independent legal personality, duly licensed in Türkiye since 2015, working in the humanitarian and developmental field and seeking to alleviate the suffering of human beings, combat the causes of poverty and need, and provide health and quality education to all segments of society.

The association's work during the year 2023 focused on:

Northern Syria: Due to the ongoing conditions of war and its impact on livelihoods, coupled with the devastating effects imposed by the earthquake on February, 2023. Additionally, there is a large number of people residing in scattered camps in Northern Syria, leading to the spread of disease, ignorance, and unemployment. It is worth mentioning that the population in Northern Syria has reached 4.5 million people according to United Nations statistics.

Southern Türkiye: Due to the effects left by the earthquake on both residents and refugees alike, and the need to provide various forms of assistance in the regions of Southern Türkiye. Official statistics indicate that more than 15 million people have been directly affected by the earthquake.

Gaza: Due to the ongoing war waged by Israel on Gaza, exacerbating the humanitarian situation dramatically and the urgent need to support and alleviate the conditions for its residents. Gaza is home to more than 2 million people.



Introduction

At the beginning of 2023, Wifak Humanitarian Association prioritized in its plan the support for sectors of education, shelter, and protection in an attempt to make a significant positive change in the Syrians' lives and transition from a state of continuous need to a state of production and development.

The 2023 plan considered targeting relief support to specific vulnerable groups in society such as orphans, patients, and people with disabilities. However, with the occurrence of the earthquake on February, 2023, priorities shifted, and the challenging humanitarian situations imposed themselves once again.

The association addressed the reality imposed by the earthquake through three measures:

- ✓ Launching an urgent response campaign to provide all necessary assistance to those affected by the earthquake in Syria and Türkiye.
- ✓ Initiating strategic quality projects to comprehensively address the effects of the earthquake in the health and shelter sectors.
- ✓ Resuming the implementation of the association's plans, which include sectors of education, shelter, development, and protection.



Humanitarian Programs Implemented During 2023

Overview of the Sectors, Projects, Numbers of Aid, and Beneficiaries

Shelter and Housing Sector

There is a significant need for housing in Northern Syria. Therefore, the association implemented several projects, including construction and renovation projects for houses, as follows:

Al-Nour Residential Project :

- The project was launched following the earthquake that struck Northern Syria on February, 2023, which led to the displacement of a large number of residents and the loss of their homes and belongings. Consequently, efforts were directed towards initiating a large housing project to provide decent shelter for the affected families.
- The project is a residential complex built according to an earthquake-resistant engineering system, consisting of 416 apartments within 26 buildings. Each apartment has an area of 65 square meters. The complex includes a mosque, a school, service management, gardens, roads, and public facilities.
- The location is the city of Jindires in the Afrin region, which is one of the cities most affected by the earthquake.
- As of the preparation date of this report, the land has been purchased, architecturally planned, and the project has been licensed. Road, water, and sewage networks have been laid, and a central well has been drilled. Currently, working on completing 128 residential apartments, with plans to deliver them to beneficiaries by March 2024.
- Targeted Segment: Widows, the sick, the elderly, and those without breadwinners among the affected population by the earthquake.



Residential Houses Construction :

- During 2023, the number of houses built in various areas reached 14 houses, each with an area of 44 square meters. Each house includes: two rooms, a kitchen, public facilities, and a sky courtyard.
- The house provides the family with privacy and contributes to its stability.
- Place of implementation: the Northern Countryside of Idlib.
- The beneficiaries of the project: Vulnerable and poor households.



Residential Houses Renovation

- During 2023, the number of houses that were renovated reached 22 houses, most were not-ready houses that locals resorted to due to poor living conditions. The project aims to assist these families in improving their housing conditions.
- The project becomes active before the onset of winter, and a specialized technical and engineering committee visits the houses to determine the necessary needs for renovation.
- Most of the beneficiaries from the project are families of orphans and those affected by the earthquake.
- Place of implementation: Aleppo Countryside - Afrin and Azaz.



Non-Food Items

Winter projects include distributing heating materials and children's clothing aimed at supporting exhausted families and camp residents during the winter season. The quantity of distributed aid was as follows:

Winter Warmth Campaign at the end of 2023			
	Assistance	No	Beneficiaries No
1	Winter coats for orphan children	707	707 Child
2	Winter coats for orphan children	707	707 Child
3	Heating kits "150 kg of charcoal"	20.250 tons	135 Family
Total number of aids		1549 Assistance	

Note: A specific section has been allocated for campaigns such as the earthquake response campaign and the Ramadan campaign, which will be detailed in this report.

Education Sector

In 2022, we adopted the slogan "The Solution Starts with Education" with our firm belief that nothing can restore impoverished communities in general, and the Syrian society in particular after years of devastating war, except by focusing on education. We recognize that the most significant cost society pays is having its children grow up without education. Therefore, the association prioritized educational programs and began constructing three schools in the countryside of Aleppo and Idlib. During 2023, we implemented a variety of projects serving the education sector, including:

Building and furnishing Al-Khwarizmi Al-Saghir (Small Khwarizmi) School in Azaz:

- The school was built in the city of Azaz, which is densely populated with residents and displaced individuals. After coordinating with the Directorate of Education and conducting field visits to the city's neighborhoods to select the best location, a district was identified where there is no school.
- By the grace of Almighty Allah, the association was able to construct, furnish, and inaugurate the school at the beginning of the academic year 2024-2023 to accommodate approximately 1,000 male and female students from the primary stage.
- The school consists of two floors, comprising 13 classrooms, 3 administrative rooms, a laboratory equipped with educational supplies, in addition to a courtyard, a soccer field, a basketball court, a garden, an activity corner, and public facilities.
- The school was inaugurated in the presence of officials and the public. During the opening ceremony, media attention was given to emphasize the importance of education, highlighting it as the sole solution and hope for the children of Syria



Wifak Educational Platform :

- The association launched a YouTube channel with the aim of disseminating high-quality educational content that explains the curricula set in Northern Syria. The Wifak Educational Platform aims to assist students in elementary and preparatory stages.
- Three main subjects have been started with: English, Mathematics, and Turkish. Other subjects will be added based on surveys that identify students' weaknesses.
- After a year of launching, the results were good, thanks to Almighty Allah, as follows: More than 1,200 subscribers, over 60,000 views, and more than 2,500 watch hours



Preparing and Opening Gaza School:

During 2020, "Mulaiem Tekin" elementary school was opened in "Al-Andalus" camp in Idlib Countryside, accommodating nearly 900 students. After three years of its opening, it became overcrowded with an influx of students, and the school could no longer accommodate more students. Based on the association's plans to combat the school dropout phenomenon and support education, especially in impoverished neighborhoods and camps, we, along with our partners, opened a new school named "Gaza Preparatory School". It consists of organized tent classrooms located next to the "Mulaiem Tekin School" to accommodate the new students. God willing, we will work on developing it into a regular school with the dedication and efforts of donors.



Basair "Visions" University Scholarship:

- In order to be partners with our students, the association launched a financial scholarship aimed at assisting university students on their challenging path.
- 155 university students from various accredited universities in Northern Syria benefited from the scholarship. They received a monthly financial amount in addition to participating in numerous training and educational activities that enhance students' roles in society and introduce them to the job market



Other Projects to Support Education:

Various projects were presented to three schools: "Mulaiem Tekin" School in Idlib Countryside, "Al-Akram" School in "Ahtemlat" camp, and "Al-Khwarizmi Al-Saghir" School in Azaz. The assistance included financial grants, stationery, educational supplies, heating materials, and more.



Health Sector

The health sector aims to address the significant deficiencies in the medical and healthcare system in Northern Syria, which became evident during the earthquake. Due to the importance of the medical sector in Northern Syria and considering the inadequate facilities and the urgent need for quality medical services, the association consulted with a specialized medical committee to identify essential medical requirements and locations for implementation. The following departments were subsequently opened:



CT Scan Department:

- The CT Department was equipped and inaugurated at "Al-Shifa Hospital" in Afrin in July 2023. The department was equipped with a multi-slice (-16slice) imaging/scanning device after outfitting, preparation, and isolation of the section. The equipment underwent testing and calibration. A specialized medical team was employed, and patients were received intensively from the first day of its opening, reflecting the significant need in the community. (The center provides its services to patients free of charge).
- Before our device started operating, it is worth mentioning that there was only a single CT device (operating for free) in Afrin city serving nearly one million residents in the area.
- The statistics of the CT department from July to the end of December 2023 were as:

Gender	Number of Scans
Male	1134
Female	1030
Total Scans	2164
Note	Among the cases, 570 scans were performed on children

Type of Procedure
Used in the
CT Department

Aortic artery with limbs	Complete scan	Neck and chest	Sinuses	Limbs	Abdomen and pelvis	Brain	Lumbar
50	126	175	72	55	338	780	569
These scans include 258 scans with shadow injections							



Crush Urinary Stones Clinics with Shock Waves Department:

- This is one of the specialized departments that was previously unavailable in Northern Syria. Kidney stone patients suffer significantly, and their options for seeking treatment are limited. They may have to travel to Türkiye for crush urinary stones procedures.
- The department was equipped, furnished, and isolated under the supervision of specialists. A new Turkish crush urinary stones device, operating on German technology, was procured. After a period of calibration, training, and hiring specialized staff, the department was inaugurated at "Al-Shifa Hospital" in Afrin in July 2023. The statistics of patients benefiting from the department from July until the end of December 2023 were as follows:



Gender	Number of crush urinary stones operations
Male	332
Female	268
Total operations	600
Note	Among the operations, 57 operation were performed on children

The statistics of the crush urinary stones department reflect the large gap that the department addressed in the region. Crush urinary stones operations are performed under medical supervision and completely free of charge.

Protection Sector:

Within the Protection Sector for 2023, a number of 14 projects were implemented, most of which were directed towards orphan children. Additionally, they were directed towards families facing challenging humanitarian conditions. The projects within the sector were as follows:



Orphan Care:

- Wifak Humanitarian Association gives significant attention to the issue of orphans due to the large number of orphans in Syria. The association aims to provide all necessary and sustainable forms of care for orphan families, including monthly sponsorships: The monthly sponsorship provided to orphans aims to protect them from exploitation, child labor, and school dropout. We strive to secure the basic needs of families, including nutrition, education, health, shelter, and psychological and social support. During 2023, the average number of orphans sponsored by the association reached 800 orphans.
- The orphan department in the association is overseen by a specialized office, "Orphan Care Office", which continuously monitors the conditions of families and proposes projects aimed at meeting their needs.
- The concept of sponsorship in the orphan office is not limited to providing financial assistance only but also assisting families from all possible aspects to overcome the phase of weakness.

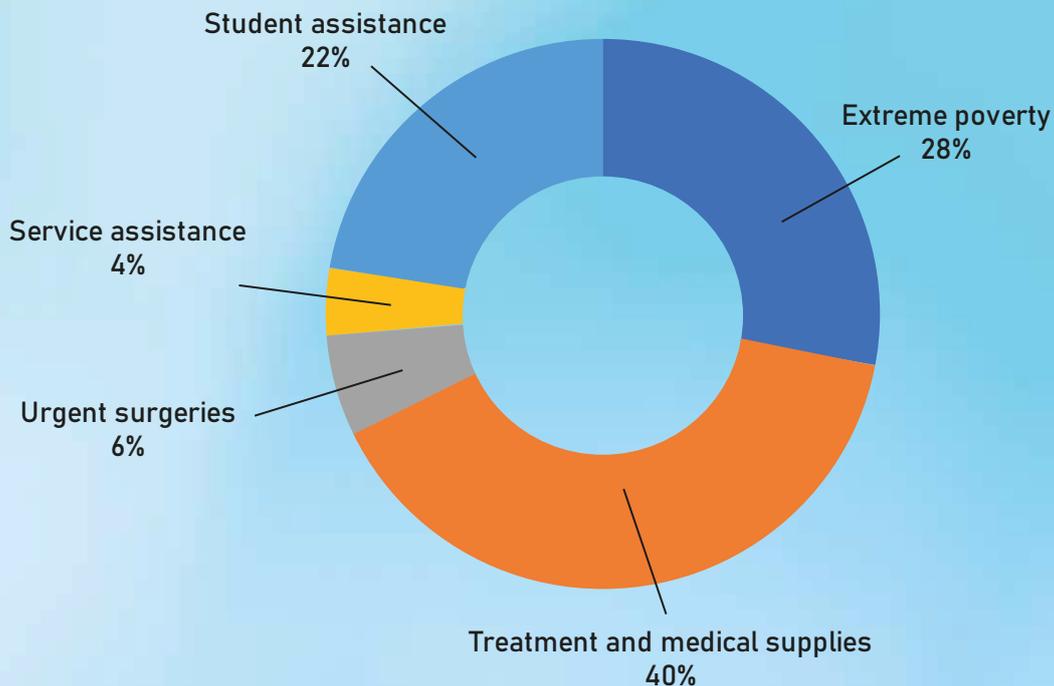
Relief Program for the Vulnerables:



- A humanitarian program that seeks to meet urgent humanitarian needs that pose a life-threatening risk. The project was launched in 2018 and has responded during this period to thousands of different humanitarian cases.
- The number of cash aids provided through the "Relief Program for the Vulnerables" reached 1,180 aids distributed in several areas in Turkiye and Syria.
- The program targets urgent and pressing cases such as unaffordable medical procedures, expensive medical treatments, or surgical operations. It also covers university tuition fees for impoverished students, fitting hearing aids for the deaf, providing wheelchairs for the disabled, assisting impoverished cases, among other things.

Work Mechanism: A hotline has been designated for the "Relief Program for the Vulnerables", where vulnerable families contact to request assistance. Afterward, cases are studied by a specialized committee, and families are visited to assess their needs. Subsequently, these needs are conveyed to donors, suggesting the necessary aid. Once cases are served, an electronic form is created for each beneficiary, and all cases along with their documentation are archived.

Relief aid distributed according to the case type



Food Security Sector and Urgent Seasonal Campaigns

One of the projects that the association works on includes seasonal campaigns such as the "Iftar for the Fasting" campaign during Ramadan, the "Sacrifice" campaign during Eid al-Adha, and winter campaigns. These campaigns target impoverished areas in cities and camps in Northern Syria:

Sacrifice Project 2023:

- One of the seasonal projects that the association implements annually involves receiving requests for sacrifices from donors, entrusting them to purchase, slaughter, and distribute them to families in camps and impoverished cities.
- During 2023, a number of 136 small sacrifices and 6 big sacrifices were slaughtered, resulting in the distribution of 3,005 portions of meat with an average weight of 2 kg each.



Food Aid Was Distributed at Various Times During 2023:

	Assistance	No	Unit	Beneficiaries No
1	Bread weighing 1000 Gr., 9 loaves	9294	Bundle	1495 Family
2	Food kit weighing 25 kg	615	Kit	615 Family
3	Minced meat assistance		1 Kg	2000 Family



Month of Ramadan Campaign 2023 - 1444

	Assistance Type	No	Unit	Distribution Locations
1	Child clothes (shoes, coat, pajamas and new underwear)	1200	Clothing kit	jindires
2	Women's clothing	400	Coat	jindires
3	Food kits	2250	Kit 19.5 Kg	Afrin - Azez Idlib - Countryside Jindires
4	Cooked meals (fasting breakfast)	60123 meals (rice and meat - meat meals)	500 Gr. Dates + Ayran	Afrin - Azez Albab
5	Group fasting breakfast tables include (meat meals - crispy meals - juices - ayran)	4 iftars to which approximately 700 fasting people were invited	By holding Ramadan feast, we aim to spread peace and revive the atmosphere of the holy month	Residents of Andalus camp Orphans within the city of Afrin Cleaning workers in the city Azaz



Beneficiary segment: families of orphans - vulnerable families - residents of shelter centers and camps.

Urgent Response Campaign for those Affected by the February 2023 Earthquake

The association launched an urgent response campaign during which the following aids were distributed:

Shelter			
	Assistance Type	No	Distribution Locations
1	Tent	68	Adiyaman Province
2	Blanket	1795	Jindires - Afrin
3	Sleeping bags	50	Adiyaman Province
4	Heaters and their supplies	63	Adiyaman Province
5	Hygiene kit	1500	Hatay Province
6	Gas	25	Afrin
7	Firewood truck 24 tons	2	Hatay Province
8	A new clothes kit that includes (full clothing, shoes, coat, pajamas, and underwear)	2802	Jindires



Service Assistance			
	Assistance Type	NO	Distribution Locations
1	Mosque tent 90 square meters	3	Jindires
2	Service block (3 toilets + bathroom)	2	Jindires



Cash Assistance			
	Assistance Type	NO	Distribution Locations
1	Cash of 5,000 TL, equivalent to 270\$	27	Gaziantep Province
2	Cash of 3,000 TL, equivalent to 150\$	26	Jindires
3	Cash of 1,000 TL, equivalent to 60\$	1318	Afrin - Azaz
4	Cash of 600 TL, equivalent to 35\$	823	Bab Al-Hawa Hospital Sarmada



Food Aid			
	Assistance Type	No	Distribution Locations
1	Cooked meal (for one person)	18024	Tarmanin - Afrin
2	5 Kg canned food basket	5395	Salkin - Jindires
3	Bread bundle	5670	Afrin



Psychological Support for Children Aimed at Recovery from the Earthquake Shock

Activities include: Taking children to some parks and public places, engaging in group and physical games, distributing gifts and favorite foods for children along with meaningful children's songs

1	Activity for children	250 children	Jindires
2	Activity for children	100 children	Afrin
3	Activity for children	120 children	Idlib Countryside
4	Activity for children	750 children	Aleppo Countryside



Gaza Support Campaign:

The war launched by Israel on Gaza in October 2023 resulted in immense humanitarian suffering. Wifak humanitarian association, in collaboration with humanitarian entities operating in Gaza, sought to alleviate this suffering through various means, including: Providing cooked meals - distributing food kits providing cash assistance - slaughtering calves and distributing meat - contributing to the preparation of food convoys from Egypt.



Development and Employment Sector

Our association operates through this sector focusing on both training and employment. This is achieved through professional training on one hand and providing interest-free loans to professionals on the other, aiming to shape the developmental sector projects as:

Vocational Training Courses for Young Men and Women :

- The project is implemented by Wifak humanitarian association in collaboration with the Directorate of Education in Azaz. This is done through operating the public education center and providing the necessary supplies to run professional courses, which include courses in (English language - mobile phone maintenance - nursing knitting - women's hairstyling - men's hairstyling).
- The duration of each course is 3 months, and at its conclusion, trainees acquire the essential knowledge necessary to start working within the profession.
- In 2023, a number of 120 young men and women benefited from the project, and we are working on the continuity and development of the project.



"Door to Well Livelihood" Project:

- The project began in 2019 by providing interest-free loans to professionals with the aim of creating job opportunities.
- During 2023, the association launched 15 projects according to the following professions: (Women's hairstyling selling and delivering water - manufacturing dairy and cheese products - tailoring and selling clothes men's tailoring - women's tailoring - refrigeration works - homemade food).
- The project is considered sustainable as it relies on collecting loans from the beneficiaries (current project owners) and striving to open new projects with the aim of creating more job opportunities.



Islamic Missionary Projects :

- "Dar Al-Kitab" (House of Books) Center for Islamic Sciences and Training of Preachers: A missionary project aimed at disseminating the Holy Quran and Islamic sciences, elevating moral and ethical standards, and promoting Islamic culture, especially among the youth. Location of the center: Afrin city.
- The center continues its work by launching religious courses targeting all groups, including children, youth, and women.
- The center houses a library with more than two thousand volumes and various halls for conducting lectures, courses, and recitations. The center is supervised by a group of scholars and experts in Islamic law qualified for this responsibility.



In conclusion, doing good deeds is among the greatest acts of worship to Almighty Allah, especially during wars and disasters where needs increase and poverty spreads. Surely, we cannot meet all the humanitarian needs in the areas we operate in, and there are humanitarian cases that we find ourselves unable to address. However, what we know is that we have exerted our utmost effort and capabilities, and we have done our best to help our people. Wishing that they will forgive us for any shortcomings.

We extend our gratitude to all the benefactors and those with generous hands, whether institutions or individuals, for their kind contributions and donations. We pray that Allah accepts from everyone. We recall the saying of Allah, the Most High: O you who have believed, bow and prostrate and worship your Lord and do good - that you may succeed.





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