



ANNUAL REPORT 2021



NORWAC
NORWEGIAN AID COMMITTEE

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Board Members

Berit Jagmann, Kristin Øren
and Line Khateeb

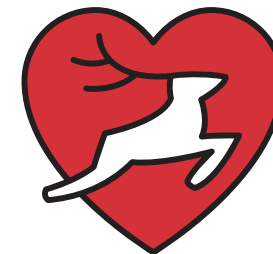
Country Directors

Lebanon: Dagfinn Bjørklid
Palestine: Marit Lieng
Syria: Belal Al-Jabri

As of 31.12.2021

*Cover photo: A family with a Syrian
doctor at the Aarsal Medical Centre
Photo: Solveig Øiestad, NORWAC*

INTRODUCTION



NORWAC
NORWEGIAN AID COMMITTEE

About NORWAC

NORWAC is a humanitarian non-governmental organization. Established in 1983, we have a long history in the Middle East and longstanding relations and cooperation with major local service providers across different communities. Our mission is to provide humanitarian medical assistance to the most vulnerable and neglected groups mainly living in the most exposed areas which are characterized by instability and frequent crises. All our projects are implemented through local partners and based on a needs-based approach and the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality.

Through close cooperation with medical institutions in Norway, many highly qualified experts cooperate with us in a wide range of medical specialties, as consultants, trainers or to work in the field in emergency situations. As a result, this has contributed to NORWAC's position to design and implement successful capacity building projects. This expertise also allows NORWAC to perform professional assessments and evaluations of the health-care services in the countries we work in.



NORWAC'S VISION

NORWAC shall contribute towards ensuring that entire populations, including refugees and other exposed groups, in countries and areas with humanitarian needs have access to basic, safe health services of high quality. NORWAC's work shall support national health authorities, local institutions and individual health workers' efforts to sustain the provision of necessary health services to minimize consequences of war and humanitarian crises.

IN THE SHADOW OF THE PANDEMIC

IN 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to add to the burden of the people in our partnering countries.

DUE TO some relief of the travel restrictions, we were able to visit our partners in Lebanon, but many of our capacity building projects had to wait. Our partner organizations, however, have done a formidable job on the ground, running existing projects and establishing new projects in response to the pandemic. NORWAC is proud of the heroic efforts of our partners to meet the needs of the most vulnerable people in their societies.

OUR MAIN DONOR, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) have, apart from supporting our long-term projects, also responded to the pandemic by allocating extra funds to fight the pandemic. In 2021, NORWAC's overall project budget was about 10 million USD.

IN PALESTINE, clashes on the West Bank and particularly in Jerusalem due to land disputes in Sheikh Jarrah and the Israelis government's efforts to evict Palestinians from their homes, ended in severe bombing raids on Gaza after Hamas fired rockets into Israel.

NORWAC responded by sending me to Gaza through Egypt. The crossing into Gaza was delayed

«NORWAC is proud of the heroic efforts of our partners to meet the needs of the most vulnerable people in their societies.»

and I did not reach Gaza until the cease fire was effective. However, the material damage was extensive and numerous casualties had to be treated in the Palestinian hospitals.

THE PANDEMIC proved the importance of our long-term oxygenator project with the aim to make Gaza totally self-sufficient when it comes to medical oxygen. The team of engineers worked with the authorities to meet the increased needs and oxygen could be delivered to all patients in the hospitals and by providing oxygen bottles to patients at home with oxygen bottles.

IN 2019, NORWAC started supporting the establishment of a pain clinic at Al-Shifa hospital in Gaza. Despite travel restrictions, the project continued successfully in 2021 and has developed into a scientific based modern pain clinic. The professional staff received online mentoring from the pain clinic at Oslo University Hospital. The results of this collaboration are impressive.

LEBANON IS in the middle of a political and economic crisis, which has worsened by both the COVID-19 pandemic and the explosion in the Beirut harbour 4 August 2020. Despite the challenging situation, the people in Lebanon showed both solidarity and a will to overcome the crisis. All projects with our partners in Lebanon aim at relieving the burden of vulnerable people, refugees and disabled.

IN SYRIA, the pandemic also added to the burden of an already tried society. Due to increased funding from the MFA, NORWAC was able to scale up the support also to the people of Syria.

WE WISH to thank all our partners in the Middle East and in Norway for support and heroic efforts the last year.



Erik Fosse
Chief executive officer, NORWAC

LEBANON

Grant: 25 500 000 NOK



Target Groups



A community of around 1 700 000 refugees; Palestinians from Lebanon (PRL), Syrians and Palestinians from Syria (PRS) and vulnerable groups in the host community.

NORWAC's Goals

- Contribute to retain and develop secondary health-care services for Palestinian refugees and other vulnerable groups.
- Develop and give access to mental health services for children, youth, women and traumatized adults.
- Sustain and strengthen sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and support primary healthcare services to refugees and the host community in the old town of Saida.
- Ensure rehabilitation services and specialized treatment for refugees and Lebanese with physical disabilities and spinal cord injuries.
- Support the education of Palestinian health personnel.
- Ensure life-saving treatment and medication for Syrian and Palestinian refugees with chronic diseases.
- Give access to fundamental healthcare services to Syrian refugees and the host community in Aarsal.

Local Partners

- Palestine Red Crescent Society
- Mousawat
- Palestinian Student Fund
- Maarouf Saad Social and Cultural Foundation
- National Institution for Social Care and Vocational Training
- Imam Sadr Foundation
- Islamic Health Society
- Union of Relief and Development Associations
- Health Care Society
- Rafik Hariri Hospital



The Medical Centre of Aarsal

Aarsal is a small town in the North-East of Lebanon with a population of 90 000 people, with two-thirds being Syrian refugees. NORWAC has, in cooperation with local partner URDA, been supporting the Medical Centre since July 2015, which is the only hospital in Aarsal. The goal has always been to improve the health service coverage for the population of Aarsal.

The hospital has an emergency department, an x-ray department, an operation theatre, and a laboratory. There is a pharmacy which is free of charge, and they also offer vaccinations. The hospital has 20 beds and about 50 staff. The hospital is dependent on Syrian doctors and nurses.

On a monthly basis the hospital:

- Receives about 3 000 emergency patients.
- Carries out 4500 treatments and consultations, including 100 surgeries.
- Provides 14 000 diagnosis services and medication to 2 400 patients.

The hospital has been of great importance for the people living in Aarsal, as many of the Syrian refugees have not been able to leave the area to seek help elsewhere.


3000

The emergency
department received about
3000 patients per month



*The hospital includes a laboratory.
Photo: Solveig Øiestad, NORWAC*

*A NORWAC and URDA delegation visited
the hospital in September 2021.
Photo: Solveig Øiestad, NORWAC*



MSSCF offer music sessions and music therapy. Photo: Solveig Øiestad, NORWAC



Projects in the Old City of Saida

Maarouf Saad Social and Cultural Foundation (MSSCF) is NORWAC's local partner in Saida. They provide a comprehensive preventive mental health programme for 650 children/youths, 400 women and 100 male adults annually.

MSSCF offers:

- Daily educational and recreational activities for about 50-70 children, mostly Syrian refugees.
- Programs for women which include psychomotor sessions, education for school drops-outs, workshops about women rights, domestic violence, discrimination, self-confidence, gender-based violence, and early marriages.
- Psychological collective therapy and individual counseling sessions for children.
- A holistic approach which includes early detection, referral to specialists, community outreach and home visits.



MSSCF offer art classes and art therapy sessions. Photo: Solveig Øiestad, NORWAC

In 2021 NORWAC received an emergency grant to support Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) in Lebanon, and expanded MSSCF's program for pregnant women in Saida. NORWAC supported a mobile Primary Health Care clinic with SRH focus and several awareness and educational activities for women, men, and youth. Two ultrasound machines, two EKGs, and laboratory equipment were also procured to further strengthen the local SRH services.

PALESTINE

Grant: 21 000 000 NOK



Target Groups



- The Palestinian population in need of health services, with a focus on war injured, women and neonates, patients with chronic diseases, and mental disorders.
- The Palestinian governmental health sector.

NORWAC's Goals

- Contribute to MoH's ability to deliver critical health services in Gaza.
- Contribute to strengthen and develop local health staff capability.

Local Partners

- Palestine Ministry of Health (MoH) West Bank and Gaza
 - Al-Shifa Hospital Gaza
 - Central Engineering Department (CED) Gaza and West Bank
 - Human Resources Development Department (HRDD) Gaza
 - International Cooperation Department West Bank and Gaza (ICD)
 - Palestinian College of Nursing (PCN)
- The Mental Health Directorate (MHD)

Projects

- Oxygen (O₂) support in Gaza
- Al-Shifa Spare Parts
- Medicines and medical disposables to Gaza
- Sterilization equipment to Al-Shifa Hospital
- Improving Mental Health in Gaza
- Safe Childbirth protocols at Al-Harazin and Kemal Adwan, Phase VI
- Pain Management – Phase III
- Emergency Health Aid to Gaza



The pharmaceutical storage room at the pain clinic. NORWAC supports all medication used at the clinic. Photo: Dina Abu Muaileq.



Emergency Health Aid to Gaza – Medicines and Disposables

As a result of the war in Gaza May 2021, NORWAC received an emergency grant of 8 mill. NOK to assist during the acute humanitarian crisis. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health (MoH), 1948 people were injured and 253 died during the war actions.

The health system in Gaza was already struggling to deliver necessary health services to the people in Gaza, and it was worsened due to COVID-19 and the war. MoH was in dire need of crucial medication and medical disposables to provide necessary medical treatment for the people in Gaza.

The grant provided the procurement of 83 different medicines, lab reagents and medical disposables available and in stock at the hospitals and saved lives in Gaza.



83

different items of medicines, lab reagents and disposables were made available



The new sterilization machine installed at Al-Shifa Hospital. Photo: Eman Sami, NORWAC

Sterilization Equipment to Al-Shifa Hospital

Through different surgical training programs NORWAC has detected a critical shortage of equipment for sterilization and infection control at various departments in Al-Shifa Hospital. This shortage affects the patients, who stand the risk of infection and other complications due to the use insufficient cleaned equipment. The main reason is the financial crisis in the MoH, but also poor water quality and electricity fluctuations cause malfunction of instrument and machines.

In 2021 NORWAC procured a sterilization machine (Steam Sterilizer of 600-liter capacity) at the General Surgery Building at Al-Shifa Hospital. This improved the sterilization process and the availability of surgical equipment and increased the patient safety and quality of care in Gaza.



The team at the pain clinic at Al-Shifa has worked successfully through the whole pandemic, with only digital support from Oslo. Photo: Solveig Øiestad, NORWAC

SYRIA

Grant: 35 721 326 NOK



Target Groups



- Local communities and IDPs in Syria
- People in need of medical assistance, such as patients with spinal cord injuries, neonates, children, or elderly with chronic renal failure
- Doctors, nurses, paramedics, and other health personnel

NORWAC's Goals

- Contribute to retain primary healthcare services
- Contribute to retain specialized healthcare services (blood bank/thalassemia, chronic diseases/ renal failure, physical rehabilitation)
- Providing effective emergency response for COVID-19
- Establishing and operating a midwifery upgrading programme

Projects

- Primary Health Care centres
- Blood Banks and Laboratories
- Radiology centre
- Thalassemia centres
- Kidney dialysis centres
- Specialized orthopaedic hospital
- Urology clinic
- Neonatal unit and midwifery upgrading programme
- Rehabilitation centre
- Procurement of medical equipment
- Procurement of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



NORWAC IN NUMBERS

15

employees



7,5

full positions



17

active medical consultants



- Doctors
- Nurses
- Midwives
- Physiotherapist
- Occupational therapist

30%

of NORWAC projects target
women and children



50

projects
NORWAC supports

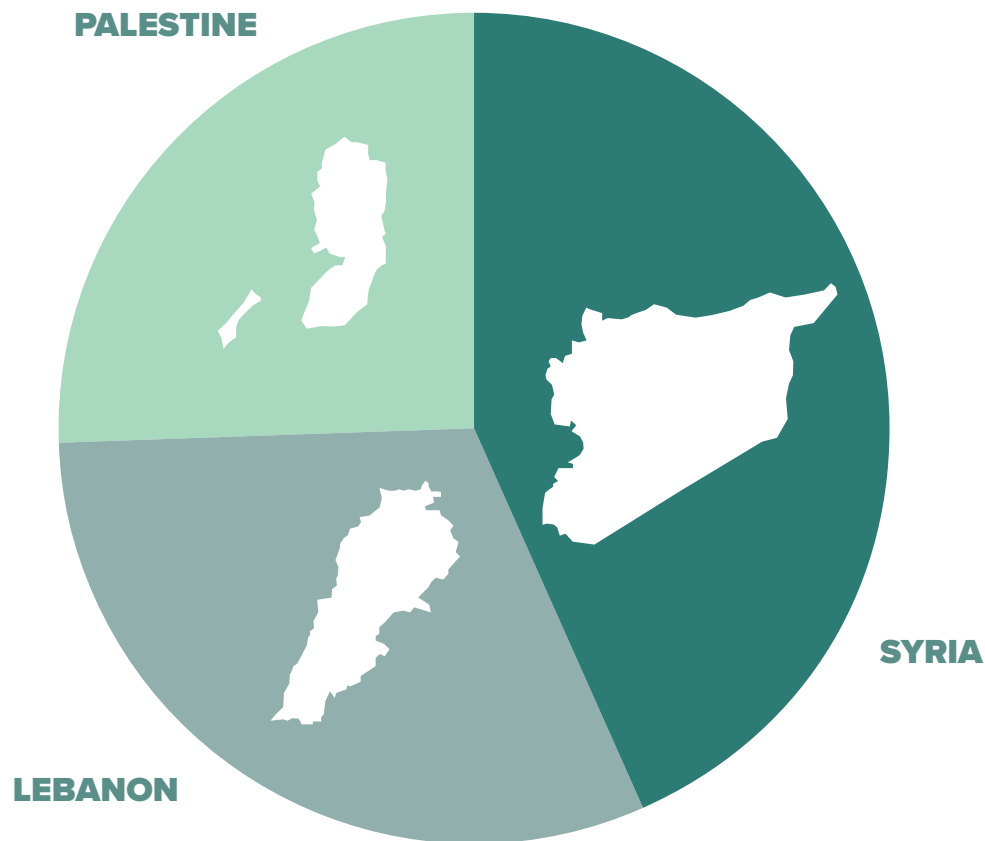


11

project visits



NEW GRANTS 2021



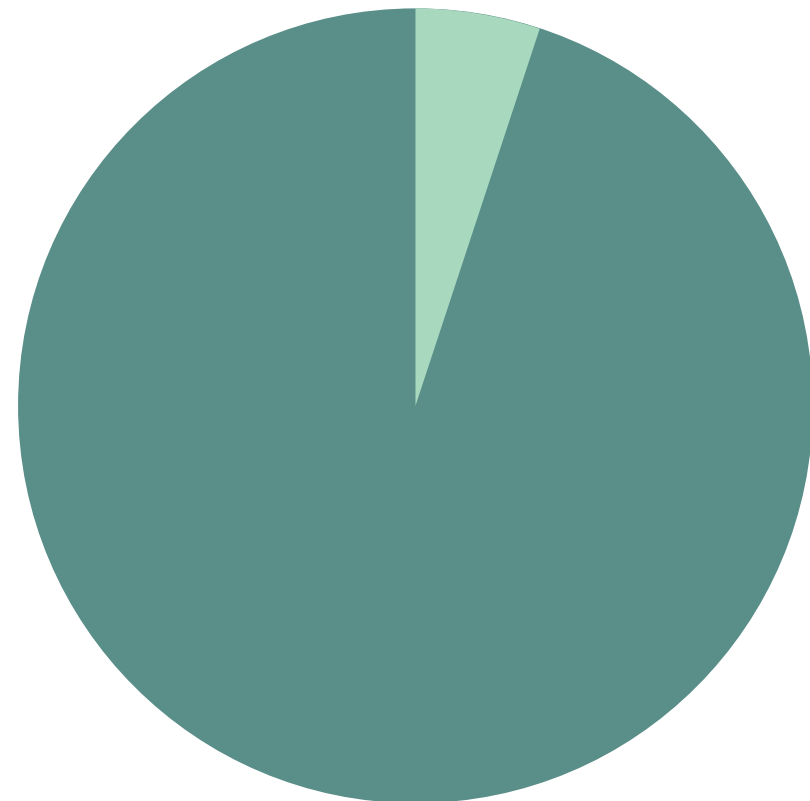
Distribution Per Country

SYRIA	35 721 326	NOK /	4 308 966	USD*
LEBANON	25 500 000	NOK/	3 075 995	USD*
PALESTINE	21 000 000	NOK/	2 533 172	USD*
SUM	82 221 326	NOK/	9 918 133	USD*

**8,29 NOK for 1 USD when main donation was received in 2021.*

NORWAC IN NUMBERS

Distribution of funds for projects and administration



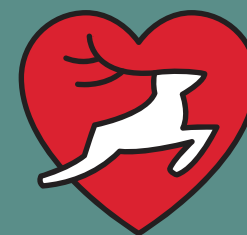
PROJECTS/IMPLEMENTATION:	77 622 604 NOK	= 94,4 %
ADMINISTRATION:	4 598 722 NOK	= 5,6 %



Banksy's graffiti on the wall in Bethlehem
Photo: Solveig Øiestad, NORWAC

THANK YOU!

From everyone in NORWAC:
We would like to thank our donor,
the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign
Affairs, for the generous support
to the projects in 2021.



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