

**NORWAC**

NORWEGIAN AID COMMITTEE

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023







# INTRODUCTION

## 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 of 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 work directly in the field during 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 healthcare services in the countries we work in.

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## Board Members

Head of Board: Berit Jagmann,  
Board members: Anne Merete Bull  
and Kirsten Hald  
CEO: Erik Fosse

## Country Directors

**Lebanon:** Dagfinn Bjørklid  
**Palestine:** Marit Lieng (to 30.06.23)  
Kristil Haraldstad (from 01.07.23)  
**Syria:** Belal Al-Jabri



# 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.**





## **Brief History of Norwegian Aid Committee (NORWAC)**

**Following** the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, there was an urgent need for medical support for Palestinian refugees in South Lebanon. In response, the Norwegian Aid Committee (NORWAC) was established in January 1983 with the mission to provide humanitarian aid to those affected by conflict and crisis. Since its founding, NORWAC has maintained a presence in Lebanon, collaborating with various Lebanese and Palestinian partners.

**NORWAC** also began working in Palestine in the 1980s, partnering with local NGOs. After the establishment of the Palestinian Authority, NORWAC primarily focused on collaborating with the Palestinian Ministry of Health to build capacity and infrastructure. Key initiatives included ensuring self-sufficiency in oxygen supply, developing prenatal care, and training midwives and other medical staff.

**In the spring** of 1999, during the Kosovo crisis and ethnic cleansing, NORWAC deployed and managed a field hospital in the Albanian village of Krumë to assist refugees and those injured in the conflict. Subsequently, at the request of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), NORWAC contributed to the restoration of healthcare systems in Albania, Kosovo, and Macedonia. This effort continued for fifteen years and involved developing national health plans and restructuring specialized care through capacity and infrastructure building.

**When** the Syrian civil war erupted in 2012, nearly two million refugees fled to Lebanon, prompting an increase in NORWAC's activities there. Many refugees suffered from chronic illnesses, necessitating an expansion of services such as renal dialysis and blood banking. NORWAC also began establishing similar services in parts of Syria where government healthcare services were no longer available, aiming to reduce the need for refugees to leave the country due to chronic conditions.

**In 2023**, NORWAC continued its work in Palestine, Lebanon, and Syria, focusing on developing modern healthcare services for chronic illnesses, reproductive health, pain management, psychiatric disorders, cancer, and spinal cord injuries. Additionally, NORWAC supported hospital infrastructure, including library services and oxygen supply.

**After the** attack in Israel and Gaza on October 7th, NORWAC responded immediately by sending an emergency medical team to Cairo. The team did not manage to enter Gaza at that time, but emergency aid and medical supplies was present in Gaza within 2 weeks.



Photo: MAP-UK



# Greetings from the CEO

## Resilient health care and disaster response

For forty years medical professionals working in university hospitals in Norway, with a background in several medical specialties have constituted the core of the NORWAC management.

This professional profile together with deep knowledge and a genuine interest in the history and situation of the people in the Middle East has enabled us to support our partners in their endeavor to maintain and improve health care in difficult situations.

The projects have ranged from building oxygenator infrastructure in hospitals, pre-natal midwifery care to training in laparoscopic surgery, cancer treatment, dialysis treatment of patients with renal failure, blood bank services, pain clinic management, mental health and rehabilitation and training of patients with spinal cord injury.

In all areas capacity building and training of local staff are the main objectives of the projects, making our partners able to provide the services independently.

In 2023 two major incidents challenged NORWACs ability to, in collaboration with our partners respond to major disasters.



Erik Fosse  
Chief Executive Officer,  
NORWAC



On 6 February 2023, a major earthquake struck southern and central Turkey and northern and western Syria. The epicenter was in the Turkish city Kahramanmaraş 37 km northwest of Gaziantep.

NORWAC immediately responded together with our partners. With partner WATAN, the main project was to procure and distribute blood bank products including blood bags, rapid tests for blood-borne infections, laboratory supplies, antiseptic material, and hygienic kits. Three blood banks and four clinical diagnostic laboratories were supported in Idlib and northern Aleppo area. Through partner Shafak, NORWAC provided support to empower the medical response of 16 healthcare facilities, including Al-Mouhafazeh hospital in Idlib city, Bab Al-Hawa hospital, Harem hospital, Al-Amal hospital, Darkoush hospital, Akrobat hospital, and Al-Kouds hospital. We also ensured the availability of stretchers, beds, and other basic medical needs. In Aleppo and Latakia region in the governmental controlled areas, NORWAC supported Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS-S) with procuring essential medical equipment and medicines with the aim to strengthen the health care capacity at the main hospitals for the earthquake response.

In Palestine, following the attack on Israel October 7th and the subsequent bombing and invasion of Gaza, NORWAC responded by providing urgent medical supplies to the hospitals in Gaza. A surgical team was mobilized and present in Cairo four days after the attack. Unfortunately, the team was not allowed access to Gaza and had to return after 14 days. However, the work to support the people in Gaza continued in collaboration with WHO and the Palestine Red Crescent Society.

The Israeli asymmetric attack on Gaza caused an enormous engagement among people all over the world. Individuals, artists, organizations and companies spontaneously arranged a variety of activities including concerts, meetings and exhibitions to collect funds for supporting NORWACs emergency work in Gaza. These activities have an importance far beyond the large sums of funds they generated.

We are proud to be part of the work our partners do both in Palestine, Lebanon, and Syria.



# LEBANON

**Grant: 30 000 000 NOK**



## Target Groups



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

## NORWAC's Goals

- Access to sexual and reproductive health services, primary - and secondary healthcare services.
- Strengthening mental health services.
- Physical rehabilitation and access to specialized treatment.
- Support Palestinian youth in education within health sciences.
- Providing access to life saving treatment for people with non-communicable chronic diseases, such as renal failure, thalassemia.

## Local Partners

- Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS-L)
- National Institution for Social Care and Vocational Training (NISCVT)
- Maarouf Saad Social and Cultural Foundation (MSSCF)
- Mousawat
- Imam Sadr Foundation (ISF)
- Health Care Society (HCS)
- Palestinian Student Fund (PSF)
- Ghawth for Relief and Emergency
- SANAD

**«The number of people in need are increasing. The funds are shrinking. A very challenging and demanding situation»**

*Dagfinn Bjørklid – Country Director, Lebanon.*







NORWAC 40 years in Lebanon

## Lebanon 2023

**Throughout 2023** Lebanon was still reeling from the economic collapse that the country was plunged into five years earlier. Despite some signs of normality, most Lebanese strive to make ends meet, suffering from a meltdown of public services and a general worsening of their quality of life. Large segments of the Syrian and Palestinian refugee populations were already living on bare minimum before the crisis. The political establishment made no progress in electing a new president, and the caretaker government was not in a position to tackle the multiple challenges facing the country. In the wake of the 7 October Hamas attack in Israel, another front in the war between Israel and Hezbollah, along Lebanon's southern border. Israeli attacks on southern Lebanese villages pushed tens of thousands of people to flee their homes, seeking safety further north. The cross-border hostilities added a new layer to the crises plaguing Lebanon.

NORWAC marked 40 years of working in Lebanon in 2023. Today we work with ten local partner organizations in the country, providing a wide range of health services to Palestinian and Syrian refugees, as well as the Lebanese host population.





*All patients receive treatment and follow up from a multidisciplinary team. Photo: Ramzi Haidar*

## Healthcare in times of crisis

Amidst economic collapse and looming war, NORWAC's partners in Sidon ensure that healthcare reaches out to the poorest.

Sidon is Lebanon's third largest city, on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea, a forty minutes drive south from Beirut. The city is characterized by its old market and a rich cultural heritage, surrounded by banana and citrus plantations – and by Ein al-Helweh, the largest Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon. Another characteristic of Sidon is the widespread poverty at display throughout the city. Most of the Palestinian and Syrian refugees fall under that category, but so do also many of the city's Lebanese inhabitants.

Maarouf Saad Social and Cultural Foundation (MSSCF) provide health services to refugees and poor Lebanese through funding from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and NORWAC support. NORWAC and MSSCF have cooperated since the aftermath of the Israeli invasion in 1982.

The Sidon-based organization assisted around 4000 people in 2023 through its two primary health clinics with its preventive mental health programme targeting Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese children and adults in and around the Old City of Sidon, and through a MSSCF programme for sexual and reproductive health directed primarily towards young women, which comprise awareness sessions, ultrasound and medical check-up and material assistance in hardship cases.

MSSCF has deep roots in the local community of Sidon, and their extensive engagement with new and old refugee groups sets an example for inclusion peaceful and co-existence, a positive contribution to the social cohesion of the city. At the core of MSSCF's activities are dedicated social workers, who conduct home visits, follow up with users of the various services, and identify hardship cases.

MSSCF also runs a sizeable civil defense unit, Inqaz ( Saving ), of trained volunteers. NORWAC supported the training of Inqaz volunteers in psychological selfcare, as part of MSSCF's efforts to ensure proper staff care for rescuers and other volunteers.

The overall MSSCF program for 2023 went largely as planned, but factional infighting in the Palestinian Ein al-Helweh refugee camp in July and September caused some temporary disruptions on activities and the movements of patients and staff.

The outbreak of cross border hostilities between Hizbollah and Israel in the aftermath of the 7 October attack did not have a large direct impact on Sidon, as the city is located on northern end of the South , with some distance to the most affected border areas. However, MSSCF has joined forces with other community organizations and Sidon municipality to coordinate contingency measures in the case of a more large scale conflict, drawing upon the successful cooperation between local authorities and NGOs during the Covid pandemic.

# PALESTINE



**Grant: 15 000 000 NOK**  
**+ 11 838 000 NOK**  
(Emergency response Oct 7th)

## 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.

## Projects

- Oxygen (O2) support in Gaza
- Spare Parts to Al-Shifa
- Medicines and medical disposables to Gaza
- Sterilization equipment to Al-Shifa hospital
- Improving Mental Health in Gaza
- Quality Maternal and New-born Care
- Pain Management, Phase V
- Emergency Health Training Facilities MoH, Gaza

## Local Partners

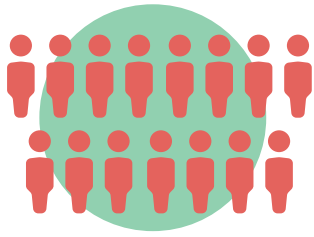
Palestine Ministry of Health (MoH)  
West Bank and Gaza:

- 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)
- Mental Health Directorate (MHD)

***«All projects proceeded as planned until October 7th, when they were temporarily suspended. In response to the new emergency situation in Gaza, we quickly shifted our focus to planning and addressing the immediate needs arising from this crisis»***







## Gaza after October 7th 2023

**Since October** 7th 2023, the escalating crisis in Palestine has caused large numbers of civilian deaths and injuries. The humanitarian situation in Gaza is untenable. An estimated 1.8 million people—over 85% of the population—have been displaced across Gaza. Families have been forced to move multiple times in search of safety.

**According** to local authorities, as of 30th of December 2023, at least 21 672 Palestinians have been killed, 56 165 have been injured, and thousands are missing, under the rubble. 70% of the dead and injured is children and women. Access to life-saving health services has been severely affected.

**Electricity**, fuel, water, and medicines are either in short supply or non-existent. Hospitals have been operating far beyond capacity due to rising numbers of patients as well as displaced civilians seeking shelter. The provision of essential health services – from maternal and newborn care to treatment for chronic conditions – has been severely compromised. There have been numerous attacks on health care personnel leading to 312 deaths and as many injuries. Several health workers were detained/arrested.

**As of** 30.12.2023, 13 hospitals out of 36 were partially functioning, the health system collapsed. Dwindling access to health services, clean water, food, and fuel on top of an already weakened healthcare system put the whole population on the Gaza strip at risk. Massive displacement to shelters with inadequate resources resulted in disease outbreaks. Al-Shifa Hospital which has been the main Hospital in Gaza was exposed to massive destruction.

**In the shadow** of the horrible situation in Gaza, the situation in the West Bank also worsened. From 7th of October to 31st December 2023, 518 Palestinians were killed and 5000 Palestinians injured in conflict-related incidents across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. 54 Health facilities were attacked and 20 mobile clinics. There was also an increase in settler attacks. Since October 7th. OCHA has recorded more than 500 Israeli settler attacks against Palestinians, more Palestinian have been displaced, this is special in the north of the West Bank.



## Maternal and Newborn care

**The NORWAC** Maternal and Newborn Care project for 2023 was initiated based on a service provision assessment report that highlighted significant gaps in the continuum of care and barriers to safe delivery. Issues such as inadequate workforce training, a shortage of supplies, and ongoing economic hardship have exacerbated the deterioration of the health system, particularly impacting maternal and child health services.

**From** January 1st to October 7th, 2023, the project was successfully implemented. A major milestone was the endorsement of the "Companion of Choice" policy by the deputy minister, achieved through NORWAC's collaboration with WHO, the Midwifery Committee, and Ministry of Health (MoH) departments. As a result, MoH hospitals began allowing a companion to attend births.

**Essential** equipment and supplies were procured and delivered to the MoH main store before being distributed to hospitals. Initially, NORWAC supported Al Harazin Hospital, which unfortunately closed in January. Following this, the project focused its efforts on Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza City and Kamal Adwan Hospital in the North.

**At Al Shifa**, NORWAC supported the new Gynecology and Obstetrics department by providing three part-time midwives. These midwives played a crucial role in offering pre-, during-, and postnatal care, documenting up to 2,000 supervision sessions per month. Their services included psychological support, education on the birth process, birth exercises, skin-to-skin contact, breastfeeding initiation, and postnatal care for both mothers and newborns.

**Both Al Shifa** and Kamal Adwan hospitals have implemented a data registration form for each delivery. This data is entered into a project database, analyzed, and presented to the hospital management teams and the MoH. This system provides valuable insights into the impact of the training and the effectiveness of the care provided.

### Trainings Implemented Until October 7th :

- **Both Mother** and baby Survive Simulation trainings were done monthly both at al Shifa and At Kamal Adwan.
- **Breastfeeding Training** seminars were implemented by NORWAC midwives for doctors and midwives from the 5 maternity public hospitals and 5 Primary Health care Centres.
- **The perineal tear** repair trainings have continued, including midwives and doctors from MoH hospitals and midwifery colleges.
- **The communication** trainings for health staff have continued, including midwives and doctors from MoH hospitals.

### Project: Quality Intrapartum Care Training, targeting midwives at Al Shifa Hospital

Until October 7th, Norwegian midwives regularly visited Gaza. The most recent visit occurred in September 2023, during which the midwife focused on teaching and training. These visits included sessions at UNRWA and Ministry of Health community health centers.

In addition to their on-site work, the Norwegian midwives participated in online courses and maintained regular contact with the local project coordinator. This coordinator was actively involved in engaging with health personnel, organizing courses, and conducting workshops for local midwives and obstetricians.

NORWAC has collaborated closely with UNICEF and WHO on this project for many years. Such coordination is crucial to avoid duplication of efforts and to maximize the project's impact.



## NORWAC response in Gaza after October 7th 2023

NORWAC responded early during the emergency and proposed for an Emergency grant from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) the day after, on October 8th and was subsequently granted 6.8 million NOK. This grant was used to procure Medicines and Medical Disposables, which was highly needed in Gaza.

Contracts were made with MAP-UK and PRCS, as they had the opportunity to deliver on the ground. The first week of the attack on Gaza we managed to deliver needed supplies. At the same time, we worked hard on deploying medical teams. This was not easy, and we faced some challenges. In November, we started the cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) EMT (Emergency Medical Team). A new emergency proposal was sent to the MFA on the November 20th.

We were granted 5 million NOK and was able to assemble an Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) and procuring medical supplies to Gaza. The first team consisted of 6 health personnel and arrived at Gaza early January 2024 through coordination with the WHO.

### Private donations to the crisis in Gaza

The war in Gaza immediately led to an enormous engagement among Norwegians. Organizations, artists, companies and individuals' private persons mobilized to raise and contribute funds to NORWAC collected money and donated to NORWAC.

By January 31, 2023, NORWAC had received 3 747 562 NOK in private donations which were used to procure medical equipment, medicines and medical disposables.

Before the crisis, NORWAC had been receiving donations to support the Health Science Library at Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza. This library, managed and funded by private donations, was overseen locally by a project coordinator/librarian. Technical support and maintenance were provided through a collaboration with the Norwegian Union of Librarians and the medical library at Oslo University Hospital (OUS). The library was highly valued by the health personnel at Al-Shifa Hospital. Unfortunately, it stopped functioning after November 2023.



Photo: Lisa Jeppesen



Photo: Mahmoud Abu Amer



**NORWAC**  
NORWEGIAN AID COMMITTEE

[www.norwac.no](http://www.norwac.no)

#### AKUTT NØD I GAZA

Lidelsene i Gaza er større enn noen gang. I 1948 ble 750 000 palestinere drevet på flukt. Nå i 2023 blir 1,1 millioner utsatt for folkerettsstridig tvangsfordrivning under bomberegner i en krigssone. Behovene for helsehjelp er enorme.

Du kan støtte økonomisk til innkjøp og distribusjon av livreddende medisiner og medisinske utstyr i Gaza. Alle midler vil utelukkende gå til formålet.

Kontonummer: **1506.99.02488**,  
merk overføringen med Nødhjelp Gaza



# SYRIA

**Grant: 26 300 000 NOK  
+ 10 000 000**

(Earthquake emergency response)



## 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).
- Establishing and operating a midwifery upgrading programme.
- Emergency response to the earthquake of Kahramanmaraş in February 2023.

## Projects

- Primary Healthcare Centres
- Blood Banks and Laboratories
- Kidney Dialysis and Thalassemia Programme
- Urology clinic
- Radiology center
- Midwifery Upgrading Programme
- Rehabilitation Services
- Procurement of Medical Equipment

**«2023 was a busy and a tough year that started with a devastating earthquake hitting northern Syria and southern Türkiye, the hub of humanitarian intervention for northern Syria. »**

*Belal Al-Jabri – Country Director, Syria.*





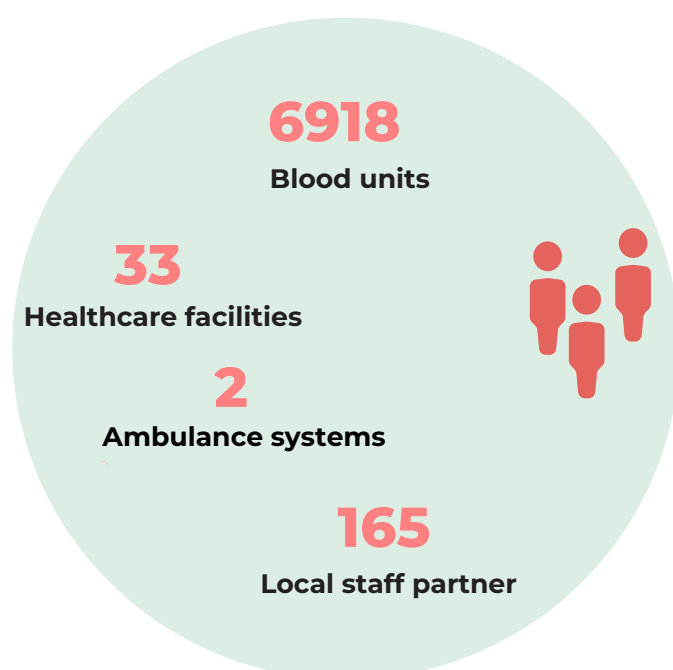


Photo: Shafak

## Kahramanmaraş Earthquake Response

**In response** to the devastating earthquake that struck Kahramanmaraş in February 2023, NORWAC urgently, scaled up its blood product services to address the overwhelming casualties in Salqin and Mare'e. NORWAC blood banks were at the forefront, rapidly responding to the critical need for blood supplies. To support the increased demand and mitigate the fallout from disrupted cross-border aid, NORWAC led the establishment of a centralized in-country supply chain to support all blood banks in northern Syria. NORWAC's advocacy efforts to sustain the blood banks succeeded in developing a blood bank consortium that attracted international donors, who joined us and co-funded essential gaps in blood banking services, ensuring continued support for those in need.

**Additionally,** NORWAC expanded its surgical services to cope with the increased demand caused by the earthquake. Leveraging existing local partnerships, NORWAC intervened on multiple fronts, notably supporting hospitals near the devastated areas through collaboration with two key partners. This swift action ensured that surgical services continued to operate efficiently, providing critical care to those affected by the disaster. For the team in the field, a temporary office was set up in Gaziantep to maintain operations and provide care for humanitarian workers and their families.





NORWAC & partners, 10 years in Syria, Photo: Magnus Hidle

## 2023

**2023** was a busy and a tough year that started with a devastating earthquake hitting northern Syria and southern Türkiye, the hub of humanitarian intervention for northern Syria. It was a challenging moment to see the supporting hub itself in need of support.

**However,** the preparedness of NORWAC and its partners served as a safety net that not only kept the project running but also allowed them to be part of the earthquake response.

**We** are proud that NORWAC was among the very first responders to the catastrophe and this was highly appreciated by both partners, local authorities and people.

**Later** on in 2023, NORWAC marked its 10th year of operations in Syria. To commemorate this milestone, NORWAC hosted an event featuring panel discussions with its partners to reflect on the past decade, discuss future challenges, and plan for ongoing services.

**This event** highlighted the collective achievements and reinforced the commitment to continued support for the Syrian people.

**Additionally,** NORWAC's Syria team was pleased to welcome a new country representative Mahmoud Hajjar in Türkiye. This expertise will be invaluable as NORWAC continues to navigate the complexities of providing humanitarian aid in the region.



Photo: WATAN



## **Blood Banks Network in Northern Syria**

**NORWAC** has always aimed to fill gaps in specialized healthcare that many international donors overlook. One critical area is the lack of blood supply chain in northern Syria, which has been a significant and life-threatening issue. Blood products are essential for secondary healthcare, and shortages can lead to increased mortality. The fragile healthcare system in Syria has struggled to prioritize blood supply, which traditionally fell under the scope of the Syrian Defence Ministry. International NGOs and the Red Cross have not been able to sustain the supply chain for long periods due to the prolonged nature of the Syrian crisis, which has resulted in a fragmented healthcare system with chronic issues and frequent emergencies.

**In 2023, NORWAC** successfully expanded blood banks to cover more hospitals, serving an estimated population of 3 million in northwest (NWS) and northeast Syria (NES). A new centralized model was piloted, leading to better quality, fewer shortages, and faster emergency response, as seen during the earthquake. NORWAC supported the establishment of a consortium that included all local NGOs operating blood banks in NWS. This initiative, combined with NORWAC's technical expertise, attracted donor contributions, sustaining blood supplies for about 66 hospitals in NWS. In NES, NORWAC supported the only central blood bank in the area, located in Al-Raqqa city. The primary beneficiaries of these blood banks are maternity hospitals, Thalassemia patients and trauma hospitals.

**NORWAC** collaborated with partners and the local health directorate to develop a pilot mobile application that tracks blood units at different stages. This innovation improved the safety and testing of all blood products and reduced the number of wasted units. Additionally, NORWAC is conducting operational research on blood banks and mapping services to create an evidence-based roadmap for strengthening the healthcare system in NWS and NES.

**NORWAC** has co-chaired the technical task force for blood banks and thalassemia in the health cluster in Gaziantep. The task force's purpose is to standardize the services and the treatment protocols, coordinate with the members, advocating for the patients, and build capacity building for the health workers. For this, NORWAC with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have facilitated two training sessions for blood bank technical managers and technicians, ensuring high-quality practices across all blood banks in NWS and eventually in NES.

## **Medicine Voucher Pilot Program**

**In 2023, NORWAC** in cooperation with its partner WATAN launched a pilot program to improve treatment adherence for non-communicable disease (NCD) patients by providing vouchers for free medication refills at local pharmacies. This initiative aimed to boost local pharmacies and enhance integration with local Health Information Systems (HIS). The theory behind this program was that providing vouchers would give NCD patients easier access to treatment, especially for those living in camps around Azaz, where primary healthcare centres (PHCs) are scarce but local pharmacies are available.

**The voucher** covers the cost of prescriptions provided by treating doctors at NORWAC-supported facilities in Azaz. This initiative is designed to reduce the need for monthly visits to the facility and lower commuting costs for NCD patients, making it more convenient for them to manage their conditions. By ensuring that patients can obtain their medications locally, the program aims to improve treatment adherence and overall health outcomes.

# NORWAC IN NUMBERS

**17**

employees



**9**

full positions



**44**

projects  
NORWAC  
supports

**14**

active medical consultants



- Doctors
- Nurses
- Midwives
- Physiotherapist
- Occupational therapist
- Orthopaedic surgeons

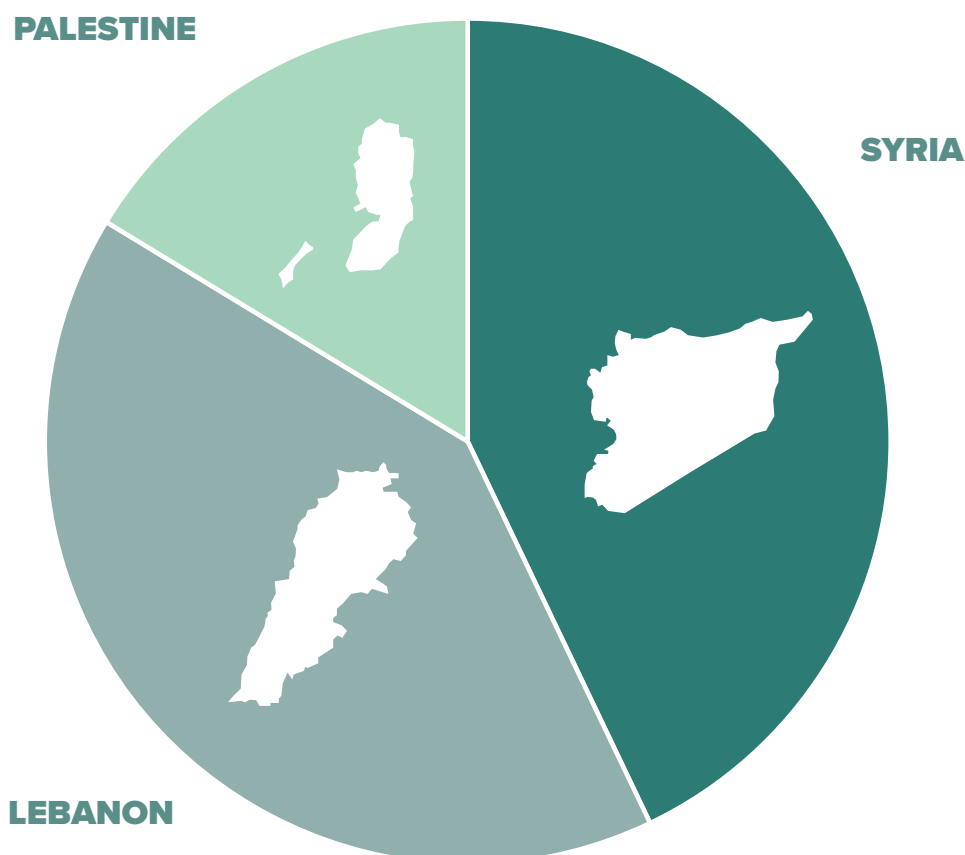
**25%**

of NORWAC projects  
target women and children





# NEW GRANTS 2023

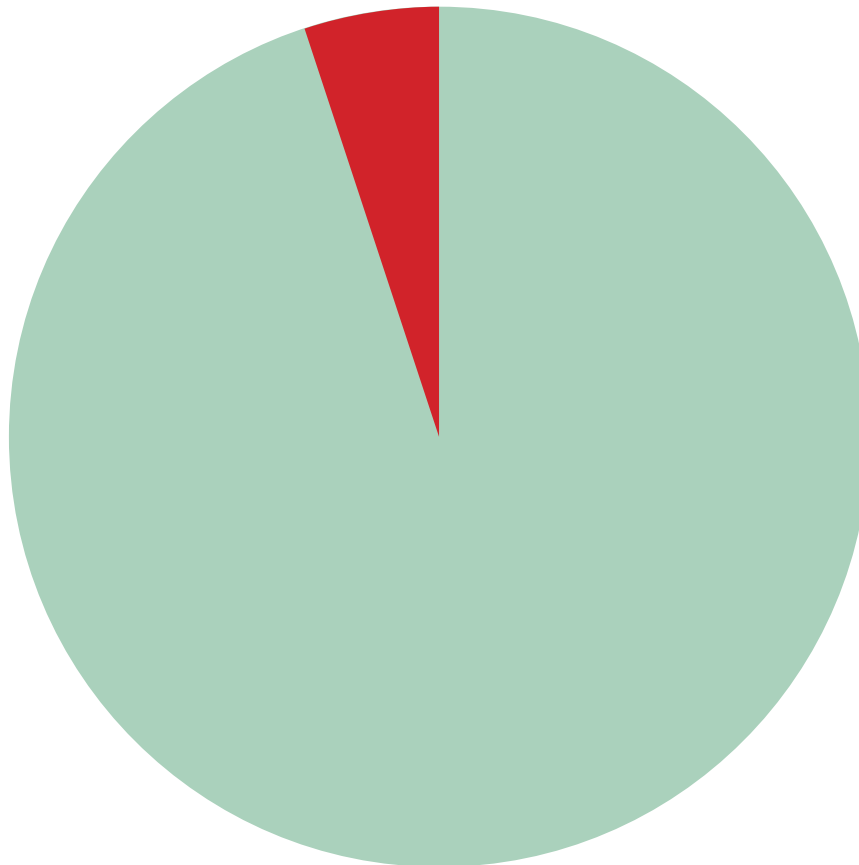


## Distribution Per Country

SYRIA	40 300 000 NOK / 4 002 900 USD
LEBANON	30 000 000 NOK / 2 979 826 USD
PALESTINE	26 838 000 NOK / 2 665 752 USD
SUM	92 138 000 NOK / 9 151 842 USD

*\*10,0677 NOK for 1 USD when main donation was received in 2023.*

## **DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS 2023 FOR PROJECTS AND ADMINISTRATION**



- **PROJECTS/IMPLEMENTATION: 74 547 238 NOK = 94,2 %**
- **ADMINISTRATION: 4 338 000 NOK = 5,8 %**





NORWAC 40 years

## 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 over 40 years.

We want to express our biggest gratitude to all who have donated to

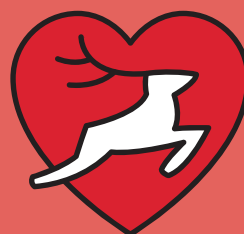
We want to express our biggest gratitude to all who have donated to our work in Gaza in 2023.

Private donations have been recieved from music concerts, poetry nights, art auctions, cake stands, restaurants, birthdays and Christmas presents, tatto artists, local food shops, crafts, beauty and hair salon, "selbuvotter" and many more.

We are truly overwhelmed and so grateful for all your support.

With the funds recieved from you, we were able to buy highly needed medicines and medical supplies to Gaza.

Thank You



**NORWAC**  
NORWEGIAN AID COMMITTEE