



UOSSM USA Annual Report 2016

TOGETHER, SAVING LIVES
AND BUILDING HOPE



www.uossm.us



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear UOSSM Family,

We have witnessed the worst attacks yet to the medical infrastructure in Syria. In 2016 alone at least 289 hospitals across Syria were directly hit by airstrikes while many others were put out of service. All hospitals in Aleppo, northern Hama, and southern Idlib provinces were destroyed by direct government airstrikes, leaving hundreds of thousands of civilians without access to healthcare. UOSSM concluded, after careful study, for the first time that new measures are urgently needed to protect health workers and hospitals.

We have lost many of our heroes this year to the indiscriminate airstrikes and targeted attacks on medical facilities and staff. Syria's hospitals have lost an estimated 25% of its medical specialists in this past year alone. Doctors, nurses, and medical staff members, serving one of the world's most vulnerable populations, continue to put their own lives on the line to save the lives of others.

It is imperative that we remain aware of the severity of the war crimes in Syria, and we must continue to stand together as one team serving the Syrian population under attack. This year UOSSM continued to deliver care and training to Syria's population at the forefronts. UOSSM responded immediately to the deadly chemical attacks, including in Khan Sheikhoun, Idlib, by distributing appropriate antidotes, medical supplies and protection equipment to area hospitals and providing urgent training on how to handle chemical weapons attacks.

In response to the violent siege of Aleppo in December 2016, UOSSM established the Emergency Evacuation and Child Protection Teams. Our team facilitated the evacuation of over 34,000 civilians, including seven-year-old Bana Al Abed, from Aleppo to safer locations. In May of this year we launched the Syria Solar Initiative. This unprecedented project aims at solving the dangerous power supply shortage in Syria's hospitals. The destruction of the electrical infrastructure and limited access to diesel fuel in these hospitals significantly jeopardize the lives of patients. This 480-panel pilot project can now fully power the intensive care unit, operating rooms and emergency department of one of our main hospitals in Syria, paving the way for further development of renewable energy alternatives in Syria's healthcare system.

This project reflects UOSSM's vision as we look to the future of Syria. We as UOSSM must work to establish effective and long-term solutions to Syria's health crisis that empower Syria's local communities and build capacity. In our aim to do so and to perfect our efforts we have developed a robust research team focused on collecting, documenting and analyzing on-the-ground data to guide our future directions.

I believe in a united front in tackling Syria's health crisis. The work we continue to do as a team could not have been possible without the dedication and support of UOSSM's growing membership, its member organizations, its dedicated staff and the larger community. Let us intensify our efforts and realize our vision for a healthy and safe Syria, together.



With great thanks,

Dr. Monzer Yazji

Dr. Monzer Yazji
President, Co-Founder

LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear UOSSM Family,

The crisis in Syria is growing and is not going away anytime soon. According to the UN, over 13.5 million Syrian people are currently in need of humanitarian assistance and over half are children. Five million people have fled the country and 6.3 million Syrian people are internally displaced by violence. Health care access for those internally displaced has been decimated.

According to the WHO, in 2014 the ratio of doctors to population in Syria was 15.5 per 10,000 people but by 2016 according to UOSSM's Hospital Study, released March 2017, that ratio had fallen to 2 per 10,000 people. Global statistics show the ratio of doctors to population is 13 to 10,000. Also, international statistics show the number of hospital beds serving inpatients averages 25 beds for every 10,000 people. However, in our 2016 National Study, the average ratio was down to 3 beds for every 10,000. Most hospitals, in 2016, were directly targeted by airstrikes, with an average of 3 strikes per hospital, and some were even targeted 25 times, leading to a desperate need for health care for the people inside Syria, especially those who have been internally displaced.

We cannot turn away from this crisis. We cannot let compassion fatigue and hopelessness distract us from the urgent moral duty to provide medical services to Syrians. In 2015, we launched UOSSM USA in partnership with the UOSSM and our donors, to respond to the urgent need for health care among the Syrian population devastated and displaced by the war.

During 2016, our first full year in operation, UOSSM USA supported hospitals and primary healthcare centers in Syria with essential medications and medical supplies. UOSSM USA also participated in building the capacity of the healthcare workforce by supporting training institutes and the development of innovative tools to connect patients with services.

Realizing the urgent need for more health services in southern Syria, UOSSM USA, with the support of UOSSM, established the Jordan Regional Office in October 2016. This action was in response to the growing population of internally displaced persons in the area, and the absence of medical care. We will launch our first medical mobile clinic in 2017.

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To see the devastation with your own eyes is life-changing. We are committed to alleviating the suffering of people who have already lost so much. In partnership with UOSSM and our generous supporters, we remain unwavering in our commitment to ensure that the human right to health care is available to every Syrian we can reach.



With great thanks,

Kathleen Rowan

Kathleen Rowan
CEO UOSSM USA

A Second Chance

It is because of you that young children like Amar, get a second chance at life. This ten-year-old fifth grader had a vivid love for acting and everyone around her knew it, her smile could brighten up the darkest of rooms. Her mother pushed for her oldest daughter to develop her acting skills, because she wanted her daughter's dreams to come true.

All of this came crashing down February 6, 2016. Amar and her family; mother, father and three siblings, were spending time together before getting ready to go to sleep, when suddenly they heard the sound that terrifies anyone in its path, it was the sound of aircraft flying overhead, the family became agitated and tried to find a way to stay safe, but they had little time to prepare as the bomb was dropped, suddenly they felt the walls come crashing down all around them, with nowhere to go.

Amar said, "I thought this was a nightmare that I would wake up from, but the weight of the walls and ceiling on top of me made me realize this was a reality. I could not move from the weight of the rocks on my legs. I heard the white helmets at the scene, with their equipment as they tried several times to dig me out, until finally they could pull me out. They took me to the hospital...I had no idea what happened to my family". Little did the young girl know that her mother and three siblings were killed in the attack, her father was just barely clinging to life as he also lost his right eye in the attack.

Amar got a second chance at life, she had surgery on her leg in UOSSM Bab Al-Hawa Hospital, she has a long way to go, and will have to come to terms with the loss of most of her family, UOSSM staff will be there to help every step of the way.



Jamaa Will Walk Again...

Jamaa, a fourteen-year-old boy, had to quit school so he could help support his family. He was working at a car repair shop. On February 6, 2016, Jamaa was working in the shop when the loud rumble of the aircraft was heard. Everyone ran to take cover but Jamaa was too late, the bomb knocked him to the ground. He did not realize it immediately but his left leg had been severed and he was bleeding terribly.

He said, "I was screaming for someone to help me, but everyone was worried about themselves, there was blood everywhere, finally after a few minutes my father found me and carried me to a vehicle to take me to the hospital."

The young boy was taken to a UOSSM Hospital, he had surgery to take care of his severed leg, to clean it and to ensure that it would not get infected. Once the wound has healed, Jamaa will be fitted with a prosthetic leg. With the help of UOSSM staff, Jamaa will walk again.

These are just two of many, many untold stories from UOSSM activities in 2016.

Who We Are

The Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations-USA (UOSSM USA) is a US humanitarian medical organization. It was founded to be an organization of excellence that would attract individual, foundation and government support from the US, and from international aid organizations. In this capacity, it will continue to support the health-related needs and well-being of communities affected by crises, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, gender, religion or political affiliation. UOSSM USA, like UOSSM International, is dedicated to saving lives, reducing human suffering and building sustainable healthcare services. It is non-political and non-sectarian in its mission.

UOSSM USA is incorporated in the state of Texas and is a federal 501(C)(3) charitable organization. Donations to UOSSM USA are tax exempt. The Tax ID number is 47-3403988. UOSSM USA is a member of UOSSM International, founded in 2012. UOSSM International is a federation of 11 member organizations. The UOSSM strives to increase its impact, to improve the healthcare and well-being of affected communities, and to empower people to build resilient sustainable communities and healthcare systems.

What We Do

UOSSM provides medical relief and health-related services to 1.1 million people annually, in Syria and neighboring countries, including developmental initiatives. Saving lives and easing the suffering of people affected by the crisis is the core of UOSSM humanitarian action. Driven by its values and guided by the international humanitarian principles and standards, UOSSM works to save lives and empower the affected populations, to rebuild their lives and restore their health and well-being. Since 2012, UOSSM has been providing emergency medical relief and health care services to the Syrian people affected by the current crisis. As one of the major humanitarian, medical relief organizations, working primarily inside Syria and in neighboring countries, UOSSM has contributed to the establishment and operation of the largest tertiary hospital in northern Syria, UOSSM Bab Al-Hawa Hospital.

With its 1200+ dedicated staff members, UOSSM has also established and supported several primary health-care centers, and mental health and psycho-social support centers, primarily inside Syria and in neighboring countries. This is in addition to supporting other hospitals and providing emergency medical relief aid, including medical supplies and medications, to many hospitals and clinics inside Syria. UOSSM’s other major initiatives are Specialized Medical Training and Qualification, Research and Studies, and Syria Solar Initiative.

UOSSM Hospitals and Trauma Department-UOSSM Bab Al-Hawa Hospital has provided care to over 1 million Syrians a year, UOSSM’s PHC department has provided services to more than 1.5 million people during the last 4 years, with a monthly average of 3000-5000 patients per center, based on location. The Mental Health Department has provided mental health and psycho social care to over 180,000. The Specialized Training and Qualification department has trained over 16,000 professionals since 2013, with over 17 different types of specialized medical courses.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to be a leading organization working to save lives, reducing human suffering and building sustainable public healthcare services, setting standards of excellence in our work, coming together to create a sustainable future, in a world where everyone has the right to life, health and overall well-being.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to save lives and reduce human suffering by providing independent and impartial medical relief and health services, strengthening the public health infrastructure and building the capacity of the affected people and communities by crises; upholding ourselves to high standards of work ethics.

OUR VALUES

ACCOUNTABILITY.

We recognize our moral duty and responsibility to use our resources efficiently to achieve measurable results. As such, we are transparent and accountable to our supporters, partners, and above all, the Syrian people.

INTEGRITY.

We take good care of the resources with which we are entrusted and strive to the highest standards of personal honesty, ethical behavior, and fairness in everything we do. We lead by example and always act in the best interest of the people.

NEUTRALITY.

We commit in our work to human values and professional ethics of neutrality and impartiality, providing services to everyone in need irrespective of nationality, ethnicity, gender, religion or political affiliation.

TRUST.

We respect each other and believe in essential human values. We value the trust we have in our relationships and strive to continue doing our best to maintain this trust with the people.

AMBITION.

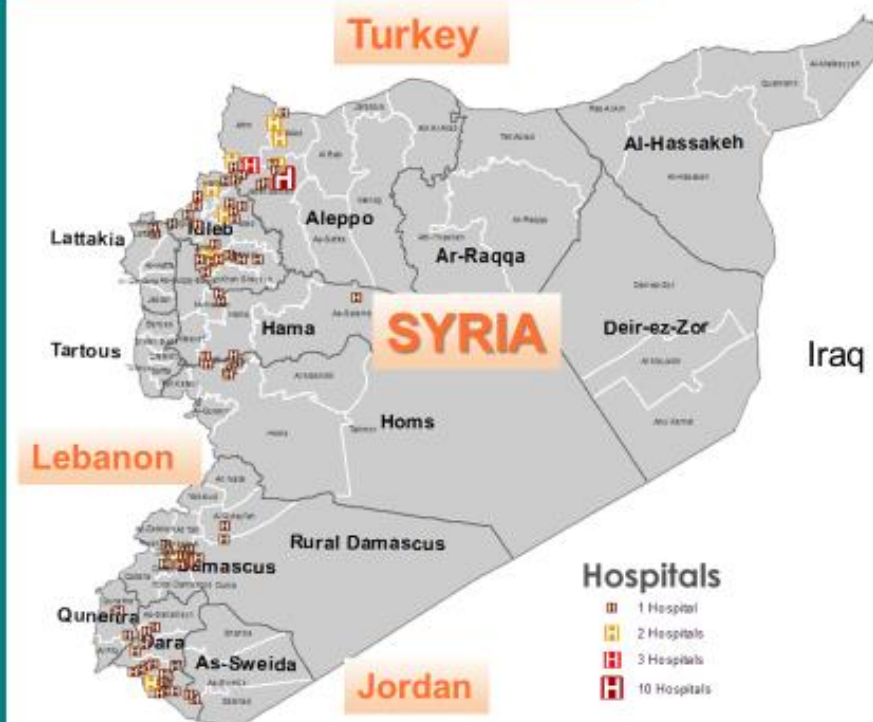
We commit to provide the highest quality of care we are capable of, guided by our medical and professional ethics, International Humanitarian Principles and Core Humanitarian Standards.



UOSSM OVERVIEW

Over 1200
staff &
doctors

WHERE WE WORK



Most of UOSSM's medical work is inside Syria, with some centers in neighboring countries. UOSSM USA has established a registered entity in Jordan that permits it to apply for, and implement projects in Syria, especially in southern Syria. Many areas in Syria have been under siege or under continuous bombardment and insecurity for over 6 years. Hospitals and medical facilities have been subjected to unprecedented, systematic targeting and bombing that led to a partial or complete halt of the provision of medical services in many locations, and the loss of large numbers of medical staff, either because of injury and death, or because of the migration of health care providers to safe areas. This has led to many dynamic changes on the ground, which has affected the access to, and the operations of, medical facilities in Syria. Many facilities have been relocated, or changed into mobile units.



OUR PROGRAMS



HOSPITALS & TRAUMA



PRIMARY HEALTH CARE
CENTERS & MOBILE CLINICS



MENTAL HEALTH &
PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT



MEDICAL TRAINING &
RESEARCH ANALYSIS

Hospitals and Trauma

The support of hospitals is considered one of the top priorities of UOSSM. Since the beginning of the crisis in Syria, funds were allocated to support and equip affected hospitals, primarily, in the northern region of Syria, and post-operative centers inside Syria and in Turkey.



UOSSM Bab Al-Hawa Hospital

UOSSM Bab Al-Hawa Hospital is the only major tertiary referral hospital in northern Syria that provides specialized surgical and medical services including pediatric surgeries, serving 4 million population catchment area within the region. BHH has provided surgical and medical services to over 1 million people in the northern region since 2012.

UOSSM Bab Al-Hawa Hospital consists of 9 ORs, conducting emergency, and a wide range of specialty complex surgeries, with an average of 1200 surgeries per month. Between its emergency department, inpatient and outpatient departments, surgeries, ICU, Dialysis Center, diagnostic services, and its major advanced blood bank and post-op/ rehabilitation center in Sarmada, in the North, UOSSM Bab Al-Hawa Hospital provides medical care to over 15,000 patients per month.

In 2016 UOSSM USA provided support to hospitals and medical facilities in Syria and in besieged and hard-to-reach areas. These areas included Aleppo and its suburbs, Homs and its suburbs, and Al Ghouta, a suburb of Damascus. Aleppo was particularly hard hit, every hospital in the besieged area of Aleppo was bombed at least once, several were targeted repeatedly.

Days before the forced evacuation in December, every single hospital in the besieged area of Aleppo was damaged and put out of service. There was no access to emergency healthcare and services provided by hospitals, to people that were under a fierce bombardment every single day, suffering life threatening injuries.

Homs and its suburbs, and Al Ghouta, a suburb of Damascus. Aleppo was particularly hard hit, every hospital in the besieged area of Aleppo was bombed at least once, several were targeted repeatedly. Days before the forced evacuation in December, every single hospital in the besieged area of Aleppo was damaged and put out of service. There was no access to emergency healthcare and services provided by hospitals, to people that were under a fierce bombardment every single day, suffering life threatening injuries.



In 2016, UOSSM USA responded to the crisis and provided monetary support to rebuild and rehabilitate damaged hospitals and healthcare facilities in Aleppo. In Dec 2016, during extreme cold conditions, UOSSM led and coordinated the medical evacuation process of Eastern Aleppo, deploying its EMS (one of UOSSM's most recent initiatives), medical, child protection and logistical teams with over 195 staff and volunteers, and the assistance of several other Syrian humanitarian and medical relief organizations.



This young boy is only seven years old, his name is Ibraheem. Ibraheem was playing with his brothers inside his grandfather's home in Andan, northern Aleppo. It was right before sunset when suddenly the horrifying sound of a warplane started flying overhead....two rockets were dropped; one inside the home and one right outside. Shrapnel was flying everywhere and became lodged in many parts of young Ibraheem's body. The largest piece entered his jaw and caused the jawbone to shatter.

Luckily, Ibraheem was treated in UOSSM's Bab al Hawa Hospital. The skilled doctors performed reconstructive surgery and his smile has almost been recovered completely.

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CENTERS AND MOBILE CLINICS

In 2016, UOSSM operated 13 PHCs and 12 mobile clinics in Syria, primarily in the provinces of Aleppo, Idlib, Homs, and Daraa, and provided healthcare services to over 650,000 patients. UOSSM's PHC department has provided services to more than 1.5 million people during the last 4 years, with a monthly average of 3000-5000 patients per center, based on location.

In 2016, UOSSM USA provided monetary support to medical staff in PHC's throughout Syria, by supporting salaries of staff. The new UOSSM USA office in Jordan plans to support several mobile clinics in southern Syria in the near future.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHO SOCIAL SUPPORT SERVICES

In late 2013 UOSSM established the MHPSS program to help Syrians traumatized by the war, the internally displaced people (IDPs) in Syria, and Syrian refugees in the region, primarily in Turkey, to integrate and function in their new communities and to rebuild their resilience. As of 2016, UOSSM had provided direct mental health services to over 35,000 people inside Syria and in Turkey. Specialty mental health care services include: Special Education (ex. Down Syndrome, ADHD, etc.), Female Counseling and GBV Survivors, and Training and Qualification (ex. MH-GAP, PSS Behavioral Therapy, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Stress Management).

In 2016 UOSSM USA supported the MHPSS by funding the development and support of an interactive app designed to assist displaced people in refugee camps in locating psycho social support services such as legal, health, education, livelihoods, food and social services to refugees in Gaziantep. The app is still in its trial phase but once launched, will be a valuable tool and resource available to Syrian refugees in Turkey.



A Story from the UOSSM MHPSS Center...

The children in Syria have witnessed too many atrocities, no child should ever have to bear witness to a scene so brutal, so violent, that it could literally cause one to go into a state of shock from fear and distress. But again, a young child has been a part of a horrific, terrifying ordeal.

Omran was 9 years old, from Dayr al Zour in Syria. One night when he was asleep with his family in his home, armed forces broke into the boy's home in search of his father; once they found him they took and detained him. Out of fear of the return of the armed forces the rest of the family left the home and fled to an area nearby.

The scene that left a scar on this child's heart... the unforgettable scene that caused an unlimited amount of pain, fear, and terror, was when young Omran witnessed the same armed forces that had detained his father, cutting off people's heads and then dumping their lifeless bodies on top of each other, into cars....Imagine your child witnessing something so brutal. How would you feel? How would your child feel?

Time would pass and Omran's father would be released, which led the family to seek refuge in Turkey. After a while Omran's family started noticing patterns of distress and instability and signs of mental issues. Omran was taken to UOSSM's Mental Health and Psycho Social Support Center in Reyhanli, Turkey. Young Omran was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress syndrome and started receiving treatment and support from the center.

Time will only tell if Omran will be able to fully get past the violent scene he witnessed but with your help and support, UOSSM's dedicated staff will do everything they can to help heal this young boy from this terrible ordeal.

SPECIALIZED MEDICAL TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION

UOSSM's largest specialized training center lies within UOSSM Bab Al-Hawa Hospital. In 2016, UOSSM trained over 7000 medical staff and personnel in war-related injuries and medical conditions. In 2016, UOSSM also expanded its training to provide administrative and project management training to the management staff of hospitals and primary health care centers, as well as, to the local health directorates, to build the capacity of the local healthcare workers in treating sick and injured people, and the capacity of the local administrators and directors to manage the healthcare facilities in their areas.

In 2016, UOSSM USA helped support the UOSSM Nursing and Midwife Training Institute in Daraa. This institution provides the training and education needed to qualify nurses and midwives to provide quality care throughout Syria, which is crucial to the well-being of the people.



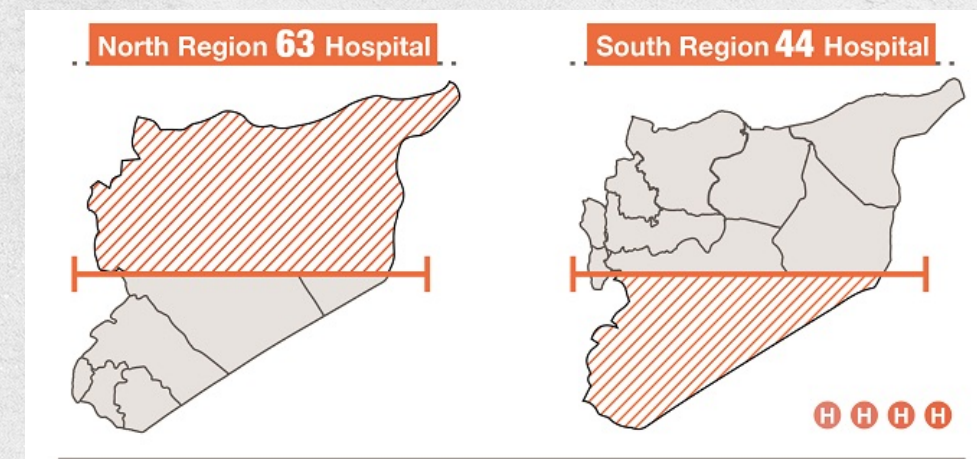
CHEMICAL WEAPONS TRAINING

The UOSSM Medical Training Department continued providing its specialized training on how to respond to chemical attacks and decontamination. In 2016 the team provided training to over 500 participants, which will assist medical staff in efficient response to chemical weapons attacks.

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

With the collapse of the healthcare system in Syria, UOSSM introduced in 2013 the first trauma data registry system inside Syria, at many hospitals affected by the crisis, including at UOSSM Bab Al-Hawa Hospital; at the time, no other such system was in place. Within the last few years, over 200,000 patient cases were documented.

In 2015 UOSSM expanded its research and studies to include hospital studies, and further expanded it to include primary health care surveys in 2016. A total of 107 hospitals across Syria were surveyed. The surveys provide information on the capacity of the hospitals, the volume workload, and types and quality and medical services provided in these hospitals.



During 2016, UOSSM continued to update its Annual Hospitals Surveillance Studies providing critical information of the infrastructure and capacity of the health care facilities in Syria.

UOSSM USA JORDAN
REGIONAL OFFICE

In October 2016, UOSSM USA, with the support of UOSSM International, established the Jordan Regional Office. This action was in response to the growing population of internally displaced persons, a sharp increase in destruction and a lack of medical care. The Jordan Regional Office will facilitate the provision of medical care and relief in the area to those who desperately need it. In addition, the Jordan Regional Office will launch its first mobile medical unit in 2017.



UOSSM SYRIA SOLAR INITIATIVE

This initiative started with the realization that lives could be lost in hospitals if an alternate source of energy was not available, in areas that have been attacked, and electric grids that were damaged or completely destroyed. In 2016 the pioneer project was being installed on an UOSSM hospital. It is projected that the system will save an average of 300 liters of fuel daily, and will reduce the annual cost of diesel by at least 20-30%. Ultimately, in case of a fuel outage, the solar system power will enable crucial life-saving medical equipment, including ICU's and incubators, to continue functioning and save precious lives.



Our Finances

FINANCE REPORT

With thanks to our donors and supporters, we have begun to build our new organization on a firm financial foundation.

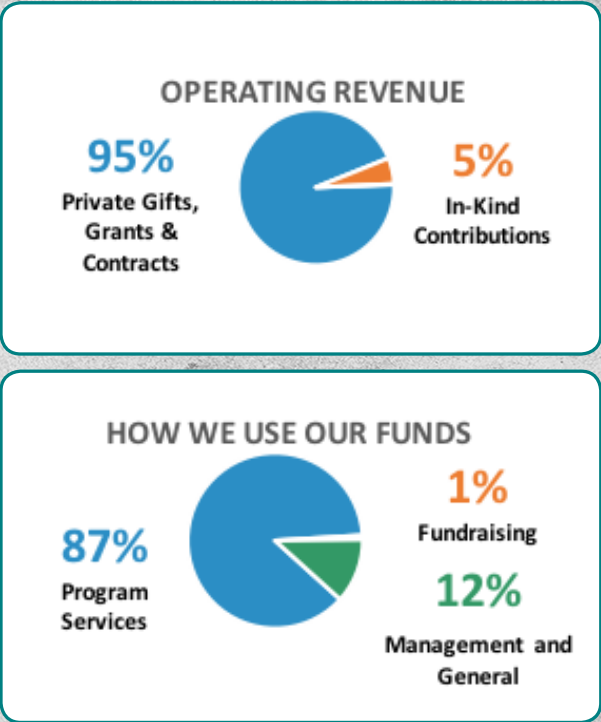
CONDENSED AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

OPERATING REVENUE	2016	2015*	Change \$
Private Gifts, Grants, & Contracts	\$577,796	\$61,055	\$516,741
In-kind contributions	33,000	3,000	30,000
Other Revenue	850	0	850
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	\$611,646	\$64,055	\$547,591

OPERATING EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS	2016	2015	Change \$
PROGRAM SERVICES			
Medical Services & Supplies	\$386,110	\$7,174	\$378,936
International Programs	44,767	0	44,767
Regional Office	30,330	0	30,330
TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES	461,207	7,174	454,033
Fundraising	4,080	3,496	584
Management & General	62,646	46,709	15,937
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	527,933	57,379	470,554
Excess/(Deficiency) of Operating Revenue over Expenses	83,713	6,677	77,037
Excess/(Deficiency) related to Unrestricted Funds	28,506	6,677	21,829
Excess/(Deficiency) related to Temporarily Restricted Funds	55,208	0	55,208
TOTAL INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	\$83,714	\$6,677	\$77,037

COMPOSITION OF NET ASSETS	2016	2015	Change \$
Unrestricted	\$35,182	\$6,677	\$28,505
Temporarily Restricted	55,208	0	55,208
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$90,390	\$6,677	\$83,713

Note* For the period January 29, 2015 (Date of Incorporation) through December 31, 2015



Our organization has experienced excellent growth in its first full year of operation. Our primary source of funding (95%) is from contributions, private grants and contracts. We are actively seeking government and other support as well.

Organization spending included support for hospitals & medical facilities in Syria, emergency services and supplies, primary health centers, training, and emergency evacuation efforts. We are pleased that 87% of our funding went to these efforts.

UOSSM Member Organizations



UOSSM USA is one of 11 members of UOSSM International, all striving towards the same goals: saving lives, reducing human suffering, and building sustainable public healthcare services, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, gender, religion or political affiliation.

UOSSM USA Organizational Details

UOSSM USA is an exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; TAX ID 47-3403988

Board of Directors

- Dr Monzer Yazji, President
- Dr Ahmad Abo Kayass, VP, Treasurer
- Dr Khaula Sawah, Secretary
- Dr Hassan Chahadeh
- Dr Ashraf Traboulsi

Senior Management Team


- Kathleen Rowan, CEO
- Najah Allouch, Communications and Media Director
- Haytham Nakhleh, Finance Director
- Denise Wales, Grants, Contracts, and Compliance Director
- Dr Hecham Diri, Regional Director of UOSSM USA Regional Jordan Office


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