



REFUGEE PROTECTION INTERNATIONAL

Education and Health Program

The Need: War in Syria is taking a catastrophic toll on public health and education. Yet, fleeing is not an option for the 3 million civilians trapped in north-western Syria. Here, expectant mothers lack critical obstetric care and children face rising malnutrition rates and vaccine shortages. The young and elderly alike struggle amid devastated infrastructure. Across Syria, there have been 595 attacks on 350 health care facilities (Physicians for Human Rights).



Host countries cannot keep pace with the refugee crisis. A review of 32 health studies found that Syrian refugees in the Middle East face staggering gaps in general healthcare, followed by women's health, mental health, and vaccinations (El Arnaout et al. 2019).

Refugees cite high costs and lack of documentation, professionals, and awareness. As a result, alarming rates are recorded of preterm birth, infant morbidity, chronic malnutrition, PTSD, and untreated chronic diseases.

Across the Middle East, 43% of school-aged Syrian refugee children and youth remain out of school (KidsRights Foundation). Far too many are unable to pay for the needed civil status documentation, supplies, or transportation to access primary school. Others struggle with the language of instruction, school capacity limitations, and harassment. Refugee access to secondary education is even more limited at just 1.4% in Lebanon (El Ghali et al. 2019). Years of missed education can only hinder refugee prospects for self-reliance.

Programming Focus: We support our refugee-led nonprofit partners with project design, grants, monitoring, and technical and logistic support, as needed, to carry out the following activities:

- Provide regulated non-formal primary school education and vocational training
- Rehabilitate, equip, and stock key hospitals and mobile clinics in areas of armed conflict
- Provide health screenings, awareness sessions, case management and coverage of medical expenses

Impact: RPI and its partners have met 25,086 education and health care needs among refugees and internally displaced persons in Syria and Lebanon, in addition to supporting safe medical infrastructure with the capacity to assist 56,160 patients per year. Supported services have included: running non-formal primary schools and early childhood education in informal settlements in Lebanon; screening, treating and referring families of students and staff for health care; supplying medicine to mobile clinics and the only specialized internal medicine hospital in Idlib, Syria; conducting case management and medical expense coverage in Lebanon; and equipping and finalizing the rehabilitation of the largest underground pediatric hospital in Idlib, Syria.

Our featured local charity partners registered in Turkey and Lebanon include: Multi Aid Programs (MAPS), Sustainable International Medical Relief Organization (SIMRO), and Basmeh and Zeitooneh.

Refugee Protection International, Inc is a 501(c)(3) public charity with EIN # 47-5417614 based in Greater Boston

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Hear directly from refugee participants in our joint video:
<https://refugeeprotection.org/portfolio/non-formal-education/>

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Our Approach: We strive for locally-driven and efficient aid, by supporting and raising the visibility of remarkable refugee-led nonprofits on the frontlines. Our joint project designs integrate gender and vulnerability analysis, a rights-based approach, and urban focus.

Our partners train and hire refugee professionals and strive toward participatory project design. The most vulnerable women and children are always prioritized. When feasible, urban hospitals are moved underground for safety from aerial bombing. We prioritize activities coordinated with civilian health and education authorities.



Personal Impact Stories: After fleeing her village in Syria, Sidra K. missed 2 years of school and dreaded the impact on her future. With RPI's support, Sidra is now enrolled in 6th grade at a non-formal school operated by our partner MAPS in **Lebanon**. Despite living in a 20 square meter tent, Sidra is ranked first in her grade.

In Shatila, Lebanon, a 43 year-old refugee and sole breadwinner for his 3 children required urgent treatment for debilitating psoriasis. Under an RPI-supported medical case management project, local NGO Basmeh and Zeitooneh secured and financially covered his treatment, allowing him to resume work and feed his children.

By 2017, there was an urgent need for safe underground maternal and child health care in northwestern **Syria**. Forensic Architecture had verified the repeated bombing of the M2 Hospital with the only pediatric ward in Aleppo and the Ma'arat Al Numan Hospital in Idlib. At least 4 other hospitals had been damaged in Idlib.

RPI moved in to fund and help equip the final rehabilitation of the largest maternal and child health hospital in Idlib by our Turkey-based nonprofit partner the Sustainable International Medical Relief Organization (SIMRO). This underground Avicenna Pediatric Hospital is now operated by the nonprofit SAMS with the Idlib Health Directorate. SIMRO refers critical pediatric cases to Avicenna with our support.

In the spring of 2019, Syria's armed conflict intensified over Idlib province, internally displacing another 550,000 civilians. With many taking refuge in the open air, RPI hastened to fund medicine supplies directly benefiting 8,317 patients at the only specialized internal medicine hospital in Idlib run by our partner SIMRO. RPI is expanding its focus to support medicine supplies at a primary health clinic for women and children.

RPI is grateful for the bravery and dedication of its frontline partners and the generosity of its giving partners.



MAPS NGO educating Syrian refugee children in Lebanon with RPI's support



SIMRO NGO unloading infant incubators in Syria donated by RPI's giving partners