

Damaan
Humanitarian Organization
2018 Annual Report



Table of Contents

Damaan Humanitarian Organization: Vision & Mission

Message from our Team

Year in review

The Operations Report – Projects

Donors

Treasury Report

OUR VISION

We envision a Syria where Syrians are no longer in need but productive and on their feet again to build a prosperous future for their country and the future generations. A country where human rights are respected and all people are equal before the law and enjoy access to education, health, water and food. We work to foster sustainable development and to provide humanitarian response. We each contribute uniquely in advancing our mission, whether by working in different sectors or by supporting the overall goal of the organization. By offering our help and projects in health, education, women empowerment, humanitarian response as well as sanitation and clean water in addition to promoting self-reliance, we contribute to solving some of the leading problems facing the Syrians – helping to find local solutions to challenges and sowing the seeds of lasting change. We recognize the importance of education, health services, clean water and humanitarian response in alleviating the hardship of the war. We aim for inclusive development, systematic change, local ownership, and contextualized solutions.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to make a lasting difference in the lives of Syrians and to help rebuilding the country in the future. Therefore,

We work with Syrians to change the current reality through **sustainable development** and **humanitarian projects / programmes**.

We work with Syrians to enforce and rebuild the vital sectors of **health, education**, as well as **water, food/nutrition**.

We work with Syrians to build and support **civil societies** and their roles in the **development** of communities and promotion of **human rights, rule of law** and **democracy**.



A message of gratitude and appreciation from our team

Greetings from our team in Syria, Turkey and the Netherlands. As ever, it is with great pleasure that we share with you our annual report. We seek this opportunity to thank you for your generosity throughout 2018, without which we would have not been able to achieve anything.

2018 was a tough year, to say the least. Hundreds of thousands of the people that we served suffered from intensified siege and bombardment only to be followed by displacement. Our team was among those that were displaced and fled to the north of the country. Our projects, kitchens and medical centers were repeatedly bombed and eventually destroyed and looted.

While the bombardment destroyed our centers, projects and vehicles, it did not break our will, resilience and strength. Our doctors and medical staff went from one basement to another under the vengeful and watchful eye of

military jets to provide medical care to the wounded, while the rest of the team was distributing food in tunnels, underground shelters, and basements. Until the last moment, we remained faithful to our beneficiaries as well as our commitments and values.

We were primarily empowered by our beneficiaries and their resilience. It is to their sacrifices that we attribute our success in what we did.

The loss of our projects and centers was not the end, but the beginning of a new endeavor to help Syrians in a new location. After a long period of careful deliberation, our medical center reopened in Sarmada to carry on with its mission of helping the children, women and men of Syria.

As in Ghouta, we are honored by our service to those we aspire to help and we promise to stay committed to our beneficiaries, goals and values.

We are grateful for the compassion and generosity of our donors, as well as those who have raised their voices in our support and extended their expertise and support throughout the year. Thanks to

your valuable contributions and continuous support, we have been able to stand side by side by the children, women and men in the besieged areas in Syria, and then in the North of the country. It is with your support that we managed to bring their voices to a wider audience and made the case on their behalf.



Like with previous years, our projects did make an impact and touched the lives of thousands of people, whose appreciation, gratitude and smiles touched our hearts, and give us the motivation to carry on and to do our best. We, on behalf of our beneficiaries, are grateful to you.

Damaan Team

Year in review

2018 was a very tough and challenging year. The same military campaign on Eastern-Ghouta, that ended the life of our dear colleague Ussama in the last days of 2017, continued through out early 2018. Hundreds of thousands of people suffered tightened siege and daily bombardment and eventually displacement to the north of the country.

During those days, our team worked harder and harder. Notwithstanding the security situation, grave danger and persistent attacks against medical staff and facilities, our doctors and staff remained bravely committed and were on the move between various locations to assist the wounded and the sick. Our centers were repeatedly bombed leading to the oxygen center being put out of service. The medical center, hosting 11 clinics, was ransacked and looted after the evacuation of our team in April 2018.

With the same spirit of sacrifice and determination, our kitchen staff carried on with their work until the last moment despite the repeated attacks on our communal kitchens leading to total destruction. In the last days of the military campaign, our staff were on the move between basements and underground shelters providing sandwiches and in-kind assistance.

By the end of the military campaign, our losses included all vehicles, and the total and partial destruction of our three kitchens and 2 medical centers. Those were later vandalized and looted along with the crops of self-reliance projects and water wells.

Our team left Ghouta in April 2018 with tens of thousands of civilians that were bussed to northern Syria. Leaving behind our centers and projects was very painful; however, we did take with us all the beautiful memories of our work in Eastern-Ghouta; the laughter of children, the great sense of achievement and belonging.

After displacement, a decision was made to stop receiving donations as the fate of the organization was yet to be decided. In October 2018, with a renewed sense of dedication, our team opened a new medical center.

Throughout the year, our team did not stop its tireless efforts to bring the voice of Syrian to the Dutch audience. Our team appeared on the TV, radio and spoke in various venues to make the voice of Syrians heard and to generate support to the operations; financially and through expertise and guidance.

In late 2018, our team was commissioned by the Peace Foundation and Global Rights Compliance to write a policy brief on the situation in Eastern-Ghouta under siege and the use of starvation as a weapon of war. Our commitment to this project, undertaken for a fee that was paid to the organization, stems out of our belief in the need for accountability and justice for the Syrians in Eastern-Ghouta and across the map.

Our organization maintained its legal status as a Public Benefit Organization – [ANBI](#), in Dutch” with the Dutch Local Authorities. The legal status entail taxes exemption for our donors and supports.

Project Highlights

In early 2018, with our core values as well as the interests of our beneficiaries in heart and in mind, our team, as with previous years, and in consultation and collaboration with the Local Councils, continued its work in the besieged Eastern-Ghouta in the countryside of Damascus. Our work stopped in April 2018 when our team left the area with tens of thousands of people that were bussed to the north.

Meanwhile, the focus of our efforts was primarily on Health; the promotion of self-reliance projects; water & sanitation; as well as Education and Humanitarian Assistance including food packages and cooked meals.

In the north of Syria, given the change in conditions and the different needs of the

population, our focus shifted to the provision of health care. Our decision was based on a long deliberation and assessment of the needs on the ground.



Damaan Medical Care Center

In Ghouta, in the first 3 months of 2018, Damaan Medical-Care Center provided services to 9327 patients. Our center that operated 11 specialized clinics was bombed twice forcing our team to work in various locations and to conduct field visits to underground shelters and basements.

All our service were coordinated with the Local Medical Councils and the Health Ministry in the Syrian Intern Government. All our services were provided free of charge. Medicines were provided by Erbin Local Medical Council.



Damaan Medical Center, Sarmada, Idlib

Our new medical center is located in Sarmada and is run by our team of specialized doctors and nurses. The new center has 4 clinics providing orthopedic care, gynecology care, pediatrics care and physical therapy. The center has 11 staff members including four doctors, a mid-wife, three nurses and three administrative assistants. In the first three months, our center assisted 4221 patients.



Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Center

Early in 2018, the Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Center was attacked leading to limited damage in the facility. However, a renewed attack in March 2018 destroyed the center entirely.

Humanitarian Emergency Response Plan

Siege was tightened in 2018 and starvation carried on to be used as a weapon of war putting the lives of hundreds of thousands of people at risk.

While in Eastern-Ghouta, Damaan Humanitarian Organization; in coordination with the Local Municipal Councils, was a part of the Humanitarian Emergency Response Plan, which was activated to address the needs of the vulnerable and most-in-need persons. Our three communal kitchens were a part of an integral and coordinated effort to provide food to thousands of people.

A. Nutrition and food security

Throughout the first quarter of the year, our three communal kitchens provided meals to thousands of displaced and poor families. Our meals were prepared in line with the recommendations of the Local Medical Councils and with utmost caution. The Humanitarian Emergency Response Plan was coordinated with the Local Municipal Council and distribution of meals was regulated through a well-established mechanism allowing food to be delivered on time and to all those most in need. As the bombardment intensified on Eastern-Ghouta, and as our kitchens were attacked and bombed, we shifted to the provision of sandwiches.

B. Food packages

As an implementing partner and through its own projects, we delivered **11000** kilos of uncooked food materials such as rice, bulgur, oil, vegetables and wheat. Food packages were distributed to internally displaced persons with a special care to assist orphans and single head of household women. Our self-reliance projects were of a great asset during 2018 with an abundant harvest.

C. Water and Sanitation

Damaan Humanitarian Organization, and in close coordination with the local and medical councils in the region, carried on with the regular maintenance of our 7 wells. These wells remained a valuable source for the besieged population, especially during the last aerial bombardment campaign.



Our water wells provided:

- Clean water supplies
- Sustainable water supply to residents and farms
- Reduction of financial costs for residents

All seven wells were monitored by our teams and representatives of the local councils including the medical local councils. The wells were looted and vandalized after the evacuation of Eastern-Ghouta.

Self-Reliance promotion

As in previous years, in 2017, we strove to promote and encourage people to take the lead in their life and to become productive. Only limited efforts were needed there as the people were eager to lead the way forward. Through various agricultural projects, Damaan Humanitarian Organization, in coordination with the local councils provided seasonal work to 19 families. The families were paid cash and in kind. They became partners and thus the success of the projects were their own success. Our wheat, beans and vegetables harvest were further used in our communal kitchens to prepare cooked meals. Agricultural projects did not only provide employment to families, but also reduced prices in the local markets and helped combat malnutrition and starvation.

Consultancy project:

In October 2018, our team was commissioned by the Peace Foundation and Global Rights Compliance to write a policy brief on the situation in Eastern-Ghouta under siege and the use of starvation as a weapon of war. The project was undertaken against a fee of 3000 € which was paid to the bank account of the organization. The final policy brief was published in various outlets and could be accessed [here](#).

Media outreach

Our team participated in the following events:

- [TV interview on the situation in Eastern-Ghouta](#), 25 Feb 2018.
- [Radio intervention](#) on the situation in Syria
- [A court case for Syria](#) in the Humanity House on 14 May 2018
- [The Politics of Siege in the Syrian conflict](#), Leiden University, on 04 June 2018.
- [The Future of Syria: What will happen after Assad Wins](#) on 14 September 2018. 150 € were paid to the account of the organization.
- Night of Conflict; [The Hague Talks](#). 500 € fees for participation were paid to the account of the organization.

Donors

Damaan Humanitarian Organization would like to thank all those that contributed to its work throughout 2018. Your financial and technical contributions and support made our work possible and helped to save, and improve thousands of lives.

We in particular would like to thank:

P. Visser & Zoon B.V.

P. VISSER & ZOON B.V.
ANNO 1830

HOT&TOT

HOT&TOT
POWERED BY WOOD

mkb Administraties

MKB
ADMINISTRATIES

Treasury Report

For more information, please check our full treasury report on our website.

Stichting Damaan Humanitarian Organization
Jaarrekening 2018

Staat van baten en lasten 2018

	<u>2018</u>
	€
<i>Baten</i>	
Donaties Nederland	22.494
Donaties Turkije	<u>89.900</u>
Totaal baten	112.394
<i>Lasten</i>	
Salarissen	12.375
Huur	1.050
Gas, water, elektra	370
Kantoorkosten	540
Administratiekosten	598
Consultancy paper fee	400
Transfer fee	12.198
Programme expenses - medical center	20.680
Programme expenses - oxybaar center	1.550
Programme expenses - kitchens	51.100
Programme expenses - future schools	2.000
Evacuatiekosten	8.300
Transportkosten	395
Onderhoud	200
Diversen	301
Bankkosten	189
Afschrijvingen	784
Vernietiging/plundering materiële vaste activa	<u>8.575</u>
Totaal lasten	121.605
Resultaat boekjaar	<u><u>-9.211</u></u>



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