

Damaan
Humanitarian Organization
2017 Annual Report



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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**.



With Love from our team

Greetings from our team in Syria, Turkey and the Netherlands. With great pride, we share our 2017 Annual Report with you. With this report, we convey our best appreciation and gratitude and thank you for your support throughout 2017.

By many measures, 2017 was a unique year for our team and those to whom we devote our work: The children, women and men living under siege in Syria and namely in the besieged Eastern-Ghouta. While the international community watched helplessly, the year 2017 was exceptionally harsh on the one million and seven hundred thousand people living under siege in Syria. The humanitarian situation sharply deteriorated, while military actions intensified in many areas across the map. All calls by the international community, including the United Nations, to end the worsening situation were ignored.

Empowered by our belief in the resilience and strength of the Syrians in the besieged areas, and in search of alternative and innovative

solutions in the face of the international inaction, with a consortium of local NGOs and the Local Councils, Damaan Humanitarian Organization, was at the forefront of local efforts to help and aid those most in need. Notwithstanding the difficulties and despite the many challenges, our team achieved tremendous results. The year was characterized with unbreakable belief in our mission. Yet, it was marked by the grave loss of our colleague, Ussama. Ussama, a dedicated trainee-nurse, died when he was hit with a shrapnel while on duty.

We remain to be honored by our service to those we aspire to help and we promise to stay committed to the people we stand by, to our goals and to our 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, where the situation is most dire. Your generosity enabled our team to provide medical care, education, food

packages and meals as well as clean water and the opportunity for the people to start new lives through the self-reliance projects.



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

2017 was a special year. We worked harder; grew bigger; achieved more and learnt a lot. The year was colored by the smiles of the children, women and men that we helped and assisted. As with the years before, our team worked day and night to reduce the hardships of the siege, improve the situation and to plant hope in the hearts and minds of the forgotten people of the besieged Eastern-Ghouta.

In 2017, the family of Damaan Humanitarian Organization grew bigger. Our team was reinforced by new members. To better serve those we care for, we worked harder to improve our skills. We attended new trainings and refined our work practices.

In Syria, and throughout the year, we continued to work in close collaboration with the Local Councils, Civil Society Organization and the representatives of the Interim Syrian Government to foster a relationship of trust and a constructive work environment. Our cooperation was fruitful and yielded great results. Meanwhile, our team in Turkey and the Netherlands worked tirelessly with various entities, institutions, universities and NGOs to make our voice heard and to support the operations in the besieged Eastern-Ghouta financially and through expertise and guidance.

In line with our belief in transparency and open communication, and because we value our donors and supporters, Damaan Humanitarian Organization launched a new website – www.damaan.org. The website is a new step in our quest to communicate and interact with our friends and donors and to further shed lights on our activities and achievements. The website further offers a new [donation](#) experience through safe and secure integrated payment services facilitated by Dutch banks and international payment services.

Reflecting our high commitment and accountability, the year 2017 witnessed a new change in the legal status of Damaan Humanitarian Organization in the Netherlands. Our organization was officially registered as a “Public Benefit Organization – [ANBI](#), in Dutch” with the Dutch Local Authorities. The new legal status entail taxes exemption for our donors and supports.



Project Highlights

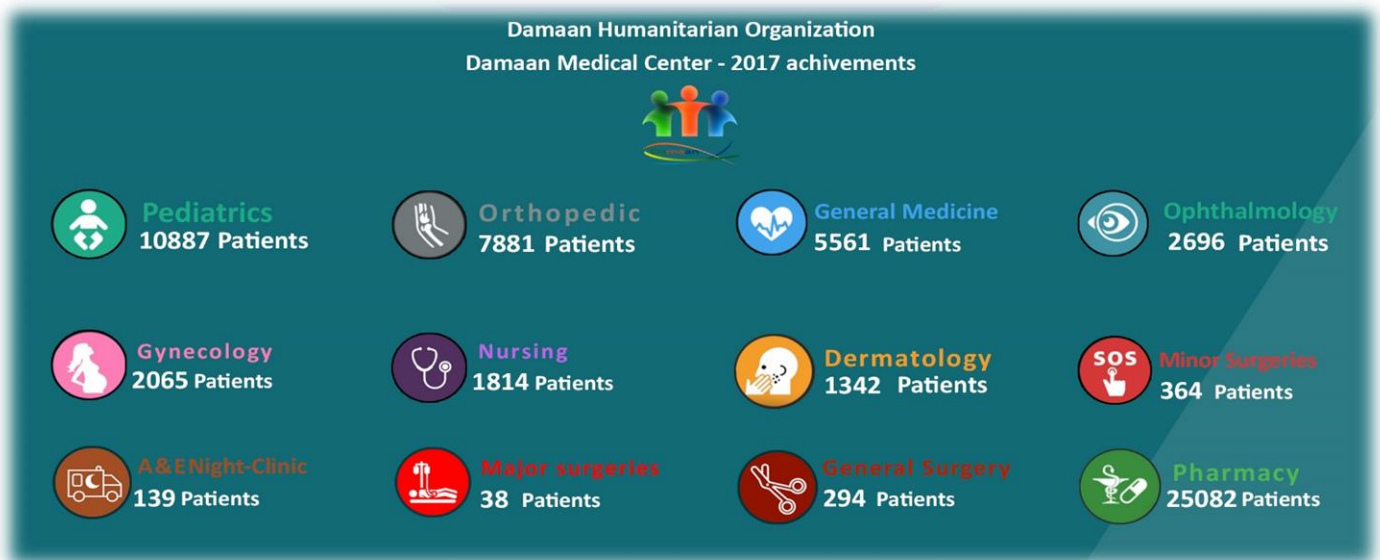
Throughout 2017, with our core values as well as the interests of our beneficiaries in heart and in mind, our team, as with previous years, and in consultation and collaboration with the Local Councils, continued its work in the besieged Eastern-Ghouta in the countryside of Damascus.

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.



Damaan Medical Care Center

The pride of our organization, Damaan Medical-Care Center provided services to **58,163** patients in 2017. As attacks on health-care workers and medical infrastructure, and indiscriminate bombing and as well as the use of incendiary weapons increased, early in the year, our center moved to a safer location. The underground center operated 10 specialized clinics in addition to an Emergency Department and a pharmacy under the supervision of a highly qualified team of specialists.

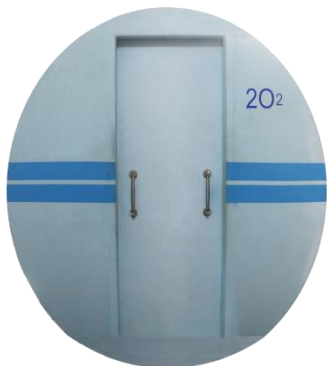


All our services are coordinated with the Local Medical Councils and the Health Ministry in the Syrian Interim Government.

Medicines are provided through Erbin Local Medical Council and Doctors without Borders.

Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Center

In light of the severe shortage of medicine supplies due to the impose siege, our center remains the only hope and option for many critical cases across the besieged Eastern-Ghouta.



Our team of specialists and physical therapists provide simple, non-invasive and painless treatment in line with the international standards. Hyperbaric oxygen therapy has given hope to hundreds of patients and improved the quality of their lives.

In 2017, and given the tightened siege, Damaan Hyperbaric Oxygen therapy center received referrals from all medical centers and hospitals across Ghouta.

The center received and organized many visits and lectures by practicing doctors and students at the Medical Academy in Eastern-Ghouta.

A visual overview of our center could be found [here](#).

Humanitarian Emergency Response Plan

The policy of starvation as a war weapon continued and intensified in 2017 across the Syrian map and especially in Eastern-Ghouta, where 400,000 civilians live in a dire situation.

2017 was characterized by a sharp increase in the number of internally displaced persons due to the worsening security situation because of continuous bombardment and fighting. 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 displaced persons. We increased the number of our communal kitchens to three and our team was involved in two sectors: Nutrition and food security as well as Clean Water and sanitation.

A. Nutrition and food security

Throughout the year, our three communal kitchen provided approximately **35,000** meals to displaced and poor families. A standard meal; prepared in line with the recommendations of the Local Medical Councils and with utmost caution and in hygienic environment, is proportioned to serve four adults. 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.



B. Food packages

As an implementing partner and through its own projects, we delivered **47,000** kilos of uncooked food materials such as rice, burgle, oil, vegetables and wheat. Food packages were distributed to internally displaced persons with a special care to assist orphans and single head of house hold women. Our self-reliance projects were of a great asset during 2017 with an abundant harvest.

C. Water and Sanitation

In response to the lack of clean water in the besieged Eastern Ghouta, and the continuous attacks on infrastructure and water resources, Damaan Humanitarian Organization, and in close coordination with the local and medical councils in the region, raised the number of its water wells to 7 in total. Our “Shallow Wells”, constructed by local experts, are cost-effective and efficient. The wells are completely sealed and equipped with pumps so the water stays clean and can be consumed without treatment.



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. Regular check-ups and maintenance rounds are in place to ensure that the water is safe to drink and for other use.



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.



Great harvest



Education

In 2017, our programs continued to prioritize basic and secondary education / training, while we also strove to assist the institutions of higher education in the besieged areas. Damaan Humanitarian Organization, with the cooperation of the local councils, continued its support to a “Future schools” in the region. The four schools were run and administered by the Syrian interim government, while Damaan Humanitarian Organization assisted with the provision of stationary, fire wood and meals to students. Further assistance included financial assistance to the teachers.



In addition to our support to elementary and secondary education, Damaan Humanitarian Organization prioritized unofficial learning for children that dropped out of school through the establishment of mobile school-tents. The school, in some areas, were the only hope for students to receive education or to catch up with their classes and peers in the local schools. Education in these schools prioritized reading, writing and mathematics as well as foreign language mainly English.



Donors

Damaan Humanitarian Organization would like to thank all those that contributed to its work throughout 2017. 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
SINCE 1992

mkb Administraties


ADMINISTRATIES

Treasury Report

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

Stichting Damaan Humanitarian Organization
Jaarrekening 2017

Staat van baten en lasten 2017

	<u>2017</u>
	€
<i>Baten</i>	
Donaties Nederland	12.005
Donaties Turkije	<u>252.890</u>
Totaal baten	264.895
<i>Lasten</i>	
Salarissen	19.800
Huur	1.200
Gas, water, elektra	1.235
Kantoorkosten	1.533
Administratiekosten	500
Transfer fee	25.169
Programme expenses - medical center	44.425
Programme expenses - oxybaar center	8.850
Programme expenses - kitchens	87.120
Programme expenses - future schools	56.000
Programme expenses - Agriculture	5.150
Transportkosten	1.184
Onderhoud	876
Diversen	612
Bankkosten	75
Afschrijvingen	<u>3.296</u>
Totaal lasten	257.025
Resultaat boekjaar	<u><u>7.870</u></u>



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