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Annual Report 2015

info@SyrianForum.org www.SyrianForum.org

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# المُنتدَى السّـوري SYRIAN FORUM





السورية ALSOURIA













# **Syrian Forum**

Since its establishment, the Syrian Forum has undertaken several tasks that include a diverse set of sectors and fields in Syrian affairs. The SF family strives to serve the Syrian people at all levels. It is dedicated to making qualitative and quantitative achievements and employing Syrian cadres in our cherished homeland.

As Syria currently faces a grave turn of events, the challenges we undertake are bigger and riskier. We ought to further dedicate ourselves and continue to focus our work on serving our great fellow Syrians.

Challenges grow and with them grow our intent and resolve to pursue our mission to build a free and democratic Syria based on justice and the rule of law; where the Syrian people will live securely and in prosperity like the rest of the developed world.



**Mustafa Sabbagh**Chairman of the Board

# **Syrian Forum**

The Syrian Forum was based on a fundamental concept:

A non-profit exemplary organization in terms of its administration and management model.

SF operates through six specialized institutions supported by the expertise of a highly-qualified Syrian team, to empower Syrian communities at all levels. Working with Local Councils and Civil Society Organizations in Syria is the commitment that SF continues to honor.

As the Syrian people face increased risks and challenges and the utter devastation of infrastructure in Syria, we are determined to continue serving our people and utalizing international humanitarian assistance for the alleviation of their suffering.



**Ghassan Hitto**Chief Executive Officer

# **About the Syrian Forum**

- A consortium of **non-profit** organizations that started activities in **2011.**
- Registered in **Turkey**, with partners in **Austria** and the **United States**.
- Consists of 6 specialized organizations with a 325 member team.
- Works through **10 offices** located in Syria, Turkey, Austria, the United States, and an upcoming office in Jordan.



## **Our Vision**

To empower Syrian society to build its future on social, cultural, economic, and political principles commensurate with a contemporary vision that is consistent with Syria's cultural and civilizational heritage.

# **Our Mission**

To **serve** the Syrian cause in most of its aspects and **empower Syrians** to overcome the challenges and set the ground for the establishment of a **just** and **dignified society** founded on local capacities.



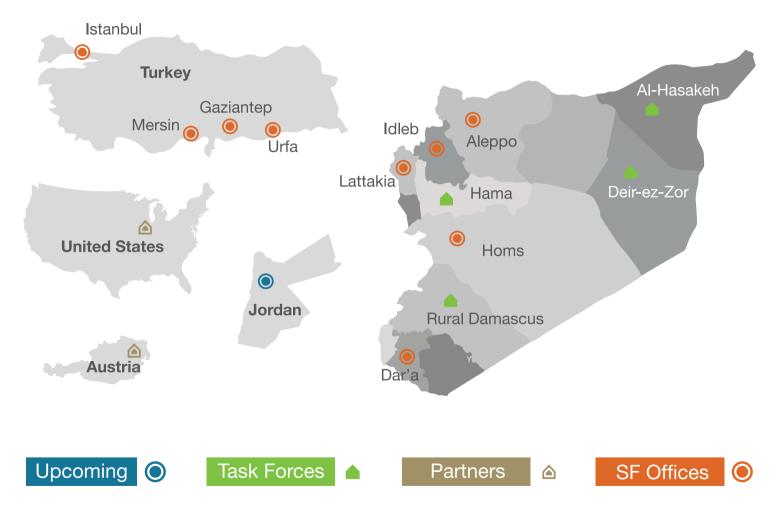
# **Objectives**

- Empower and develop **Civil Society**, and continue to invest in **Local Administration**.
- Build capacities of Syrian institutions and expand their horizons towards a civil society of efficiency, justice and professionalism.
- Foster **economic development** and opportunities for all Syrians.
- Offer solutions and **policy alternatives** in matters critically related to Syrian and regional contexts.
- Reinforce a **political culture** with the capacity to develop and strengthen **democratic** institutions in Syria.

# **Why Syrian Forum**

- Institutionalized yet dynamic processes.
- Creative initiatives promoting professionalism in Syrian institutions.
- Diverse team reflecting the Syrian fabric.
- Highly skilled and capable Syrian professionals from across various educational and professional backgrounds.
- Invests in developing the professional skills of its staff through capacity building and continuing education.
- Engages Turkish, European and International institutions on solutions for Syrian refugees and immigrants.
- Invests in the Local Administration project in Syria.

# Where We Work



# **Syrian Forum Departments**















# www.SyrianForum.org



**SyrianForum** 



SyrianForum



**SyrianForum** 







# A Message from Ihsan's Team

After the monumental effort by Ihsan and the major **challenges it managed to overcome**, we realized that we can do so much, but only if we have the determination to do so. It is an honor to **work hand in hand** with Ihsan team.

Ihsan is proud of its **top-notch**, **professional**, **highly qualified and responsible work team**. We are confident that the key to our success this past year is due to our **dedication** and **sense of responsibility**.

It is through our steady yet consistent steps that we have taken the path towards achieving our aspirations, and those of our fellow countrymen and women.

Baraa Al-Smoudi

**Executive Director** 

#### **About Ihsan**

- Established in July 2013 in Gaziantep, Turkey.
- Service-oriented organization with development goals.
- Conducts projects using a wide network of Local Administration Councils and Civil
   Society Organizations throughout Syria.
- Focuses on providing a **better life** for Syrians through **economic** and **social development,** and to strengthen the institutional and **professional services** within **Syrian society.**

## **Our Vision**

To become the most efficient, transparent, functional and responsive Syrian serviceoriented organization that improves the lives of Syrians through relief, recovery and development initiatives.

# **Our Mission**

To provide Syrians with much-needed services that focus on **alleviating suffering**, and **fostering economic/social development**, **support** a vibrant **Civil Society**, and **build** the capacity of **Local Councils**.

# **Ihsan Departments**

Field Offices



Programs Management



**Need Assessment** 



Monitoring and Evaluation



**Partnerships** 





Logistics



**Finance** 



Media



**Human Resources** 

#### **How We Work**

# Field Offices in Syria

Provide assistance and support to the administrative activities of field offices.

# **Programs Management**

Design, set-up, plan and implement projects based on identified needs, in line with professional global standards.

# **Partnerships**

Build **strategic partnerships** with international agencies, Syrian non-governmental organizations, international non-governmental organizations and Civil Society Organizations inside Syria.

#### **How We Work**

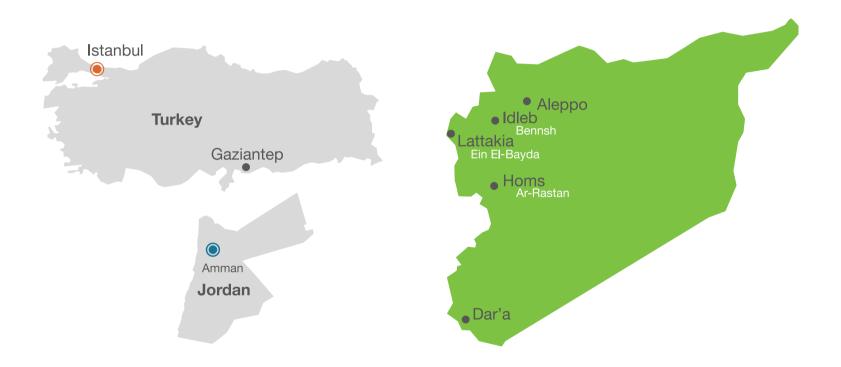
#### **Need Assessment**

Generate statistical reports based on field surveys through which humanitarian needs and support will be assessed and new programs are determined.

# **Monitoring and Evaluation**

- Monitor the activities of all projects conducted.
- Articulate established methods, baselines, indicators and systems for reporting data in order to improve and strengthen project implementation.

# Where We Work



# **Ihsan Field Operation**

Ihsan has implemented projects in the following sectors:



# **Ihsan Accomplishments 2015**

## **Need Assessment**

Ihsan conducted numerous **need assessment surveys** which contributed to the **best response for beneficiaries**, such as:

- Education Assessment in Hazarin, Idleb in March 2015.
- Education Assessment in Jarjianaz, Idleb in April 2015.
- Emergency In-Depth Assessment for new IDPs in Jisr-Ash-Shughur in April 2015.
- Emergency In-Depth Assessment of new IDPs in Al Ghab, Hama in July 2015.
- Food Security Assessment in Lattakia in August 2015.
- Food Security Assessment in Hama in September 2015.
- Multi-Sectoral Need Assessment in non-government controlled Lattakia in November 2015.

# **Ihsan Accomplishments 2015**

**Total Value of Projects and Ongoing Contracts** 

\$21,895,866

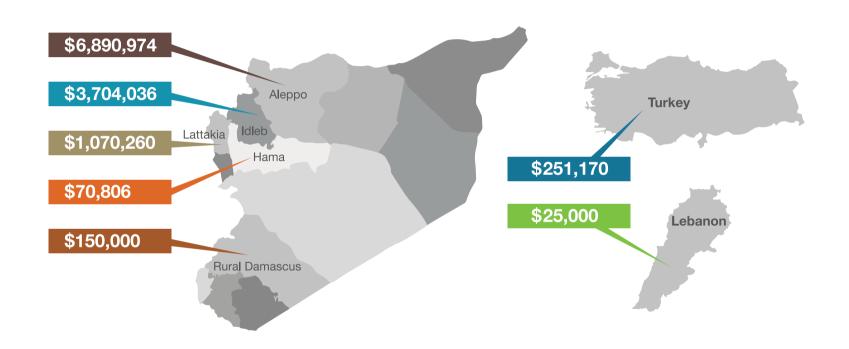
Total Value of Projects in 2015	\$12,162,248
Total Number of Implemented Projects (35 in Syria, 6 in Turkey and 1 in Lebanon)	42
Total Number of Beneficiaries	1,460,024
Total Value of Contracts Signed in 2015 for Implementation in 2016	\$9,733,618

Ihsan is one of the few Syrian NGOs that has received a Low Risk Assessment rating by UNICEF as well as OCHA

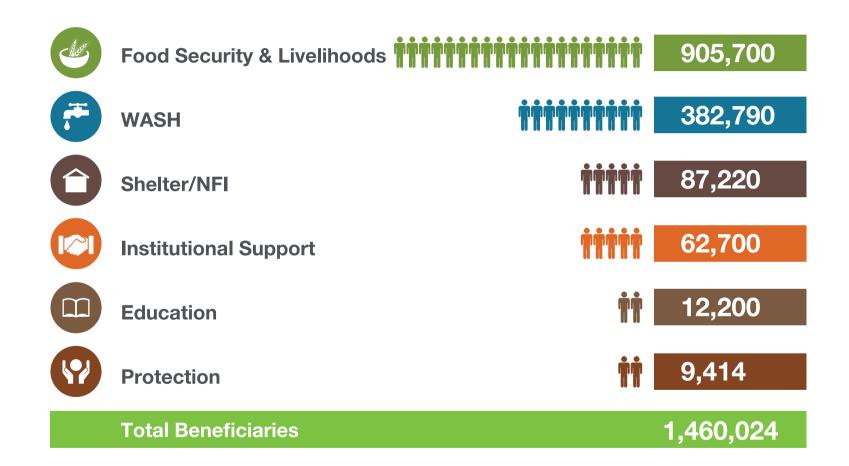
# Total Support by Sector

Food Security & Livelihoods	68%	\$8,346,865
Shelter/NFI	13%	\$1,668,068
WASH	13%	\$1,569,184
Education	3%	\$312,568
Institutional Support	2%	\$251,070
Protection	1%	\$14,492

# Total Support by Area



## **Total Number of Beneficiaries**





# **Food Security and Livelihoods**

Ihsan has conducted activities

in two main tracks:



Agricultural input provision.



**Support** \$8,346,865

Beneficiaries 905,700

And has implemented several projects, including but not limited to the following:

- Objection Distributed more than 120,000 food basket in Aleppo.
- O Distributed more than **29,000 food basket** in Lattakia.
- Objection Distributed more than **27,000 food basket** in Idleb.
- Provided **2,000 farmers** with the necessary seeds, fertilizers and agricultural equipment.
- Land cultivation projects in Hama, Aleppo and Idleb.
- Flour support to a bakery in Rural Idleb.



## **Shelter/NFI**



**Support** \$1,668,068

Beneficiaries 87,220

- Ulhsan distributed **14,000 winter kits** in Rural Idleb, Aleppo and Lattakia.
- O Distributed 12,550 winter kits in Rural Idleb and Aleppo.
- O Distributed 1,100 summer basket in Rural Idleb.
- Obstributed **1,500 dignity kits** in Rural Idleb.



#### **WASH**



**Support** \$1,569,184

Beneficiaries 382,790

- Ihsan implemented a **solid waste management** project in Idleb.
- Rehabilitated water plants in Idleb and Aleppo, in addition to wells and water plants in Khan Shaykhun, Ma'aarrat An Nu'man, Azaz and Hayyan.
- Implemented hygiene awareness activities in Sanjar, Idleb for caretakers.
- Obstributed more than **5,000 hygiene kits** in northern Aleppo and eastern rural Idleb.



#### **Education**



**Support** \$312,568

Beneficiaries 12,200

- Ihsan provided grants to schools that assisted 12,200 students and teachers.
- These education activities assisted 3 schools in Syria and 2 schools in Turkey.
- Ihsan has also fully rehabilitated three schools inside Syria:
  - Andan School in Aleppo.
  - Kafr Basin School in Aleppo.
  - Khan El-Asal School in Aleppo.



## **Institutional Support**



Support \$

\$251,070

Beneficiaries 62,700

- o Ihsan **supported Local Councils** and **Civil Society Organizations** through direct grants from the Syrian Forum to cover administrative expenses or the sponsorship of events, activities and trainings.
- Examples of entities that received grants:
  - The Local Council of the Governorate of Hama
  - The Local Council of the Governorate of Lattakia
  - Local Administration Councils Unit (LACU)



#### **Protection**



**Support** \$14,492

Beneficiaries 9,414

- Ihsan implemented a number of projects in the child protection and GBV sector.
- Ihsan supported and established **4 centers** in Aleppo, Idleb and Al-Hasakeh, as follows:
  - Women Safe Space in Kafr Nobol, Idleb.
  - Women Safe Space in Aleppo City.
  - Child Friendly Space in Daret Azza, Aleppo.
  - Ohild Friendly Space in Al-Hasakeh.



## **Partnerships**





























## **Financial Report**

Total Value of Projects: both Implemented and Under Implementation	\$21,895,866		
Total Payroll and Expenses	\$695,445		
Administrative Costs	6%		

2015



# www.lhsanRd.org









## A Message from AlSouria's Team

It is indeed a great responsibility to be a **reliable media network** during this critical time of change in Syria's history. We feel a great sense of honor to be viewed by our readers as a leading source of news and analysis on Syria. Our dedicated professional team is deeply committed to the journalistic values in accurately **understanding the complex realities in Syria** and abroad, as well as providing comprehensive coverage.

At this pivotal juncture of change in Syria where there are **multiple actors influencing the course of events**, the role of independent media is of great importance to **reporting the full picture**, drawing the attention of readers to the different angles and layers of analysis, and **stimulating public awareness** as an essential part of our progress towards a just and democratic society.

Mai Nahlawi

**Executive Director** 

#### **About AlSouria**

AlSouria is a **media organization** that began its operation in **2014** and seeks to operate in all mediums and contribute to the **development of a Syrian national media strategy.** 

#### **Our Vision**

AlSouria **focuses on raising awareness** about Syrian affairs and their impact on the region and strives to become one of the **major sources of news** and analysis on Syria.

#### **Our Mission**

Publishing a variety of **high-quality media content** capable of impacting coverage of Syrian affairs, and presenting a more **balanced** and **comprehensive outlook** while adhering to **professional journalistic standards**.

دولی

اقتصاد

منوع

فعى العمق

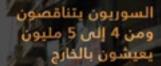
تعريف بكتاب

أنت السورية

الرأى



5 مليون يعيشون بالخارج



قالت مصادر مطلعة في المكتب المركزي للإحصاء التابع السوري النظام احصاءات تقديرية قام بها فإن عدد سكان سورية مليون...

اقرأ المزيد





إدلب وجهة مرتقبة لنظام الأسد بعد معارك حلب واللاذقية



"داود أوغلو" يصف تصريدات السوريون يتناقصون ومن 4 إلى زعيم "الشعوب الديمقراطي" فى موسكو بالخيانة



كيف تأثرت هوية المجتمع السوري بالحرب؟









#### غى اليوم غى الشهر

- أصبح لـ"بوتين" مقهى في سورية
- الدولار يستعيد جزءاً من خسارته في الشمال السوري مقابل استقراره بدمشق
- · "جيش الفتح" يقبض على خلية مهمتها اغتيال قادة بارزين في صفوف المعارضة
- الأسد يتواصل مع الشخصيات المتنفذة في واشتطن للحصول على نفوذ

#### **About AlSouria.net**

A website that provides **breaking news**, special reports and **analysis on Syrian affairs**.

#### **AlSouria.net Discourse**

AlSouria.net adopts an editorial policy that is **inclusive of all Syrians** and an authentic Syrian narrative that **rejects all forms of extremism.** 

#### **AlSouria.net Coverage**

The site covers stories in **all Syrian governorates** and the surrounding region through a wide network of **exclusive correspondents** inside Syria and in neighboring countries.

## Why AlSouria.net



## Why AlSouria.net

#### **Visibility**

In 2015, website visitors exceeded 9 million and page views exceeded 14 million.

## **Impact**

A major source of news on Syria. Many agencies republish, reference, and translate our content regularly.

#### **Audience**

Caters to a wide age range; the largest group is among young adults (25 – 44).

**62**%

38%

from 25 to 44

other

## **AlSouria.net Sections**

News



Opinion



**In-Depth Studies** 





**Syria in the Press** 



Multimedia



**Book Review** 

#### **News Section**

#### **Syria**

This section covers **political, military, humanitarian** and **local news** through a network of reporters who conduct interviews with prominent political, military and national figures. **77%** of news content covering Syria is **exclusive to AlSouria.net.** 

#### **International**

This section provides a unique and **comprehensive overview** of relevant international news by offering **accurate information and analysis**.

#### **Economy**

This section focuses primarily on **key economic** and **financial developments effecting Syrians** and the impact on their **livelihood** through the publication of **situation briefs**on Arab and international economic relations.

#### **AlSouria.net Sections**

#### **In-Depth Studies**

Specializes in **reviewing** and **analyzing** the most **important studies** on Syria and other regional issues.

#### **Book Review**

Reviews books on the Syrian cause and its **repercussions on the world.** It **provides reviews** of English and French books not available in Arabic.

#### **Opinion**

This section is dedicated to **political analysts** and writers specialized in the Syrian and regional affairs. It seeks to share a wide range of opinions and analysis depicting Syrian and regional issues from **multiple perspectives.** AlSouria.net also sheds light on Syrian affairs coverage by the Arab press.

#### **AlSouria.net Sections**

## **Syria in the Press**

**A roundup** of US and European press coverage, **summarizing** news reports and articles on Arab and regional issues. This section also provides **translations of key articles** from **English** and **French** focusing on Syrian and regional affairs.

#### Multimedia

Focuses on **presenting news** in a more **visually artistic** manner such as **infographics**, **drawings**, and **short films**.

## **AlSouria.net Accomplishments 2015**

News



**Opinion** 

2,073



**In-Depth Studies** 





Multimedia





**Book Review** 







## **AlSouria.net Accomplishments 2015**

Section	Total content	Category	Sub-Category	Number
News	10,408	Local Affairs	Politics	4,014
			Economics	2,441
			Variety	159
		International Affairs	Politics	3,051
			Economics	404
			Variety	339
Opinion	2,073	Exclusive Articles		203
		Selected Articles		1,673
		Translated Articles		197
In-Depth Studies	180	Studies		74
		Reports		82
		Western Books		24
Multimedia	200	Infographs		43
		Design photos and video production		157

#### In-Depth Studies – Most Important Studies and Reports

#### **Political Affairs**

- The Iranian Nuclear Program's Inherent Connection to the Iranian Intervention in Syria.
- How Would the **Russian Occupation of Syria** End?

#### **Intellectual Affairs**

- **o** Orientalism in the Arab Revolutions:
  - Does it Play a Role?
- Isn't "Terrorism" a Live Embodiment of the Rule of Political Lying in its Highest Forms?

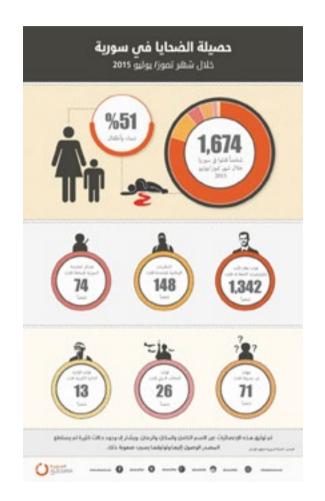
#### **Rights and Freedoms**

- **Denationalization:** A Growing Trend in Need for a Solution.
- Would Syrian Children Enter the International AdoptionMarket?

## **Political Economy**

- The War in Syria and the Political Economy of the Regime.
- War Economy for the Five Powers Implicated in Syria.

## **Multimedia**





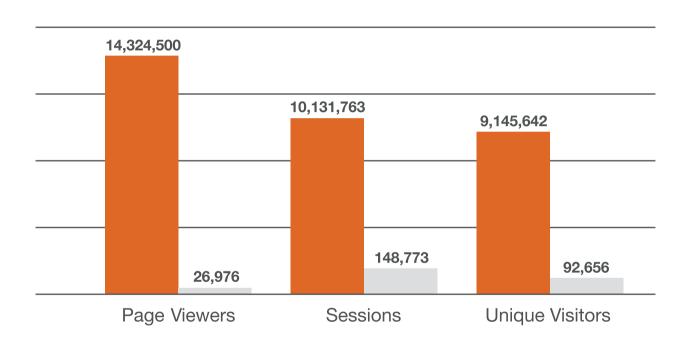
### **Book Reviews – Most Important Titles**

- Syrie. L'Etat de Barbarie
- The End: Hitler's Germany 1944–45
- Islamic Revivalism in Syria: The Rise and
   Fall of Ba'thist Secularism
- Ulysse from Bagdad
- Psychologie des Foules
- The Wisdom of Syria's Waiting Game:

Foreign Policy under the Assads



## **Visitors to AlSouria.net**



2015 2014









انفجار يستهدف مقراً لـ"أحرار الشام"

السياسة الروسية تجاه سورية



Alsouria.net News & Magazines



#### Install





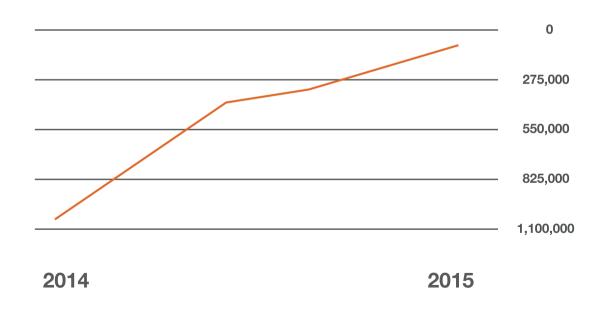




موقع إلكتروني يهتم بالشطأن السوري وتداعياته في المنطقة. ويقدم الأخبار والتحليلات ومواد الرأى والدراسات، ويـوثّق أحـداث القضية السورية وتبعاتها. كما يهتم بأبرز الأخبار العالمية، ويقدم مادة إعلامية مهنية في مضمونها وأســلوبها.

## **AlSouria.net Ranking on Alexa**

When AlSouria.net was launched in **2014**, it ranked **1,000,000** among frequently visited websites. After only one year, it **now ranks 71,339**.





## www.AlSouria.net





AlSouriaNet



AlSouriaNet 🥏



AlSouria\_Net



## A Message from Omran's Team

Omran Center for Strategic Studies has achieved a high level of relevance and importance among a wide spectrum of **influential readership.** Omran has taken part in advancing a **comprehensive understanding** of the Syrian scene and its regional and international impact.

Omran attempts to asses policies by different actors, deconstructs their narratives and claims, and presents policy recommendations to decision-makers.

Omran strives to promote an in-depth analysis of the political process, good governance mechanisms, democratic practices and economic empowerment of local economies.

Ammar Kahf, Ph.D. Executive Director

#### **About Omran**

- Established in November 2013 in Istanbul, Turkey.
- A research institution that serves as an essential reference on Syrian affairs in political, Local Administration, and development sectors.
- Publishes **studies** and **policy briefs** that empower relevant actors and institutions working on Syrian affairs, supports **decision-making mechanisms**, and assess a complex set of data to present **analytical maps** and **recommendations**.
- Conducts **round-table discussions, seminars** and **workshops** that promote a more systematic and methodical culture of decision-making among Syria's future leaders.

#### **Our Vision**

An independent think tank and policy center focusing on presenting an objective understanding of Syria and the region in order to become a **reference for public policies impacting the region.** 

## **Objectives**

- Support decision-making mechanisms and **presenting strategies** on Syrian affairs.
- Provide practical solutions and policy recommendations to decision-makers.
- Publish policy studies that identify challenges within the Syrian context and the region, and foresee scenarios and alternative solutions.
- Publish papers in **several languages** to facilitate interaction with international actors.
- Contribute to the accumulation of knowledge that best serves the Syrian issue.

#### **Omran Core Values**

- Adhere to **professional** standards in describing and analyzing the complex reality.
- Adopt an appropriate **research methodology.**
- Enrich and develop our research team.
- Adapt to changing conditions and needs.
- Localize and adapt concepts and solutions to the Syrian and regional cultural and political contexts.
- Open to different orientations and methodologies through dialogue and bridgebuilding.

## **Why Omran**

#### **Quality Readership**

Advises key opinion leaders and networks; more than 72 Arab and international websites republish Omran products with over 45,000 readers.

## **In-Depth Assessment**

Conducts **up-to-date analysis** of political and social developments in Syria and the region using a **dynamic** and **objective methodology** based on direct access to information on the ground and abroad.

#### **Bridge-Building Platform**

Provides a platform for **Syrian policy makers**, human rights activists, local council members, and thinkers to **exchange** and **develop new ideas** and **solutions** faced by Syrians.

#### **Multilingual**

Issues original products in Arabic, Turkish and English.

## **Omran Organizational Chart**



#### **Research Unit**

**Economics and Development** 

**Politics and International Relations** 

Local Administration & Promotion of Democratic Practices



## **Negotiations Support Unit**

**Political Track** 

**Public Services Track** 

**Military and Security Track** 



## Information Unit

Monitoring and Maps
Production

Public Opinion Polls and Surveys



#### **International Affairs Unit**

**The Turkish Affairs Department** 

#### **Research Unit**



The Research Unit focusses on **analyzing the Syrian scene** through political, military, economic and local administration dimensions, and assessing the impact of changes within it on **regional** and **international affairs**. It presents **recommendations** and **projections** for decision-makers in Syria. Researchers strive to put forward an accurate, realistic and objective assessment of the **challenges** and **opportunities faced by Syria** and circulate it to experts on Syrian affairs. The Research Unit focusses on **three tracks**:



# **Economics and Development**



**Politics and International RelationsUnit** 



**Local Administration & Promotion of Democratic Practices** 

#### **Information Unit**



The Information Unit specializes in **collecting data** that is key for a better understanding of Syrian and regional affairs. It also offers support to the research unit by constantly **monitoring** and **archiving** news and information received from the ground and abroad, producing special reports, bulletins, and maps. Furthermore, it tracks **products by think tanks** and **policy centers** relating to Syria to make available to Syrian and other decision-makers.

This unit includes two teams:



**Monitoring and Maps Production** 



**Public Opinion Polls and Surveys** 

## **Negotiations Support Unit**



This technical unit includes **Syrian and international experts** that **empower Syrian actors** and **decision-makers** with the tools, information and **analysis** necessary for any negotiation process. It focuses on political, military, security and public services tracks.

#### **International Affairs Unit**



This unit includes Syrian and international academics and experts who focus on reaching out to think tanks and policy centers with similar interests to build partnerships. It also provides decision-makers in other countries the latest studies and analysis of the political and military situation in Syria. The Turkish Affairs Department was established and operates in Turkey. We also hold functions and briefings in the US and Europe.

## **Fields Covered by Omran Studies**

o The Political Process

Decentralized Local Administration

Security and Military

o Societal Security

Refugees Resettlement

Regional and International Studies

o Rebuilding Syria

o International Relations

- o Local Economic Development
- Legal and Human Rights Studies

# **Omran Accomplishments 2015**



Studies	17
Papers and briefs	90
Editorials	45
Events & conferences	49
Media appearances	90
Books	3



Monitoring report of think tanks and research centers	21
Local councils reports	12
Daily news reports	325
Special update reports	308
Territorial control maps	29
Military news reports (maps and analysis)	141

## Research Unit – Most Important Studies

- An Evaluation of Syrian Crisis: Internal Dynamics.
- The **US** and **Russian Policies** Towards Syria.
- Rule of Law in Syria? The Assad Regime and ISIS.
- Limitations of Iranian Policies in Syria and Impact on the Political Settlement.
- o Idleb Provincial Council: Assessment and Recommendations (2 parts).
- Local Governance in ISIS Controlled Regions: an Illusion of a State.
- Russian Policy Towards Syria Since the Revolution.
- Political Components of the Syrian Revolution and Their Role in the Syrian Cause.
- Water Security in Syria: Analytical Study and Recommendations to Manage Water Resources.
- Development of Livelihoods in the Liberated Syrian Territories.

## **Research Unit – Most Important Papers**

- The Rise and Fall of the Hazm Movement.
- Al-Nusra and Al-Qaeda: Repercussions of Revoking Pledge of Allegiance.
- The Cairo Syrian Opposition Meeting: a Needed Effort with Complexities.
- The Regional Complexity of Syria as an Arab Gateway to Stability.
- Pivotal Junctions in the Military Situation in Syria.
- O Post-Palmyra ISIS: a Functional Test for all Parties.
- Fuel Crisis and the **Economic Security Challenge** in Northern Syria.
- Local Tax Collection: Challenges Faced by Local Councils.
- Riyadh Conference: an Opportunity for a Syrian-based Action Plan.

## **Research Unit – Most Important Editorials**

- Localized Truces as Indication of **Regime Disintegration**.
- Vienna Conference and Limitations of its Political Track.
- Al-Waar Truce: Messages and Indications.
- Moscow Forum: Farcical Support for a Crumbling Regime.
- Livelihoods and the Challenge of Economic Resilience in Syria.
- Local Councils in Syria: a Successful Power Transition Model.
- Why Local Councils are Targeted by Russian Warplanes.
- Turkey's Role in the International Coalition against ISIS: a Test for US-Kurdish Relations.

To view more studies and papers, please visit **Omran website** at:

## www.OmranDirasat.org



#### **Research Unit – Conferences and Events**

## **Amman Security Conference, Jordan**

The conference was organized by the **Arab Institute for Security Studies**, in cooperation with the **Danish government** and the **Konrad Adenauer Stiftung**. The goal was to research the paths for international cooperation in **strengthening security** and **economic development**, in addition to all aspects of **achieving the nuclear program and the ban on weapons of mass destruction**. Omran presented a paper entitled "International Initiatives for a Political Solution in **Syria: Challenges and Opportunities**".

## Middle East Think Tank Forum by Institute of Strategic Thinking, Ankara, Turkey

The Institute of Strategic Thinking-SDE in Ankara, Turkey, organized the conference entitled "Building a Common Vision for a Peaceful and Stable Middle East", co-sponsored by the Office of the Prime Minister. Omran presented a paper in the conference, titled "Syrian Peace Process: Challenges and Opportunities for a Political Solution".



#### Symposium Entitled "The Implications of the Iranian Nuclear Deal on Syria and the Region"

Omran organized a one-day symposium hosting 4 sessions with experts on Iran, Egypt, Syria, GCC, and Turkey to discuss the implications of the P5+1 Iranian nuclear deal on the Syria file and the regional balance of power. Papers submitted were compiled and published by Omran. The symposium also tackled the projected scenarios for political developments in Syria as a result of this agreement.

#### The Role of General Management in International Migration and Accommodation of Refugees by the Turkish Migration Directorate

The conference was held at the **Mustafa Kemal University**, in cooperation with the Directorate of Regional Governance. Omran presented two papers, the first entitled "The Problem of Refugees in Turkey: Opportunities and Obstacles", and the second entitled "The Implications of the Syrian Crisis on the Balance of Power in the Middle East".



## **Anti-Corruption Training Program**

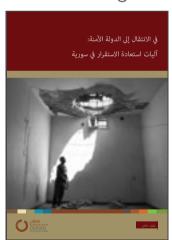
Omran co-organized a training program on anti-corruption on January 12-16, 2015 in cooperation with the Local Administration Councils Unit (LACU), Bousla for Training and Innovation and Canadian Funds for Local Initiatives (CFIL). Omran experts presented a training as part of its goal to promote principles of good governance and democratic practices to combat corruption on all levels. The program reviewed many international, regional and local anti-corruption regulations, the UN Anti-Corruption Agreement and ways for Civil Society Organizations in Syria to counter fiscal and administrative corruption.



## Books: "Transitioning to a Secure State: Mechanisms for Restoring Stability in Syria"

This book focused on the totality of the formal and non-formal political, military, legal and local opposition actors, recommending several mechanisms to **push the**Syrian issue towards a breakthrough. This breakthrough is needed, whatever the expected scenario, due to the **need to fill the vacuum of governance** and **provision of basic services** as a function of the state and not the regime.

This vacuum was induced by the abandonment and **dysfunctionality of the Assad regime** to execute some of its political, economic and social duties expected from it as a state.



## **Books: "The Syrian Revolution in its Fifth Year"**

Omran's Year Book focused on **assessing the emerging realities** of the Levant Region which pushed many of the regional and international actors to explore new positions, taking into consideration their **security** and **economic interests** and reducing the effect of other emerging variables. This is a result of the **political** and **military impasse** in Syria that continues this year. The expected scenarios include



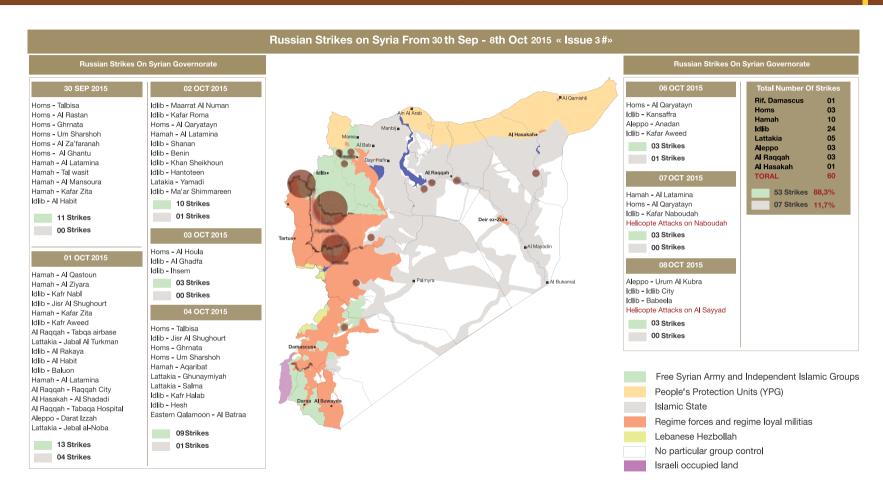
increased military shifts and more entrenched areas of control, in conjunction with the continuing fluidity of the political track, especially concerning the rehabilitation of Assad. Within the complex Syrian reality, the experience of local governance stands out as an alternative de-centralized system; as it has a political latency beyond just providing public services, especially in its adoption of non-traditional economic solutions.

## Books: "The Implications of the Iranian Nuclear Deal on Syria and the Region"

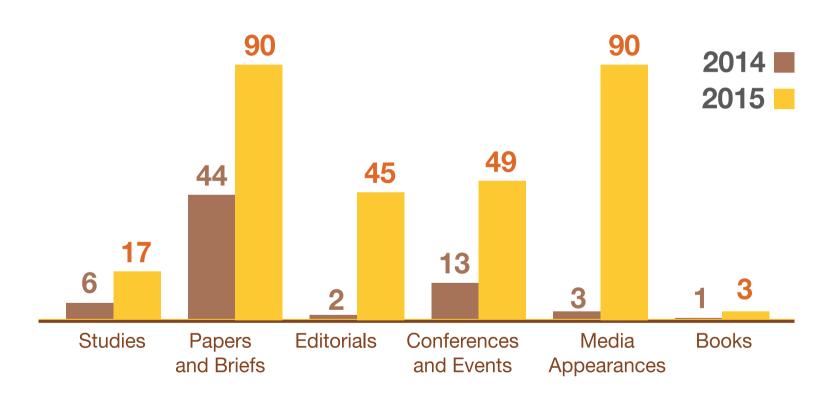
Omran invited **researchers and experts in Iranian affairs** from different regional backgrounds. Participants in the symposium presented papers to **address the impact of the international agreement** on the balance of power in the region as it pertains to Iran, GCC, Turkey, Syria and Egypt.



## **Information Unit - Maps Production 2015**



# A Comparison of Omran Accomplishments in 2014 and 2015





# www.OmranDirasat.org









## A Message from Rizk's Team

Since its establishment, Rizk developed its strategies and objectives in accordance to the **needs and priorities of Syrian refugees.** At the top of which is to **find appropriate jobs** for them and invest in further developing their skills and creativity in such a way that empowers them to fulfill their daily obligations.

Rizk faced several challenges since its launch and was able to overcome most of them because of our dedicated and highly skilled staff members who feel a **high sense of responsibility** towards their fellow Syrians. Our team members' commitment is reflected positively in the level of services provided as well as in the **partnerships that are forged with our host country's institutions.** 

Our biggest challenge is to remain steadfast while improving and expanding our work.

**Anas Al-Shihab** 

**Executive Director** 

#### **About Rizk**

- Began in June **2014** as the Syrian Forum's **professional development institution.**
- Develops the skills of the Syrian workforce and seeks the optimum utilization of
   Syrian professional and scientific expertise.
- Provides job-placement services for Syrian refugees and immigrants.
- Respects the sensitivities of the host countries' job market and works towards a seamless **integration** of Syrians in the job market.
- Strives to limit and even **reverse the brain drain** of Syria by keeping high-caliber individuals geographically close to Syria.

## **Our Vision**

Empower Syrians to achieve **self-sufficiency**, reduce their reliance on humanitarian aid, and contribute to their professional development in order to be **better prepared for rebuilding Syria's future**.

## **Our Mission**

Improve the lives of Syrians by employing the Syrian workforce in Turkey and beyond, develop their skills, and form a networking platform between Syrians and potential employers.

## Why Rizk

#### **Pioneer**

The first Syrian organization focusing on **professional development** and **job-placement for Syrians**.

## **Develop**

Focuses on providing **professional development programs** based on **need assessment surveys** as well as through our team's regular field visits and **assessments of the job market.** 

## Connect

Initiates and coordinates joint projects between Syrian and host countries' business persons to promote entrepreneurship.

## **How Rizk Works**

Receive Job Applications

Conduct Field Surveys

Conduct Vocational Training

Build Partnerships and Establish Agreements

Update the Database

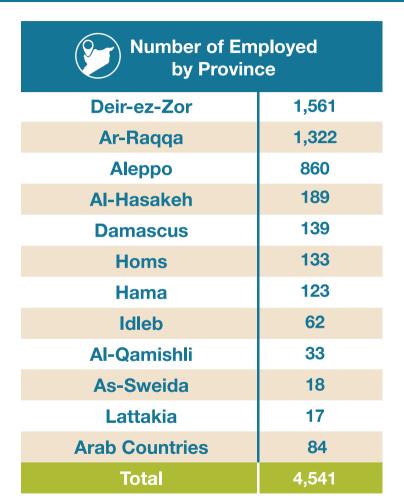
Match the Right Person with the Right Job



## **Highlights of Rizk Accomplishments 2015**

- Since its establishment, Rizk extended services to **27,246 beneficiaries**, which is equivalent to **1.5%** of the total number of Syrians in Turkey.
- Compiled industrial, commercial and service providers' guides for the city of Urfa, Turkey.
- Coordinated and cooperated with the Turkish central government as well as governorates to better serve Syrian refugees.
- Participated in Turkish commercial, industrial and agricultural exhibitions, most importantly the MÜSIAD Business Expo, a construction and agricultural expo.
- Organized joint meetings for Syrian and Turkish entrepreneurs.

# **Employment Statistics**



Number of Employed in and out of Urfa, Turkey		
In Urfa	3,259	
Out of Urfa	1,282	
Total	4,541	

Number of Employed by Gender	
Male Percentage	<b>2,948 64.9</b> %
Female Percentage	1,593 35.1%
Total	4,541

# Number of Employed by Profession (since the establishment of Rizk)

Chef	63	Construction Worker 332
Translator	60	TV Anchor 27
<b>Psychosocial Counselor</b>	45	Public Affairs Officer 37
Hair Dresser	89	Painter 116
Packing	90	IT Professional 47
Teacher	1,986	Lab Technician 468
Waiter	210	Security Cameras Technician 52
Secretary	77	Electrician 44
Carpenter	68	Sales Officer 58
Mechanical Engineer	17	Physical Therapist 25
AC Specialist	71	Editing and Montage 57
Farmer	67	Wood Cutter 46
Black Smith	128	Dentist 6
Barber	47	Other Jobs 26
Tailor	182	Total 4,541



# **Rizk Media Coverage**

## Rizk was covered by several media outlets during 2015

















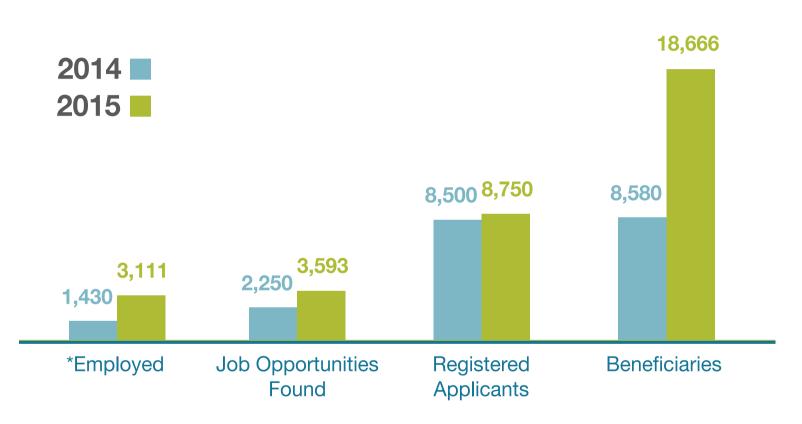








# Comparison of Rizk Accomplishments in 2014 and 2015



\*Employed by both public and private sectors

# **Partnerships and Agreements**

#### **Working with International Organizations**



#### **International Labour Organization**

Train Syrian workforce in collaboration with ILO experts and Turkish officials

#### **Working with Turkish Government Directorates**



#### **Immigration Department in Urfa**

A list of Syrians with Graduate Studies

500



#### **Turkish Directorate of Education**

Total number of teachers assigned

1,528



# **Partnerships and Agreements**



#### **Istanbul University**

Recruiting Arabic language teachers in Turkish universities



#### **Deputy Governor of Urfa**

Coordination and cooperation to rehabilitate the Syrians in Urfa



#### RET

Exclusive office for professional rehabilitation of Syrians



#### **SODES Center**

Sole provider of referrals for Syrians to join programs' centers



#### **İŞKUR**

Coordination and cooperation



#### **Council of Turkish Associations**

STK



#### **AFAD**

Regular coordination and cooperation



#### **TÜMSİAD**

Cooperation and joint projects' coordination with Syrian business persons



# **Sham Relief Foundation** is a Strategic Partner for Rizk



# www.SyrianForum.org/Rizk/









# A Message from Bousla's Team

At Bousla, we consider training to be the most important **tool for building the capacity of individuals and institutions.** We believe that training is the answer to the need of **professional** and **experienced human resources** in Syria.

We are keen to provide **effective** and **customized training programs** that would transfer not only knowledge, but also discipline and experience.

We firmly believe that **building nations relies heavily on the capacity of individuals** and training makes everything possible.

Ramez Al-Abdallah

Executive Director

#### **About Bousla**

- Established in March **2014** in Gaziantep, Turkey as an independent training institution.
- Conducts capacity-building and in-depth trainings for Syrian individuals, Local Councils and Civil Society Organizations.
- Works with a network of experts and qualified instructors to develop comprehensive programs and training materials.

#### **Our Vision**

Empowering Syrians by offering **integrated and customized training programs** that are aware of the Syrian context. Bousla sees the collaboration and empowerment of **Civil Society Organizations** and **Local Councils** to be paramount for the rebuilding of Syria.

#### **Our Mission**

To train and build the capacity of Syrians by providing them with customized, high-quality training programs that fulfill their aspirations, develop their productivity, and increase their competitiveness in the job market.

# Why Bousla

### **Unique Tools**

Provides **illustrative tools with every training**, such as course handbooks and videos that enhance the knowledge and experience of the trainee.

### **Comprehensive Approach**

Providing training programs that **complement and build upon products by other Syrian Forum organizations,** such as offering professional training for Rizk's applicants and human resources development trainings consistent with Ihsan's services.

# **Industry Standards**

Raising the training industry standards in terms of scope and the utilization of modern educational methods.

# **Targeted Trainings**

Offering **effective trainings** in line with the projects and programs undertaken by the targeted beneficiary groups.

#### **Bousla Tracks**



# Education & Psychosocial Support



Human Rights & Rule of Law



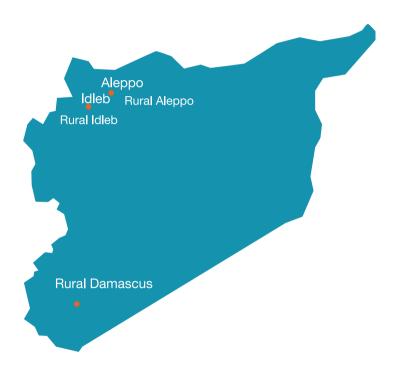
Public Administration & Capacity Building



Professional Development

# Where We Work







# **Bousla Training Programs by Target Groups**

Civil Society Organizations

Managing developmental projects
Skills and tools for implementing
development projects
Managing non-profit organizations
& building capacity

**Local Administration Councils** 

Fundamentals of local administration Good governance Legal training programs

Individuals (in Syria and host countries)

Grants & Ioans program

Micro-projects management

Vocational training programs

Schools and Educational Institutions

Teachers development programs

Psychosocial support training program



# **Some Beneficiary Groups**



































# Programs Conducted by Bousla

Training	Place	Number of trainees	Number of hours
Creative educational methods	Gaziantep	13	15
	Gaziantep	16	12
	Kilis	15	12
	Gaziantep	10	12
	Ghouta	27	12
	Ghouta	19	15
	Gaziantep	20	15
Interactive learning	Istanbul	22	5
	Istanbul	7	5
WASH (water, sanitation & hygiene)	Idleb	22	30
	Aleppo	21	30
Enhancing individual skills	Gaziantep	26	3

Training	Place	Number of trainees	Number of hours
News reporting	ldleb	7	12
Adaptation to societal changes	Gaziantep	10	3
Utilizing alternative energy	ldleb	13	6
Relief project implementation	Idleb	16	15
Local governance & transitional justice	Gaziantep	20	15
Press photography	Mersin	22	3
Creative activities	Aleppo	16	20
Minimum standards for child protection	Aleppo	17	26
Child rights awareness	Aleppo	21	38
Anti-corruption program	Gaziantep	15	26
Photography	Gaziantep	22	30
	Gaziantep	17	30

# Programs Conducted by Bousla

Training	Place	Number of trainees	Number of hours
Negotiation principles	Gaziantep	15	5
Effective communication between organizations	Urfa	10	3
How to create infographs?	Gaziantep	17	18
Social media management	Gaziantep	26	10
Proposal writing	Gaziantep	24	12
Word & Excel principles	Istanbul	11	14
Approach to management & customer services	Urfa	10	5
Project Management Development (PMD)	Gaziantep	24	40
How to create infographs?	Gaziantep	20	18
Email communication skills	Gaziantep	26	8
Photography basics	Istanbul	10	21

128-



#### **Unique Programs Conducted by Bousla**

- Project Management Development (PMD): The first Syrian institution to offer this program in Turkey in partnership with Genome Jordan.
- Social Media Management: The only program offered to Syrian institutions.
- Proposal Writing: An important service to Civil Society professionals and activists.
- Using Alternative Energy: Implemented for the first time in Syria.
- WASH: Implemented for the first time in Syria in partnership with UNICEF.



# **Bousla Accomplishments 2015**

544



Training Hours

600

**Trainees** 

147



**Beneficiary Groups** 





35
Training
Courses



1,013

**Applicants** 



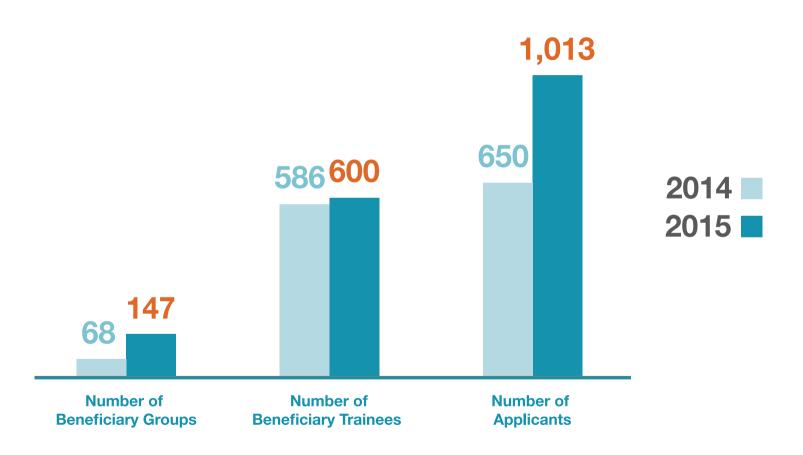
438

**Certified Participants** 

**Grants for trainings were provided by the Syrian Forum and its institutions** 



# Comparison of Bousla Accomplishments in 2014 and 2015



# **Strategic Partners**









#### The Sixth Advice in Communication:

Always have a pen and paper handy when you start a discussion to take notes while listening. It is also a convenient alternative to avoid interrupting the speaker. Whenever you want to make a comment, jot a little note down. When it is your turn to comment, you can talk as much as you want in your time slot without missing any point.

#bousla\_for\_training\_and\_innovation

#the ten\_comandments\_for\_effective\_communication

#Syrian\_Forum

Sample of Bousla's Management Development Recommendations on facebook



# www.Bousla.org





Bousla\_org



**AlBousla Center** 



# A Message from Fener's Team

Syrian society is undergoing **extraordinary circumstances** whether inside Syria or in refugee hosting countries. Fener was established as an institution of the Syrian Forum to serve Syrian society by **dedicating all its expertise to community development.** 

In 2015, Fener conducted numerous activities that catered to Syrians residing in **Turkey** through several tracks of work and reached out to several segments of the Syrian community.

We strive to continue providing high-quality services that contribute to the recovery and advancement of Syrian society by **empowering Syrians with the tools to regain societal security and stability.** 

**Saeed Soliman**Executive Director

#### **About Fener**

- empower Syrians to adapt to a new environment, and enhance communication with governmental and non-governmental entities in host countries.
- Works on providing **indirect services** to Syrian refugees in host countries.
- Conducts workshops, lectures and other community activities that aim to support,
   stabilize and empower Syrian refugees and build bridges with host communities.

# **Our Vision**

The re-emergence of a **safe** and **secure society** that is a beacon of its cultural and civil heritage while staying in **harmony with the host society** for the service of the Syrian cause.

#### **Our Mission**

To address the challenges faced by Syrian communities and **support Syrian refugees** in **adapting to the new conditions of host communities,** understanding local customs and traditions, learning the host's language, and positively interacting with its institutions.

# **Fener Tracks**



**Community Service** 



**Cultural & Social Activity** 



**Sport Activity** 



**Volunteering Activity** 



#### **Community Service Track**

- Organize **orientation seminars** for Syrians on the most important laws and instructions pertaining to Syrians in host countries.
- Launch campaigns to serve refugees and the Syrian community, such as "Lamset Dafa" to provide clothes, fuel and winter supplies for refugees in camps.
- Provide a **guide for Syrian refugees** offering basic information about services needed by Syrians in Turkey.
- The guide **provides all necessary information** for different Turkish cities (Istanbul, Gaziantep, Urfa, Mersin, and Batman).
- The guide is available on Fener's website at:

www.SyrianForum.org/Fener/Guide



#### **Accomplishments of the Community Service Track 2015**



- Information on legal & governmental procedures
- List of public and private hospitals & health centers for Syrians
- **Output** Job recruitment centers for Syrians
- Educational services
- Organizations that focus on serving the needs of Syrians
- How-to Infographics
- Public services
- Touristic attractions

#### **Sample of Fener Infographics**



#### **Cultural & Social Activity Track**

#### **Syrian Dialogue**

The focus is to facilitate **dialogue among all segments of Syrian society** in order to form a common understanding, overcome mounting social tensions, and work towards **regaining and reinforcing societal security** that is a founding principle of a free country for all its citizens.

#### **Cultural Activity**

The goal is to **effectively communicate**, develop cultural awareness and build cultural bridges with the host society (the Turkish society) by **hosting inter-community workshops** and public lectures that **counter the extremist narrative**, and publish such articles and studies in different media outlets.



## Accomplishments of the Cultural & Social Activity Track 2015

24	Workshops
13	Public Lectures
11	Articles and Studies
10	Dialogue Seminars
2	Poetry and Art Nights
1	Children Story Competition

## Accomplishments of the Cultural & Social Activity Track 2015

Workshops	Dialogue Seminars	Articles and Studies	Public Lectures	
Empowering Volunteers with Community Service Skills	Role of Intellectuals in Cultural Dialogue/Boycott	Syrian Intellectuals and Cultural Boycott	Diversity and Disagreements: Theory and Practice	
Interactive Learning Methods	Changes to the Kurdish Scene During the Revolution	Nationalist Implications on the Syrian Revolution	Highlights of the Syrian Revolution	
Developing Policies to Collaborate with Other Organizations	Syrian Innovators Forum	The Need for Self-dialogue	"Free Syria" from an Islamic Legal Perspective	
Migration and its Impact on the Revolutionary Institutions  What's Next? A Pre		Where is Turkey Heading after the Election?	The Revolution: Realities, Challenges and Hopes	
Meeting with a Drama Group at the Innovation Support Gathering The Role of Innovative Professionals in Fostering Dialogue		Can Tal Abyad be the Second Srebrenica?	What's After Migration to Europe?	

#### **Sport Activity Track**

Fener seeks to attract athletic talents and support Syrian youth by providing professional trainers and the needed resources to advance their physical and educational capabilities.

Fener launched a number of sport teams through establishing **Njoom AlGhad Academy** in June **2014.** Currently, the football section has three teams at the following training sites in Istanbul: **Fatih, Esenyurt** and **Gaziosmanpaşa.** 



#### www.SyrianForum.org/Fener/NjoomAlghad



NjoomAlghad



**Njoom Alghad** 



# Accomplishments of the Sport Activity Track 2015

<b>75</b>	Players in Njoom AlGhad Academy
48	Counseling & Public Awareness Sessions
13	Games
10	Players in the Girls Basketball Team
6	Sports Events
3	Tournaments



#### **Volunteering Activity Track**

The focus of this track is to **organize a platform to encourage specialized Syrian volunteers** to offer their services and support to Syrian and Turkish communities, **especially children.** Volunteers participate in conducting the following activities:

- o Psychosocial support activities for children.
- Learning through **science experiments** at Syrian schools.
- Theater, singing and other entertainment activities.
- o Cinema club shows for children.



# Accomplishments of the Volunteering Activity Track 2015

15	Science Experiments at Syrian Schools
15	Volunteer Team Members
8	Children Cinema Club Shows
7	Psychosocial Support Activities for Children
7	Entertainment Events



### Comparison of Fener Accomplishments in 2014 and 2015

	Syrian's Guide in Turkey	Poetry and Art Nights	Dialogue Seminars	Workshops	Public Lectures	Articles & Studies
2014	None	None	None	7	6	11
2015	Regular Updates	2	10	24	13	11
	Njoom AlGhad Academy Team	Football Tournaments	Science Experiments at Syrian Schools	Psychosocial Support Activities for Children	Children Cinema Club Shows	Entertainment Events
2014	20	None	None	None	None	5

15

3

8

2015

75







# www.SyrianForum.org/Fener/





















info@SyrianForum.org www.SyrianForum.org