



# WATAN

WATAN in January 2017



## WATAN 5<sup>th</sup>

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**Watan**  
Reviving Communities

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# Fear of the effects of war on children

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Zulfiqar Biyoosh is from Kafr Nabl in the Idlib province in northern Syria. He lives with his family of 11 in their home in Kafr Nabl and has 3 children with special needs. Zulfiqar's home was destroyed when it was bombed by airplanes.

He says, "The most important thing is that none of my family or children were injured. My house is the only thing I own and now it's gone. We've only got one room left".

Zulfiqar's family live in very poor living conditions and have not been happy since their home was destroyed since they are all living in one room together. "We can't eat or sleep comfortably. We're always worried that this room may get bombed and that someone from my family may get injured. The most precious thing in the world to me are my children".

The WATAN team in Syria visited Zulfiqar's home and sat with the family in their room and witnessed firsthand their poor living conditions.

The WATAN team immediately began to implement the home renovation project for Zulfiqar's home. It includes rebuilding a large room to help secure them better living conditions.

Zulfiqar tells us, "You can't imagine how happy this makes me knowing that when I go to bed I know my children are comfortable and safe, especially my children with special needs. Thank you so much".

Since it was established WATAN has worked within the shelter section to implement many projects that mainly aim at improving a sense of security and privacy for beneficiaries. They also aim at providing them with shelter or shelter kits that meet global humanitarian standards.



## WATAN in January

In January 2017 WATAN managed to reach 250,322 beneficiaries through its institutes that are active on 30 projects in various sectors. They include: capacity building, education, health and protection, food security, livelihood, shelter, water and sanitation services. These services were provided in a number of cities in Syria, Turkey and Lebanon.

250,322   
Total beneficiaries



# Map of **WATAN**'s Activities



## WATAN 5<sup>th</sup> Convention

Proudly sponsored by the Turkish government, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs through NORWAC, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Turkish Red Crescent; as well as the attendance of representatives of Arab, Turkish and international organizations and the head of the United Nations OCHA in Turkey and many international bodies, in addition to 42 Syrian civil society institutes and 300 participants from various humanitarian sectors, WATAN held its 5th Annual Convention under the slogan "Sustainable impact" to discuss many pressing issues regarding the Syrian arena. It took place over 2 days in Istanbul, Turkey, on the 19th - 20th of January 2017.

The convention focused on aspects related to sustainable impact during a response for those affected by the Syrian crisis. This was inspired by the outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit that was organized by the United Nations in May 2016. The recommendations of this summit focused on investment in local civil societies, otherwise known as humanitarian investment.

The convention was initiated by an opening ceremony on Thursday morning, the 19th of January 2017, with several talks by:

- Dr. Mehmet Gulo Oghlu, General Director of the Turkish Red Crescent; convention sponsor.
- Mr. Ahmad Ramadan, representative of the Syrian Coalition.
- Dr. Bilal Al-Jabri, Senior Advisor for NORWAC; convention sponsor.
- Renco Farhi, representation of the Dutch Foreign Ministry; convention sponsor.
- Tronad Yensen, Head of the OCHA office.
- Ahmad Sayadi, representative of civil society organisations in Syria.
- Dr. Salman bin Fahad Al Oda, honorary guest and Arab thinker.

The opening ceremony also included a welcoming address by the WATAN chairman, Moaz Al-Sibaai.

The convention included a donor conference aimed at searching for mechanisms to work on the recommendations of the World Humanitarian Summit on the Syrian situation in Syria and Turkey. It included 40 participant representatives of different sponsor bodies, the Turkish Red Crescent and international organizations. The conference discussed issues regarding increasing the work of humanitarian organizations targeting Syrians in Syrian and in Turkey so as to enhance the response directed towards Syrians in Turkey.

Included in the convention were 6 tracks that focused on important issues, with recommendations according to each track:

1. The future of civil society organizations, sustainability and impact. This track looked at the mechanisms for enhancing sustainability in the work of institutions and strengthening their staff.
2. The integration of Syrian refugees into the Turkish labor market; opportunities, legal frameworks and rehabilitation.
3. Support coordination mechanisms between the active players in an emergency response, including all relevant bodies.
4. Mainstream protection in key sectors of humanitarian work.
5. Targeting health facilities: mitigation, protection and coordination.
6. Enabling educational centers in the management of the educational process during times of emergency.

On the conference sidelines there was a WATAN Network members meeting where the participants discussed various issues related to field changes and the best methods of emergency response. Also discussed, was enhancing the coordination mechanisms and integration between network members.



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## Civil Society Support Sector

The civil society support program focuses on training individuals that work in civil society organisations and local councils. This is done through running approved international programs designed to meet the needs of institutions and to enable them to provide the best humanitarian services at the highest level.

WATAN is working o develop this sector to provide high level humanitarian services to benefit from human resources and financial services.

162

beneficiaries



2

training courses





1

## Starting and restarting small projects and businesses

Through this training WATAN worked on capacity building in the field of small business management and income-generating professions for domestic and crafty business owners. The aim being to build the capacity of beneficiaries and to benefit from their experiences and to re-enter the labour market through setting up small profit projects.



125

beneficiaries

Syria  
(Rural Hasaka)

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Starting and restarting small projects and businesses



2

## Hospital medical centre management training course

This training course covered topics including how to manage health services and hospitals with the objectives and evaluation of health, medical and regulatory services in hospitals. In addition, it covered project and human resources management, financial management, procurement department and medical stores. At the end of the course the training focused on the possible risks that may take place in hospitals and how to avoid them. The heads of medical centres in Syria attended this training course.



37

beneficiaries

Syria  
(Rural Damascus,  
Eastern Ghouta)

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Starting and restarting small projects and businesses



## Education Sector

The WATAN education program provides educational services to students from 9 different schools at various grades in and out of Syria by qualified educational staff. In addition, it provides psychological support services for students in those schools and the implementation of many of the activities that support and enable the learning process.

It includes support for salaries and operating expenses as well as learning tools and consumables costs, and covers heating expenses, as well as providing incentives for monthly cadres working and capacity building.

6,682

Students



9

Schools





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Qah school (Syria - Idlib)

## 1 Reyhanli School

The school is accredited by the Turkish Ministry of Education and offers educational services annually to approximately 350 students from Syrian refugees in the city. During the past month the students took their first semester exams and the top students were honoured. There was also a training course for the staff members.

  
350  
students

  
Grades  
1 - 9

  
Trukey  
(Reyhanli)

## 2 Qah School

Qah School is considered one of the first schools that the organization opened in Syria in 2013. The school takes more than 900 students a year. In the past month many activities took place in the school including many psychosocial support activities (in collaboration with the WATAN psychosocial support team).

  
900  
students

  
Grades  
1 - 12

  
Syria  
(Rural Idlib  
Qah village)

## 3 Atama School

The educational staff carried out a workshop on the importance of cleanliness and the importance of time. There was also a football match, a calligraphy and arts exhibition.

  
700  
students

  
Grades  
1 - 9

  
Syria  
(Rural Idlib  
Atama village)



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Atama school (Syria - Idlib)

## 4 Talada School

The educational staff gave extra classes for students that are late in their education. There were also awareness activities on the important role of the school and the need for students to stay in school. Computer classes were also given.

  
460  
students

  
Grades  
1 - 9

  
Syria  
(Rural Idlib  
Talada village)

## 5 Banat Al Dana School

The educational staff carried out leadership activities, and the first semester written exams were also given and the top students were honoured.

  
1,922  
students

  
Grades  
1 - 12

  
Syria  
(Rural Idlib  
AlDana village)

## 6 Salwa School

The staff gave a seminar on cheating, and the first semester exams were given and top students were honoured.

  
1,200  
students

  
Grades  
1 - 9

  
Syria  
(Rural Idlib  
Salwa village)





## 7 Fatih School

The educational staff carried out psychological support activities in collaboration with Owsoum organisation.

  
330  
students

  
Grades 1 - 6  
and grades 9 and 12

  
Syria (Rural Idlib  
Deir Hassan camp  
complex)

## 8 Aqrabat School

The educational staff created a wall bulletin on hope and its affect on students. The first semester written exams were also completed and the top students were honoured.

  
670  
students

  
Grades  
1 - 9 and 12

  
Syria  
(Rural Idlib  
Aqrabat village)

## 9 Farouq School

There was an English competition for the students and the first semester exams were given with top students being honoured.

  
150  
students

  
Grades  
1 - 6

  
Syria  
(Rural Idlib  
Sarmada)

# Food Security and livelihood Sector

The Food security and livelihood sectors are the main sectors that WATAN works on through Khayr. The need is no longer limited to food but on how to provide food and support the methods that contribute to food security and basic needs for beneficiaries. WATAN is very keen on supporting the agricultural and livestock sectors since they are the main ways to guarantee food security in Syria through several livelihood projects.

28,130

beneficiaries



6

Activities



1

## Distribution of electronic coupons to Syrian refugees in Turkey

Khayr distributed electronic coupons to Syrian refugees living in Urfa, Turkey. Electronic cards were distributed to families to be used to obtain basic foodstuffs and winter related items. In addition, each family member was given 62 Turkish liras.

3,330

beneficiaries



601

Vouchers

Turkey  
(Urfa)

## 2 Savings Project

The savings and loans associations in the village are working on a fundamental principle to form a voluntary assembly of a group of people that choose itself and saves money by buying shares. The savings will be invested through a fund that members can borrow from and will be paid back with an additional charge for their services. This type of association in the village is considered as a type of credit and accumulated savings association. This is a term that describes a financial institution that is run by the community on a small scale.

The main aim of setting up savings and loans associations in the village is to provide a means of savings and loans to a community that does not have access to official financial services and support. In addition, loans can be provided in the form of personal insurance with the help of a social fund that provides small grants that are necessary for member that are facing difficulties.



731

beneficiaries



Syria  
(Idlib,  
Hasaka)

## 3 Distribution of food baskets

The WATAN team in collaboration with the united relief office in eastern Ghouta carried out the distribution of food baskets project. The beneficiaries were registered and given food baskets in eastern Ghouta. Baskets were also distributed in rural Idlib

The basket provides an adequate amount of food to last a month as it contains 80% of basic needs for an average sized family of 6.



7,368

beneficiaries



1,228

baskets



Syria  
(Rural Damascus,  
Eastern Ghouta)

## 4 Agricultural support

WATAN worked on supporting agriculture within Syria in Maarat A Nouman, Idlib. The importance of this project stems from worsening agricultural sector situation in northern Syria as a result of the conflict in the region. In addition, there is little rainfall and low ground water levels this year.

  
2,601  
beneficiaries

  
Syria (rural  
Idlib, Maarat Al  
Nouman)

## 5 Ready to eat food baskets

The WATAN team distributed ready to eat food baskets after registering the newly displaced individuals who were the target group of this project. They were able to distribute 2,350 baskets covering 14,100 beneficiaries in both rural Aleppo and rural Idlib (Dara Aza, Huta, Kafr Naha, Hazano, Kubain Samaanan Saraeb, Taftanaz, Batbo, kahraba suburbs, Tarmaneen, Idlib city, rural Muhandaseen, Anjara, Kafr Takhareem, Darkoush).

  
14,100  
beneficiaries

  
2,350  
baskets

  
Syria (Rural  
Aleppo, rural  
Idlib)





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Distribution of electronic coupons to Syrian refugees in Turkey

## 6 Support of olive farmers

WATAN started this project to help olive farmers in rural Idlib whose production tools had been damaged due to the conflict (ploughing - fertilizing - trim - anti - Harvesting - Marketing). The aim of this project is to establish an association that will contribute to the coordination of farmers and to support further production. The support of this project included 25,000 Kg of mineral fertilizer, with 100 /Kg for each farmer. This project will provide jobs for 45 workers through pruning workshops, paper fertilizer workshops, insecticides and fungicides. There will also be technical support through the established association.



250  
beneficiaries



15,594  
Trees



Syria  
(Rural Idlib,  
Armanaz)



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Distribution of electronic coupons to Syrian refugees in Turkey



# Water and Sanitation Sector

WATAN is very active in the water and sanitation sector through many projects and activities in a number of Syrian cities as well as refugee camps along the border.

The projects established in this area provide long terms services aimed at targeted communities. These include supplying water, waste disposal and sanitation services.

178,893

beneficiaries



4

Activities



## 1 Emergency baskets

WATAN distributed emergency baskets to a large group of people newly displaced individuals that had been registered. They were able to distribute 2,350 baskets and were able to help 14,100 beneficiaries.

14,100  
beneficiaries



2,350  
baskets



Syria  
(Rural Aleppo,  
Rural Idlib)



## 2 Children's baskets

WATAN distributed children's baskets along with hygiene baskets, as both are needed especially by the new displaced families in the area.

63  
beneficiaries



63  
baskets



Syria  
(Rural Daraa)



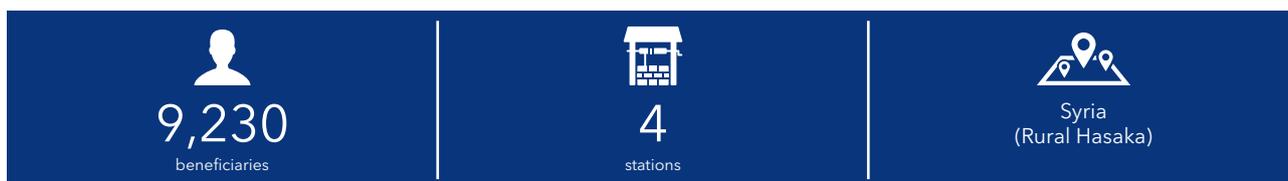
### 3 Water and sanitation services

WATAN completed its extended sewer pipeline project (Areeha, Binish) as part of its project to eliminate the source of leishmaniasis in the Idlib countryside. This project last year after researching the reasons for the spread of this disease, which was found to be due to the open sewage system running through these villages. WATAN has extended extending this sewage pipeline to run through all the affected villages, and is 9 km long covering 155,500 beneficiaries.



### 4 Renovating water stations

After hearing so many complaints about the lack of water in rural Hasaka and the difficulty in having access to water, WATAN sent a team out to the Ras Al Ain area in rural Hasaka. This was done to assess the non-functioning water stations. Once this was done, the team set about re-servicing the four stations in the area so water could reach the greatest possible number of families.





## Health Sector

The WATAN medical program supports 6 medical centres in Syria as well as specialised medical centres that provide complete free medical services. This includes Khayr medical centre that was set up last year, and was part of an emergency response campaign and has regular vaccine campaigns. The support includes salaries and operational costs in addition to drugs and medical disposables that need to be restocked, and heating needs.

20,398

beneficiaries



7

projects





## 1 Khayr Medical Centre

The centre offers services in the following areas: gynaecology, paediatrics, internal medicine, ENT, physiotherapy, dentistry and general surgery.

During January the centre provided polio and measles vaccines to 750 children.

  
2,020  
beneficiaries

  
750  
children

  
Syria  
(North Rural  
Aleppo)

## 2 Ibn Hayyan Centre

The centre offers services in the following areas: gynaecology, paediatrics, internal medicine, ENT, physiotherapy, dentistry and general surgery.

  
5,322  
beneficiaries

  
Syria  
(Rural Damascus,  
Eastern Ghoutah)

## 3 Dar Allstishfa Centre

The centre provides health services including changing bandages, electromyography, external fixators, and patient follow up and examinations, and haemorrhoid treatment.

  
622  
beneficiaries

  
Syria  
(Rural Hama)



## 4 Homs specialised medical centre

The centre provides health services including: endocrinology, gynaecology, paediatrics, internal medicine, orthopaedics, urology, x rays, general surgery and dentistry.

  
3,296  
beneficiaries

  
Syria  
(Waer Homs)

## 5 AlMarj Centre

The centre provides health services including: dentistry, gynaecology, paediatrics, internal medicine, orthopaedics, physiotherapy and gastroenterology. WATAN recently provided the centre with complete imaging equipment including: an ECHO machine and other medical equipment.

  
6,820  
beneficiaries

  
Syria (Rural  
Damascus,  
Eastern Ghouta)



## 6 Al Amal Centre

The centre provides health services including: dentistry, paediatrics, gynaecology, internal medicine, orthopaedics, physiotherapy, gastroenterology.



1,254  
beneficiaries



Syria  
(Rural Idlib)

## 7 The x-ray centre

The centres radiology department provides the following services: x-ray, CT scans, panorama and x-ray contrast imaging.



1,064  
beneficiaries



Syria (Rural  
Damascus,  
Eastern Ghouta)

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AlMarj Centre (Syria - Rural Damascus)



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AlMarj Centre (Syria - Rural Damascus)



## Protection Sector

Last year WATAN began working in the protection field and focused on safety and dignity, the rights of people affected by disasters and conflicts through free distribution of basic needs of clothing, food, heating as well as spreading awareness and discussing important social issues related to organising families, safe motherhood and psychosocial support through community centres and outreach teams.

15,807

beneficiaries



2

Projects



### 1 Community Centres

Many activities are carried out in community centres. Also, videos are displayed so that very important social issues can be discussed. Psychological support activities and important awareness campaigns also take place here.

Lots of professional training courses are offered such as hairdressing, sewing and nursing courses. There are also activities for children in and outside the centre and awareness campaigns covering 173 beneficiaries.



173

beneficiaries



Syria  
(Rural Idlib,  
Rural Hasaka)





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Protection Project (Turkey - Ankara)

## 2 Protection Project

### Clothing project:

The WATAN team in Ankara continued to work on the winter clothing project and were able to provide the basic clothes and food needs to those that need it the most.

### Awareness project:

The awareness team distributed brochures to 550 people and held awareness sessions for 3,162 beneficiaries.

### Case management:

In this program there were 173 beneficiary cases in terms of internal and external support and follow-up. In support for specific cases program there were 71 beneficiary cases.



15,634

beneficiaries



Turkey  
(Ankara, Ankara  
countryside)



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Community centre (Syria - Rural Hasaka)



# WATAN Network News

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The WATAN Network is a community sponsored by WATAN composed of Syrian civil society organisations working in the humanitarian and developmental fields, inside and outside Syria. The aim is to build an active and effective civil society and to raise the capacity and increase coordination and communication among the network members. In addition, to establishing and developing mechanisms and platforms for exchange and management of information and expertise of the 49 Syrian organisations and societies that make up the WATAN Network.

## 1 WATAN Network Convention

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The conference was attended by 44 individuals from 25 organisations representing members of the WATAN Network and 5 members representing WATAN. The network coordinator initiated the conference, welcomed members and reviewed the conference agenda. Members then began to introduce their organisations and their areas of work, after which, Omar Dirbas, the Syrian organisations affairs coordinator in OCHA spoke about the importance of coordinating platforms, OCHA and the steps, conditions, obligations and benefits of registering Syrian organisations with OCHA. The organisation profile was presented and it included an introduction to the network, its management and operational structure, the number of beneficiaries of the network services in 2016 and the expected number in 2017. He asked for the expansion of the Network Board of Directors to at least 5 organisations. These concerns were addressed by stating that this is a preliminary structure and will be further developed by the Board of Directors elected in March 2017, in addition to developing an internal system for the network.

The second part of the conference included several questions about the mechanisms and details of network projects.

### Conference Outcomes

- Describe and clarify the structure and roles of network members.
- To raise the level of governance within civil society organisations in parallel with stakeholders.
- To strengthen relations with the network organisation members by developing mechanisms for communication among members.
- Develop training programs to build political leaders or civil society leaders.
- Involving human resources in the besieged areas by developing distance learning and training mechanisms based on needs assessment.
- Providing general consulting services (human resources - financial and administrative consultancy, etc).
- Providing strategic analysis of the situation in Syria.
- Providing logistical facilities (facilitating the passage of people from the crossings - assisting in the licensing of organisation in Turkey).





## WATAN Network News

### 2 Opening of Baraka charity Shop

In coordination with the Turkish Red Crescent and in collaboration with the charitable care foundation in Zardana in north rural Idlib, the organisation opened the Baraka Charity Shop. A large number of displaced people from all age groups were targeted to meet their needs such as footwear and new clothes. The number of beneficiaries reached 450 families, 2,250 individuals.



### 3 Distribution of blankets and clothing

Al Ghad charitable foundation in cooperation with Ibn AlBalad charitable foundation distributed blankets and biscuits to displaced orphans and those with special needs in north rural Aleppo. Al Ghad charitable foundation was founded in March 2014 and is one of the WATAN Network members. They work to reach an independent and cooperative community to build a better future and to support marginalised groups, especially those with special needs, orphans, widows and families of martyrs.





**watan**

Reviving Communities

## **WATAN** IN BRIEF

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In 2012 **WATAN** began its journey as a framework for a group of institutes that were a result of extensive efforts of previous entities launched in 2006. **WATAN** works in many humanitarian and developmental fields through its specialized institutes. With over 5 million beneficiaries in Syria and its neighboring countries, **WATAN** continues to provide aid for Syria through relief, education, capacity building, and supporting civil society and livelihood projects to name but a few.

The integration between the **WATAN** institutes, staff members and its extensive network has enabled **WATAN** to provide more inclusive projects that meet the needs of Syrians. This extensive network and integration enables **WATAN** to reach most provinces in Syria.

Through your continuous support you are a key factor in helping **WATAN** reach people who are in need of help the most. Your support allows **WATAN** to create developmental projects that will pave the way forward for Syria's national progress.

SÜRDÜRÜLEBİLİR ETKİ  
اثر مستدام  
SUSTAINABLE IMPACT

VATAN BEŞİNCİ KONGRESİ  
رؤن الوطن الخامس  
WATAN 5th CONGRESS

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