



VISION**HOPE**

MATERNAL HOSPITAL, SYRIA

STRENGTHENING MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTHCARE

BENEFICIARIES:	Yearly about 21.000 women and 15.000 children
PROJECT DURATION:	April 2016 to April 2017
DONOR:	German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development
PROJECT LOCATION:	Idlib Governorate, Syria
PROJECT BUDGET:	2.950.000 Euro
PROJECT PARTNER:	Violet Organisation for Relief and Development, Syria
SECTOR:	Health, Protection

BACKGROUND

During the seven years of crisis, the country and its population have experienced displacements, missing basic needs and a devastated health care sector. Bombing and air raids have profoundly affected the Syrian infrastructure. Due to the pressing circumstances Vision Hope International made it a priority to directly work within Syria in order to support the most vulnerable of the local communities: women, their new-borns and children. The Syrian health sector is severely affected and continuously needs international support. Traveling long distances to receive health care comes along with danger for many Syrians.



MATERNAL HOSPITAL, SYRIA

MATERNAL AND CHILD HOSPITAL //

Working in a warzone is challenging, however Vision Hope strongly believes in working together with local communities to provide sustainable solutions. The first step towards sustainability was to build a hospital for mothers and children together with the Syrian Organisation Violet in the Idleb Governorate. Starting that new collaboration, Vision Hope became active inside Syria for the first time.

The construction of a hospital began in April 2016 and was finalised three months later. Starting in July, about 1.500 women and around 800 children are using the services of the facility per month. Additionally, an average of 250 babies are born each months - including 50 caesarean.

Not only acute health needs are addressed in the hospital, but also preventive treatments are offered through the participation in vaccination campaigns with UNICEF.

During the first year, the hospital has been operated by 34 medical and administrative - mostly female - staff . They are delivering qualitative medical assistance, while also running a pharmacy and laboratory at the premises. Almost all of the staff have had an opportunity to deepen their knowledge through additional medical or administrative trainings.

To ensure the quality of treatment, the hospital is broadly equipped with medical devices: hospital beds, ultrasounds, incubators and monitors, sterilisation units and other necessities. Besides the lack of medical equipment and health professionals, the situation in Syria is characterised by power cuts. Thus, the hospital has two emergency power generators and a solar system.

To help beneficiaries reach the hospital an ambulance service has been established which allows the most vulnerable and immobile people to access and benefit from the services.

OBJECTIVE

Contributing to improving the health situation of pregnant and nursing women, their newborns and children through decentralised structures in Syria.

OUTCOMES

- (1) Increased resilience of the health sector in the Idleb governorate through increased capacity of the Idleb Health Directorate.
- (2) Enhanced geographical reach of mother-and-child health care through a decentralised system within the governorate.
- (3) Improved maternal and child health care by operating the Violet Maternity Hospital and by further increasing the quality of medical and administrative assistance.

MATERNAL HEALTH PROGRAM //

Part of the weekly activities in the hospital are patient satisfaction surveys: they showed the need for health services directly within their reach. Most of the patients still travel far to receive medical services. Therefore, Vision Hope and the partner Violet decided to expand the activities through two components:

- (1) Further increasing the resilience of the Idleb Health Directorate through capacity building with regards to maternal and child health.
- (2) Enhancing the geographical reach of maternal and child health care through a decentralised system.

Jointly, Vision Hope and Violet are training 20 women to become birth attendants, which can independently work within their communities to decrease the need to travel to the hospital. Our goal is to create sustainable, long-term solutions that serve the needs of the communities directly - even in conflicts settings.