



2017  AR(S

ANNUAL  
REPORT



*At the end of the day, we, the Syrian diaspora will be the ones who will be there when all the other relief, aid, and development groups have left. As the Syrian-Americans, the US is our country and comes first, but Syria will always be our home.*

-The ARCS Executive Committee

# Statement from the Executive Committee

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After seven long years of conflict in Syria, many of us in the humanitarian field have become disillusioned and exhausted by the pace of the ever-changing realities in Syria. Keeping up with each new urgent catastrophe has become nearly impossible, as has trying to mobilize the international community to act to ensure access for our services and to protect civilians.

Despite the mounting difficulties in providing relief to and advocating for the people of Syria, the diaspora community has remained united in our stalwart dedication to work together towards a better future for our country.

It has been inspiring to see the tireless members of the Syrian-American community who continue the hard work of providing relief to those affected. As a coalition of 13 diaspora-led humanitarian organizations, the American Relief Coalition for Syria plays a more critical role than ever in helping to sustain the energy of this effort, enabling these organizations to improve and expand their programs on the ground.

ARCS members implement great programs across multiple sectors, and their reach extends from Syria to refugees across both the region and in the United States. Individually, each ARCS member provides incredible and impactful services. But together, under this coalition, our members are a unified voice.

This voice is ARCS' greatest tool for making an impact – and in 2017 we saw it put to good use; we called attention to the needs and challenges in Syria, such as access to besieged communities and immigration status for Syrian refugees. ARCS has used its reach to advocate across both US and international governments, to strengthen our members and extend their reach, and to bring attention to the Syrian cause.

As we move forward and hope for a more peaceful future, ARCS will continue to empower Syrian-Americans who lead the way.

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Sincerely,

The ARCS Executive Committee

**Dr. Ahmad Tarakji**

Chair, ARCS Executive Committee  
Syrian American Medical Society

**Mohamad Al Bardan**

Vice-Chair, ARCS Executive Committee  
Syrian Expatriates Organization

**Adib Chouiki**

Secretary, ARCS Executive Committee  
Rahma Relief Foundation

**Mohamad Rachid**

Treasurer, ARCS Executive Committee  
Hope Foundation for Relief and Development

**Jomana Qaddour**

Officer/Director, ARCS Executive Committee  
Syria Relief and Development



# American Relief Coalition for Syria

## Who We Are

The American Relief Coalition for Syria (ARCS) is a coalition of non-political, Syrian diaspora led humanitarian organizations that provide multi-sector relief inside of Syria and services to Syrian refugees in regional host countries and in the United States.

### Mission

The mission of ARCS is to be a voice for US-based Syrian diaspora organizations who are providing humanitarian and development services for Syrians worldwide, through advocacy and empowering local humanitarian actors. ARCS serves as an impetus for positive change, social welfare, and progress through serving as a platform for coordination and organizational development.

### Vision

Our vision is to empower Syrian voices, both in Syria and in the diaspora. We envision a world in which Syrian voices are heard, and their dreams are empowered to become a reality.



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# THE YEAR 2017: REVIEW

**The American Relief Coalition for Syria (ARCS)** continued to be a strong voice for the Syrian diaspora in 2017. ARCS was successful in achieving significant goals in order to help the people in Syria, Syrian refugees in regional host countries and in the United States. Encouraged by the considerable success in 2016, ARCS and its 13 Syrian-American and non-governmental member organizations were able to provide assistance and services to the Syrian community in need.

**2017 was a year of challenge and hope,** action, and opportunity for Syrians. The challenges facing the state of the Syrian people are many and extreme, and ARCS identified and responded to help and enhance the quality of life of Syrians living in distress. ARCS constantly evaluated the programs and services in the field, and we have identified and learned what are the key and most valuable programs that relate to the Syrian people.

**Despite strong progress** that has been achieved, however, there is a long way to go to tackle and eliminate the most critical challenges such as widespread famine caused by the lack of access for food and water, shortage of medical supplies and care, clothing, education and work opportunities.



**ARCS' work led to improvements** in our programs and activities and with our focus and efforts to strengthen the abilities of our member organizations and to improve the humanitarian and relief support in the war-torn areas.

**ARCS continued to contribute** in the areas of public advocacy, project coordination, resource development and organizational development of its member organizations.

**As humanitarian organizations** working on the ground in Syria, we understand the challenges and complexities on the ground. In 2018, we will continue to focus to provide multi-sector relief inside of Syria and in regional host countries and to strengthen our ability to serve Syrian people in need with compassion, transparency, and generosity.

# THE YEAR 2017: ACHIEVEMENTS

## Advocacy & Campaigns

- Held Advocacy Days on in Washington, DC
- Campaigned for access and humanitarian support to besieged areas
- Proposed key language changes to improve bank de-risking



## Capacity Building & Coordination

- Held training webinars on topics from HR to financial issues faced by NGOs
- Developed an internal portal for information sharing among members
- Coordinated joint PR campaigns on urgent topics



## Organizational Achievements

- Hired new crucial support staff to improve organizational efficiency
- Awarded two year grant to expand operations and reach
- Developed new partnerships and sponsored joint events



# THE YEAR 2017:

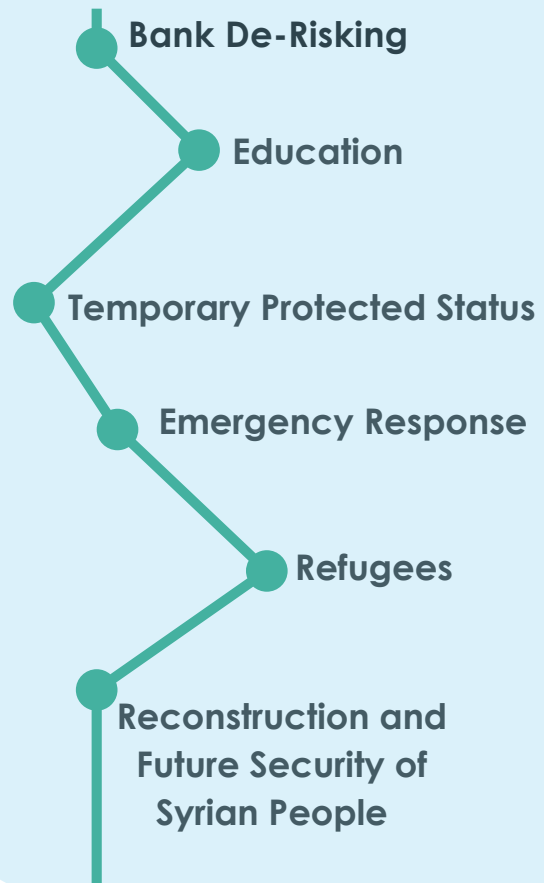
## ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

**ARCS hosted Advocacy Days** in Washington, DC in March & October 2017, and arranged meetings between member organizations and US officials, Hill staffers, and representatives. ARCS extended its reach and advocated all levels of government, including the White House, Department of State, Department of Homeland Security, UN Security Council, UN agencies, and Congress to advocate and educate on behalf of our member organizations.

**ARCS has been actively working** on the bank de-risking challenges ARCS members and many others face. This included coordination with the World Bank, representatives from the US government, nonprofit sector, bankers, bank examiners, and academics to find explore solutions.

**ARCS produced updates** from the field and besieged areas to provide valuable information and emphasize the need for humanitarian actions and access. ARCS continues to connect journalists and the media with humanitarians and Syrians to discuss policy and recent events.

### Advocacy Topics



**In 2018, ARCS will continue its efforts** to educate on and contribute to important public policy matters. As a coalition of humanitarian organizations working directly on the ground inside Syria and regional countries, ARCS' engagement is crucial in providing feedback and recommendations to accomplish humanitarian goals and to achieve social well-being.



# THE YEAR 2017:

## COORDINATION

**ARCS coordinated a joint campaign** for immediate intervention in besieged areas in and around Eastern Ghouta. We urged international governments, US representatives, and the United Nations to allow humanitarian organizations unfettered access to deliver food, medicine and other relief into the area.

**ARCS designed collaborative approaches** to increase funding for education programs for young Syrians, and to refugees in the region. The initiative aims to enable access to necessary primary and secondary education for children, and to aid families that cannot afford the cost of books and supplies.

**ARCS supported a Fundraising Event** to promote advocacy for the Syrian community. In addition to making a vital contribution to Syrians in need, this event represented the premier networking opportunity for organizations providing multi-sector relief in Syria, and highlighted the vital activities and partnerships between organizations in achieving our humanitarian goals.

## CAPACITY BUILDING

**ARCS provided training and education** webinars to member organizations and provided new opportunities for information sharing among members on topics such as organizational capacity building, grant writing, financial best practices, social media and communications strategies, techniques to advance public advocacy, and more.

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*Committed to improving the quality of member organizations' programs and services, ARCS implemented new initiatives in 2017 and contributed to the organizational development of its members in order to better serve the Syrian people in need.*  
.....

**ARCS analyzed members' feedback** to assess the sector's changes in order to better respond to the needs of both organizations and of Syrians that we serve.

**The implemented activities** and provided webinars developed member organizations' ability to engage with other international NGOs and local communities, as well as to improve their funding opportunities that are crucial for the continuation of their support to Syrian people affected by the war.



# MEMBERS CORNER

ARCS has an important mission to provide a model network of diaspora organizations in the United States that will contribute to the positive change and development in their homeland. As such, ARCS is a membership organization that exists on the value of mutual collaboration to pursue and contribute to the members' development and needs.



*Our member organizations are the center of our existence and we are proud to be a voice for the Syrian-American community.*



We aim to help member organizations build their professional capacity and we are committed to making our members become a powerful force in achieving joint humanitarian and development goals.

Our focus in 2018 will remain on creating a more effective coalition that will strengthen and encourage collaboration between member organizations aiming to improve reach and impact of members to the people they assist. We will continue to serve as a central platform for member organizations and will provide the opportunity to share mutual achievements, challenges and future strategic plans.

## 2017 ARCS MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

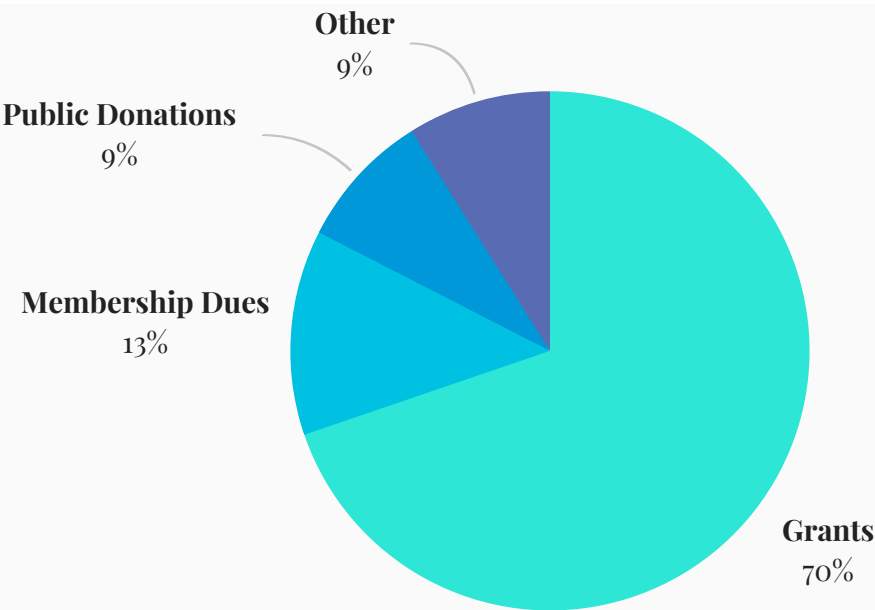


## ARCS PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

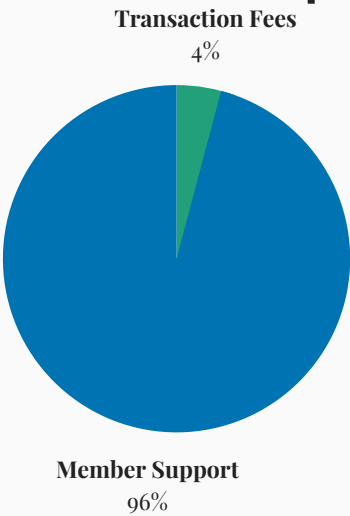


# 2017 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## 2017 Income

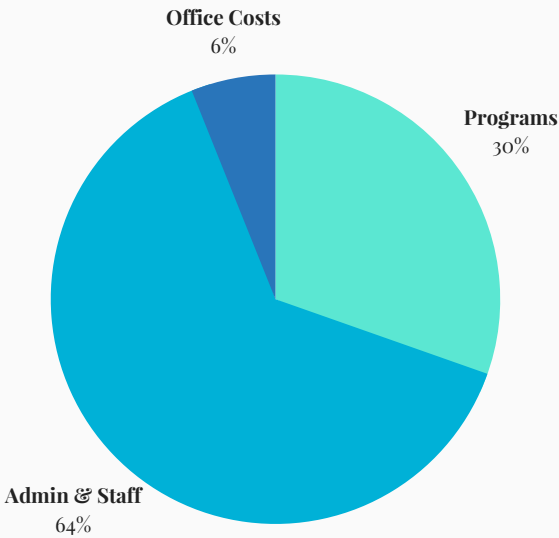


### Public Donations Spending

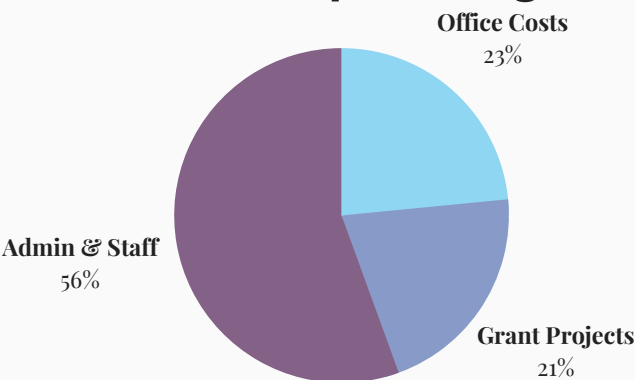


### 2017 Expenses Based on Income Source

#### Member Dues Spending



#### Grant Spending



# 2018: LOOKING FORWARD

ARCS will continue to grow and assist communities in need across Syria, regional countries and worldwide. Throughout 2017, ARCS worked to improve systems, approaches and develop future strategic plans in order to develop new policies and enhance future actions.

The following year will be important for our work, as we hope to see the major shift in the Syrian conflict that will bring positive and prosperous changes for the people in Syria. With this in mind, we will be focusing on the following goals for 2018.

## COALITION STRENGTHENING AND IMPROVEMENT

Enable our members to reach more people and provide assistance to communities in need.

## MOVEMENT BUILDING

Lead programs for Syrian reconstruction and advocate and encourage collaboration based on humanitarian principles.

## POWERFUL ADVOCACY INITIATIVES

Educate and raise awareness about the importance of education for Syrians, and its role in achieving economic and social prosperity as well as stability and security in the region.

## URGENT RESPONSES

Continue to monitor conditions on the ground and be prepared to lead our members and partners in urgent calls to action.

## EXPAND OUR ORGANIZATIONAL REACH

Engage more humanitarian organizations as our partners or potential new members, cooperating to raise awareness and provide relief.

# 2017 IN PICTURES: ADVOCACY DAY





# 2017 IN PICTURES: MEMBERS' RELIEF WORK



Syrian Expatriates Organization



Syria Relief & Development



Mercy Without Limits



# 2017 IN PICTURES: MEMBERS' RELIEF WORK



NuDay Syria



Shaam Relief Foundation



Syrian Forum USA



# 2017 IN PICTURES: MEMBERS' RELIEF WORK



Syrian American Medical Society



Syrian American Engineers Association



Rahma Relief Foundation



# 2017 IN PICTURES: MEMBERS' RELIEF WORK



Hope Foundation for Relief & Development



Swasia Charity Foundation



Karam Foundation



Syrian Community Network

**For more information on our projects and work, please visit  
[www.ARCSyria.org](http://www.ARCSyria.org)**



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