



Under the guidance of the Syriac Orthodox  
Patriarchate of Antioch and all the East

**APPENDIX**  
**THE FIRST GATHERING OF THE SYRIAN  
CHRISTIAN YOUTH LEADERS**  
**(OUTCOMES & ASPIRATIONS)**



**"TOGETHER TODAY, FOR A BETTER FUTURE"**

**DAMASCUS - CONFERENCE PALACE**  
From the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2022



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# THE FIRST GATHERING OF THE SYRIAN CHRISTIAN YOUTH LEADERS

(Outcomes & Aspirations)

## Table Of Content

Introduction	06
Final Outcomes	10
Final outputs of Damascus & Its Suburbs	15
Final outputs (Aleppo)	21
Final outputs (Homs)	25
Final outputs (Hama)	29
Final outputs (Tartous)	33
Final outputs (Latakia)	37
Final outputs (Al-Sweidaa)	41
Final outputs (Daraa)	45
Final outputs (AL-Hasaka)	49
Themes of the International Café: (Youth Dreams)	52
TESTIMONIS	54
Conclusion	58





# THE FIRST GATHERING OF THE SYRIAN CHRISTIAN YOUTH LEADERS

(Outcomes & Aspirations)

## Introduction

The Christian Hope Center organized the first gathering of Syrian Christian youth leaders conference.

Under the guidance of the Syriac Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and all the East and under the supervision of the Apostolic Vicariate of the Latin church in Syria.

**“ Together Today,  
for a Better Future”**

CONFERENCE PALACE (DAMASCUS)  
26 TO 28 OCTOBER 2022



## Conference Vision

Preserving Christian youth in Syria by identifying their needs and aspirations.

## Direct Objectives Of The Conference:

The aim of the meeting, was to achieve the following:

1. Exchange of experience s between all participants so that leaders learn about the experiences of those who participate with them in Syrian youth work.
2. present the work of 8 different provinces in Syria and explaining their community and Christian activities on youth level.
3. Create a personal space for each leader, that allows them to find their true Christian belief and hope in their lives.
4. Prepare a recommendation document that participants seek to achieve in their cities with the help of church leadership and donors when needed.

## **Summary of implementation and general organization:**

The meeting was under the management and organization of Hope Center in Syria represented by Dr. Safir Salim with a small committee of leaders with great experience in organizing conferences and youth work. The committee worked through the following organizational steps:

1. A coordinator was appointed to work and organize preparatory meetings for the participants (a coordinator for each geographical sector in Syria, which were eight. The coordinator is the link between the participants from his geographical sector and the committee.
2. Local churches in all Syrian cities were informed by sending an official email to the head of the church in each region and requesting the nomination of leaders by them.
3. Personal invitations were sent to distinguished leaders in each Syrian province according to the following geographical distribution:

**Damascus and its countryside - Aleppo - Hasakah and Qamishli  
Homs - Hama - Latakia - Tartous - Daraa and Soueida**

4. Applications for candidates to attend the conference were received electronically.
5. Participants were selected by a united mechanism between coordinators and the small committee.
6. The coordinators organized three periodic preparatory meetings for leaders according to their groups. The initial three meetings aimed to exchange experiences and identify the leadership and youth activity of the participants and thus identify some of the youth activity in the governorate, then the needs of young people were proposed and final solutions and recommendations were put forward at the conference from each governorate which are realistic and subject to follow-up and implement.

## **The main conditions for participation in the conference:**

**The criteria for selecting the participants were as follows:**

1. Age between 22 - 40 Half of the participants will be females.
  2. Good and distinctive reputation and passion towards the city.
  3. Believes in youth work and the spirit of team work
- Certainly, the presence of the leaders and their invitation was a personal presence and their representation is of themselves as a model for distinguished Christian youth in Syrian cities.

## THE FIRST GATHERING OF THE SYRIAN CHRISTIAN YOUTH LEADERS

(Outcomes & Aspirations)

**The conference was launched according to a clear work condition, that was followed before, during and after the conference, and can best be described as:**

1. No political or religious discussion is allowed during the conference.
2. The conference does not seek to direct any criticism or blame to any party of the Syrian crisis.
3. The conference does not seek to criticize the clergy or those in charge of the administration of the church, but rather creates a clear role in taking real responsibility in church work through young people.
4. The conference does not seek to form a youth administration or leadership or any kind of authority or committees, but rather depends on increasing the awareness of young leaders to learn about the work of others, exchange experiences and search for a vision for real joint act between youth and the church.
5. There is no room for melancholy and negativity in conveying the image, but rather the conference sought to create a new spirit of Christian hope, and try to bring it back and spread it in the cities and institutions with which we work. And serious work under the difficult period that our dear country Syria is going through.

For clarification, **The Christian Hope** Center is a Syrian Christian ecumenical organization under the supervision of the Latin church in Syria that works with all Christian parishes to support Christian families in Syrian cities to preserve the Christian presence in Syria. For details, please follow the link [www.hcsyria.org](http://www.hcsyria.org)



The conference was launched on October 26, 2022, over five days, participants were encouraged to exchanges experiences, in addition to benefiting from the experience of a number of experts and young individuals representing donors, also the Youth leaders were accompanied by a group of clergy, to bring results of a united team of leaders working responsibly for their community and church, the conference was concluded on October 28, 2022.

In this booklet, we present to you the results and outputs that the young leaders worked on during the days of the conference.

These outputs represent a set of proposals and solutions that young people have found it would contribute to preserve Christianity in Syria.

The following outputs are being presented to you today, in hopes that it will resonate and perhaps together as one church we can work to implement them through the institutions of the church or through new initiatives that serve the Christian presence.

*Syria*



# THE FIRST GATHERING OF THE SYRIAN CHRISTIAN YOUTH LEADERS

(Outcomes & Aspirations)

## Final Outcomes of the First Christian Youth Leaders Meeting

### Economical level

#### Challenge:

Water sources are severely deteriorating due to the lack of electricity.

#### Solutions:

1. Drilling new wells and maintaining already existing old wells.
2. Investing in the field of water purification and recycling.

### Educational Level

#### Challenge:

- The inability of large numbers of young people to easily reach their universities due to the lack of transportation in addition to the poor economic situation of students.
- Decrease of the quality of education.

#### Solutions:

1. Assist in securing transportation for students to their universities.
2. Financial grants (monthly or term-based) for those who need to study in a governorate other than the one in which they live.
3. Allocating flats for university students in cities.
4. Providing loans dedicated to students to help them buy their study requirements, in addition to building a center specialized in printing services at cost-prices.
5. benefit from university youth to teach students from transitional stages within the scope of the church.
6. Providing financial support to university youth by involving them in community work within the system of working hours in return for a financial profit (such as serving the elderly).
7. Raising the quality of teaching staff through specialized courses to enhance the educational level of students.

### Vocational level

#### Challenge:

- The inability of young people to set their future goals on the professional level.

## **Final Outcomes of the First Christian Youth Leaders Meeting**

- Lack of job opportunities and decrease in the standards of living, especially in rural areas.

### **Solutions:**

- 1.** Establishing a youth counseling office to provide a number of counseling services at a psychological, social, vocational and other levels.
- 2.** Preparing and training young people according to what is suitable with the local work market in various domains in cooperation with the available youth training institutions.
- 3.** An ecumenical employment platform that connects employers and young job seekers from all Christian parishes.
- 4.** Effective networking between training institutions and companies that have job opportunities , in addition to securing practical training opportunities, which employment for distinguished people.
- 5.** Exchange professional experiences between Christian youth in various sectors and the possibility of preparing them as trainers to conduct various trainings through scientific and practical meetings and conferences.
- 6.** Helping young people in the countryside to participate in all training opportunities, which are mostly held within cities.
- 7.** Creating an entrepreneurial Christian business forum with consultants from inside and outside of Syria to secure advisory and technical support for young entrepreneurs and provide job opportunities for them from inside Syria to abroad.
- 8.** Supporting and establishing micro projects through loans or grants, and securing places to display and sell the products of these projects (product market).
- 9.** Establishing economical projects (agricultural - commercial) suitable for rural residents to empower them to stay in the countryside.
- 10.** Activating the role of the Church as a sponsor for Christian youth wishing to obtain bank loans.
- 11.** Investing agricultural lands belonging to ecclesiastical endowments in rural areas by young people according to supportive conditions that facilitate working within the current situation and possibilities.

# THE FIRST GATHERING OF THE SYRIAN CHRISTIAN YOUTH LEADERS

(Outcomes & Aspirations)

## Final Outcomes of the First Christian Youth Leaders Meeting

### Community and National level

#### Challenge:

- The disintegration of family relations (due to difficult economic conditions) which negatively affects Christian youth and their confidence in the concept of the Christian family.
- The reluctance of young Christians to marry and start a family.
- Lack of involvement of young people in social and national affairs and their indifference towards the issues of their cities and the future of their country.
- The deterioration of living situation of young people committed to military service and their families and facing challenges at the psychological and social levels.

#### Solutions:

1. Establishment of an ecclesiastical center for family counseling concerned with providing the necessary support and counseling to Christian families. (Secular and pastoral).
2. Establishing a specialized center to accompany children and youth whom are victims of family disintegration (post-divorce).
3. Creating housing compounds for young people with the support of the Church.
4. Form a support fund box to help the newly starting Christian families during the first year of marriage as well as during the pregnancy and upbringing of the first child.
5. Activating the role of Christian figures working in the public sector by representing the Christian group in local councils and benefiting from their potential in representing and supporting youth.
6. Include the families of individuals enrolled in military and reserve service in psychological, social and financial support programs, especially after discharge.
7. Develop a long-term strategy for young Christians to form them as good children of society and the nation.
8. Activating religious and local tourist trips especially during the heritage harvest seasons in Syrian villages and cities.

## Final Outcomes of the First Christian Youth Leaders Meeting

9. Organizing discussions, workshops and conferences that provide a safe space to activate the role of youth in society and promote the concepts of citizenship and responsibility towards the local community and country.

### Ecclesiastical level

#### Challenge:

Weak commitment of young people towards the church

#### Solutions:

1. A proposal to reduce the age of officials in the working committees of churches to work on a greater presence of young people, and thus give them greater responsibilities.
2. Implementing training courses and qualifying the Christian leaders.





# دشوق

اوريفها

# Final Outputs of Damascus & Its Suburbs



DAMASCENE SWORD MONUMENT

*Damascus*

# THE FIRST GATHERING OF THE SYRIAN CHRISTIAN YOUTH LEADERS

(Outcomes & Aspirations)

## Final Outputs of Damascus & Its Suburbs

### Educational Level

#### Challenge:

- Financial difficulties faced by university students due to the lack of transportation, the high cost of living and study requirements.

#### Solutions:

1. Provide financial support to university youth by involving them in community work within the system of hours in return for a financial profit.
2. Coordinate with the Directorate of Transportation regarding transportation schedules accordingly with the schedule of university students.
3. Provide transportation for university students at minimal prices to reduce the financial burden of transportation on Christian youth, in cooperation with the Church.
4. Search for alternative transportation (bicycle) to be given to university students and retrieved after their completion of university years
5. Establish a specialized center for printing services at cost-prices and securing study supplies which can be paid out in installments.
6. Launch initiatives to recycle and get usable textbooks and study tools that are in good condition.

### Vocational level

#### Challenge:

- The inability of youth to set their future goals at the professional and social levels, in addition to the loss of values among young people.
- Young people's lack of skills for the work market also affects their ability to obtain suitable opportunities.
- Lack of job opportunities in general, especially in the countryside.
- The migration of young Christians from the countryside to the city to look for work, thus lack of their presence in the countryside.

#### Solutions:

1. Establishing a youth counseling office that provides a number of counseling services at the psychological and social levels.
2. Raising the competencies of the youth through specialized and qualitative training that supports their entry into the work market.



3. Quality vocational training that helps young people get a job opportunity.
4. Providing the opportunity to exchange experiences between Christian youth in various sectors and the possibility of preparing them as trainers to conduct various trainings through scientific and practical meetings and conferences.
5. Establishing an electronic platform that connects employers and job seekers and links between external or local parties that provide work online with Christian youth.
6. Networking with local institutions to provide training opportunities for students in order to gain experience in preparation for the work market.
7. Securing financial support for supporting micro projects and focusing on the youth category.
8. Establishing economical projects (agricultural - commercial) suitable for rural residents to enable them to stay in the countryside and reduce migration to the city.
9. Directing the work of local and ecclesiastical organizations to be present within the rural region to secure job opportunities, as well as training and rehabilitation programs within the countryside.



• *Damascus*

# THE FIRST GATHERING OF THE SYRIAN CHRISTIAN YOUTH LEADERS

(Outcomes & Aspirations)

## Social level

### Challenge:

- Provide housing for young people wishing to marry and newly formed families.
- The disintegration of family relations due to difficult economic conditions, which negatively affects Christian youth and their confidence in the concept of the Christian family.

### Solutions:

1. A project to secure the youth housing that would be paid out in installments.
2. Provide facilitations by the church or local associations regarding housing loans such as having a sponsor.
3. Better investment of ecclesiastical endowments so that emerging families are supported like housing for newlyweds.
4. Create companionship programs for Christian families so that the accompanying members are from seculars and clergy that provide psychosocial support and encourage the church activities for families.
5. Establishing a specialized center to accompany the youth and introduce them to the foundations of the family and Christian values in general according to a well-put curriculum.
6. Introducing the history of all Christian parishes and including them in the curriculum of Christian education in Syria with the aim of introducing children and youth to Christian history in Syria.
7. Holding inclusive activities for young people from different parishes and religions to exchange experiences and help the acknowledgment of the other.



**"TOGETHER TODAY,  
FOR A BETTER FUTURE"**



# حَلَب

# Final Outputs of **Aleppo Governorate**



ALEPPO CITADEL

*Aleppo*

# THE FIRST GATHERING OF THE SYRIAN CHRISTIAN YOUTH LEADERS

(Outcomes & Aspirations)

## Final Outputs of Aleppo Governorate

### Educational Level

#### Challenge:

- The decline in the educational level of school students and the great financial burdens for the parents.

#### Solutions:

Reducing the financial burdens of Christian families by:

1. Assistance in paying school fees.
2. Create educational support courses for students of all age groups.
3. Launch youth initiatives to support students; such as securing and recycling textbooks.
4. Raise the competencies of teachers in schools and qualify the staff of university youth to teach.

### Vocational level

#### Challenge:

Deterioration of livelihood situation of Christian families in general and Christian youth in particular.

#### Solutions:

1. Creating job opportunities by:
  - Making a platform with the mission (goal) of being a network between the work market and job seekers (local and external).
  - the platform includes a service map that contains all services, trainings and activities provided by church institutions and centers.
2. Creating production units that provide job opportunities for professionals who have experience and job seekers whom do not have resources (place, tools, equipment).
3. Creating a Christian-entrepreneurial business forum with a mentor from abroad investors to secure the link between them in terms of investing in a project or expanding economic investments.
4. supporting with loans after studying the economic feasibility (for Christian families through the church as a sponsor for the family and work to pay interest fees).

## Social level

### Challenge:

- Young people's reluctance to marry.
- Weakness of the national and ecclesiastical sense of belonging and social responsibility among young people.

### Solutions:

1. Secure suitable housing options for new families for a period not less than 5 years, with suggestion to cooperate with all Christian parishes to study the possibility of contribution of ecclesiastical endowments in securing vacant housing.
2. Design programs to create intellectual belonging to the country through a systematic strategy that begins with adolescents.
3. A site for documenting the tangible and intangible heritage of Christianity.
4. Activating local religious tourism trips.
5. Encourage and support young people to enhance their positions in government institutions.



Aleppo



حص



# Final Outputs of Homs Governorate



THE NEW CLOCK TOWER IN HOMS

# THE FIRST GATHERING OF THE SYRIAN CHRISTIAN YOUTH LEADERS

(Outcomes & Aspirations)

## Final Outputs of Homs Governorate

### Educational Level

#### Challenge:

- The problem of securing housing for young Christians who are about to get married, and the struggles of young people from rural areas coming to complete university studies, and high housing wages.
- Lack of projects that provide job opportunities for young people that would be sufficient to secure a decent living for them.

#### Solutions:

1. Investing the lands of ecclesiastical endowments and establishing residential compounds in accordance with the legal aspect and the ability of the church (mortgage, rent, ownership).
2. Implementing small projects and employing young people to secure job opportunities for them.

### Vocational level

#### Challenge:

- The gap between academic study and work life and the inability of young people to obtain job opportunities, whether inside or outside Syria.

#### Solutions:

1. Providing a unified platform that reviews and offers opportunities in the work market, also provide training opportunities and grants to young people.
2. Enhance networking between training institutions and companies that have job opportunities and secure practical training and thus employment for distinguished youth.

## Ecclesiastical level

### Challenge:

Lack of shared activities among youth church institutions.

### Solutions:

Activating and organizing activities within church institutions such as (rally competitions - debate competitions - unified scouting events).

## Health Level

### Challenge:

The decline of health sector in the governorate.

### Solutions:

Specialized health centers in rural areas (employment of residents and creation of job opportunities for youth).





# حياة

# Final Outputs of Hama Governorate



# THE FIRST GATHERING OF THE SYRIAN CHRISTIAN YOUTH LEADERS

(Outcomes & Aspirations)

## Final Outputs of Homs Governorate

### Educational Level

#### Challenge:

- Lack of places for the youth to gather and study, thus most of the youths orientation is shifted to study in cafes.
- The problem of transporting university students from the countryside to the city.
- Lack of technical, linguistic knowledge and practical experience after college.

#### Solutions:

1. Creating study places in Hama and its countryside, such as the study zone in the spiritual-court building in Hama and another in Kafrbo.
2. Allocating buses to transport students in the morning with a reasonable price and organizing the transfer of students fairly from the main countryside to the University of Hama and then Homs.
3. Establishing a "Christian Youth Support Center" that serves the governorate of Hama and its countryside and includes: strengthening and rehabilitation courses for the work market - student aid.

### Vocational level

#### Challenge:

Lack of an employment office for Christian youth in Hama and its countryside.

#### Solutions:

1. Create an "Hama Job" electronic platform (Hama Job).
2. Form field-survey teams that update their data periodically, communicate with companies, workshops and laboratories, and provide the platform with needed information.

### Social level

#### Challenge:

- Psychological issues and pressure on young people.
- Decrease in the number of young people wanting to marry and form a Christian family as a result of the current economic conditions.

#### Solutions:

1. Forming a secular counseling team within each church under the supervision of the priest to help young people express, participate

and share the church with their problems, to support the psychological and spiritual aspects.

2. Holding specialized courses for the clergy to help young people in the field of psychosocial support.
3. Helping the newly formed Christian families during the first year of marriage and the period of having their first child through financial assistance in case of need to rent a house or meet the requirements of the child during the first year.

### **Ecclesiastical level**

#### **Challenge:**

Supporting Christian centers working with youth.

#### **Solutions:**

Providing solar energy for:

1. Religious Education Center in Hama + Kfarbo.
2. Technical Association Club in Hama.
3. The operator of the "hope of life" in Hama.
4. The building of "the Lady" center for Religious Education in Maharda.

Rehabilitation of the following centers and equipping them with the necessary materials for youth activities:

1. The building of the spiritual court in Hama.
2. St. George Center for Religious Education in Maharda.

Restoration of the following centers for following up with youth work:

1. The Religious Education Center of St. Jacob Al-Srouji Church in Hama.
2. The Catechism Center in Al-Suqaylabiya, which was vandalized due to the war.



*Hama*



# طَرطوس



# Final Outputs of **Tartous Governorate**



CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF TORTOSA

*Tartus*

# THE FIRST GATHERING OF THE SYRIAN CHRISTIAN YOUTH LEADERS

(Outcomes & Aspirations)

## Final Outputs of Tartous Governorate

### Economical level

#### Challenge:

The difficulty to secure housing for the youths due to the high prices of real-estate and rents.

#### Solutions:

1. Establishing a residential compound belonging to the church to provide housing for young people whom about to get married in exchange for reduced rents commensurate with the income of young people.
2. Providing financial support such as rent aid for one or two years for the young people wanting to get married.

### Educational Level

#### Challenge:

- Lack of studying places and the high cost of university study requirements.
- Low quality of education in schools and the increase of private tutoring cost.
- The difficulty for university students to reach their colleges due to the lack of public transportation and severe overcrowding.
- The difficulty to find housing for university students coming from outside of Tartous Governorate.

#### Solutions:

1. Creating a safe space that provides a suitable studying environment for students and provide printing services for study supplies, whether new or used, and recycling them for students to benefit from.
2. Organizing free teaching courses for degree students (9<sup>th</sup> grade and Baccalaureate).
3. Providing strengthening courses with the help of specialized parish teachers on a voluntary basis within the churches.
4. Securing an evening educational program run by professors from university students in return for a financial allowance, which helps to provide job opportunities for university students on one hand and provide educational courses for school students on the other hand.

5. Providing transportation for university students to and from colleges.
6. Establishing a student housing project in cooperation with churches and their endowments in order to secure independent residential rooms for university students coming from outside the governorate.
7. Rehabilitation of university dorms.
8. Providing financial support such as rental aid for Christian students coming from outside the governorate.

## Vocational level

### Challenge:

- Lack of job opportunities for young graduates and non-graduates and the inability of young people to establish private micro projects.
- The inability of young people to acquire the necessary skills that qualifies them to apply and obtain job opportunities.

### Solutions:

1. Providing grants to support micro projects for young people aiming to secure a good livelihood and achieve their goals.
2. Establish a training center that develops the skills necessary for young people to enter the labor market.
3. Communicate with member of the parishes who are able to provide free mentoring to young people and introduce them to the work market and improve their CV.
4. An electronic platform to share business opportunities available in the governorate.
5. Secure low-interest, long-term loans.



Tartus



# اللاذقية

# Final Outputs of **Latakia Governorate**



CITADEL OF SALADIN

*Latakia*

# THE FIRST GATHERING OF THE SYRIAN CHRISTIAN YOUTH LEADERS

(Outcomes & Aspirations)

## Final Outputs of Latakia Governorate

### Vocational level

#### Challenge:

Lack of job opportunities and lack of ambition among young people.

#### Solutions:

1. Financing micro projects.
2. Training center to develop the skills of young people in order to enter the work market.
3. Demonstrate success stories of people who started micro projects and succeeded.

### Educational Level

#### Challenge:

- The difficulty and high costs of securing services for university students.
- Lack of awareness and education that helps children and adults determine the field of study and work that suits the passion and ambition of each one of them.

#### Solutions:

1. A student-service center at reasonable and discounted prices, with a section for architecture, stationery and photography projects for school and university students.
2. Launching paper-recycling initiatives (Paper Day).
3. Reviving the idea of selection and determining professional paths within the right field away from the ordinary by creating a work space for the child to develop the idea of selection and to learn about specialized fields from a young age.

### Community level

#### Challenge:

There are no joint youth activities between the various churches in Latakia and the activities are limited to each church separately.

#### Solutions:

1. Forming a joint youth committee from all parishes.
2. determining all the available places for these activities.
3. Planning and implementing shared youth activities among all churches in Latakia.

## Ecclesiastical level

### Challenge:

- Lack of church affiliated facilities that allow Christian youth to gather and engage in sports, cultural or entertaining activities.
- Lack of a workshop for the production of religious supplies for churches (incense, candles, icons and accessories).
- Lack of basic services (water - electricity) in some monasteries visited by young people during summer camps.
- Rehabilitation of the monastery of Sayeda Eskoran in Kasab and secure a device to extract the water of the well and secure solar energy for electricity and water.

### Solutions:

1. Rehabilitation of the playground of St. Andrew the Apostle church with complete maintenance (restoration of the stadium and preparing it to be multi-use, a theater hall and a playground to serve young people and use for work too).
2. Implementation of a small project to produce church supplies such as incense, candles and create job opportunities for young people at the same time.

## Health Level

### Challenge:

Weakness of health sector and migration of young medical staff.

### Solutions:

A church service of medical care center that provides clinics at minimal prices and job opportunities for new graduate students.



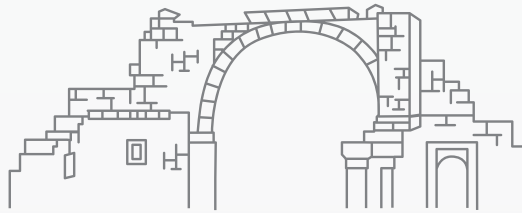
*Latakia*



# السويدياء



# Final Outputs of **Al Suwayda Governorate**



ARCH OF THE LESSER BYZANTINE CHURCH

*Al Suwayda*

# THE FIRST GATHERING OF THE SYRIAN CHRISTIAN YOUTH LEADERS

(Outcomes & Aspirations)

## Final Outputs of Al Suwayda Governorate

### Economical level

#### Challenge:

Lack of drinking-water resources for irrigation in addition to lack of existing wells, and its frequent breakdowns.

#### Solutions:

1. Maintenance of the wells, drilling new wells.
2. Providing the fuel necessary to operate generators.
3. Providing alternative energy source to power the wells.

### Educational Level

#### Challenge:

- The difficulty of studying at the university and obtain higher education due to the unavailability of a university in the region, which forces students to leave the governorate and study in other cities or even for the entire family to move.
- The shortage and weakness of the teaching staff due to low wages and high transportation costs, which forces many teachers to resign and quit their jobs.

#### Solutions:

1. Providing buses to transport students to their universities.
2. Financial scholarships (monthly or term-based) for university students.
3. Follow-up institutes and courses to compensate for scientific gaps, and employ teaching staff to also support them financially and encourage them to continue in the teaching career.

### Vocational level

**Challenge:** The lack of suitable job opportunities for young people in the region which leads to the migration of youths to the capital city.

#### Solutions:

1. Supporting and establishing micro projects through loans or grants; agricultural or vocational, they can be individual or group projects.
2. Employment offices which might be ecclesiastical, linking the youth to the work market with good salaries.
3. Work zones to provide a work environment for those wishing to be self-

employed or have remote jobs and implement training on this type of work and how to market it.

4. A vocational training center that helps young people learn professions and provide them with practical experience.

### Social level

**Challenge:** The disintegration of family relationships resulting from the psychological effects and pressures of war and poor living conditions.

### Solutions:

1. A support program for emerging Christian families in several aspects (social, educational, vocational ..).
2. Spiritual meditation for families which brings them closer to God and improves their relationships.
3. Entertaining trips that help reduce mental stress and improve the psychological state.

### Ecclesiastical level

### Challenge:

The weak sense of belonging and communication among Christian youth because of feeling treated as a minority.

### Solutions:

1. Church activities and meetings directed to all groups to develop the relations between youths.
2. Increase the responsible role of young people in the church (reducing the age range of work committees).



*Al Suwayda*



# دَرَعَا

# Final Outputs of Daraa Governorate



BUSRA COLISEUM

*Daraa*

## THE FIRST GATHERING OF THE SYRIAN CHRISTIAN YOUTH LEADERS

(Outcomes & Aspirations)

### Final Outputs of Daraa Governorate

#### Economical level

##### Challenge:

A decrease in water supply for households and agricultural projects.

##### Solutions:

1. Help to secure alternative energy sources for agricultural economic projects.
2. Secure loans for alternative energies (for private wells).
3. Maintenance of old wells, and drilling new wells.

#### Educational Level

##### Challenge:

- Severe shortage of teaching staff in the public sector.
- The lack of a university in the region, which pushes students and their families to leave the governorate and move out.

##### Solutions:

1. Intervention of International organizations active in the field of education (such as UNICEF, for example) to conduct intensive courses in schools that suffer from deterioration in the level of education due to a shortage of teaching staff.
2. Providing qualified volunteer teaching staff to raise the educational level of students.
3. Finding group transportation for teaching staff at low prices.
4. Securing students' transportation to their universities on the main roads towards Damascus - Daraa and vice versa.
5. Financial scholarships (monthly or term-based) for university students.
6. Establishing a donation fund as part of church activities which will be used for university students.
7. Training courses for newlyweds to equip them with the latest tools and methods of parenting.

#### Vocational level

**Challenge:** Lack of job opportunities for young people ,in addition to the imbalance between the required qualifications and young people.

**Solutions:**

1. Securing vocational, agricultural, economic projects in the region.
2. Reactivation of the unit qualified for the manufacture of food items (animal based-plant based).
3. Providing places to display and sell these products (market for products).
4. Specialized training workshops to qualify young people to engage in the work market.
5. creating a platform that connects opportunity holders and job seekers.

**Ecclesiastical level**

**Challenge:**

Lack of training and psychological counseling courses for young people in particular and new families in general.

**Solutions:**

1. Carrying out training courses for Christian leaders outside the governorate.
2. Conducting capacity and talent-development courses.

**Health Level**

**Challenge:**

The weakness of the health sector, which is reflected by the migration of families to the city.

**Solutions:**

1. Rehabilitation of health centers in rural areas and providing them with the minimum supplies and medicines necessary for first aid.
2. The possibility of providing villages with ambulances (mobile clinics).
3. Training courses for first aid.



*Daraa*



# الْحَصَّة



# Final Outputs of **Al-Hasakah Governorate**



THE ASSYRIAN CHURCH

*Al Hasakah*

# THE FIRST GATHERING OF THE SYRIAN CHRISTIAN YOUTH LEADERS

(Outcomes & Aspirations)

## Final Outputs of Al-Hasakah Governorate

### Education Level

#### Challenge:

The difficulty of students in pursuing their studies at the university due to the high costs of housing, transportation and living costs.

Poor educational level in private schools.

#### Solutions:

1. Providing customized loans for students to help them buy their study needs.
2. Providing financial support to reduce the burden of transportation such as low-cost transportation subscriptions.
3. Introducing special curriculums for learning languages and computer skills.
4. Implementing, educational projects for children; and development programs for adolescents.

### Vocational level

#### Challenge:

Training young people to be qualified for the work market and finding suitable job opportunities for them.

#### Solutions:

1. Establishing a youth training center specialized with having courses to prepare them for the work market and giving them the necessary advice and guidance, similar to the (DISC-Hope Center) project.
2. Providing financial support to young people who wish to develop their skills to follow training courses at reduced and minimal costs.
3. Orientation towards sustainable projects that provide the largest job opportunities for young people.
4. Establishing a platform / ecclesiastical work office whose mission is to create job opportunities for young people and give them advice, the office will have relations with organizations, church associations and institutions that have employment vacancies.

### Social level

#### Challenge:

- Preparing young people for marriage financially and spiritually.

- Caring for soldiers and their families to improve their living conditions.
- Discovering artistic talents in the city.
- Psychological pressure on Christian youth and Christian families.

## Solutions

1. Financial support for young and soon-to-be married families.
2. Secure housing options through the church, such as allocating apartments for newlyweds within a specific period and a specific rent cost.
3. Courses for spiritual development and meeting the families before and after marriage.
4. Birth support program (support for child expenses to reduce the financial burden on the family).
5. Special support program for soldiers and their families.
6. Establish a specialized center to support and nurture talents.
7. Activate the talent-development aspect in private schools affiliated with christian churches (providing special courses for talents accordingly with school hours).
8. Communicate with some centers such as "Harmony" in Homs in order to coordinate trainings, establish a team and support existing centers.
9. Creating, cultural and social gatherings for the youth, not limited to young people in church institutions, as it will be a public place that allows young people to meet and participate in various activities such as lectures, cultural evenings, artistic and recreational activities, with the possibility of providing psychosocial support to youths.



# THE FIRST GATHERING OF THE SYRIAN CHRISTIAN YOUTH LEADERS

(Outcomes & Aspirations)

## Themes of the International Café: (Youth Dreams)

### Higher Education & Scientific Research

- Establishing a practical training period during the last year of university education to bridge the gap between theoretical education and practical life.
- Giving loans or grants to students so they can pursue their university studies, especially in the scientific fields that are only available online.
- Motivating and sending higher graduate students to participate in scientific conferences abroad.
- Establishing church affiliated educational hospitals and clinics to bridge the gap resulting from the increase in the number of doctors in clinical internships.
- Inception of a PHD department in Qualification and Specialization in Syria.
- Equipping laboratories with modern international technologies.

### Childhood

- Implementing the Child Rights Protection Law through clear activities to eliminate child exploitation and harassment issues, in addition to establishing specialized institutions or schools to contain homeless children and rehabilitate them to become an effective part of Syrian society.
- Establishing centers specialized in psychological support for broken families and rehabilitating newlyweds by teaching them healthy methods of parenting.

### Community Work & Community Institutions

- offer training for the youth by economically and socially people and activating the role of youth in leadership and decision-making (transferring leadership experiences from leaders to youth systematically).

### Tourism

- Recording VR films of archaeological sites within Syria to spread Syrian culture on tourist programs and sites.
- Invest all of the touristic locations in Syria.

## Themes of the International Café: (Youth Dreams)

### Technology

- A technological university, containing an electronic library with all scientific and cultural references.
- A region in Syria dedicated to technology that contains all the technological ideas within the country.
- Free internet for the roads, high-speed rail, and robots to help humans.

### Culture & Art

- Centers for art therapy.
- Creating a cultural and artistic forum in all Syrian governorates, and encouraging the discovery of Syrian talents.
- Establishing a music institute in the governorates that lack them.

### Heritage

- Documenting heritage by making books and videos detailing different cultures and traditions in Syrian cities.
- Creating a site to document the Christian heritage in Syria.

### Schooling

Educational curriculum:

- Implementation of affectional education with psychological guidance.
- Following modern educational curriculum in schools, such as the Montessori method and practical methods of education.

*Syria*



# THE FIRST GATHERING OF THE SYRIAN CHRISTIAN YOUTH LEADERS

(Outcomes & Aspirations)

## Testimonies

“ In this meeting, I witnessed the seeds of hope for the future Church of Syria, this church that will be based on a synod,

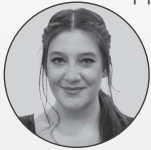


as it restores to the seculars their role, strengthens their belonging, and encourages them in their

responsibilities. It also crystallizes the important role of the clergy in listening, accompaniment and intercession. This is how this encounter establishes us in our Christian tradition of communion in love.. ”

**Jesuit Father Tony Homsy**

“ The conference was an opportunity to live a distinctive spiritual and social experience, an opportunity to exchange



experiences among young people, an opportunity to start changing our way of thinking and seeing things from a different perspective and in a different way, and it was an opportunity to dream of a better tomorrow and be part of it if we were not the main cause of it. Hopefully we can present a bright color within the blackness and a candle within darkness. ”

**Sandra Kinani**



“ The conference was a great opportunity for young people to talk about their needs and listen to how the youth leaders envision

a future for Syria. Meeting people face to face and talking about challenges and solutions enriched the conference. Hence, taking the opportunity to look at things from another perspective, to move outside our local zone, was another key benefit. ”

**Tobais Schnitzler**



“ With great enthusiasm, I came to participate in the meeting of the leaders

of the Christian youth in Syria, and with even greater enthusiasm I returned expecting to see the results of the meeting, which will grow with the efforts of the youth and the blessing of God. ”

**Mar. Isaac Jules Boutros**

Bishop of the Syriac Catholic Patriarchal Department



“ An important achievement added to the Church's endeavors in an attempt to gather young leaders and objectively convey their true suffering and propose realistic solutions to help the Church carry out its

tasks and work together towards a better future for our churches and our country. ”

**Khanem Marani.**

“ I am grateful for the innovation and creativity of this conference.



This important initiative gave space for the youth to express their voice regarding the needs that they see within their communities and how to address them. My hope is that this conference will be a catalyst for positive change, and will be the first step of many to find ways for the youth of Syria can come together to support one another and find creative solutions that give them hope for their future and country. ”

**Gareth Mayhew**

“ Our Lords will and wish is what brought us all to participate in this meeting..With these particular people, it was far from random...And the feeling that we felt



In these days and the passion that we worked with and the beautiful spirit was The biggest example. We thank Jesus for such people whom are investing in their God-given graces with hopes of a better tomorrow, Everyone worked hard, coordinated, supported and participated, no words are enough to give you credit, But what we all witnessed, Every detail of this meeting was filled with love, sincerity and hope. ”

**Marah Al-Nasser**

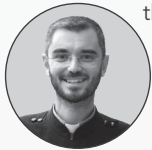


“ I used to see Homs as a destroyed city with poor chances and resources but after the meeting and after

we all met and exchanged thoughts, experiences and skills i found that Homs is rich in people who have capacity and love to help others. ”

**Haya Tahan**

“ The value of the conference was in the side meetings of



the program between the youth themselves and between the youth and the

clergy, which carried an important exchange of experiences and the great organization of the conference schedule that reflected the seriousness and responsibility of the participating youth. ”

**Deacon Medhat Warda**

“ It was an honor to get to know Influential people and leaders, I knew that every region in Syria has a special place in our hearts and God can work Miracles through us Because he believes in us



No farewell, no farewell We will meet again. ”

**Shaza Kreidi**

“ My participation in this conference was an important opportunity to exchange dreams and visions of the ambitious and loving youth for their country, before exchanging the challenges and difficulties that we daily suffer from within our different environments, an opportunity to listen with an open heart and be ready to move and do something even if it is very simple, an opportunity to be a channel that transmits hope to the hearts of other young people who feel despair and reassure them that the future will be better by joining our hands together... Thank you, Lord, and to every coordinator and organizer who believed and trusted in the potential of young people which if invested effectively and correctly, will give creativity and development to our beloved country. ”

**Anna Maria Bakalian**

“ most of us were on our way back humming the chant “yes, our lord says”, without knowing how much this meeting has touched our soul and we came back with hopes about the outputs ... surely there are great leaders in the backstage of this meeting (safir, rami, sima, issa, shahla... and many people) thank you from the heart ”

**Manar Jreij**

## Testimonies

“ Christian youth meeting from all across syria... was a true need, desire and encouragement for every one of us... We shared our opinions and hopes within an atmosphere of brotherhood and true love. In my opinion, just like the crisis brought pain for everyone... This meeting was a condolence and renewal for us all thank God for this opportunity and thanks to everyone who worked hard for this meeting ”

**Peter Abdul-ahad Issa**

“ The meeting was the first initiative that moved us from the stage of awareness and stagnation to the stage of awareness and action, it strengthened our faith in our capabilities through the responsibility entrusted to us in conveying the reality of Christian youth throughout the Syrian geography and removed the blur that obscured from our eyes the ease of communication with our priest fathers and made us ask the question. Why haven't we taken action yet? ”

**Faten Farag**



# THE FIRST GATHERING OF THE SYRIAN CHRISTIAN YOUTH LEADERS

(Outcomes & Aspirations)

## Testimonies



“ The "Syrian Christian Youth Leaders' Meeting" was to reconsider the journey of faith among young people, in which we didn't only live spiritual experiences, but also heard real and sincere faith testimonies of people working in the ecclesiastical field, but the light of faith was extinguished in their lives. However, this

conference revived the flame of this faith for them. It was a safe space where we could exchange ideas, aspirations, dreams, and walk side by side. Finally, this conference was a starting point to take the initiative, and activate the starring role between youths. I would even dare to say that it was the beginning of a new "Pentecost" for the Church, the holy spirit present was clear to all the participants. ”

**Salesiani Father  
Danny Qario**



“ My love to all...And each one of you...The organizing committee and participants, For everyone who participated, In the smallest detail, May God be with all of us to be able to become true and influential Christian leaders, And to be activists wherever we go, This conference is nothing but the start of a big task waiting for us, a real change in ourselves in the first place and for everyone around us too. ”

**Samir Shamoun**



“ Dear participants, On exactly ... o'clock Please gather in the... I'll miss those words and those moments that I pushed you through and in your eyes was a wonderful combination of fatigue, motivation, Nervousness, passion and a lot of

Unconviction... But sure with a lot of love Thank you for trusting us... Thank you for accepting the invitation And participating in these days despite all the other priorities Thank you for all the hope you have given us the Church from its early beginning was nothing but a "group

of believers" the Syrian church is fortunate to have young people like yourselves... The church put an essential part from the core of its challenges. and like we say: Every end marks a new beginning thus, the day is not over The Conference has just started today ”

**Rami Jabali**

“ Our hope is that this conference will encourage young Christian leaders, by letting them know that they are not alone and that there are other like-minded Christians committed to rebuilding Syria, with the support of the Church. Also, we hope it will have tangible results, not just in projects, but in new connections and ideas that can be used to protect the historical Christian presence in this country. ”

**Aid to the Church in Need**



Aid to the  
Church in Need  
ACN INTERNATIONAL





## “TOGETHER TODAY, FOR A BETTER FUTURE”

“ we were highly motivated to support and organize this conference, because the Syrian Christian presence is in danger in Syria, and because we believe that the youth should build a vision together to stay in their country. ”

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# HOPE

Christian Hope Center



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At the end of this meeting, which carried within its folds a lot of love and Christian spirit... perhaps we did not achieve all the aspirations of the youth...Perhaps the outputs were not enough and not all the solutions are easy to implement... Maybe this meeting lacks the presence of more participants from all over Syria... Perhaps it was not a sufficient reason for Christians to survive under the already existing hard conditions. But it was truly a seed of hope, as we returned with the enthusiasm of youth and with the love and joy of Christ to continue working on this earth and create a better world and future for young people.

“ This conference was only the beginning, because we did not finish.... we have just started... The mission of survival is very difficult, but our hope in Christ is always greater. ”



# HOPE

Christian Hope Center

*Syria*

