

Annual Report

2016/17



questscope

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Directors' Letter

"It burns the heart," said Sumaya, a teen forced to flee Syria six years ago, describing the pain of witnessing friends and neighbors killed at random. Her brother was kidnapped and eventually released, his hearing damaged by bombs and gunfire. Her education was halted at fourth grade.

Today Sumaya is in a different story. She lives with her family in the *Azraq* refugee camp in Jordan, a spirited 15-year-old, chatting animatedly about her hopes for the future with the girlfriends she's made in the Questscope Non-Formal Education program. Young refugees on the cusp of adulthood. Young people who had no option for any education. Teens brimming with energy. A whole generation dangling on a precipice—*that* way, anguish and despair; *this* way, positive action to move our whole world forward.

"They are like my sisters," Sumaya says of the program facilitators, who helped her to read better and to advance toward her goal of receiving a certificate of completion. "When we don't come to the center we get upset now!" She dreams of becoming a lawyer so she can help other refugees in situations like her own. Her enthusiasm is infectious.



Sumaya's story captures so much of what Questscope accomplished this past year with your generous support:

- *Listening* to those devastated by war and poverty: what they want and need, then helping them realize their visions for the future, despite the circumstances;
- *Understanding* that real change happens person-to-person – then enabling those relationships to flourish – the philosophy at the heart of the alternative education we provide at 117 centers across Jordan, the mentoring program for 2,300 at our youth center in the *Za'atari* refugee camp, and the support we supply to all those escaping relentless war;
- *Believing* that these youth really are our future too—regardless of geography—and developing with them opportunities to heal, grow, and lead.

Outside Jordan, Questscope is committed to delivering emergency services to those in need. With 30 years' experience in the Middle East and North Africa and a trusted network of partnerships throughout the area, we are uniquely positioned to respond to this crisis.

In Syria, we have 1,800 staff and volunteers "at the ready" in some 100 locations, a compassionate alliance of Syrian citizens who helped 375,000 of their neighbors survive and thrive in 2016. When 5,000 villagers near Aleppo were evacuated in December after a three-year siege, our teams mobilized immediately with clothing, heaters, shelter, medical services, food and water, and trauma counseling.

We're ALWAYS AMAZED by our determined staff and volunteers, without whom none of this is possible. And enormously grateful for them.

We're also CONTINUOUSLY AMAZED by and enormously grateful to you, our faithful and fervent friends—without you none of this would be possible either. You open your hearts and your wallets to ease the suffering of others. You extend your love for your neighbor the whole world over. You create a brighter future for us all.

Sumaya's dedication to her vision is inspiring. So is yours to ours. *Thank you.*

Curt Rhodes
International Director

Imad Libbus
Chairman of the Board



الجمعية السورية للتنمية الاجتماعية
SYRIAN SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



Our Partner Inside Syria

The Syrian Society for Social Development (SSSD) serves in 100 locations across Syria. A network of 1,800 staff and volunteers offer critical aid for food, medicine, water/sanitation, and shelter for 40,000 people every month. They also provide psycho-social counseling, protection care for the most vulnerable, and education for out-of-school children.

SSSD and Questscope have been partners since 2009.

Year in Review

30 SYRIAN LEADERS
LED OUTREACH TO
2,300 PARTICIPANTS
AT OUR YOUTH CENTER IN THE
ZA'ATARI REFUGEE CAMP

3,000 YOUTH
ATTENDED 117
ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION
CENTERS IN JORDAN

TWO NEW
PILOT PROGRAMS
LAUNCHED IN **GERMANY**
& **TURKEY** WITH
1,700 SYRIAN REFUGEES



MOHSIN

Mohsin Mohi-Ud-Din is the founder of #mewesyria, a storytelling platform started at our Youth Center in the Za'atari Refugee Camp. Over 70 refugee youth have joined this innovative process of understanding and sharing their life stories – strengthening their voice and ability to contribute and make change in the world. One of the first films created by them – A Piece of Me – received an honorable mention at the UN Alliance of Civilization's Youth Film Festival. #mewesyria currently operates in Jordan, Turkey, and Lebanon. "I'm inspired, proud, and amazed at the impact and passion of these young refugees in a harsh place like Za'atari. They are beacons of light," said Mohsin.



ASHRAF

Ashraf is the Project Manager for the Questscope Youth Center in the Za'atari Refugee Camp. He is a key trainer for 30 core Syrian staff who guide 2,300 participants. "The history and spirit of Questscope was vital to co-creating this place with refugee youth. We have not only changed the space of our center. We are changing thoughts and relationships in the entire refugee camp of 80,000 people," said Ashraf.



MAYA

Maya quit school and fled to Jordan in 5th grade when her neighborhood in Syria was bombed. She joined the Questscope alternative education program when she arrived to the Azraq Refugee Camp. She is one of 3,000 young people enrolled in 117 centers across Jordan. "I want to help people who've experienced the same hardships as me. As refugees we don't know exactly how to rebuild our lives. That's why we have to learn everything anew. Knowledge is light, ignorance is darkness," said Maya.



AMIRA

Amira is a double refugee, a Palestinian from Syria. She is a leader in low income and refugee communities in Aqaba, Jordan. She guides Questscope's emergency assistance activities for over 200 families who wonder where their children's next meal will come from. "Questscope was able to feel the wounds of society and begin to heal the wounds of people. We built trust in our community. We never gave a promise we couldn't keep, and we never stand still in the face of their suffering," said Amira.



JANET

Janet Cowell is part of our wonderful community of Questscope friends. Our work would not be possible without their creativity, generosity, and advocacy. Janet met Questscope through her church at a time when she wanted to invest her life in

meeting the real needs of people, like refugees. She's stayed active ever since, organizing fundraisers and lending us her professional expertise in finance. "Questscope emphasizes empowerment and participation. I witnessed the transformative power of this approach in Za'atari Camp. I saw refugees rediscover their humanity and sense of purpose with Questscope," said Janet.



WILKE

Wilke Ziemann is the Program Director for the German Foundation for Children and Youth (DKJS) in Berlin, the largest national youth organization in Germany with more than 20 years of experience. Wilke is a key partner in the pilot program we launched in Berlin to help Syrian refugees better integrate into Germany. He is an individual of wide

vision with a great heart for highly-engaged cooperation with marginalized youth – a key value shared with Questscope.



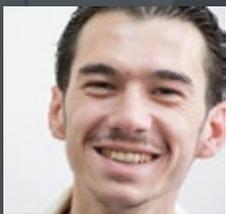
KAMAL

Kamal is the Director of the Khalid bin al-Walid Juvenile Correction Center in the south of Damascus. Questscope and SSSD initiated an ongoing mentoring program for juveniles in 2010. Kamal is one of our trustworthy and reliable partners, who have assisted 55,000 youth to receive counseling and education since 2010. "SSSD is a unique partner. They re-started vocational training and post-incarceration care that stopped during the first years of the crisis. They make it possible for juveniles to get new chances in life," said Kamal.



FATMEH

Fatmeh fled her home town of Minbej to Damascus, a tough 500-mile journey for a woman with chronic inflammatory disease in her joints. She now lives with her daughter, husband, and step-mother in a community shelter. Fatmeh is one of 30,000 women active in women's therapy groups organized by SSSD in communities and shelters throughout Syria. "Before knowing SSSD, I could only think of myself. I wanted a way out of my suffering. Now I have matured and take initiative to help others. Once I was not really present. Now I am very present and actively caring for others who have lost so much," said Fatmeh.

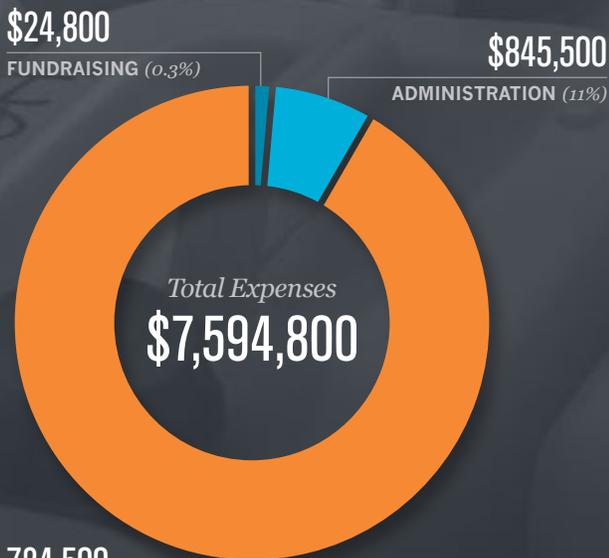
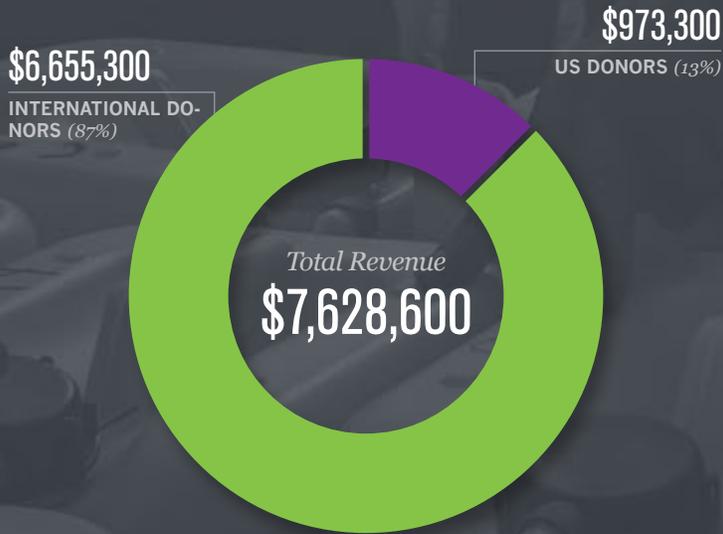


MOHAMAD

Mohamad graduated from law school in this crisis, without any job possibilities. He was born with a muscle-wasting disease and has limited use of his hands and arms. After surviving a four-year siege, he now volunteers with SSSD in rural Damascus. Mohamad is one of 1,500 SSSD volunteers in Syria. With people like him, we have rebuilt and rehabilitated buildings for over 70,000 people without homes. "I was always shy and had a problem being around others. I felt no empathy for anyone else. Now as a SSSD volunteer, I have fulfilling things to do – actively reaching out to support anyone in need and pushed to the edges of life," said Mohamad.



2016/2017 FINANCIAL REPORT



This summary represents unaudited consolidation of revenues and expenses of Questscope, Ltd., a 501c3 organization incorporated in the State of Illinois (USA), and Questscope, a U.K. charity that conducts all its operations in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and other Middle East countries. Questscope, Ltd. Accounts are audited by Gelman, Rosenberg & Freedman, Bethesda, Maryland. Questscope UK accounts are audited by Tom Carolan and Co., Republic of Ireland. Copies of audited accounts are available upon request from Questscope offices.

Contributions to Questscope are tax-deductible.

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Lead Partners



JORDANIAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION



United Nations Population Fund
Jordan Office



American Refugee Committee **ARC**



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