QRCS Sends Humanitarian Convoy into Syria

December 31st, 2016 — Doha: Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) to mobilize shared relief interventions for the victims of war in Aleppo, at a total cost of $2,323,000.

On Thursday, 29 December, a high-profile delegation from KRCS visited QRCS's Mission in Turkey to sign the agreement. Headed by President, Dr. Hilal Al-Sayer, the KRCS delegation were received by Dr. Khalid Diab, Director, QRCS Relief and International Development, Doha, as well as top officials of the Mission.

The meeting discussed the imminent projects and how best to deliver the aid to the affected Syrians. The guests listened to a presentation on QRCS's major achievements in Syria.

This cooperation will build upon the work done jointly by the two parties since the beginning of the crisis, as part of the rapid response campaign for Aleppo.

Under the agreement, several relief and health projects would be conducted in Syria, for the benefit of an estimated 190,000 displaced people in western Aleppo countryside, Idlib, and Idlib countryside.

The projects include distributing 7,500 food packages, 200,000 bread bundles, 11,000 winter clothing bags, heating oil (40 liters per family), and 8,000 blankets.

Also, QRCS-KRCS personnel would dispatch 10 mobile medical clinics to offer primary health care services at camps and centers receiving the internally displaced people (IDPs). Three water tankers would provide drinking water every day to the Syrian families, and a hospital in Turkey would be contracted to perform general, urological, plastic, and orthopedic surgeries for children.

Last Wednesday, a humanitarian convoy was dispatched into Syria through Bab al-Hawa Border Crossing, in coordination with the Turkish Red Crescent Society. Twenty trucks carried relief items and 8,000 blankets for the victims of cold weather.
Earlier this month, the two parties prepared an IDP reception center; dispatched mobile clinics to IDP host communities; and distributed food packages, winter clothing, blankets, tents, and other relief items.

In Lebanon, QRCS-KRCS personnel are working to install thermal insulation sheets inside the tents of Syrian refugees, in the aftermath of recent snowstorms hitting the country.

According to Omar Katerji, Head of QRCS Mission in Lebanon, more than 12,000 Syrian refugees have so far benefited from this project in Central Beqaa and Western Beqaa, with a target of 2,000 inadequate tents over the coming period of time.

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About Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS)

Established in 1978, Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) is a humanitarian charitable organization that aims to assist and empower vulnerable individuals and communities without partiality or discrimination.

QRCS is a member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, which consists of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in Geneva, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and 190 National Societies. QRCS is also a member of several Gulf, Arab, and Islamic assemblies, such as: the Islamic Committee of International Crescent and the Secretariat-General of the Arab Organization of Red Crescent and Red Cross. In this legally recognized capacity, QRCS has access to disaster and conflict zones, thus serving as an auxiliary to the State of Qatar in its humanitarian efforts, a role that distinguishes it from other local charitable or philanthropic organizations.

QRCS operates both locally and internationally and has ongoing international relief and development projects in a number of countries throughout the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and Europe. QRCS's humanitarian actions include providing support in disaster preparedness, disaster response, risk reduction, and disaster recovery. To mitigate the impact of disasters and improve the livelihoods of affected populations, QRCS provides medical services, healthcare, and social development to local communities. It is also active at the humanitarian advocacy front. With the help of a vast network of trained, committed staff and volunteers, QRCS aspires to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. As a reflection of its long-standing accomplishments and credibility, QRCS's Chairman, Dr. Mohammed Al-Maadheed, is former Vice-President of the IFRC.

Qatar Red Crescent works under the umbrella of the seven international humanitarian principles: Humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity, and universality.
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