

الجمعية السورية للتنمية الاجتماعية
SYRIAN SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



SSSD Annual Health Report 2022



www.sssd-ngo.org

Foreword

The Syrian Society for Social Development is a non-governmental organization established in 2009.

SSSD works all over Syria, and provides services in several sectors including Health, Protection, Education, Early recovery and livelihood, Shelter and WASH.

Furthermore, the services are provided to all age groups, focusing on vulnerable populations.

Through all its services, SSSD works by applying its vision, which is:

***“Restoring Lives... Rebuilding Communities So the LEAST
become Partners in Transformations that LAST”***

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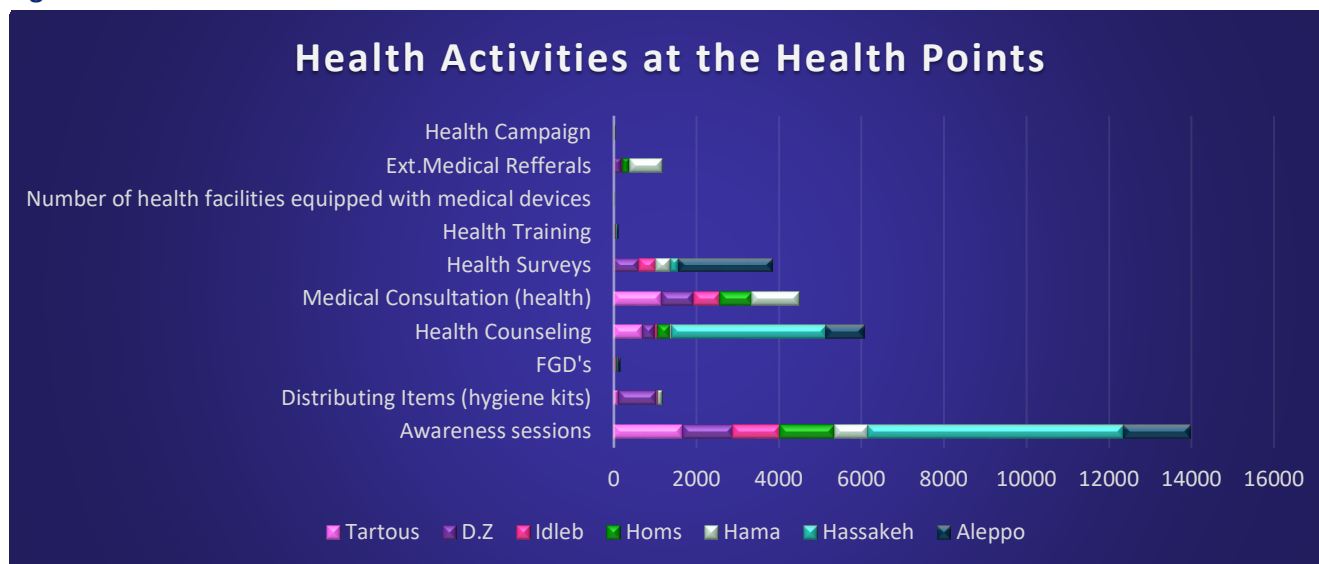
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Health Points:

SSSD provided PHC services in its 10 health points in partnership with UNHCR, throughout 7 governorates. As per the graph below, SSSD implemented different health interventions at its health points during 2022, whereby 13,974 benefited from health awareness sessions, 4485 from medical consultations, 6053 from health counselling, 1180 from external medical referrals and 91 health staff from training. Also, 3844 health surveys were conducted, as well as 142 FGDs, 6 health facilities equipped with medical equipment, 3 health NGOs supported, 35 health campaigns, and 1168 hygiene items distributed during the cholera and covid outbreaks. (Figure 1)

Furthermore, the total number of beneficiaries from all health services in the 10 health points reached 37,095

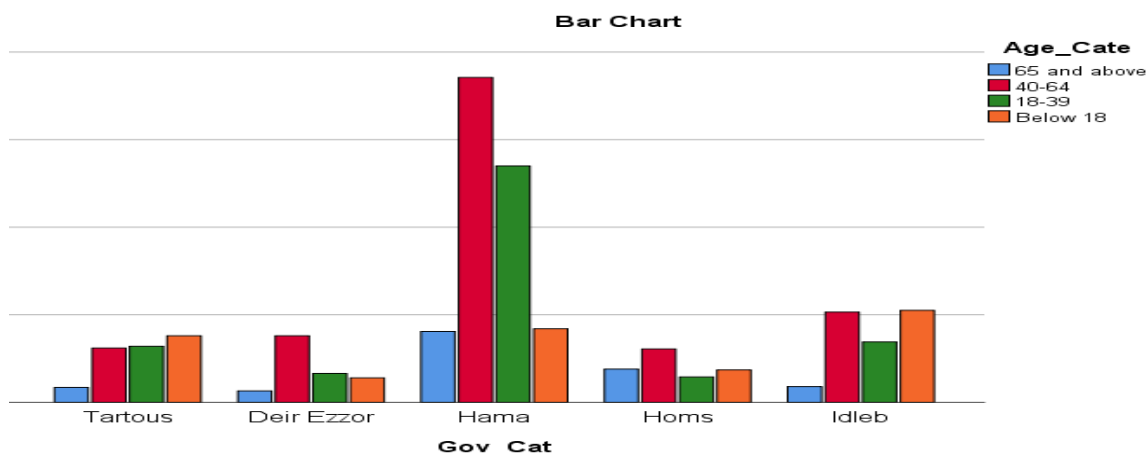
Figure 1



Beneficiaries Description:

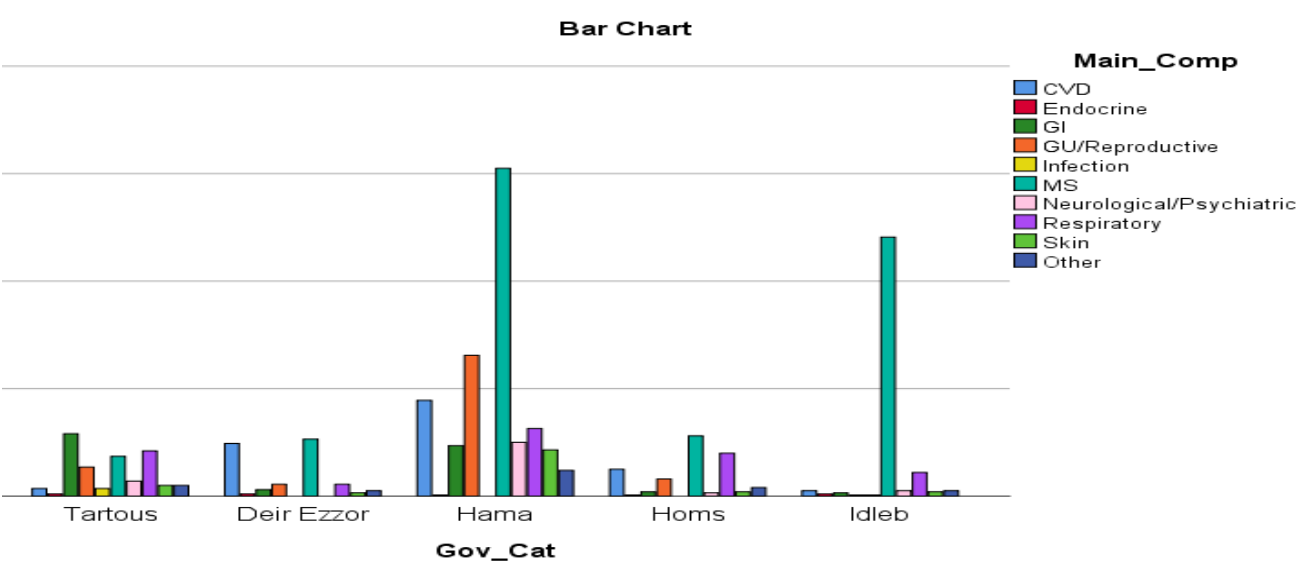
The most prevalent age group benefiting from PHC services at the health points differed between governorates, whereby in Hama, Deir Ezzour and Homs it was between 60 and 64, while in Tartous it was below 18, and Idleb both age categories (below 18 and between 40 and 64) were the main dominant ones. (Figure 2)

Figure 2



As for the main complaints, the ones visitors mostly suffered from also differed across governorates. In Deir Ezzor, the two most common complaints were cardiovascular and musculoskeletal, while in Hama those were GU/RH and musculoskeletal. Furthermore, in Homs, cardiovascular and respiratory complaints were dominant, compared to musculoskeletal and respiratory in Idleb, and lastly gastrointestinal and respiratory in Tartous. (Figure 3).

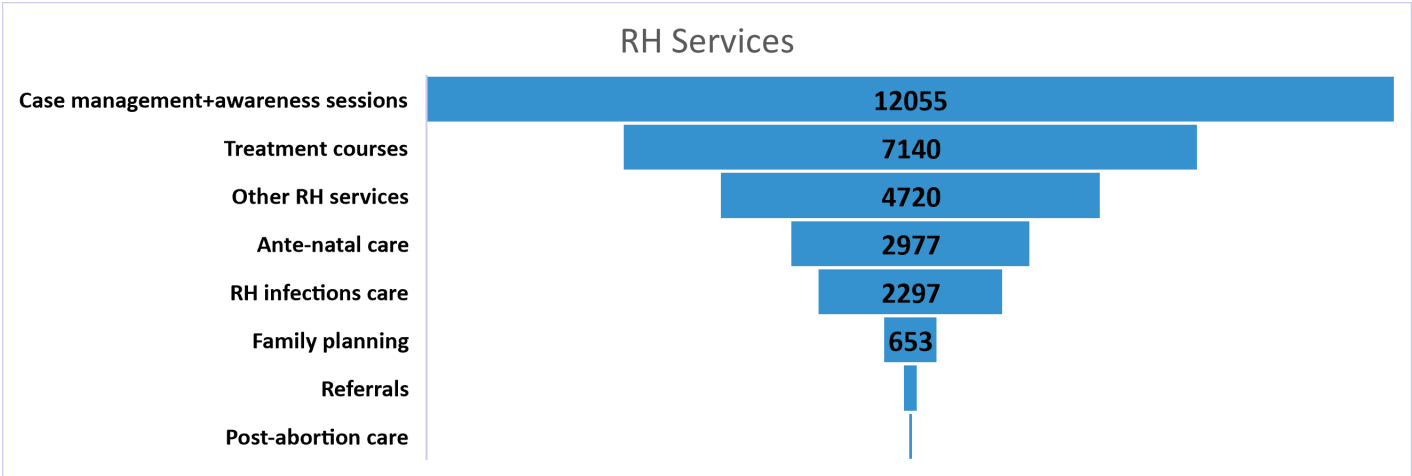
Figure 3



Reproductive Health:

During 2022, SSSD provided RH services through the 10 mobile teams in 5 governorates (Daraa, Hama, Homs Aleppo and Deir Ezzour) in partnership with UNFPA. The services reached a total of around 30,000 beneficiaries who benefited from different services as per figure 4.

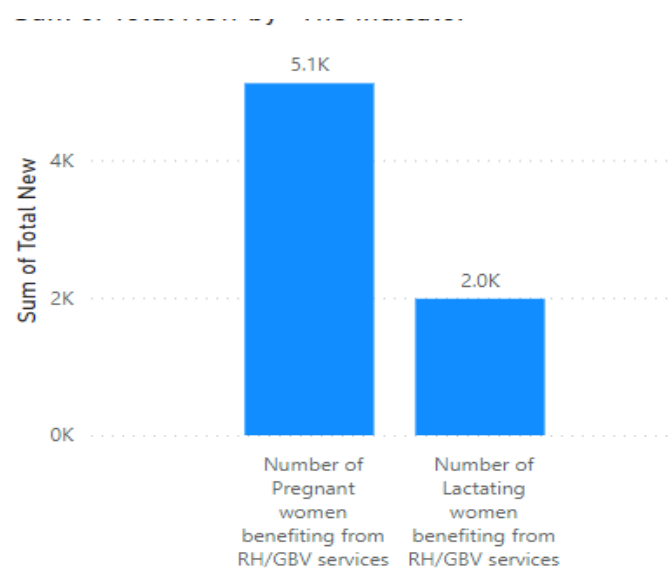
Figure 4



Beneficiaries description:

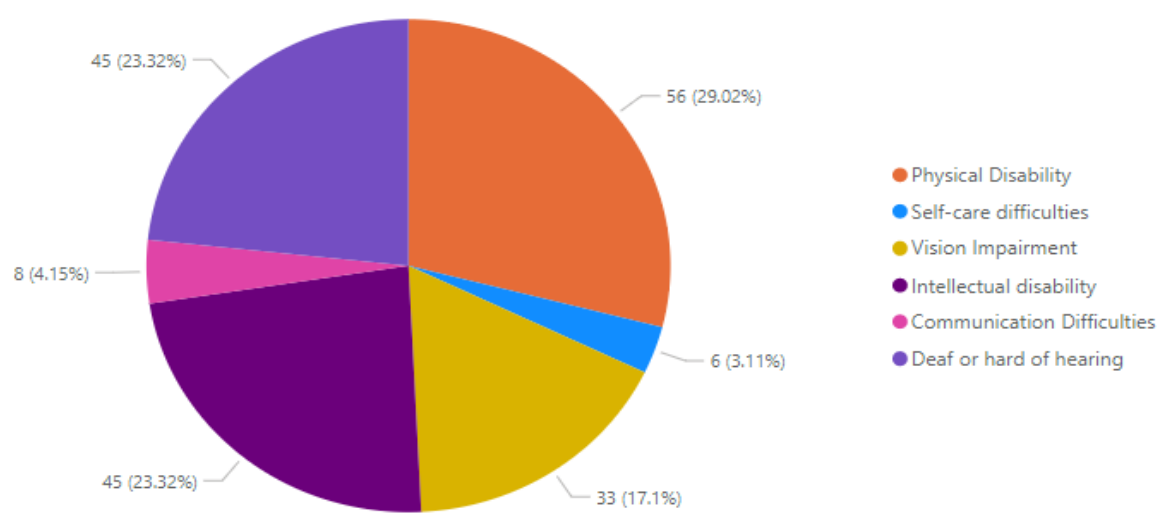
As per figures 5, the number of pregnant women benefiting from RH services was higher than that of lactating women, whereby the number of pregnant women benefiting from the services accounted for 72% of the total beneficiaries.

Figure 5



Furthermore, regarding women with disabilities, the most common disabilities were physical (29%), hearing difficulties/deafness (23.3%), intellectual (23.2%) and visual (17%), respectively. (Figure 6)

Figure 6



Community Health

Health Core Groups:

The health core group aims at developing the health programme and empowering communities in all governorates through forming community health groups that aim at raising awareness on health issues, detecting health problems and finding solutions to health problems and contributing factors. The health core group at the HQ level was founded in March 2022, and consists of five doctors, including two specialists and three residents in different specializations with experience in the humanitarian field.

The group meets twice per month in order to discuss needs and proposed solutions related to community health issues. Furthermore, works has been done on data collections, activating social media coverage, producing a health library, and planning for tailored interventions based on needs.

Community-led Initiatives:

5 initiatives were implemented during 2022. Furthermore, the purpose and activities included the following:

Home pharmacy, Daraa

The beneficiaries were 50 families with older persons in order to protect the beneficiaries from having the medicines close to children's reach, as well as to explain to the elderly how they should take their medication and organize them.

Spraying insecticides to control Leishmaniasis, Aleppo

Several areas in the southern countryside of Aleppo were sprayed with insecticides to combat the insects that cause the transmission of leishmaniasis, on the recommendation of the Health Directorate, after monitoring several cases of the latter. The number of beneficiaries from the initiative was estimated at 7,000.

Supplying first aid kits for burns, Al-Hasakah camps

The kits contained a disinfectant for burns, in addition to gauze and medical adhesive, in light of the outbreak of fires in Al-Arish camp due to the poor electricity connection with the presence of highly flammable materials. The number of beneficiaries was estimated at 2,500.

Rehabilitation of the medical clinic, Rural Damascus (Tell Nasri)

Rehabilitation of the medical clinic in Tal Nasri to provide medical services such as vaccinations for children under 5 years of age, in addition to reproductive health services for women

Preparing charging points for spray devices, Al-Hasakah camps

This is due to the exposure of patients with respiratory diseases to dangerous conditions due to the lack of electricity to operate the spray devices. The number of beneficiaries was estimated at 2,500.

Community-based Organizations:

3 CBOs were supported as follows:

Medical Clinic, Tadamon-Tasharuk Association

- Awaiting licensing. It is expected that the monthly number of beneficiaries from the clinic will be 500.
- It is important to note that it is the only place in the Tadamon area that provides free or almost free medical services

Equipping a center for children with cancer, Deir Ezzor - Syrian Association for Cancer Patients

- The project will provide psychological, educational, recreational and nutritional support activities for 150 children with cancer and blood diseases in Deir Ezzor governorate through the center located in Deir Ezzor city, as follows:
 - Psychological support services
 - Providing educational support to children
 - Providing food support for 150 children with cancer
 - Providing recreational activities for 150 children with cancer.
 - Allocating two days a month for an external activity

Medical analysis laboratory, Homs - Deir Baalbeh Association

- The laboratory was not started yet, but all services were provided.

Medical In-kind Assistance

Throughout 2022, 6100 medical in-kind assistance was distributed to people in need in 11 governorates in partnership with UNHCR.

Also, in partnership with UNMAS, 400 medical devices and equipment were distributed in Hama, based on the need since there is a significant number of cases affected by the explosive remnants of war.

Furthermore, the following equipment and devices were be distributed:

1- Physical Rehabilitation Equipment:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Infrared therapy unit• Ultrasound therapy unit• Electric stimulation therapy• Thermos unit for hot packs (with hot backs)• Unit for cold packs (with cold backs)• Cervical and lumbar traction device with table• Paraffin wax therapy unit with parrafin• Exercise mats• Adjustable standing frame for children• Exercise balls set• Parallel bars for children	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stairs for parallel bars• Wedges different shapes and sizes• Walker for children• Stationary bike for children• Wheelchair for children• Wall Ladder for children• Postural training mirror for children• Tools for creational activities (toys)• Auxiliary crutches for children• Elbow crutches for children
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2- Assistive Devices:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wheelchair for children• Wheelchair adults• Elbow crutches children• Elbow crutches adults• Walker for children• Walker for adults• Axillary crutches for children• Axillary crutches for adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adjustable standing frame for children• Wedges different shapes and sizes• Toilet seat• Urinal pans• Below knee prostheses• Above knee prostheses• Hearing device
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The equipment were distributed to the rehabilitation center in Hama, while the assistive devices were given to people with disabilities (PWD), and were distributed at the SSSD centers in Hama.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

In partnership with UNHCR

- In partnership with UNHCR, SSSD provided its MHPSS services to all age groups and gender all across Syria, whereby 2000 benefited from case management, 300 from paid referrals to specialized care (psychiatrist, medicines...) and around 10,000 from MHPSS awareness sessions.

In partnership with UNFPA

- In partnership with UNFPA, SSSD provided its MHPSS services in Daraa to the youth and women. Furthermore, the total number of beneficiaries from MHPSS awareness sessions reached around 400.

In partnership with Tearfund

- In partnership with Tearfund, SSSD provided its MHPSS services to juveniles at 3 juvenile centers, including 1 in Lattakia, 1 in Rural Damascus and 1 in Damascus. Furthermore, 633 juveniles benefited from case management, 1171 from MHPSS awareness sessions, and 469 from the Mentoring Programme

Stories from the Field

Covid-19 Response, Hama:

By networking between the health point in the Soran Community Center and the official mobile team from the Health Directorate in Hama, the national vaccination campaign against covid-19 was launched in Soran, Hama. The campaign targets all people over the age of 18 in all governorates.

Furthermore, registration is done at the center and the vaccination is provided immediately, after an assessment of the health status is done before giving the vaccine by the health staff.



Cholera Response, Homs:

In light of the spread of cholera, a capacity-building session was implemented for the team on the causes of infection, symptoms, and prevention methods. After this session, a health problem was identified in the newly renovated Al-Qusayr school, which is the lack of safe places to drink water, which threatens about 1060 students in the school with diseases transmitted by polluted water, especially cholera.

The problem was analyzed and solutions were developed, and the team mobilized community resources to implement an initiative entitled “I Have the Right to Drink Water”, which aimed to rehabilitate drinking fountains and secure a safe source of water.



Small pharmacy, Deir Ezzour:

One of the older persons that the SSSD team visited said with tears filling her eyes: “Today, you helped me save my life, and protect myself from the mistake that I always make when taking my medicines. Since I do not know how to read and write, I always have trouble taking my medication correctly.

Today, by distributing this small pharmacy, along with a schedule for all days of the week to show me how I should take my medicines, I now know the date of each pill, and I can take my medicine wherever I go. This will protect me as not taking the medicines correctly, especially chronic medicines, can harm me greatly. Thank you so much!”



Success Story: Surviving Hardships

One day, you go out of your home to play. You hear an explosion, an invisible landmine detonated, and you never return home like you left. A limb, or more is now gone. Your body is now less.

Yazan, an 11 years old child, went outside to play with his friends in Tayyibat al Imam. Suddenly, a landmine exploded causing a severe injury to Yazan. He lost his left leg, from mid-thigh down, and his right leg was mutated due a grave loss in its bones causing him an over 80 % disability. Yazan became unable to move and carry on his daily and educational activities. He used to go to school every day, but after the incident, he became shy of his condition and inability to move around. He could no longer play with his friends or participate in social activities and became an introvert who want to keep away from people but his parents, who take care of him. During the field visit the SSSD team conducted to Yazan's home, it was found out that he was in a very low mental state. Therefore, SSSD provided him with physiotherapy sessions and psychosocial support sessions. The team also explained that he is eligible for a prosthetic for his left, lost leg and an external fixation device for his right leg. Furthermore, the dressings for his wounds were replaces and the measurements to make the prosthetic and the fixation device were taken.

The prosthetic for Yazan's left leg was installed as well as the fixation device for his right leg. The team encouraged him to take few steps and try walking, and provided Yazan with axillary crutches and helped him pass the first stage to be able to walk on his own. Yazan restored his self-confidence. Now, he can go to school, meet his friends and carry on his education.

Yazan used to say that his life turned into a nightmare of desperation after the incident and losing one of his limbs. However, his life changed after a long journey of medical treatment, and his dream of regaining his life back was fulfilled with help of UNMAS. Yazan defeated his circumstances, and made significant progress in different educational aspects and hobbies. Now, Yazan can go to school on his own without asking for help from his parents, he gained his self-confidence back after he lost it because of the circumstances he faced. He defeated his circumstances and carried on his education and hobbies, he said "losing my limb will not be the end of my life".

Social Education for Girls: Hope

It is difficult for anyone to live and move between two completely contradictory places... The first is a home and a quiet and balanced family despite the presence of the stepmother, and the second is the house of the mother who ran away with her lover and married him. A house where everything is permitted: cigarettes, alcohol, nightlife, friends...

This is how N.A's life was divided between these two completely different places... She would go to visit her mother, so the stepfather gave her cigarettes and encouraged her to drink alcohol and go out with her friends until she started taking drugs, and was arrested while buying contraband.

After learning that her daughter had been raped by one of the people she was accompanying, the mother refused to visit her daughter, and ended her relationship with her with one phrase (I disavow you).

N.A's psychological state was bad, and she was suffering from a kind of frustration, depression and isolation, especially after the father moved away from her due to his work conditions and was forced to work in another governorate.

She no longer talked to anyone and refused to participate in any activity or work.

Nevertheless, the intervention of the psychologist with her, following up on her case, involving her in one of the Mentoring (friendship) program series, and encouraging her to participate in activities and vocational training changed a lot of her psychology and self-acceptance, and that change was tangible through her work and participation, her creativity and her diligence in highlighting her cooking skills during the vocational training, and she also expressed her desire to complete her education, so she was registered to take the 9th grade certificate.



SSSD Partners

SSSD thanks all its partners for the continuous support in order to reach and serve vulnerable populations in need of support all across Syria, and in all sectors to provide integrated services.

A special thanks to the University of North Carolina team who are helping SSSD in developing its Health Programme.



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