



# Security Council

Distr.: General  
24 June 2020

Original: English

---

## Implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016), 2393 (2017), 2401 (2018), 2449 (2018) and 2504 (2020)

### Report of the Secretary-General

#### I. Introduction

1. The present report is the sixty-seventh submitted pursuant to paragraph 17 of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014), paragraph 10 of resolution 2165 (2014), paragraph 5 of resolution 2191 (2014), paragraph 5 of resolution 2258 (2015), paragraph 5 of resolution 2332 (2016), paragraph 6 of resolution 2393 (2017), paragraph 12 of resolution 2401 (2018), paragraph 6 of resolution 2449 (2018), and paragraph 8 of resolution 2504 (2020), in the last of which the Council requested the Secretary-General to provide a report at least every 60 days, on the implementation of the resolutions by all parties to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic.

2. The information contained herein is based on data available to agencies of the United Nations system and obtained from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and other relevant sources. Data from agencies of the United Nations system regarding their humanitarian deliveries have been reported for April and May 2020.

#### II. Major developments

##### Key points

1. The number of cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) announced by the Syrian authorities as at 31 May 2020 stood at 122. Another six cases were recorded by local authorities in the north-east of the Syrian Arab Republic, including one death. The economic impacts attributable to COVID-19 aggravated a sharply deteriorating economic situation.

2. Steep price increases were recorded alongside reports of shortages in some basic goods, as the rate of decline in the value of the Syrian pound accelerated. In May, the Syrian pound reached its lowest point on record against the United States dollar. The World Food Programme (WFP) revised its estimate for the number of people considered as food insecure in the Syrian Arab Republic to 9.3 million people.



3. The ceasefire in the Idlib de-escalation area largely continued to hold, albeit with frequent reports of relatively small-scale violations. Civilian return movements continued but remained limited, with some 780,000 of the nearly 1 million people displaced in the north-west between December 2019 and early March 2020 still displaced. Incidents of mutual shelling and attacks using improvised explosive devices around Afrin and Bab resulted in civilian casualties, including children. An attack in a crowded market in Afrin on 28 April killed at least 46 people, of whom at least 31 were civilians, and injured 53 other people.

4. Humanitarian assistance continued throughout the Syrian Arab Republic, including the distribution of food assistance by WFP to 4.5 million people in April and 4.5 million people in May. COVID-19 preparedness and response efforts included support by the World Health Organization (WHO) for the gradual expansion of testing capacities. Support also continued for COVID-19 infection prevention and control, from risk communication and community engagement to isolation centres.

5. The humanitarian cross-border operation continued at record levels to respond to the acute needs of millions of civilians in the north-west of the country. The highest total number of United Nations humanitarian aid truck crossings per month since the establishment of the cross-border mechanism in 2014 was recorded in May 2020, with 1,781 trucks crossing into the country from Turkey.

6. WHO dispatched an overland delivery of medical supplies to the north-east from Ladhqiyah, in two consignments. That was the first overland delivery of WHO supplies to the north-east of the country since May 2018. Deliveries also continued by air. Despite increasing quantities of assistance reaching the north-east, medical supplies from those deliveries did not reach the majority of medical facilities that had previously depended on the cross-border delivery of supplies. Non-governmental organizations operating in the north-east reported stock-outs of some essential supplies, including some emergency medicines and anaesthetics.

7. At Rukban, a commercial delivery of five trucks in May generated limited improvement in the availability of basic commodities. Access to medical services, hygiene supplies and other basic items remained extremely limited. Between 25 March and 31 May, 282 individuals departed Rukban, including 20 individuals needing medical care and who received appropriate support.

### **Humanitarian update**

3. The number of cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) announced by the Syrian authorities as at 31 May 2020 stood at 122, including 46 recoveries and 5 deaths. Another six cases were recorded by local authorities in the north-east of the Syrian Arab Republic, including one death. No cases were recorded in the north-west of the country, with over 700 tests conducted as at the end of May. The majority of cases confirmed by the Syrian authorities were in Damascus (87 cases), with the remaining cases in Rif Dimashq (34 cases) and Dar'a (1 case). Overall testing capacity increased but remained insufficient. Five laboratories are testing samples, in Damascus, Ladhqiyah, Aleppo, Homs and Idlib. Polymerase chain reaction testing capacity has been established in Qamishli and Tall Rif'at, in the north-east. In the north-west, in addition to testing being carried out by a laboratory in Idlib, some samples are being sent to laboratories in Turkey.

4. The economic situation continued to deteriorate during the reporting period, with steep price increases and shortages in some basic goods, as the rate of decline in the value of the Syrian pound accelerated. The informal exchange rate weakened in May to its lowest point on record, at more than 1,950 Syrian pounds to the United

States dollar in some parts of Idlib, for an increase of more than 240 per cent over 12 months. On 26 March, the Central Bank of Syria adjusted the official rate from 438 to 704 Syrian pounds, representing a devaluation of 61 per cent. Prices increased by 40 to 50 per cent on average for food staples and by 300 per cent on average for personal sanitization items, although prices and availability fluctuated. The national average reference food basket recorded in April by the World Food Programme (WFP) was at 56,668 Syrian pounds, a year-over-year increase of 133 per cent and the highest price ever recorded for the Syrian Arab Republic. Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, it was estimated that about 90 per cent of the population lived below the poverty line, with high levels of food insecurity. According to WFP, 9.3 million people in the Syrian Arab Republic are now food insecure, representing an increase of 1.4 million in the past six months and the highest number ever recorded in the country. Increasing malnutrition rates were recorded in the north-west, with some 30 per cent of pregnant and breastfeeding women reportedly malnourished.

5. In the north-west of the country, while the ceasefire in the Idlib de-escalation area largely continued to hold, frequent small-scale violations were reported. These included exchanges of artillery fire along the contact lines and limited ground-based clashes. Incidents of mutual shelling and attacks using improvised explosive devices took place around Afrin and Bab, resulting in civilian casualties, including children. Other incidents included reported small arms fire in Bab town on 16 May, resulting in the death of a pregnant woman. On 28 April, a reported fuel truck explosion in a crowded market in Afrin killed at least 46 people, of whom at least 31 were civilians, including 2 women and 4 boys, and injured 53 other people, including 10 women, 3 boys and 1 girl, with no party claiming responsibility for the attack.

6. Return movements of displaced civilians continued in areas not under government control in Idlib and western Aleppo Governorates, with over 180,000 people estimated to have returned, mainly to the subdistricts of Ariha, Atarib, Ihsim, Darat Izzah, Jisr al-Shughur, Sarmin, Muhambal and Taftanaz. In southern and south-eastern Idlib, approximately 8,500 people returned between January and May 2020, including to Sinjar, Tamani'ah and Khan Shaykhun. In north-western Aleppo, a humanitarian assessment mission conducted on 14 May to the Huraytan subdistrict, which was retaken by the Government in January 2020, found limited returns, with approximately 5,000 people having returned to communities there. The mission found that the scale of destruction to residential property and public infrastructure and the dire lack of public services posed a major impediment to civilian returns. In northern Aleppo, insufficient potable and farming water supply was reported at Bab, where the main water supply system runs across lines of control and needs to be restored, affecting water access for the local population and the ability to maintain health and hygiene standards that are critical to avoiding the spread of infectious diseases, including COVID-19.

7. In the north-east, intermittent artillery shelling, including limited ground-based clashes, were reported along the eastern and western edges of the Operation Peace Spring area between Tall Abyad and Ra's al-Ayn. The Aluk water station and the power supply were disrupted multiple times in April and May, owing to shelling or the rerouting of electricity by non-State armed groups. Approximately 460,000 people rely on the Aluk water station as their primary source of water, which is particularly critical to maintaining health and hygiene standards in overcrowded camps and other high-risk areas to avoid the spread of infectious diseases, including COVID-19. Approximately 1 million people across four districts are affected by the disruption of electricity.

8. At Rukban, humanitarian access from within Syria remained heavily restricted, as the border with Jordan has been closed since March 2020 as part of preventative measures related to COVID-19, constraining access to the United Nations-run

medical clinic. There was limited improvement in the availability of basic commodities in May, as five commercial trucks reportedly delivered goods to the local market. Access to medical services, hygiene supplies and other basic items remains extremely limited. On 9 May, a group of 99 people who had left Rukban, including 61 children, arrived at the Abdul Rahman Shattoor shelter in Homs after passing through the Julayghim checkpoint and spending time at the Wahah reception and transit centre. Since March, 282 people have left Rukban. An estimated 12,000 people remained in Rukban and surrounding areas as at 31 May 2020.

#### **Update on overall developments**

9. The Special Envoy for Syria continued his efforts with the Syrian parties to further a Syrian-led and Syrian-owned, United Nations-facilitated political process, in line with Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#). On 18 May, the Special Envoy informed the Council that he would convene a third session of the small body of the Constitutional Committee in Geneva as soon as global travel conditions allowed. Both the government and opposition Co-Chairs affirmed the importance of a substantive third session on the agreed agenda and the equal importance of there being no preconditions to moving on to other items of the Constitution in subsequent sessions, consistent with the mandate of the Committee and its Terms of Reference and Core Rules of Procedure.

10. International and regional actors continued their own diplomatic engagements on the Syrian Arab Republic and with the Special Envoy, who reminded interlocutors of the importance of renewed and meaningful international cooperation.

11. On 11 April, the Special Envoy, together with other United Nations envoys in the Middle East, called upon warring parties to negotiate an immediate halt to ongoing hostilities, exercise maximum restraint, de-escalate tensions and work to resolve differences through dialogue. Building on the appeal of the Secretary-General for an immediate global ceasefire, and on his own appeal for a nationwide ceasefire in the country and an all-out effort to combat COVID-19, the Special Envoy reiterated his readiness to work with all key players so that significant calm in many areas could be sustained, enhanced and expanded into a nationwide ceasefire, as called for in Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#).

#### **Protection**

12. Civilians, including many women and children, were killed and injured as a result of increased sporadic fighting between and within armed groups and the apparent indiscriminate use of weaponry between various non-State armed groups in the north-western, northern and eastern parts of the Syrian Arab Republic. The majority of civilian deaths were reportedly caused by indiscriminate attacks carried out with various types of improvised explosive devices, including vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices, by unidentified perpetrators and from explosive remnants of war, including unexploded ordnances.

13. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) documented at least 59 incidents, occurring from 1 April to 31 May 2020, in which at least 105 civilians, including 5 women and 21 children, were killed and at least 213 civilians, including 21 women and 52 children, were injured as a result of hostilities across the Syrian Arab Republic, including through ground-based strikes, improvised explosive devices, explosive remnants of war, armed clashes and targeted killings at the hands of various parties to the conflict or by unidentified perpetrators. The largest cause of civilian deaths (at least 44) appeared to be indiscriminate improvised explosive device attacks by unidentified perpetrators in busy markets and residential areas. The deadliest of those attacks occurred in a

commercial area in Afrin city on 28 April, when at least 46 people were killed, of whom at least 31 were civilians, and 53 people injured. In the light of the patterns observed and the high number of incidents and civilians killed and injured in markets and residential areas, it appears that parties to the conflict have failed to respect the key principles under international humanitarian law of distinguishing civilians from fighters and civilian objects from military objectives; of refraining from indiscriminate attacks; of respecting proportionality in attack; and of taking precautions in the conduct of military operations.

14. Armed groups, as well as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), appear to have taken advantage of the focus on the COVID-19 pandemic to escalate attacks in various areas. OHCHR recorded incidents in which the use of force by non-State armed groups in the context of pandemic-related precautionary measures, such as curfews and the closure of some businesses, resulted in civilian deaths and injuries.

15. Both pro-government forces and non-State armed groups continued to detain individuals, including women and children, in areas under their effective control. In most cases recorded by OHCHR, detainees were denied information about the reasons for their detention and other due process rights, while their families were denied information concerning their whereabouts. In areas under the control of the Government, OHCHR continued to document cases of detainees dying while in custody, allegedly due to natural causes, without formal notification given to their families. In many such cases, the detention of individuals by the Government did not become known until their deaths were acknowledged. The bodies of the deceased are rarely returned to their families. The situation of thousands of detainees and prisoners, including former ISIL fighters and their families, continues to be of major concern, in particular in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Scores of people remain in detention facilities and in internally displaced persons camps managed by the Syrian Democratic Forces and other parties to the conflict, held in unsanitary conditions, without access to their families, and lacking adequate medical care.

16. In the south-western part of the country, an increase in popular unrest and tensions was recorded. Anti-government activities increased in number and scale, including protests against arbitrary detentions by the Government and violent attacks. Killings and kidnapping attempts also increased, largely targeting government and pro-government forces and fighters reconciled from former armed opposition groups. Government forces and security branches expanded their deployment and activities across the region, including in areas subject to agreements between former armed opposition groups and government forces. During April and May, the overall number of targeted killings increased significantly, with over 400 reported cases. Negotiations between government officials and local representatives were convened. On the ground, additional government checkpoints were established, reportedly constraining the freedom of movement of local populations in some areas.

17. Both pro-government forces and non-State armed groups in the north-western, northern and eastern parts of the Syrian Arab Republic continued to target civilians, including those perceived as being affiliated with opposing forces, including through killings, the arbitrary deprivation of liberty, torture and other ill-treatment and kidnappings. In Idlib, Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham, designated as a terrorist group by the Security Council, continued to impose rules and codes of conduct on civilians living in areas under its control that are fundamentally contrary to human rights, including the rights to life, liberty and security of person, to freedom of movement and to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association. Through self-appointed courts, members of the group continue to inflict harsh penalties, including death, on those who have either been perceived as being critical of those rules or accused of having affiliations with an opposing party to the conflict.

18. During the reporting period, non-State armed groups carried out seizures of houses, land and property of civilians, including those who had fled the hostilities. In the north-west and north-east of the country, non-State armed groups seized houses of other displaced civilians and of individuals accused of having affiliations with other armed groups and occupied them with their own families. OHCHR received reports that, in April, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, scores of families of non-State armed group fighters were transferred from the Jarabulus area, in eastern rural Aleppo, to areas in Tall Abyad, in northern rural Raqqah, and Ra's al-Ayn, in western rural Hasakah, and placed in houses of civilians who had fled or who had been forcibly evicted.

19. During the reporting period, ongoing hostilities continued to impede civilian access to health care and education, a situation that has been exacerbated to some extent by some of the precautionary measures related to COVID-19. In the eastern part of the country, including in Dayr al-Zawr, the Syrian Democratic Forces appear to have taken advantage of movement restrictions and the suspension of in-person classes to position armed fighters inside temporarily empty schools in the area.

20. Hostilities damaging educational facilities and harming civilians continued to be reported by humanitarian organizations. Three incidents were verified by the United Nations during the reporting period:<sup>1</sup>

(a) On 2 March 2020, airstrikes hit Arri al-Qibliyah-Adwan school in Ariha subdistrict, Idlib Governorate, causing material damage;

(b) On 2 March 2020, a girls' school in Balyun, southern Idlib Governorate, was put out of service by airstrikes, with no casualties reported;

(c) On 14 April 2020, several improvised explosive devices detonated inside Ubayd Salama school in Hawij town, Dayr al-Zawr Governorate, causing partial destruction to the facility. The school was occupied by an armed group at the time of attack.

21. The Surveillance System for Attacks on Health Care of the World Health Organization (WHO) reported two incidents affecting health-care personnel, with no reported deaths or injuries. Additional incidents have yet to be verified as part of the Surveillance System.

### **Humanitarian response**

22. Humanitarian assistance provided by United Nations agencies throughout the Syrian Arab Republic included the distribution of food assistance by WFP to 4.5 million people in April and 4.5 million people in May, across all 14 Governorates. WHO delivered some 646,000 treatments across the country, in addition to over 132,000 primary health care consultations. In April and May, 283,000 protection interventions were provided, including child protection services for more than 63,000 children (see table 1).

23. The United Nations continued to support COVID-19 preparedness and response efforts across the country. That included WHO support for the gradual expansion of testing capacities in Damascus, Aleppo, Ladhqiyyah and Homs, from conducting repairs to providing essential equipment, reagents and on-site training of laboratory technicians, and for further expansion across the Syrian Arab Republic in accordance with the epidemiological situation and needs. Support continued for infection

<sup>1</sup> These attacks have been confirmed using tried and tested systems, whereby the United Nations receives reports from partners on the ground and reviews them against at least two other independent sources. Only attacks that are fully vetted and confirmed by all independent sources are included in the list of confirmed attacks. These systems are used worldwide and are widely respected.

prevention and control, from risk communication and community engagement to isolation centres. Some \$23 million was allocated from the Syria Humanitarian Fund to support COVID-19 prevention and response. There remained significant shortages of personal protective equipment, medical equipment and isolation and quarantine centres in all areas. The United Nations coordinated the quantification of COVID-19 supply requirements across all response modalities for both health and non-health response providers, to support coordinated requests through the global COVID-19 Supply Portal. COVID-19 preparedness and response plans were established across all humanitarian operational hubs, with financial requirements for those plans totalling \$384 million.

24. Response modalities were adapted for the safety of beneficiaries and humanitarian workers and to ensure continuity of the broader response. This included such measures as distributing two months' worth of food rations at a time in camps in the north-east to limit crowding at distribution points; conducting door-to-door distributions; including soap in food assistance packages; working remotely; and providing personal protective equipment to staff and implementing partners.

Table 1  
**Average number of people reached each month by the United Nations and other organizations through all modalities throughout the Syrian Arab Republic: April and May 2020**

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Average number of people reached monthly</i>
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	136 000
International Organization for Migration	90 400
Mine Action Service	700
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	158 300
United Nations Children's Fund	1 329 000
United Nations Development Programme	436 700
United Nations Population Fund	248 400
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	55 400
World Food Programme	4 500 000
World Health Organization	391 000

25. Humanitarian assistance provided by United Nations agencies from within the Syrian Arab Republic included the distribution by WFP of food assistance to 3.2 million people in April and 3.2 million people in May. The United Nations Population Fund reached more than 535,000 people with life-saving reproductive health services and protection services focused on gender-based violence. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) distributed food baskets to almost 105,000 Palestinian refugees and cash assistance to 111,000.

26. In the north-west, the cross-border operation continued at record levels in response to the catastrophic deterioration of the humanitarian situation that occurred when almost 1 million civilians were displaced between December 2019 and March 2020 (see also paras. 39 and 40 below). Cross-border WFP food assistance was distributed to 1.3 million people in April and to more than 1.3 million people in May. WHO delivered emergency health kits and essential medicines for the provision of over 420,000 treatment courses to the north-western part of the country in May. In April and May, as part of COVID-19 preparedness efforts, humanitarian partners

delivered over 1.3 million surgical masks, over 1.1 million pairs of gloves and a range of other pandemic-related medical supplies, including 35 ventilators, through the cross-border mechanism. Supplies continued to fall far short of needs, however, with the distribution of many personal protective equipment items covering less than 1 per cent of requirements identified for the north-west at the end of May.

Figure 1

**Number of beneficiaries assisted by the United Nations and its partners through cross-border humanitarian deliveries, by cluster: April and May 2020 (monthly average)**

(Thousands)

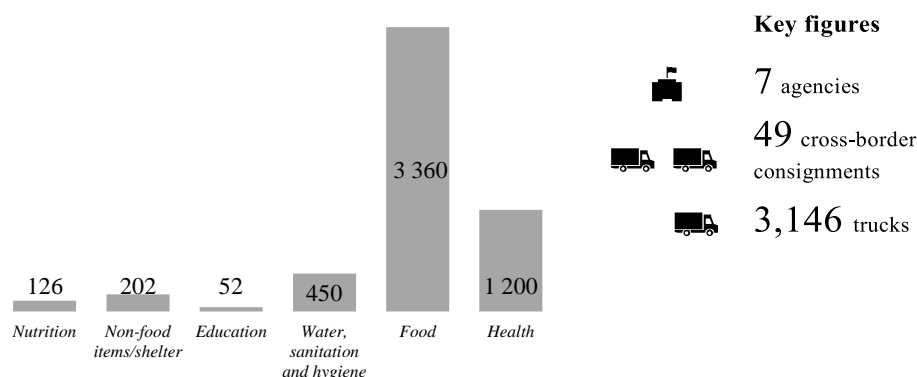


Table 2

**Number of beneficiaries targeted through cross-border deliveries, by sector and by district: April and May 2020 (monthly average)**

Governorate	District	Education	Food	Health	Non-food items/shelter	Nutrition	Water, sanitation and hygiene
Aleppo	Afrin	–	282 995	–	–	–	–
Aleppo	I'zaz	–	153 523	747 060	26 098	37 720	67 597
Idlib	Ariha	–	–	–	5 000	–	5 000
Idlib	Harim	44 500	2 923 894	405 569	88 758	88 000	190 314
Idlib	Idlib	7 260	–	35 940	82 550	–	187 010
Idlib	Jisr al-Shughur	–	–	11 065	–	–	–

27. During the reporting period, the Russian Federation sent informational bulletins to the United Nations from the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides and Refugee Migration Monitoring, which outlined the provision of bilateral relief assistance. Other Member States also continued to provide bilateral and other forms of humanitarian assistance.

### Humanitarian access

28. The provision of humanitarian assistance requires timely, safe, sustained and unimpeded access by the United Nations and all humanitarian partners to people in need across the Syrian Arab Republic. Access is critical for principled humanitarian action, which depends notably on the ability to independently assess needs and deliver assistance and to monitor and evaluate impacts independently, including by engaging



regularly and directly with affected people. The access landscape in the country is complex, with different geographical areas and different types of services requiring different operating modalities. More than 1,800 United Nations staff members are in-country, with more than 600 deployed in nine humanitarian hubs outside Damascus, in Aleppo, Dar‘a, Dayr al-Zawr, Hama, Homs, Ladhqiyyah, Qamishli, Suwayda’ and Tartus. A further 3,860 UNRWA staff members are deployed across the country. The decentralized presence contributes to greater access and proximity to affected populations.

*Access limitations related to the pandemic*

29. The COVID-19 crisis continued to affect humanitarian access. Land border crossings into the Syrian Arab Republic remained closed to individual civilian movements, although exemptions were instituted at most crossings to enable the import of supplies and humanitarian assistance. International commercial passenger flights remained suspended, although some domestic cargo flights proceeded between Damascus and Qamishli, as did some commercial passenger flights. The Tartus and Ladhqiyyah maritime ports remained operational, with reduced staffing and with precautionary measures in place, including mandatory sterilization procedures.

30. Restrictions remained in place at most crossing points within the Syrian Arab Republic. In Aleppo Governorate, Abu Zinden, Umm al-Julud and Awn Dadat remained closed, while Ghazzawiyah, in the Afrin district, and Tayhah were reported as being open for commercial traffic; the latter was also reported as being open for university students and some medical cases. Dayr Ballut was also open. In Raqqah Governorate, Ukayrishah was closed, while Abu Asi opened on 30 May. The Tabaqah crossing point was open to commercial and humanitarian cargo and was opened for civilian movements on an exceptional basis for the Eid al-Fitr holiday, during which a reported 4,500 people crossed into the north-east.

31. Staff involved in life-saving humanitarian activities across the country, including food distributions, were generally able to carry out their work while ensuring the use of COVID-19 precautionary measures, such as physical distancing and text messaging alerts to avoid crowding at distribution points.

*Access in government-controlled areas*

32. In government-controlled areas, communities and enclaves that remained difficult to access owing to administrative and security approvals, included Duma, Zamalka, Arbin, East Harasta, Kafr Batna, Mudayra and Nashabiyah in eastern Ghouta; Bayt Jinn and Mazra‘at Bayt Jinn; Zakiyah and Dayr Khabiyah and Darayya. In the southern part of the country, insecurity and administrative restrictions continued to prevent sustained access to areas formerly controlled by non-State armed groups, in particular in western Dar‘a and Qunaytirah. Insecurity in the western countryside of Dar‘a resulted in the temporary suspension of some WFP food dispatches.

33. Across the Syrian Arab Republic, aid is distributed and implemented primarily by national actors, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. United Nations agency personnel and third-party contractors continued to mobilize to field locations, alongside national NGOs and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, to conduct assessment, monitoring and logistics and administrative support missions. The United Nations was able to maintain mobility in spite of COVID-19 pandemic-related restrictions. In April and May, 1,134 regular programmatic movements took place under programme or blanket approvals, compared with 1,012

such movements during the previous reporting period (see table 3).<sup>2</sup> Of those missions, 41 per cent were conducted in the southern Governorates of Dar‘a, Qunaytirah, Suwayda’, Rif Dimashq and Damascus; 21 per cent were conducted in the north-eastern Governorates of Hasakah, Raqqah and Dayr al-Zawr; 17 per cent in Aleppo Governorate; 4 per cent in Idlib Governorate; 15 per cent in the central Governorates of Homs and Hama; and 2 per cent in the coastal Governorates of Ladhhiqiyah and Tartus (see figure II).

Table 3

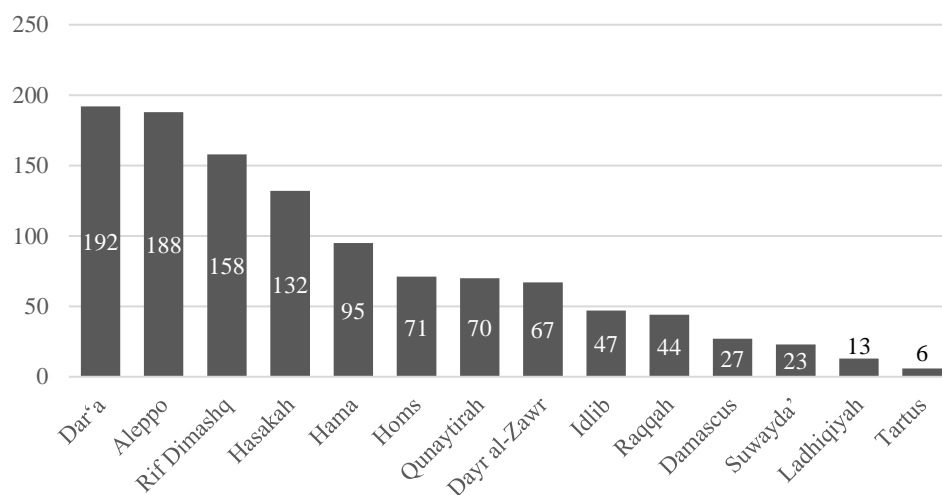
**Missions conducted under programme or blanket approvals from within the Syrian Arab Republic by United Nations agencies and third parties/facilitators, by type: April and May 2020**

Type of mission	Blanket approval	Programme approval	Total
Assessment missions	152	1	153
Missions accompanying aid deliveries	39	–	39
Monitoring missions	937	1	938
Security, logistics and administrative support missions	4	–	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 132</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1 134</b>

Note: Missions conducted with programme or blanket approvals do not require specific approval from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Figure II

**Missions conducted under programme or blanket approvals from within the Syrian Arab Republic by United Nations agencies and third parties/facilitators, by Governorate: April and May 2020**



Note: Missions conducted with programme or blanket approvals do not require specific approval from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations staff and third-party contractors operating at humanitarian hubs outside Damascus obtain programme approvals or blanket approvals to carry out movements as part of their regular operations. These enable regular access and reduce bureaucratic requirements.

34. For missions requiring specific approval by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,<sup>3</sup> the United Nations submitted 57 new requests, of which 26 requests, or 46 per cent, were approved (see table 4). This is an improvement of 2 percentage points over the previous reporting period, when 44 per cent of requests were approved. United Nations agencies ultimately conducted only 17 missions of the 26 approved, owing primarily to COVID-19 pandemic-related considerations.

35. On 14 May, the United Nations and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent conducted a joint mission to areas recently retaken by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic in western rural Aleppo, visiting the communities of Huraytan, Babis, Hayyan, Kafr Hamra, Ma'arat al-Artiq, Anadan and Yaqid al-Adas in the Huraytan subdistrict. The mission was conducted to identify needs following shifts in control in January (see para. 6).

Table 4

**Missions from within the Syrian Arab Republic requiring the submission of a note verbale by United Nations agencies, by type: April and May 2020**

<i>Type of request</i>	<i>Number requested</i>	<i>Number approved</i>	<i>Per cent approved</i>
Assessment missions	12	9	75
Missions accompanying aid deliveries	8	5	63
Monitoring missions	28	8	29
Security, logistics and administrative support missions	9	4	44
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>46</b>

*Note:* Missions by United Nations personnel departing from Damascus or travelling cross-line generally require specific approval from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

*Access in the north-east of the Syrian Arab Republic*

36. In the north-east, the United Nations maintained regular and sustained humanitarian access in most parts of Raqqah and Hasakah Governorates, while other areas, including Manbij and Ayn al-Arab, remained difficult to access from Damascus, owing to the lack of agreement between parties in control and insecurity. Cross-line access constraints continued along the border between the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey, between Ra's al-Ayn and Tall Abyad. On 25 May, a section of the M4 highway between Ayn Isa and Tall Tamr opened to commercial traffic for the first time since October 2019. Accessibility of the M4 highway is required to scale up humanitarian overland deliveries to the north-east. Humanitarian NGOs reported that regular use of the M4 highway had not yet started, owing to ongoing security concerns.

37. Following the adoption of resolution [2504 \(2020\)](#), efforts continued with regard to replacing the supply of critical medical items previously provided to the north-east of the country through the Ya'rubiyah border crossing. In May, WHO dispatched over 56 metric tons of medical items from Ladhqiyyah to Qamishli by road in two consignments. Those were the first overland deliveries of WHO medical supplies to the north-east of the Syrian Arab Republic from within the country since May 2018. Distribution of the two consignments had not been completed by the end of the reporting period. Another 14,000 metric tons of WHO medical supplies were delivered to the north-east by air from Damascus. Those supplies were delivered to

<sup>3</sup> United Nations agency personnel generally require specific approval by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs when conducting missions from Damascus to other hubs or for cross-line missions.

internally displaced persons camps, including Abu khashab, Mahmoudli, Arishah and Hawl, and to hospitals and implementing partners in Hasakah, Raqqah and Dayr al-Zawr Governorates. Despite increasing quantities of assistance, distributions of WHO medical items did not reach the majority of facilities that had previously depended on cross-border deliveries. NGOs operating in the north-east reported stock-outs of medicines at one of the key pharmaceutical warehouses in that area, which supplies more than 40 health facilities, including 5 hospitals, and 50 ambulances. Thirty-two medicines, including emergency medicines and anaesthetics, are stocked out, leaving a maximum of one month's supply of those medicines at the medical facilities themselves. Other critical medicines are close to stocking out.

38. Efforts continued with regard to transferring a consignment of WHO medical supplies from Erbil, Iraq, into the north-east of the Syrian Arab Republic. The supplies were originally intended for transport to the north-east through Ya'rubiyah but remained in Iraq following the removal of Ya'rubiyah as an authorized border crossing under resolution [2504 \(2020\)](#). Some of the items were removed from the consignment as they were no longer usable. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic approved the rerouting of the 85 metric ton consignment, now expected to be airlifted by WFP from Erbil to the Damascus airport in early June, for onward dispatch to Qamishli by road.

#### *Access in the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic*

39. In the north-west, the cross-border operation from Turkey continued at record levels to respond to high levels of acute humanitarian needs among the population. The highest total number of United Nations truck crossings per month since the establishment of the cross-border mechanism in 2014 was recorded in May 2020, with 1,781 trucks crossing into the country from Turkey. Assistance from NGO partners also remained high. While maintaining measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, humanitarian access in the north-west was generally permissive for cross-border humanitarian actors, with the exception of front-line areas affected by violence in southern Idlib and western Aleppo and some localized access issues.

40. The United Nations Monitoring Mechanism for the Syrian Arab Republic continued its operations as mandated under Security Council resolutions [2165 \(2014\)](#), [2191 \(2014\)](#), [2258 \(2015\)](#), [2332 \(2016\)](#), [2393 \(2017\)](#), [2449 \(2018\)](#) and [2504 \(2020\)](#). From 1 April to 31 May 2020, the Mechanism processed and confirmed the humanitarian nature of 47 consignments consisting of 3,146 trucks that crossed into the country from Turkey: 20 consignments from Bab al-Hawa (2,553 trucks) and 27 from Bab al-Salam (593 trucks). This brings the total number of trucks sent since the beginning of operations to 38,052 (28,574 through Bab al-Hawa, 4,774 through Bab al-Salam, 4,595 through Ramtha and 109 through Ya'rubiyah). There were no concerns or questions regarding the humanitarian nature of these consignments. For every shipment that crossed the border, the United Nations provided 48-hour advance notice to the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, including information on the humanitarian goods to be delivered, the number of trucks involved, the United Nations owner and the destination (district). The Mechanism continued to benefit from the excellent cooperation of the Government of Turkey.

41. Humanitarian workers continued to actively pursue an all-modalities approach to respond to the humanitarian needs of the affected population, including continued efforts to deliver cross-line assistance to the north-west. On 14 April, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic approved an inter-agency cross-line mission to Atarib to assist over 51,000 individuals. The United Nations stands ready to undertake the mission, and planning is ongoing. All missions to the north-west part of the country have been temporarily put on hold, owing to various concerns, including those related to COVID-19.

*Access in the south-east of the Syrian Arab Republic*

42. Access to Rukban remained heavily restricted, with the last United Nations humanitarian convoy to reach Rukban from within the Syrian Arab Republic undertaken in September 2019. On 1 April 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs requested that the United Nations undertake a health assessment mission to Rukban, alongside the delivery of multisectoral assistance facilitated by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. Plans for the mission to proceed on 20 April were suspended over concerns related to the modality of distribution by different parties to the conflict and by representatives of the local community. The United Nations continues to engage with all relevant parties to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid to the remaining population of Rukban.

**Visas and registrations**

43. The United Nations continued to work with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to allow for the timely provision of visas to staff (see table 5).

Table 5  
**Requests for United Nations visas: April and May 2020**

<i>Type of request</i>	<i>Number requested</i>	<i>Number approved</i>	<i>Number rejected</i>	<i>Number pending</i>
Visas requested during reporting period	47	7	–	40
Renewals requested during reporting period	147	80	1	66
Visas pending from before reporting period	68	15	3	43
Renewals pending from before reporting period	55	46	–	9

*Note:* The United Nations withdrew seven visa requests that had been pending since before the reporting period.

44. A total of 41 international NGOs are registered with the Government to operate in the country.

**Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and premises**

45. The United Nations and NGOs continued to implement programmes in areas affected by frequent clashes among parties to the conflict, by air strikes and by the regular exchange of indirect artillery fire and other attacks. Humanitarian relief personnel also operate in areas highly contaminated with unexploded ordnance, explosive remnants of war and landmines.

46. Since the beginning of the conflict, hundreds of humanitarian workers have reportedly been killed, including 24 staff members of the United Nations and of entities of the United Nations system, 19 of whom were staff members of UNRWA; 66 staff members and volunteers of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent; and 8 staff members and volunteers of the Palestine Red Crescent Society. Many staff members of international and national NGOs have also been killed.

47. A total of 26 staff members of agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, all from UNRWA, were detained or missing at the end of the reporting period.

### III. Observations

48. The impacts of accelerating economic decline are being felt across the Syrian Arab Republic. Prices of essentials, including food and medicines, are rising sharply as the value of the Syrian pound continues to fall. The various consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic are additional aggravating factors. Food insecurity has already risen to record levels, with WFP estimating that 9.3 million people are now food insecure. I am deeply concerned by the prospect that people throughout the Syrian Arab Republic may increasingly find themselves unable to meet their basic needs, pushing even more people into reliance on humanitarian aid, in a country where over 11 million people already require such assistance.

49. Despite the ceasefire largely holding in the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic, I remain alarmed by the devastating impact of continued violence on civilians and by the continued violations and abuses of human rights. I reiterate my appeal for an immediate global ceasefire and support the appeal of my Special Envoy for Syria for a nationwide ceasefire in the country and an all-out effort to combat COVID-19, so that significant calm in many areas can be sustained, enhanced and expanded into a nationwide ceasefire, as called for in Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#). Indiscriminate attacks utilizing improvised explosive devices in residential areas and busy markets have to end. The protection of civilian life remains paramount, pursuant to the obligations of all parties under international humanitarian law, as well as human rights law, which all parties are obligated to respect. I reiterate my call upon all parties to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, including the obligation to take all feasible precautions to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure, and to respect human rights.

50. I specifically remind parties of their obligation under international humanitarian law to allow and facilitate the rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief for all civilians in need. Full, sustained and unimpeded humanitarian access to people in need in all parts of the Syrian Arab Republic is required, using all modalities, including scaled up cross-line and cross-border deliveries. In the north-west of the country, the cross-border operation is delivering at record levels and still requires further scale-up to meet acute needs, the growing demands stemming from economic decline and the need for COVID-19 preparedness. Its continuation requires a renewal of the cross-border authorization in resolution [2504 \(2020\)](#) for the use of the Bab al-Salam and Bab al-Hawa border crossings for an additional 12 months. The cross-border operation is a lifeline for millions of civilians whom the United Nations cannot reach by other means. A failure to renew the cross-border authorization would immediately halt the ongoing operation, severing that lifeline. Efforts have been, and will continue to be, made to deliver cross-line assistance into the north-west. However, as I stated in my review of humanitarian cross-line and cross-border operations ([S/2020/401](#)), it is currently simply impossible to replicate with cross-line assistance what is being delivered through the cross-border operation. Cross-line assistance is currently not a viable alternative, and a sustained, large-scale cross-border response will continue to be necessary to meet the enormous humanitarian needs in the north-west.

51. In the north-east of the country, receipt of the first overland delivery of WHO medical supplies in two years is a welcome step towards establishing a reliable supply chain. However, despite recent deliveries, acute shortages in health and medical supplies remain, five months after the removal of the Ya'rubiyah as an authorized border crossing and amid the heightened health risks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. I reiterate the findings of my review of alternative modalities for the border crossing of Ya'rubiyah ([S/2020/139](#)): a combination of more cross-border and cross-line access is required to sustain levels of humanitarian assistance in the north-east,

and preferably increase that assistance. I also noted in my report that, should adequate steps not be taken for cross-line deliveries to work effectively, and in the absence of consent from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic or neighbouring countries to use border crossings into the north-east of the country, the Security Council would need to authorize the United Nations and its implementing partners to use additional crossings. Several options were identified, as were their limitations in comparison with Ya‘rubiyah.

52. I remain deeply concerned about the fate and well-being of thousands of people, the majority of whom remain detained by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, while others are being held by non-State armed groups. I call upon the relevant parties to record and provide information on the whereabouts of those detained and to afford them all essential judicial guarantees. The families of persons who have died in detention should be given information on their fate. The families of victims of serious violations should receive full and adequate reparations within a reasonable period of time. I remain concerned about the well-being of thousands of families with perceived affiliations with ISIL, the vast majority of which consist of women and children, and who continue to be held in overcrowded internally displaced persons camps, with insufficient access to services. The relevant obligations under international humanitarian and human rights laws concerning persons deprived of their liberty must be respected. The current COVID-19 pandemic demands even more urgent action to ensure continued access to medical and other essential services for those in detention and in other closed and congested facilities, as well as to facilitate the release of those considered most vulnerable.

53. Continued impunity for alleged serious violations and abuses of human rights and international humanitarian law by parties to the conflict remains of grave concern. Perpetrators of serious violations and abuses of human rights and international humanitarian law must be held accountable. I remind all States, in particular those with direct influence over parties to the conflict, that they are bound to take proactive steps to ensure respect for international humanitarian law, including as it relates to the protection of civilians. I call upon all parties to the conflict, in particular the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as all States, civil society and the United Nations system, to cooperate fully with the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011, in particular by providing relevant information and documentation. Accountability for serious violations and abuses of human rights and international humanitarian law is both a legal requirement and central to achieving sustainable peace in the Syrian Arab Republic. I reiterate my call for the situation in the country to be referred to the International Criminal Court.

54. In view of the ongoing serious concerns repeatedly raised with regard to the protection of civilians and other human rights concerns in the country, I continue to strongly urge the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, in line with Human Rights Council resolutions [S-18/1](#) and [19/22](#), to cooperate with OHCHR, including through the establishment of a field presence with the mandate to protect and promote human rights.

55. Reconvening the third round of the Constitutional Committee is an important priority in the immediate term for my Special Envoy. I hope that delegations to the Committee will come ready to contribute to a substantive and forward-looking discussion that paves the way for progress and helps Syrians to develop and build real trust and confidence. This would be an important contribution to the United Nations-facilitated, Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political process, focused on the full implementation of Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#).

56. I urge international and regional actors who continue to support parties to the conflict to exert efforts toward the renewed and meaningful international cooperation that is key for the resolution of the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic. I appreciate the continued engagement of international and regional partners with the United Nations and call on them to maintain and deepen their support for the mediation efforts of my Special Envoy and for the Geneva political process, with the ending of the suffering of the Syrian people and ensuring sustainable peace as the absolute priority. I recall that any sustainable peace arrangement depends on including women at the negotiating table as full partners.



## Annex

### Reported incidents affecting civilians recorded by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: April and May 2020\*

#### Idlib Governorate

- On 1 April, Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham executed a detainee in Janudiyah village.
- On 5 April, a civilian was killed and seven civilians were injured, including two women and three boys, after a reported weapons depot exploded in Qastun village.
- On 11 April, Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham executed four detainees in the city of Jisr al-Shughur.
- On 16 April, three women were injured when a reported ground-based strike landed in an agricultural field near the town of Taftanaz.
- On 30 April, a civilian was killed and another injured after Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham reportedly fired weapons in the air to disperse a crowd in Ma'arrat al-Na'san. Three other civilians were reportedly injured by a Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham vehicle in the area.
- On 10 May, three civilian men were injured when reported ground-based strikes landed in the town of Balyun.

#### Aleppo Governorate

- On 8 April, a civilian was killed and another injured after a reported vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated in Kafr Nasih town.
- On 8 April, a civilian was injured when a reported landmine detonated near the village of Alawshah. On the same day, a boy was allegedly injured after a reported landmine detonated near the village of Tall Susin.
- On 9 April, three civilians were injured by reported ground-based strikes that landed in the village of Shaykh Hilal.
- On 12 April, a civilian man was killed after unexploded ordnance reportedly detonated in the village of Kafr Nuran.
- On 15 April, two civilians were injured when reported ground-based strikes hit a market in Jarabulus city.
- On 18 April, three civilians, including a boy, were injured when an improvised explosive device reportedly detonated in a vegetable cart placed in the Saraya' local market in the city of Afrin.
- On 25 April, a non-State armed group raided the office of a non-governmental organization in the city of Afrin. Staff members were reportedly assaulted in the incident.

---

\* The list of incidents exemplifies human rights issues of concern raised in the report. Owing to the changing patterns of conflict and the loss of networks of credible and/or reliable sources in many conflict-affected areas, however, verifying incidents is increasingly difficult. The list, which contains only those incidents that were reported to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and that have been verified according to its methodology, should not be considered comprehensive.

- On 28 April, at least 46 people were killed, of whom at least 31 were civilians, including 2 women and 4 boys, and 53 people were injured, including 10 women, 3 boys and 1 girl, after a fuel truck reportedly exploded in Afrin city.
- On 1 and 2 May, nine civilians, including two women and two boys, were injured by reported small arms fire between non-State armed groups in Jarabulus city.
- On 8 May, a civilian was killed by reported sniper fire near the village of Miznaz.
- On 10 May, a girl was killed and 13 other civilians, including 4 boys, were injured after a reported roadside improvised explosive device detonated in Bab city.
- On 16 May, a pregnant woman was killed and seven other civilians, including one woman, one boy and one girl, were injured by reported small arms fire between non-State armed groups in the city of Bab.
- On 14 May, six civilians, including two boys, were injured when a reported roadside improvised explosive device detonated inside the Novoteh market in the city of Bab.
- On 18 May, a boy was killed by reported sniper fire in the outskirts of the city of Atarib.

#### **Hasakah Governorate**

- On 1 April, four civilians, including a woman, were injured by a reported ground-based strike that impacted in the village of Rub‘at.
- On 15 May, two civilians, including a boy, were injured when an improvised explosive device attached to a motorbike reportedly detonated in Shaddadah.
- On 15 May, a boy was injured when a landmine reportedly detonated near the city of Ra’s al-Ayn.
- On 17 May, a civilian was killed and another injured by a reported exchange of small arms fire between non-State armed groups near Makran village.
- On 23 May, three civilian men were injured by reported multiple improvised explosive device attacks in the town of Tall Halaf.

#### **Hama Governorate**

- On 4 April, a boy was killed when a reported landmine detonated in the village of Rasm al-Abd.
- On 11 April, two boys were injured by a reported landmine explosion in the village of Shaykh Hilal.
- On 6 May, a boy was injured after a landmine reportedly detonated in the outskirts of the town of Si‘in.
- On 16 May, a man was injured in a reported landmine explosion in an agricultural field near the city of Suran.

#### **Homs Governorate**

- On 1 May, at least 15 civilian men were injured during several reported explosions at a weapons depot in the city of Homs.

### **Dayr al-Zawr Governorate**

- On 2 April, a woman and three boys were injured when a reported improvised explosive device attached to a motorbike detonated inside a local market in the city of Busayrah.
- On 20 April, the body of five civilian men were found in a desert area near the village of Turayf in northern rural Dayr al-Zawr. The men had reportedly been abducted by unidentified perpetrators a day before their bodies were discovered.
- On 22 April, a civilian man was reportedly detained at a checkpoint in the village of Hawaii. The reasons for his arrest, as well as his fate and whereabouts, remain unknown.
- On 22 April, three boys were injured when a reported landmine detonated in the outskirts of the town of Khusham.
- On 23 April, a civilian man was injured when a reported roadside improvised explosive device detonated near a fuel truck in the village of Jazrat al-Buhamid.
- On 23 April, a civilian was killed in a reported drive-by shooting in Shahil city.
- On 1 May, two boys were killed and three civilians were injured after a reported roadside improvised explosive device detonated in the city of Busayrah.
- On 10 May, a civilian woman was injured when a reported landmine detonated near the town of Shula in southern rural Dayr al-Zawr.
- On 21 May, a boy was killed and 15 other civilians, including 6 boys, were injured when a reported improvised explosive device attached to a motorbike detonated in the local market of Busayrah city. A second reported improvised explosive device attached to a motorbike later detonated nearby.
- On 25 May, a boy was killed and a civilian man was injured when a reported landmine detonated in an agricultural field in the village of Mar'iyah.

### **Raqqah Governorate**

- On 4 April, eight civilian shepherds, including two women, were reportedly killed by unidentified perpetrators in the town of Ma'dan.
- On 12 April, a civilian was injured when a non-State armed group reportedly fired into the air to disperse a crowd of civilians in the city of Raqqah.
- On 22 April, a boy was killed and another was injured after a reported roadside improvised explosive device detonated in the city of Raqqah.
- On 23 April, three civilians were reported detained by a non-State armed group from a makeshift internally displaced persons camp in northern rural Raqqah. Their fate and whereabouts remain unknown.
- On 1 May, two civilians, including a woman, were reported detained by a non-State armed group from the 'Rashid internally displaced persons camp near Raqqah city. Their fate and whereabouts remain unknown.
- On 5 May, a civilian woman was reportedly abducted from her house by members of a non-State armed group in Raqqah city. Her fate and whereabouts remain unknown.
- On 11 May, two civilians were reported detained by a non-State armed group from the Mahmudli internally displaced persons camp near Raqqah city. Their fate and whereabouts remain unknown to their relatives.

- On 17 May, a boy was injured when a reported landmine detonated in the outskirts of the village of Mu'ayzilah.

#### **Dar'a Governorate**

- On 7 April, a civilian man was killed in a reported drive-by shooting in the city of Nawa. Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) later claimed responsibility for the incident.
- On 11 April, two civilians were reportedly detained in the town of Khirbat Ghazalah. The reasons for their detention remain unclear and their relatives have no further information about their fate and whereabouts.
- On 12 April, a civilian was killed in a reported drive-by shooting in the town of Yadudah in western rural Dar'a.
- On 20 April, a man was killed in a reported drive-by shooting in the city of Dar'a. On the same day, another civilian man was killed in a reported drive-by shooting in the town of Umm Walad.
- On 21 April, a boy was killed and two boys were injured when a reported landmine detonated in the outskirts of the town of Tasil.
- On 24 April, a civilian man was killed in a reported drive-by shooting by unidentified perpetrators in the city of Jasim.
- On 2 May, four civilians from the same family, including one woman, one boy and one girl, were injured when a reported landmine detonated in Da'il.
- On 4 May, a civilian was allegedly injured in a reported drive-by shooting in Ghariyah al-Sharqiyah. ISIL later claimed responsibility for the attack.
- On 6 May, a civilian from the town of Umm Walad was reported abducted by unidentified perpetrators and his body was found few hours later, near the village of Jabib.
- On 11 May, the body of a civilian was found in the town of Jallayn after unidentified perpetrators had reportedly abducted him two days earlier.
- On 12 May, a boy was killed when a reported unexploded ordnances detonated in the city of Dar'a.
- On 13 May, a civilian was injured in a reported drive-by shooting in the town of Umm Walad.
- On 14 May, a boy was killed in a reported drive-by shooting on the road between the towns of Ghariyah and Musayfirah.
- On 15 May, a civilian man was killed and another was injured in a reported drive-by shooting by unidentified perpetrators in the city of Dar'a.
- On 18 May, a civilian was abducted in the town of Jizah. His body was found the following day in the same town. ISIL later claimed responsibility for the killing.
- On 19 May, a civilian man, his wife and their son were reportedly detained at their home for unknown reasons. Their whereabouts and fate remain unknown.
- On 20 May, a civilian was killed in a reported drive-by shooting in the town of Tafas.