



# Security Council

Distr.: General  
20 April 2023

Original: English

## **Implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016), 2393 (2017), 2401 (2018), 2449 (2018), 2504 (2020), 2533 (2020), 2585 (2021), 2642 (2022) and 2672 (2023)**

### **Report of the Secretary-General**

#### **I. Introduction**

1. The present report is the eighty-fourth 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), paragraph 8 of resolution 2504 (2020), paragraph 3 of resolution 2533 (2020), paragraph 5 of resolution 2585 (2021), paragraph 5 of resolution 2642 (2022) and paragraph 5 of resolution 2672 (2023), in the last six 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 entities of the United Nations system and obtained from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and other relevant sources. Data from entities of the United Nations system regarding their humanitarian deliveries have been reported for the months of February and March 2023.

#### **II. Major developments**

##### **Key points**

1. Multiple earthquakes and aftershocks rocked southern Türkiye and the northern Syrian Arab Republic on 6 February 2023, causing extensive loss of life, suffering and destruction. In the Syrian Arab Republic, at least 8.8 million people have been affected by the earthquakes and 458,000 have fled their homes. The United Nations and its partners deployed at the forefront of the crisis response and immediately mobilized support for people in the Syrian Arab Republic and Türkiye.



2. March 2023 marked the twelfth year of the conflict. The earthquakes further compounded the suffering of millions of Syrians. It also affected Syrians' ability to meet their immediate food needs and maintain their livelihoods, as about 12.1 million people are facing acute food insecurity.

3. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights verified incidents in which a total of 58 civilians, including 4 women and 8 children, were killed as a result of hostilities. In addition, at least 33 civilians, including 8 women and 7 children, were injured.

4. Reliable access to sufficient and safe water across the north of the Syrian Arab Republic remains a challenge. However, data showed a decrease in weekly cases of acute watery diarrhoea.

5. Humanitarian assistance provided by United Nations agencies and their partners continued throughout the Syrian Arab Republic, including food delivery from the World Food Programme to 5.9 million people in February and 3.8 million people in March, across all 14 governorates.

6. Humanitarian access in the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic improved following the opening of two additional border crossings: Bab al-Salam and Ra'i. In addition, the United Nations has completed 47 inter-agency cross-border missions in the north-west of the country since 14 February.

7. On 26 February, a United Nations inter-agency team carried out a second cross-line mission to Ra's al-Ayn.

### **Humanitarian update**

3. On 6 February 2023, two devastating earthquakes, measuring 7.7 and 7.6 magnitude on the Richter scale, struck Pazarcık and Elbistan in Kahramanmaraş, Türkiye, causing widespread destruction, killing more than 56,000 people in the Syrian Arab Republic and Türkiye and injuring many more. In the Syrian Arab Republic, at least 8.8 million people have been affected by the earthquakes in seven governorates, with Aleppo, Ladhīqiyah, Hama, Idlib and Tartus being the most affected governorates. The destruction forced an estimated 458,000 individuals to flee their homes, 350,000 of them in government-controlled areas and 108,000 in the opposition-controlled north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic. Many of those individuals had already been forcibly displaced inside the country following the 12 years of conflict. There are increasing and urgent needs for safe and dignified shelter.

4. The earthquakes struck as humanitarian conditions in the Syrian Arab Republic were worsening, with needs at their highest level since the start of the conflict amid dwindling resources, a cholera outbreak, harsh winter conditions, ongoing violence and insecurity, displacement and related vulnerabilities, and deteriorating economic conditions. Prior to the earthquakes, 15.3 million people were found to be in need of humanitarian assistance across the country.

5. The United Nations and its partners deployed at the forefront of the crisis response and mobilized support for people in the Syrian Arab Republic and Türkiye immediately after the earthquakes, providing multisectoral assistance. On 14 February, the United Nations launched a \$397 million flash appeal to assist for three months 4.9 million people affected by the earthquakes with the most urgent humanitarian needs.

6. Hostilities and military operations continued during the reporting period, affecting civilians in the northern part of the Syrian Arab Republic in particular. Civilians suffered death and injuries as a result of air strikes, ground-based strikes, targeted killings, attacks using various types of improvised explosive devices and gunfire. Hostilities also had an impact on civilian objects, further degrading access to basic services and livelihoods.

7. In the Idlib de-escalation area, violent incidents decreased in frequency just before the 6 February earthquakes and in the initial days that followed. However, mutual shelling, rocket fire and limited clashes between non-State armed groups and government and pro-government forces across contact lines in the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic continued, causing civilian casualties in some instances.

8. Limited clashes, drone strikes, rocket fire and shelling were reported across the northern Syrian Arab Republic, in northern rural Aleppo, Raqqah and Hasakah Governorates in particular, with violent incidents significantly decreasing but not ceasing entirely in the aftermath of the earthquakes. The incidents resulted in civilian casualties and damage to civilian objects.

9. Da'esh, which has been designated as a terrorist group by the Security Council, continued attacks, including on civilians, in northern and central parts of the country. In a series of incidents, multiple civilians were abducted and killed in the central desert region of rural Homs.

10. The south-western Syrian Arab Republic saw continued security incidents across Dar'aa and Qunaytirah Governorates, with improvised explosive device attacks, targeted killings, kidnappings, attacks on checkpoints, exchanges of fire and limited clashes, involving a range of actors, including non-State armed groups and government and pro-government forces, Da'esh and unidentified elements.

11. On 7 and 22 March, damage caused by air strikes led to the suspension of operations at the Aleppo airport. The closure resulted in the temporary suspension of the flights of the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service, run by the World Food Programme. The flights to and from Aleppo were suspended on 10 March, resuming on 12 March, and on 23 March, resuming on 27 March. The Service is the key enabler of access for humanitarian operations in the country.

12. The earthquakes further affected people's ability to meet their immediate food needs and maintain their livelihoods. About 12.1 million people are facing acute food insecurity. Following the disaster, food prices increased. According to the World Food Programme (WFP) Syria Weekly Markets Update, in the third week of February, the price of bread increased by 20 per cent week-on-week in Aleppo and by 6 per cent in Hama and Idlib. In the coastal region, the price doubled in Ladhqiyyah compared with during the same time one year earlier. Soaring prices were also observed for lentils, oil, sugar and rice across the governorates.

13. The earthquakes also affected the price of fuel, having an impact on daily lives as well as humanitarian operations. Fuel features in all areas, from essential services, such as water and health, to agriculture production to heating and transportation. According to the WFP Syria Weekly Markets Update, in Ladhqiyyah, the price of diesel doubled in 12 months and was, during the third week of February, 14 times higher than three years earlier. Diesel prices also more than doubled within 12 months in all the heavily affected areas of Tartus, Aleppo, Hama and Idlib. Effective 1 March 2023, the Government revised upwards the price of diesel, petrol and gasoline for international organizations and directed future purchases to be made in United States dollars. The increased inflationary pressures stemming from the increase in fuel prices will remain a hurdle in taming food inflation.

14. The number of overall cases reported of cumulative acute watery diarrhoea was over 100,000, including 104 deaths, in all 14 governorates as at 4 March. Most cases were reported in Idlib, Dayr al-Zawr, Aleppo and Raqqah Governorates. A total of 9,375 suspected cases and nine associated deaths have been reported from camps for internally displaced persons in the north-east and the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic. Data showed a decrease in the number of weekly cases reported of acute watery diarrhoea, with an average 30 per cent reduction beginning in the third week of January 2023. Cholera response operations have been slowed because of the earthquakes owing mainly to interrupted services, reduced partner capacity and the redirection of already limited funds. However, health partners have been working to bolster surveillance, detection and response capacity in the affected governorates. On 7 March, a cholera vaccination campaign was begun in 10 earthquake-affected subdistricts, targeting 1.7 million people.

15. The cholera outbreak was compounded by severe shortages of water and challenges in gaining access to appropriate and adequate water, sanitation and hygiene services and health care throughout the country. Water deficits have been exacerbated by unusually dry conditions during the wet season and abnormally high air temperatures, combined with low water levels in the Euphrates River and damaged water infrastructure. The Tishrin and Tabqa Dams on the Euphrates River have reached their lowest level ever, forcing local authorities to stop the generation of power from 1 to 8 March 2023 and then to restart it for only four hours per day. That will have tremendous effect on the production of drinking water, water quality, the cholera response and irrigation activities. The impact is expected to worsen entering the summer months. Throughout the country, the reduced provision of electricity affects access to basic services and the availability of humanitarian services.

16. Uluk water station was supplied with electricity on 29 March 2023. Maintenance and repair work was carried out from 29 March and continued beyond the reporting period. Prior to that, the water station had not been operational since 2 November, and technicians from the water directorate of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reported not having been granted access to Uluk water station since 17 August 2022. Before 17 August, maintenance teams had cross-line access on multiple occasions to carry out repairs when the station was receiving electricity and were thus able to operate. Water trucking continues. Shutdowns and low operational capacity regularly affect access to water for over 960,000 people, including those living in camps, such as Hawl.

17. Limited access to potable and agricultural water, including as a result of disruption to the water system, notably including the Khafsa water station and the Ayn al-Baydah water pumping station, continued to be reported in the city of Bab and the surrounding areas, affecting some 185,000 people. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has completed a detailed technical study on the station. An estimated \$2.5 million is required to ensure the functionality of the station before further technical assessments of the main water supply line between the station and Bab city can be carried out.

18. Millions of women and girls continue to face protection issues. Gender-based violence continues to be a central component of the Syrian humanitarian crisis. Owing to the impact of the earthquakes, women and adolescent girls have limited access to sexual and reproductive health services and to services for victims of gender-based violence. Women and girls face multiple forms of discrimination and violence on the basis of age, ability, marital status and displacement status. Physical violence, psychological and emotional violence, sexual violence, technology-facilitated violence and social violence, as well as forced and early marriage and denial of rights, resources, opportunities and services, are consistently reported. Women and girls also experience arrest and detention. The situation related to tens of thousands of

arbitrarily detained, forcibly disappeared and missing persons further affects families and women in particular and includes extortion, violation of housing, land and property rights, and challenges in obtaining civil documentation.

19. Some 52,000 people, 94 per cent of them women and children, remain at Hawl camp. The security situation there was relatively stable during the reporting period, with no murder reported since 1 January 2023. The humanitarian situation remains extremely challenging, in particular in the annex of the camp, where over 7,700 third-country nationals are deprived of liberty and the access of humanitarian actors is restricted. In the annex, the need for water and sanitation, education, food, health, shelter and nutrition remains significant and requires sustained interventions.

20. Since September 2019, the United Nations has remained without humanitarian access to up to 10,500 people living in dire conditions in Rukban, with limited access to essential food items, water and health care, and other basic services. The United Nations and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent jointly developed an operational plan for a cross-line mission to Rukban aimed at providing humanitarian assistance, including immunization, carrying out needs assessments and supporting voluntary departures.

21. The United Nations expressed concerns about the consequences of low funding levels of the Syrian humanitarian response. As at 30 March, only 5.6 per cent of the total funding requirement for 2023 had been received. Funding constraints could require WFP to reduce the number of beneficiaries by up to 70 per cent in July 2023. Nearly 3.8 million people, including 900,000 people in the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic, are at risk of not receiving food assistance.

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

22. The Special Envoy and the Deputy Special Envoy of the Secretary-General continued their diplomatic engagements with the parties, a broad cross-section of Syrian civil society, and international stakeholders through meetings in Geneva; Baghdad; Erbil, Iraq; The Hague, the Kingdom of the Netherlands; Beirut; Damascus; Amman; Istanbul; Moscow; Cairo; and Riyadh, as well as virtually.

23. The Special Envoy continued to prioritize the file of arbitrarily detained, disappeared and missing persons. He met with representatives of victims and survivors' organizations and reiterated his support for the establishment of a new institution to clarify the fate and whereabouts of missing persons and provide support to families in accordance with my recommendations of August 2022. He and the Deputy Special Envoy continued to consistently raise, in Damascus and with other relevant interlocutors, the need to address the file. The Office of the Special Envoy continued its regular discussions with the Syrian Civil Society Support Room and Syrian women's groups regarding the political and humanitarian situations on the ground following the earthquakes.

24. Within the framework of the International Syria Support Group, the Special Envoy and the Deputy Special Envoy convened two Humanitarian Task Force meetings in February. They also convened a plenary meeting of the Ceasefire Task Force, during which they reiterated their appeal for sustained calm on the ground, especially in earthquake-affected areas.

#### **Protection**

25. Notwithstanding various calls for a countrywide ceasefire to enable the provision of relief to those affected by the earthquakes, hostilities and human rights law have continued during the reporting period across the Syrian Arab Republic, including in areas impacted by the earthquakes, exacerbating the suffering of victims and survivors.

26. From 1 February to 20 March 2023, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) documented incidents across the country resulting in the killing of 58 civilians, including 4 women and 8 children, and the injury of at least 33 civilians, including 8 women and 7 children, as a result of air strikes, ground-based strikes, attacks involving various types of improvised explosive devices, being caught in crossfire during security operations, targeted killings, excessive use of force by security forces in the context of demonstrations, and raids and arrest operations, involving all parties to the conflict. Civilians, in particular children, continued to be killed and maimed by explosive remnants of war in areas under the control of various parties to the conflict.

27. In the context of hostilities, many of those attacks appeared to have been carried out with little regard for the impact on civilians and civilian objects, in violation of the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution in international humanitarian law. OHCHR raised serious concerns that parties to the conflict might have failed to take all feasible precautions to avoid, and in any event to minimize, the incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians and damage to civilian objects in a number of those incidents. In a number of those incidents, civilians were struck while they were attempting to secure basic livelihoods, including woods and crops, or to gain access to their workplace.

28. OHCHR has documented incidents of raids and intimidation by parties to the conflict, including through arbitrary arrest and deprivation of liberty, against media personnel, social media activists and humanitarian workers, including for criticizing the manner in which aid has been distributed.

29. Areas along front lines in Idlib, Aleppo, Raqqah and Hasakah Governorates remained the most heavily affected by hostilities. On 19 February, a number of air strikes hit Kafr Susah residential neighbourhood, in the city of Damascus, resulting in the killing of at least five people, including two civilians, and damage to a number of civilian objects.

30. Parties to the conflict continued to systematically commit violations and abuses of human rights, including targeted killings, excessive use of force in the context of demonstrations, arbitrary arrest and detention, death in custody and violations of freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association.

31. The reporting period was marked by a series of incidents in which civilians were killed and injured in rural and desert areas, in particular in Hama, Homs and Dayr al-Zawr Governorates. In one of the most disturbing incidents, on 17 February, at least 18 civilians, including 2 children, were killed and dozens of other people were injured after being shot by armed individuals reportedly affiliated with Da'esh, while they were collecting truffles in the desert area of Zubayyat, in Sukhnah area, in eastern rural Homs.

32. OHCHR continued to document patterns of arbitrary deprivation of liberty and torture, as well as ill-treatment, involuntary or enforced disappearance and death in custody by various parties to the conflict. Incidents of arbitrary arrest and detention continued to be reported in areas under the control of pro-government forces, as well as non-State armed groups. Those reports also indicate that arrests were, in most cases, conducted without informing the individuals concerned of the reasons for their deprivation of liberty, while those arrested were often not granted access to legal counsel and their families were not provided with information on their fate and whereabouts.

33. During February and March 2023, there were no confirmed attacks on education facilities.

34. During the reporting period, the system surveilling attacks on health care recorded two attacks on health-care facilities. On 13 February 2023, gunmen stormed a hospital in Jindayris that was receiving patients affected by the earthquakes and attacked the hospital director. On 8 March, a health-care centre in Dayr al-Zawr, recently rehabilitated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), was damaged significantly by an explosion that took place 5 m away. The centre is currently out of service.

### **Humanitarian response**

35. During the reporting period, humanitarian assistance provided by the United Nations and its humanitarian partners continued throughout the Syrian Arab Republic (see table 1). WFP dispatched enough food assistance for 5.9 million people – through in-kind distributions and cash-based transfers – in February 2023 and 3.8 million people in March 2023 across the Syrian Arab Republic. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provided humanitarian assistance and protection services to 828,000 people and supported 114 operational community/satellite centres and 106 mobile outreach teams. The Mine Action Service of the United Nations provided explosive risk awareness training to humanitarian partners, and UNICEF reached over 13,000 people with mine risk awareness activities in 10 locations.

36. Between 1 February and 22 March 2023, UNICEF supported 127,600 people through an improved water supply, 157,100 people through improved access to sanitation services and 245,600 people through the provision of non-food items. UNICEF supported 171,300 children through the provision of education services and supplies and 46,250 children through mental health and psychological support. During the reporting period, UNHCR provided winterization assistance items, such as high-thermal blankets, plastic sheeting, warm clothes and sleeping bags, to 88,200 people, prioritizing vulnerable populations in Hasakah, Raqqah, Idlib, Dayr al-Zawr and Rif Dimashq Governorates, as well as to people living in camps. Cash assistance was provided as winterization support to 6,175 people displaced in 10 governorates.

37. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) distributed 570 inter-agency reproductive health kits and 2,048,130 sexual and reproductive health items and reached nearly 247,500 people with life-saving reproductive health and gender-based violence services. The World Health Organization (WHO) continued to support primary health-care networks and coordinated the mobilization of 84 mobile clinics and health teams, covering the needs of 86,000 people affected by the earthquakes.

38. The United Nations and its partners responded immediately after the 6 February earthquakes, which left many people without adequate shelter, food, water or access to medical care and other essential services. On 6 February, the United Nations communicated, through the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group network, details on the scope, severity and assessed damage to inform the deployment of search and rescue teams by national authorities around the globe and, together with its humanitarian partners, provided first aid, trauma care and psychosocial support, food, shelter, non-food items, reproductive health items, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, and protection assistance to affected people. The United Nations released pre-positioned emergency relief supplies to quickly respond to needs in earthquake-affected areas. A United Nations Disaster and Assessment Coordination Team deployed to the Syrian Arab Republic to support the coordination work of international search and rescue teams. On 7 February, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator allocated \$25 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund to support earthquake relief efforts in Türkiye and the Syrian Arab Republic, with \$15 million dedicated to the response in the Syrian Arab Republic. On 10 February, an additional \$25 million was allocated to

boost aid efforts in the earthquake-stricken parts of the Syrian Arab Republic from the underfunded emergencies allocation.

39. In the earthquake-affected areas, between 6 February and 15 March, 1.2 million people were reached with emergency food and ready-to-eat food rations, 51,000 people were reached with emergency shelter support and 380,000 people were reached with life-saving water, sanitation and hygiene services. In addition, 527,000 people were reached with protection support, including cash assistance, psychosocial support, legal assistance and awareness-raising, more than 1.1 million consultations were supported and some 267,000 children benefited from educational support, including school safety assessments, school meals and the provision of educational supplies.

40. The United Nations continued to support the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) response across the country.

Table 1

**Average number of people reached each month by the United Nations and other organizations through all modalities throughout the Syrian Arab Republic, February and March 2023**

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Average number of people reached monthly</i>
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	29 600
International Organization for Migration	28 770
Mine Action Service	–
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	413 840
United Nations Children's Fund	606 490
United Nations Development Programme	1 105 950 <sup>a</sup>
United Nations Population Fund	176 035
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	97 870
World Food Programme	4 881 470 <sup>a</sup>
World Health Organization	1 684 135 <sup>b</sup>
United Nations Human Settlements Programme	95 000

<sup>a</sup> Data for February 2023 only.

<sup>b</sup> Data for health interventions represent treatment courses and medical procedures over a two-month period.

41. From within the Syrian Arab Republic, WFP provided food assistance for 4.4 million people in February 2023 and dispatched food for 3.1 million people in March.<sup>1</sup> The implementing partners for clearance activities of the Mine Action Service continued their work in Darayya, Rif Dimashq, where they cleared 115,000 m<sup>2</sup> of land and destroyed pieces of 78 explosive ordnance. During the reporting period, WHO distributed 169,620 treatment courses and supported 76,515 medical procedures. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) provided cash assistance and food assistance to 195,740 and 29,000 Palestine refugees, respectively. In addition, 3,480 Palestine refugees received non-food items. UNRWA provided psychosocial support to 4,240

<sup>1</sup> March figures are based on food commodities delivered to partners' warehouses for onward distribution to beneficiaries by 30 March.



refugee children and 330 adults in earthquake-affected areas in Aleppo, Hama and Ladhqiyah. Furthermore, 196 adults received legal assistance in February 2023.

42. Regarding cross-border humanitarian assistance delivered to the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic, WFP dispatched food assistance for some 1.5 million people in February through in-kind assistance and cash-based transfers, and dispatched food assistance for 630,700 people in March. UNICEF sent 987 metric tons of life-saving supplies, including cholera, BCG and hepatitis B vaccines, vaccination devices, water purification tablets and hygiene kits (see table 2).

*Delivery and monitoring of cross-border assistance*

43. As with aid programming from within the Syrian Arab Republic, cross-border deliveries are conducted in line with humanitarian principles and are based on independent assessments of needs. All United Nations operations are conducted in response to needs identified in an annual multisectoral needs assessment, as well as regular assessments during monitoring operations. On the basis of those assessments, individual cross-border shipments are initiated by the United Nations and coordinated with humanitarian partners.

44. As required in Security Council resolution [2165 \(2014\)](#), the assistance delivered through the United Nations cross-border mechanism across the Bab al-Hawa border crossing is closely monitored to confirm the humanitarian nature of the relief consignments. The monitoring process is conducted at four distinct levels: (a) at the border by the United Nations Monitoring Mechanism for the Syrian Arab Republic; (b) at warehouses inside the country; (c) at distribution points; and (d) after distribution to beneficiaries. In February and March 2023, the United Nations Monitoring Mechanism for the Syrian Arab Republic monitored and confirmed the humanitarian nature of 30 consignments consisting of 939 trucks. Some 68 per cent of truckloads consisted of food aid, 26 per cent consisted of non-food items, including shelter assistance and winterization assistance, and the remainder consisted of health, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene supplies, as well as some quantities of education and agricultural supplies and some office equipment.

*Cross-border distribution mechanisms*

45. In the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic, humanitarian assistance is provided through various cross-border distribution mechanisms. Food and non-food items are provided in kind or, in some cases, indirectly through cash or vouchers. Beneficiaries of in-kind food or non-food items are selected according to needs assessments undertaken by humanitarian organizations and on the basis of agreed eligibility and vulnerability criteria. Humanitarian partners in the north-west perform distributions at a specific time and place, often monthly, at a market square or another central location, or through door-to-door distributions. People receiving assistance must show proof of identification matching their name on distribution lists verified by the implementing partners.

46. Humanitarian partners work through existing health structures to provide people in the north-west with life-saving health care. Assistance is provided through a wide range of services, including but not limited to supplying essential health items to existing medical facilities, fuel to schools, protection services to gender-based violence survivors and support to livelihood activities. Medications are supplied to pharmacies or medical facilities for their use, requiring prescriptions. Support also includes the provision of salaries to medical workers and teachers.

Figure I  
**Number of beneficiaries targeted by the United Nations and its partners (see annex II) through cross-border humanitarian deliveries, by cluster, February and March 2023 (monthly average)**

(Thousands)

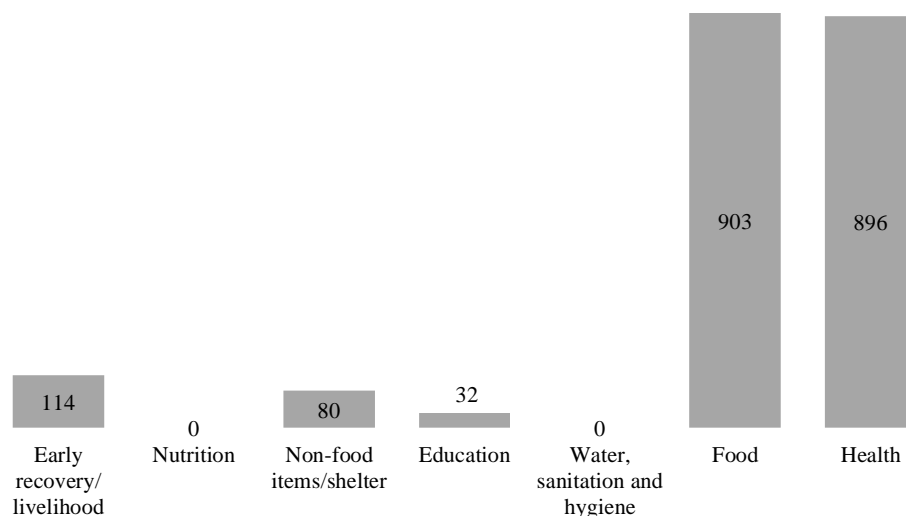


Table 2  
**Number of beneficiaries targeted by the United Nations and its partners through cross-border deliveries, by sector and district, February and March 2023 (monthly average)**

Governorate	District	Early recovery/ livelihood <sup>a</sup>	Education	Food	Health	Non-food items/shelter	Nutrition	Water, sanitation and hygiene
Aleppo	Afrin	1 290	–	57 977	–	–	–	–
Aleppo	Bab	23 420	–	28 025	–	–	–	–
Aleppo	I‘zaz	1 880	–	108 300	–	15 000	–	–
Aleppo	Jarabulus	1 178	–	33 708	–	–	–	–
Aleppo	Jabal Sim‘an	2 000	–	–	–	–	–	–
Idlib	Harim	79 171	31 500	674 585	896 225	35 425	–	–
Idlib	Idlib	4 680	–	–	–	30 000	–	–
Idlib	Jisr al-Shughur	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

<sup>a</sup> Early recovery and livelihood figures cover the period 1 January–28 February 2023.

47. The Russian Federation sent informational bulletins to the United Nations from the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides and Refugee Migration Monitoring that outlined the provision of bilateral relief assistance. Other Member States continued to provide bilateral and other forms of humanitarian assistance.

#### *Early recovery and livelihood activities*

48. Early recovery and livelihood activities represent one of three core pillars of the humanitarian response. The United Nations and its partners support early recovery and livelihood projects across five distinct domains: (a) the repair and rehabilitation

of critical civilian infrastructure; (b) the removal of debris and solid waste; (c) income-generating activities and market-based interventions; (d) vocational and skills training; and (e) social cohesion and community interventions.

49. Early recovery and livelihood sector partners focus on restoring essential, life-sustaining services and infrastructure for affected communities. Following the earthquakes, sector partners focused on providing immediate assistance to survivors and planning for long-term recovery in the affected areas. Between 1 February and 24 March 2023, 10,420 tons of solid waste were removed in Dayr al-Zawr, Ladhīqiyah and Rif Dimashq Governorates, and 18 neighbourhoods were cleaned. UNDP repaired 14 km of sewage networks in Dayr al-Zawr and Rif Dimashq. In addition, 10,000 m<sup>3</sup> of debris were removed in earthquake-impacted areas in Aleppo. The rehabilitation of public infrastructure provided temporary jobs for 1,026 people in five governorates. UNDP also rehabilitated 28 water stations in Hasakah and installed 115 solar energy systems in Aleppo and Homs.

50. In order to strengthen resilience and access to livelihoods, over 900 people received support to rehabilitate, develop or start business and entrepreneurship initiatives in nine governorates, and 521 people benefited from short-term job opportunities. In addition, UNDP provided support grants to nine micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in Aleppo and Dayr al-Zawr. Furthermore, 1,097 families in Aleppo, Dar‘a, Dayr al-Zawr, Hama and Rif Dimashq benefited from market-based modalities assistance, while 3,185 people benefited from vocational and business training. Some 979 individuals were involved in soft skills training sessions, and 5,815 community members and representatives participated in capacity-building activities. UNDP completed 53 social cohesion promotion initiatives in five governorates. UNICEF and UNRWA provided cash transfers and case management to nearly 68,000 children with severe disabilities to improve their livelihoods and access to essential services in Aleppo, Hasakah, Dayr al-Zawr, Hama, Homs and Rif Dimashq Governorates.

51. WFP is rehabilitating three bakeries in Homs, Hama and Qunaytirah Governorates to increase production and cover part of the subsidized bread gap. Each bakery is expected to provide subsidized bread for 40,000 people a day. The Programme completed the assessment of 10 bakeries damaged by the earthquakes in Aleppo, Hama, Tartus and Ladhīqiyah Governorates and initiated plans to support their rehabilitation. Furthermore, WFP is resourcing 600 metric tons of yeast as part of its support to the bread value chain sector. In February, WFP and the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas completed the rehabilitation of six metal gates as part of a project aimed at halting soil salinization and boosting soil productivity in Aleppo and Raqqah Governorates.

52. Following the earthquakes, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations prioritized interventions aimed at ensuring that affected communities could recover basic food production capabilities, as well as supporting local authorities' efforts to assess agricultural damage. It is supporting the resumption of crop production and providing livestock, animal feed and veterinary services to farmers. Furthermore, it supports the rehabilitation of irrigation schemes through cash-for-work programmes, the provision of farm-level irrigation equipment and the repair of damaged small agrifood infrastructure.

53. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme enhanced access to basic services in Dayr al-Zawr through the rehabilitation and installation of solar lighting for 1,100 m of roads. It also assessed residential buildings in Irbin and Nashabiyah, in Rif Dimashq, for damage caused by the earthquakes.

54. In the north-west and the north-east of the Syrian Arab Republic, early recovery and livelihood sector partners rehabilitated 12 health centres in Aleppo and Idlib and

repaired 8 km of roads in Idlib and two water stations in Aleppo. Partners also supported Hasakah with 434 waste management tools and strengthened sustainable waste management systems in six communities in Aleppo, Hasakah and Raqqah. To strengthen access to livelihoods, partners created over 900 short-term employment opportunities and provided vocational and business training to 730 people. Partners also supported 36 village savings and loan associations in Aleppo Governorate. Sector partners supported 805 entrepreneurs to rehabilitate, develop or start business enterprises. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations trained 100 young people and women on the integration of innovative technologies and techniques into local food production systems. It also trained 59 personnel to provide participatory community action training to contribute to the design of multisectoral village development plans.

### **Humanitarian access**

55. 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. Principled humanitarian action depends on the ability to independently assess needs, deliver assistance and monitor and evaluate impact independently, including by engaging regularly and directly with affected people. The access landscape in the Syrian Arab Republic remains complex, with various geographical areas and types of services requiring the use of a variety of operating modalities. There are 2,037 United Nations staff members based in the country, with 698 deployed in humanitarian hubs outside Damascus, in Aleppo, Dayr al-Zawr, Hama, Homs, Ladhīqiyah, Qamishli, Suwayda' and Tartus. A further 3,252 UNRWA staff members are deployed across the country. This decentralized presence contributes to greater access and proximity to affected people. Across the Syrian Arab Republic, humanitarian aid is distributed and implemented primarily by national actors, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent.

56. Since the earthquakes struck the Syrian Arab Republic and Türkiye in early February, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has introduced several measures to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to earthquake-affected areas. The measures include blanket approvals to allow for: (a) expedited entry of incoming humanitarian consignments from outside the Syrian Arab Republic by air, land or sea, including by opening the Bab al-Salam and Ra'i crossings for three months; (b) ease of internal movement into and within earthquake-affected areas; and (c) expedited processing of visas for international humanitarian staff. Operations rooms were set up in all affected governorates.

#### *Access in government-controlled areas*

57. United Nations personnel and third-party contractors continued to travel to field locations, along with national NGOs and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, to conduct assessment, monitoring, logistics and administrative support missions. Between 1 January and 28 February 2023, 3,714 regular programmatic movements were conducted with programme or blanket approvals (see table 3).<sup>2</sup>

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

58. Military activity in various locations within Dar'a Governorate impeded humanitarian partners from conducting activities in most of the final quarter of 2022 and the first quarter of 2023.

59. Various movement constraints, mainly at checkpoints, blocked the delivery of humanitarian assistance and fuel to Shaykh Maqsud area in Aleppo Governorate during the reporting period. The restrictions, coupled with acute fuel shortages witnessed across the country, have led to soaring fuel prices. As a result, service providers, in particular health facilities, were not able to maintain the same level of service delivery.

Table 3

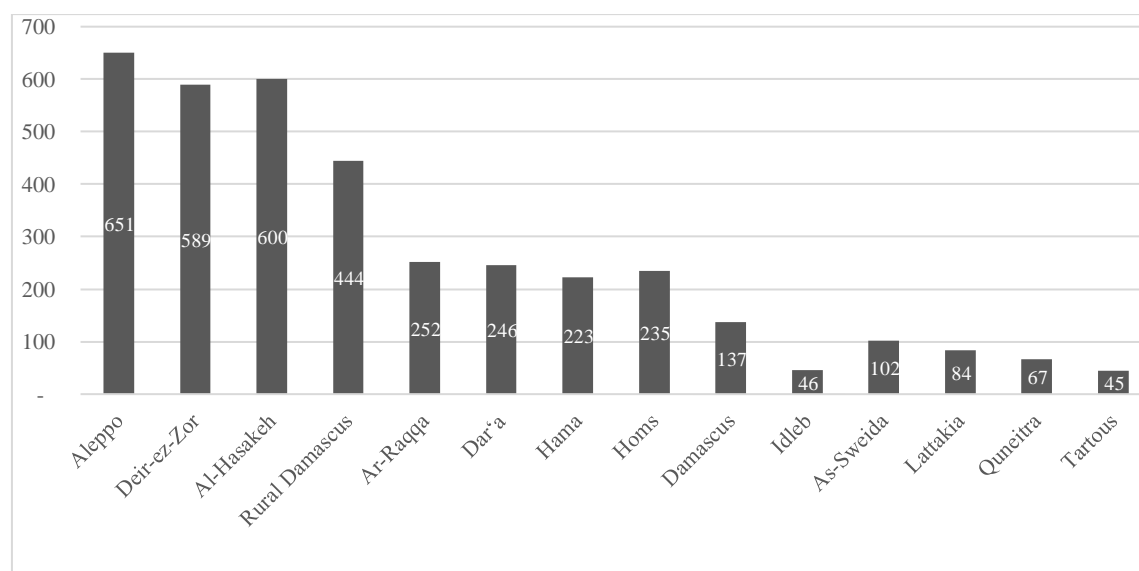
**Total number of missions conducted with programme or blanket approvals from within the Syrian Arab Republic by United Nations agencies and third parties/facilitators, by type, 1 January to 28 February 2023**

Type of mission	Blanket approval	Programme approval	Total number
Assessment missions	141	–	141
Missions accompanying aid deliveries	214	7	221
Monitoring missions	3 083	–	3 083
Security, logistics and administrative support missions	276	–	276
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 714</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3 721</b>

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

Figure II

**Total number of missions conducted with programme or blanket approvals from within the Syrian Arab Republic by United Nations agencies and third parties/facilitators, by governorate, 1 January to 28 February 2023**



60. For missions requiring the specific approval of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, the United Nations submitted 412 new requests, of which 367 (89 per

cent) were approved (see table 4). This takes into account the Ministry's 10-day response period and does not negatively count requests that were submitted but are still in process.

Table 4

**Missions from within the Syrian Arab Republic requiring the specific approval of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, 1 January to 28 February 2023**

<i>Type of request</i>	<i>Number requested</i>	<i>Number approved</i>	<i>Percentage approved</i>
Assessment missions	110	105	95
Missions accompanying aid deliveries	73	69	95
Monitoring missions	178	150	84
Security, logistics and administrative support missions	51	43	84
Explosive ordnance assessment missions	–	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>89</b>

*Notes:* Missions of United Nations personnel departing from Damascus or travelling cross-line generally require specific approval of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates. Figures contained in table 4 are based on data reported internally by United Nations agencies and reflect approvals received within the period from 1 January to 28 February 2023. The figures may therefore differ from those recorded by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, with which discussions are currently ongoing to align methodologies.

*Cross-line access in the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic*

61. Following the earthquakes in early February, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic issued a blanket approval for humanitarian cross-line missions to the north-west, waiving the requirement for separate approvals for each cross-line mission.

62. Since the adoption of Security Council resolution [2585 \(2021\)](#), in July 2021, the United Nations agencies successfully completed 10 inter-agency cross-line missions to Sarmada, in the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic, pre-positioning 152 truckloads of supplies (5,187 metric tons) from WFP, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO. The most recent mission, which was carried out on 8 and 9 January 2023, was the fifth since the adoption of Council resolution [2642 \(2022\)](#). A sixth cross-line mission, scheduled for mid-February, has been delayed.

63. The United Nations continues to do everything in its power to scale up cross-line assistance to people in need to complement the cross-border response. It has updated its plan for inter-agency cross-line convoys for an additional six months. Timely security guarantees from parties to the conflict to ensure the safe passage of cross-line convoys and their personnel need to be provided to further scale up the crossline response, while additional funding is urgently needed to ensure that supplies can be procured for all people in need.

64. Challenges still need to be overcome to achieve regular and sustained cross-line operations in the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic. Receiving adequate clearance to expand the operations by allowing multiple cross-line convoys each month and an increased number of trucks taking part in each convoy remains necessary. Commitment by all parties to non-interference in humanitarian activities of the cross-line delivery at all stages is essential. Accountability to affected people is also an important aspect that needs to be considered, including both ensuring community acceptance of the deliveries and engaging to minimize the possibility of

negative responses from neighbouring communities or other groups after the aid is delivered.

*Cross-line access in the north-east and other parts of the Syrian Arab Republic*

65. In January and February 2023, the United Nations was able to dispatch 321 trucks carrying 11,023.98 metric tons of humanitarian assistance to areas in the north-east of the Syrian Arab Republic, to Dayr al-Zawr, Hasakah and Qamishli, a decrease of 41 per cent compared with November and December 2022. The reduction is attributable to the redirection of resources to areas affected by the 6 February earthquakes.

66. Access to most communities in Manbij and Ayn al-Arab districts remained constrained for United Nations agencies operating from Damascus owing to the lack of agreement between parties in control.

67. An inter-agency humanitarian cross-line mission to Ra's al-Ayn subdistrict of Hasakah Governorate was organized on 26 February. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UNICEF, UNHCR, WHO and UNFPA conducted a multisectoral needs assessment with key informants in Ra's al-Ayn and visited Ameen health facility and Uluk water station. UNICEF was able to deliver water, sanitation and hygiene, nutrition and health items to people in need in the subdistrict. This followed the first humanitarian cross-line mission to the area, organized by WHO and UNICEF on 27 October 2022, from Qamishli to Ra's al-Ayn since 2019.

68. The most recent United Nations humanitarian convoy to reach Rukban from within the Syrian Arab Republic was undertaken in September 2019. Access by commercial trucks, using informal routes, has been sporadic. Since the decision by the Government of Jordan in March 2020 to close the border as a preventive measure to contain the spread of COVID-19, people from Rukban who require medical care have been unable to gain access to the United Nations clinic on the Jordanian side of the border. Critical health cases continued to be referred to Damascus, in coordination with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. Residents of the Rukban area continue to live in dire conditions, with limited livelihood opportunities and access to food, water, health care and other basic services. The United Nations continues to advocate full access to be able to provide regular humanitarian assistance, including seeking assurances regarding the necessary security guarantees for humanitarian staff. As at 31 March 2023, 20,635 people had left the camp. The decision by families to leave Rukban is voluntary, and the United Nations provides assistance to people in places to which they choose to return. The United Nations continues to advocate to ensure that necessary access and security conditions are in place to support principled, voluntary and informed departures from Rukban camp.

*Cross-border access in the Syrian Arab Republic*

69. On 9 January, the Security Council adopted resolution [2672 \(2023\)](#), in which the Council extended the use of the Bab al-Hawa border crossing for cross-border delivery of humanitarian aid to the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic until 10 July 2023. Since the adoption of Council resolutions [2533 \(2020\)](#), [2585 \(2021\)](#), [2642 \(2022\)](#) and [2672 \(2023\)](#), most United Nations humanitarian assistance in the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic has been routed through the Bab al-Hawa crossing.

70. 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 \(2018\)](#), [2504 \(2020\)](#), [2533 \(2020\)](#), [2585 \(2021\)](#), [2642 \(2022\)](#) and [2672 \(2023\)](#). The Mechanism monitored and confirmed the humanitarian nature of 30 consignments, consisting of 939 trucks that

crossed into the country from Türkiye in February and March 2023, through the Bab al-Hawa crossing. That brought the number of trucks monitored since the beginning of operations to 61,512 (51,540 through Bab al-Hawa, 5,268 through Bab al-Salam, 4,595 through Ramtha and 109 through Ya‘rubiyah). The humanitarian nature of each of the consignments was confirmed. For every shipment that crossed the border, the United Nations provided 48 hours’ advance notice to the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, including information on the humanitarian goods to be delivered, the number of trucks, the United Nations owner and the destination (the district). The Mechanism continued to benefit from the excellent cooperation of the Government of Türkiye.

71. Following the 6 February earthquakes, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic gave consent to use Bab al-Salam and Ra‘i as two additional crossing points. As at 31 March, 1,209 trucks carrying assistance had crossed into the country from Türkiye, including 939 through Bab al-Hawa, 225 through Bab al-Salam and 45 through Ra‘i. As at the same date, the United Nations had completed 46 cross-border missions to the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic. These inter-agency missions, which were begun on 14 February, are aimed at assessing the needs of earthquake-affected communities, gathering community feedback, monitoring projects and strengthening the coordination of the humanitarian response.

### Visas and registrations

72. 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, 1 January to 28 February 2023

<i>Type of request</i>	<i>Number requested</i>	<i>Number approved</i>	<i>Number rejected</i>	<i>Number pending</i>
Visas requested during the reporting period	204	159	6	39
Renewals requested during the reporting period	157 <sup>a</sup>	112	–	43

<sup>a</sup> The United Nations withdrew or cancelled three visa requests during the reporting period.

73. Forty-seven international NGOs are registered with the Government to operate in the country.

74. The United Nations and international, national and local NGOs continued to implement programmes in areas affected by frequent armed clashes, including but not limited to air strikes, regular exchanges of indirect artillery or mortar fire and other types of attacks conducted by the various parties to the conflict. In addition, humanitarian relief personnel operated in areas highly contaminated with unexploded ordnance and landmines, which remained a major security threat in the field.

75. Since the beginning of the conflict, humanitarian organizations have reported that 98 humanitarian workers have been killed, including 2 national staff of Oxfam International, 66 staff members and volunteers of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and 8 staff members and volunteers of the Palestine Red Crescent Society, as well as 22 staff members of the United Nations system in the Syrian Arab Republic and other United Nations entities, 20 of whom were UNRWA personnel. Eight personnel of the United Nations system (all from UNRWA, four staff and four non-staff personnel) had been detained or missing as at 31 March 2023.



## Observations

76. After 12 years of grinding conflict and systematic atrocities, Syrians were beset by yet another tragedy in 2023. The recent earthquakes in the Syrian Arab Republic and Türkiye have taken a terrible toll on Syrian communities already ravaged by the brutalities of war and displacement. Despite a challenging operating environment, the United Nations and its partners have scaled up the humanitarian response massively to deliver life-saving aid and protection services to people in the most impacted districts in seven governorates. As all those lost are mourned and efforts to expand response operations continue to be expanded, unfettered humanitarian access and sufficient resources to meet the needs of all those affected must be ensured. I welcome the outcome of the international donors' conference in support of the people in the Syrian Arab Republic and Türkiye, held in Brussels on 20 March, and urge swift disbursement of pledges. It is vital to provide resources for the emergency response to the earthquakes, as well as to look towards the post-earthquake recovery phase. I call for broader support to the humanitarian response plan, including early recovery and livelihood, which remains severely underfunded, given that humanitarian needs have reached their highest levels since the beginning of the conflict.

77. I remind all parties that, under international humanitarian law, they must allow and facilitate rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian aid for civilians in need. Humanitarian access must be granted through all modalities, including cross-line missions. I call upon concerned parties to secure the approvals and security guarantees necessary for cross-line assistance, to proceed as soon as possible and to facilitate more regular crossings. The need to also guarantee sustained cross-border access was already clear before the earthquakes and has only become more urgent now. The situation is too fragile, needs are too great and too many lives are at stake to not ensure sustained humanitarian access using all modalities. I welcome the decision by the Syrian Arab Republic, on 13 February, to open the two crossing points of Bab al-Salam and Ra'i from Türkiye to the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic for an initial period of three months to allow for the timely delivery of humanitarian aid. I sincerely hope that, by July 2023, the Security Council will find a consensus that will enable it to extend for 12 months its decision to authorize the cross-border delivery of humanitarian assistance by United Nations humanitarian agencies and their implementing partners. Cross-border assistance remains an indispensable part of the operations of the United Nations and its partners to reach all people in need.

78. I recently reiterated the importance of providing clear reassurances that no unilateral sanctions will interfere with relief operations benefiting the Syrian population. I welcome, in this regard, the recent introduction of earthquake-related standing exemptions in several unilateral sanctions regimes. The United Nations will continue to engage bilaterally with relevant actors on these issues to identify measures to remedy the chilling effects of sanctions, as well as operational hurdles, if any, to the delivery of humanitarian assistance in response to the growing needs of the Syrian population in the current dramatic circumstances.

79. The situation in Hawl and other camps in the north-east of the country remains tragic. Solutions for the various categories of the population in Hawl are beyond humanitarian interventions. I reiterate my call to support the voluntary return of Syrian residents of Hawl camp to areas of their choosing, in safety and in dignity, and I urge all countries with nationals at Hawl camp to rapidly and safely allow for their voluntary repatriation, which is particularly urgent for children and their families, in line with relevant international law and applicable standards.

80. I am appalled that, despite the additional suffering ignited by the earthquakes and the numerous calls for a countrywide ceasefire, hostilities in the Syrian Arab Republic have not been halted in the weeks following the disaster. In the northern

Syrian Arab Republic, hostilities continue to exacerbate the suffering of civilians, exposing them to death, injury and further displacement. I reiterate my call to all parties to the conflict to respect their obligations under international humanitarian law, including by taking constant care to spare civilians and civilian objects when conducting military operations. All States, in particular those with influence over parties to the conflict, must do everything within their power to ensure the protection of civilians in the Syrian Arab Republic.

81. Support and attention in the aftermath of the earthquakes can be channelled into renewed energy and meaningful progress on the political track to address the fundamental issues driving the Syrian Arab Republic conflict. I urge the parties to seize this opportunity to move down a path of dialogue and engage in the peace proposals of the Special Envoy, through step-by-step confidence-building measures and by resuming and substantively advancing the constitutional track, towards a comprehensive resolution of the Syrian conflict in accordance with Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#).

82. My Special Envoy continues to promote inclusive Syrian-Syrian dialogue through the Women's Advisory Board and the Syrian Civil Society Support Room. Their perspectives need to be heard, and their full and effective participation in all efforts to address and resolve the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic needs to be further facilitated.

83. I remain concerned by the significant number of targeted killings, as well as by the continuous pattern of arbitrary deprivation of liberty by parties to the conflict, and I reiterate the importance of the unilateral release of persons arbitrarily deprived of their liberty who are especially vulnerable owing to the COVID-19 pandemic and who now face further risks owing to the cholera outbreak. I am alarmed that among those to be deprived of their liberty are the cases of journalists, social media activists and other people expressing peaceful dissent against the views of or actions taken by the relevant authorities, as OHCHR has continued to document. The incidents appear to be indicative of a pervasive pattern of shrinking civic space across the Syrian Arab Republic. Such is the situation that people exercising their rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and freedom of association continue to be subjected to acts of violence and intimidation by the relevant authorities. The majority of detainees are held by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic. I call upon the Government and other parties to the conflict to account for the fate and whereabouts of detainees and to allow humanitarian and human rights agencies access to all places of detention. All persons in detention must be promptly informed of the charges against them, afforded fair and prompt trials and released immediately if they are found to have been arbitrarily detained. Prompt, effective, thorough and transparent investigations should be conducted to establish the cause and circumstances of deaths that occur while in custody. Perpetrators must be held accountable. Furthermore, in cases of wrongful death, families and dependants of victims should be informed and receive full and adequate reparations within a reasonable period of time. Adequately addressing arbitrary deprivation of liberty would support efforts towards credible justice, true reconciliation and sustainable peace. My Special Envoy will continue to focus on the file of the detained, the abducted and the missing. My recent report on missing people in the Syrian Arab Republic ([A/76/890](#)) could contribute to finding a path forward to address the issue in a humanitarian and holistic manner that is victim-, survivor- and family-centric.

84. Continued impunity for serious violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law remains of grave concern. Perpetrators of such violations and abuses must be held accountable. 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 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.

85. I call upon the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to develop legislative and policy measures aimed at eliminating discrimination against women and girls in all spheres of life and at achieving substantive gender equality, including through quotas and special measures. Parties must refrain from measures that infringe on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of women and girls or that impede their basic rights, including to work and education.

86. In view of the ongoing serious concerns repeatedly raised with regard to the protection of civilians and other human rights concerns in the Syrian Arab Republic, 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 the special procedures of the Council and with OHCHR, including through the establishment of a field presence with the mandate to protect and promote human rights.

87. The month of March marked the grim milestone of 12 years of war and suffering in the Syrian Arab Republic. The earthquakes brought disaster in addition to catastrophe for millions of people in the northern Syrian Arab Republic, where needs were already at their highest, the economy was at its lowest and infrastructure was already heavily damaged by 12 years of brutal conflict. The need for peace has never been more pressing. Now is the time to act in unison to secure a nationwide ceasefire, advance the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people and create the conditions necessary for the voluntary return of refugees in safety and dignity. The utmost must continue to be done to bring to the Syrian people hope for a dignified life and a better future. All parties must place the needs of the Syrian people first.

## Annex I

### **Reported incidents affecting civilians recorded by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, February and March 2023<sup>1</sup>**

#### **Idlib Governorate**

- On 7 February, a 56-year-old civilian man was injured by a landmine on the outskirts of the town of al-Tah, in Ma'arrat al-Nu'man area, southern rural Idlib. The victim, who had been tending to grazing sheep approximately 500 m from his house when the landmine exploded, had his right leg amputated from his knee down as a result of the injury sustained.
- On 27 February, a 35-year-old woman and a 10-year-old girl from the same family were injured as a result of ground-based strikes in the town of Nayrab, in eastern rural Idlib. The shelling reportedly struck a residential area of the village near the Nayrab School, which was closed at the time owing to damage from previous shelling.
- Also on 27 February, a civilian was injured as a result of ground-based strikes on the eastern outskirts of Idlib city, on the road connecting Idlib and Bab al-Hawa. The man was reportedly walking towards his workplace in a nearby olive field when a number of rockets struck the area.
- On 12 March, the body of a civilian man from Mardikh village, in eastern rural Idlib, was delivered to a forensic medicine office in Idlib city after the man was reportedly shot and killed at a detention centre.
- On 20 March, four civilians – all males from the same family – were shot and killed in Sina'ah neighbourhood, in the town of Jindayris, in north-western rural Aleppo. The victims were reportedly killed following a quarrel with members of an armed group as they were lighting fires in front of their house as part of Nowruz celebrations.

#### **Aleppo Governorate**

- On 16 February, a civilian man was killed and another was injured as a result of ground-based strikes that hit a residential neighbourhood in the city of Tall Rif'at, in northern rural Aleppo. The attack resulted in damage to at least two houses.
- On 4 March, a civilian man was arrested at a checkpoint at Qarah Qawzaq bridge, near Manbij city, in eastern rural Aleppo. The man had recently participated in the delivery of humanitarian aid to people affected by the earthquakes in the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic organized by local tribes in Dayr al-Zawr. The reason for the arrest remains unknown, and no information has been provided on his fate and whereabouts.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

- Also on 4 March, two civilian men were injured as a result of ground-based strikes in the villages of Kultep and Bagdek, east of Ayn al-Arab city, in eastern rural Aleppo. Both victims were injured while on the street near their homes.
- On 8 March, a boy was killed by a landmine explosion that took place in an open area in the village of Rafi‘ah, in north-eastern rural Aleppo.
- On 11 March, five civilians, including two women and one girl, were injured as a result of ground-based strikes in a residential area in the town of Atarib, in western rural Aleppo.

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

- On 1 February, a civilian from Dayr al-Zawr died at a detention centre in Hasakah. His body was handed over to his family without an explanation of the reason for his death.
- On 3 February, a 13-year-old boy with a disability was killed and a civilian was injured when security personnel fired shots to disperse a demonstration in the village of Sabhah, in Basirah area of eastern rural Dayr al-Zawr. Both victims were not armed.
- On 11 February, a boy was injured as a result of a landmine explosion on the outskirts of the village of Sha‘fah, in south-eastern rural Dayr al-Zawr. The boy was alone in an open area when the explosion occurred.
- On 21 February, a civilian man was shot and killed while walking near a checkpoint in Sabhah village, in eastern rural Dayr al-Zawr. In addition, during his funeral, on 22 February, three civilians, two women and one man, were killed and another civilian man was injured as a result of fire opened on people assembled at the funeral tent.
- Also on 21 February, two civilian men were killed in western rural Dayr al-Zawr. They were shot while smuggling diesel.
- Also on 21 February, a boy was killed by a landmine explosion in an open area of Duwayr village, in south-eastern rural Dayr al-Zawr.
- On 22 February, an 11-year-old boy was killed and a 13-year-old boy was injured as a result of a landmine explosion in Husayniyah area, in north-eastern rural Dayr al-Zawr. The boys were playing in an open area when the explosion occurred.
- On 26 February, three civilian men were killed as a result of a landmine explosion while they were collecting truffles in Kashmah desert, in eastern rural Dayr al-Zawr.
- On 2 March, at least five civilians were killed and dozens of others were injured by the explosion of a landmine while they were on board a bus. They were travelling to collect truffles on a road in Qabajib area, in south-western rural Dayr al-Zawr.
- On 6 March, a 13-year-old boy from of Baghaliyah village, in western rural Dayr al-Zawr, was killed as a result of the explosion of a landmine while he was herding sheep in a desert area on the outskirts of the village.
- On 8 March, a civilian man was killed when a landmine exploded under the Tok Tok – a small, three-wheel, motor-powered vehicle – that he was driving in an open area in the vicinity of Al-Bouleil town, in eastern rural Dayr al-Zawr.
- On 9 March, two civilian men were killed as a result of the explosion of a landmine on the outskirts of the village of al Jurdi al-Sharqi, in south-eastern

rural Dayr al-Zawr. The men were tending to grazing sheep on the outskirts of the village when the landmine exploded.

#### **Dar‘a Governorate**

- On 13 February, a religious cleric was shot and killed outside his home by unknown perpetrators in the city of Nawa, in western rural Dar‘a.
- On 14 February, a civilian man was shot and killed by unknown perpetrators on the road between Yadudaha and Tall Shihab towns, in western rural Dar‘a.
- On 25 February, a civilian woman was killed and her husband was injured and arrested during a raid on a farm on the road between Sayda and Kahil towns, in eastern rural Dar‘a. The victims had been living in a tent on the farm. No information has been made available on the man’s fate and whereabouts.
- On 26 February, a civilian man was killed and another was injured as a result of unknown perpetrators on a motorbike opening fired while the victims were in a car on Aalan Road, in western rural Dar‘a.
- On 5 March, a man was shot and killed by unknown perpetrators on a motorbike while he was walking in the town of Yadudaha, in western rural Dar‘a.

#### **Raqqah Governorate**

- On 2 February, a civilian man was arrested and detained following a house raid in the city of Raqqah. His family has not received any information on his whereabouts or fate since his arrest.
- On 26 February, a boy and a girl were injured by a landmine explosion in the town of Tall Abyad, in northern rural Raqqah. The children were playing in an open area in the town when the explosion occurred.

#### **Hasakah Governorate**

- On 10 February, a journalist was arrested in the city of Ra’s al-Ayn, in north-western rural Hasakah, for criticizing the post-earthquake aid distribution strategy. The journalist has not been allowed to contact his family or a lawyer.
- On 22 February, a man was killed reportedly as a result of a drone strike that hit the car in which he was travelling on Qamishli Qahtaniyah road, in northern rural Hasakah.
- On 26 February, two civilian men were arrested by unidentified armed men wearing military uniforms and masks in the city of Qamishli, in northern rural Hasakah. The men were blindfolded and arrested while working at a mobile phone shop that they own in al-Salam commercial complex, in the city centre of Qamishli. Their whereabouts remain unknown.
- On 27 February, a civilian woman was injured as a result of an improvised explosive device explosion near the Rufaida al-Aslamia elementary school in Kallasah neighbourhood, a residential area in the city of Hasakah. The explosion also resulted in minor damage to the school building.
- On 5 March, the body of an 18-year-old man from the city of Dhiban, in eastern rural Dayr al-Zawr, was handed over to his family at a hospital in Hasakah after he died of a stroke while in detention. The man, who was 15 years old at the time of his arrest, was first detained in al-Omar oilfield detention facility, in eastern rural Dayr al-Zawr, and then transferred to a detention centre in the city of Hasakah. A death certificate was not provided.

- On 12 March, a civilian man was shot and killed and his 16-year-old brother was injured by small arms fire near a checkpoint in Hasakah city. The brother was later arrested at the hospital.

#### **Ladhiqiyah Governorate**

- On 22 February, two men were killed and another was injured as a result of ground-based strikes in Barzah area, in the mountainous region of Jabal al-Akrad, in north-eastern rural Ladhiqiyah.

#### **Homs Governorate**

- On 2 February, the family of a 22-year-old civilian man from Dayr al-Zawr was notified by the Homs military hospital of his death at the Homs military prison. The man had been arrested in the town of Hatla, in northern rural Dayr al-Zawr, on 15 April 2022 and was in good health at the time of his arrest. A medical report was not provided, and the cause of death remained unknown.
- On 17 February, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights documented the killing of at least 18 civilians, including 2 children, and the injury of dozens of others after being shot by armed individuals while collecting truffles in Tadmur area, in eastern rural Homs. The bodies of those killed were left in the open for a few days before representatives of local tribes could gain access to the area and collect them.
- On 18 February, five civilians, including one 13-year-old boy, were arrested in areas in and around the Rukban camp for internally displaced persons, in Homs. The child was subjected to ill-treatment, and all those arrested were pressured to halt any support for the activities and initiatives of the Tribal Council of Tadmur (Palmyra). They were all released on 8 and 9 March.

#### **Damascus Governorate**

- On 19 February, air strikes hit the Kafr Susah neighbourhood in Damascus, leading to the killing of at least five people, including two civilians – a female pharmacist and a male doctor. The air strikes resulted in damage to several civilian objects, including the Technical Institute of Applied Arts and the Intermediate Institute for Antiquities and Museums.
- On 28 February, the family of a civilian man from Mahkan village, in south-eastern rural Dayr al-Zawr, received information that he had died in Sednaya military prison, in Damascus. The man was arrested for unknown reasons in April 2018 while crossing the Euphrates River to visit his relatives in Mahkan village.

## Annex II

### **List of United Nations humanitarian cross-border operating partners**

1. AFAQ
2. Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
3. Al Resala Foundation
4. Al Sham Humanitarian Foundation
5. Al-Ameen for Humanitarian Support
6. Alseeraj for Development and Healthcare
7. ATAA Humanitarian Relief Association
8. BAHAR
9. Basma for Relief and Development
10. Basmeh and Zeitooneh for Relief and Development
11. Big Heart Foundation
12. BINAA for Development
13. Bonyan Organization
14. Bunyan Genclik Ve Kalkinma Dernegi
15. CARE International
16. Children of One World
17. Deutsche Welthungerhilfe e.V. (German Agro Action)
18. Doctors of the World Türkiye
19. Ghiras Al Nahda
20. Global Communities
21. GOAL
22. Hand in Hand for Aid and Development
23. Handicap International
24. Hope Revival Organization
25. Human Appeal Türkiye
26. Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief Foundation
27. Humanitarian Initiative Association
28. Humanitarian Relief Association
29. Ihsan for Relief and Development
30. Ihsan Insani Yardim Ve Dayansma Dernegi
31. Independent Doctors Association
32. Insan Charity
33. Insani Inisiyatif Dernegi



34. Insani Yardimlasma Ataa Humanitarian Relief Association
35. International Humanitarian Relief Association
36. Iodine Global Network
37. Islamic Relief Worldwide
38. KUDRA
39. Maram Foundation for Relief and Development
40. Massrat – The Establishment for Human Care and Development
41. Medina Association
42. Mercy without Limits
43. Mercy-USA for Aid and Development
44. Muzun for Humanitarian and Development
45. NAS
46. Nasaem Khair
47. Norwegian Refugee Council
48. Orange
49. Orient for Human Relief
50. People in Need
51. Physicians Across Continents
52. POINT Organization
53. Qatar Charity
54. Qatar Red Crescent Society
55. REACH Initiative
56. Relief Experts Association – UDER
57. Relief International
58. Sadad Humanitarian Organization
59. Saed Charity Association
60. SANED Organization
61. SENED Organization
62. Shafak Organization
63. SKT Organization
64. Social Development International
65. Solidarités International
66. Space of Peace
67. Syria Relief
68. Syria Relief and Development
69. Syrian American Medical Society Foundation
70. Syrian Engineers for Construction and Development

71. Syrian Expatriate Medical Association
  72. Takaful Alsham Charity Organization
  73. The HALO Trust
  74. The Mentor Initiative
  75. The Syrian Association for Relief and Development
  76. Toplum Kalkinma Dernegi Binaa Binnaa for Development
  77. Turkish Red Crescent
  78. Ufuk for Relief and Development
  79. Ufuklar Insani Yardim Dernegi
  80. Uluslarasi Insani Yardimlasma Dernegi
  81. Uluslararası İnsani Yardım Organizasyonu (IHH) International Humanitarian Relief
  82. Union of Medical Care and Relief Organization
  83. Violet Organization
  84. War Child Holland
  85. Watan Foundation
  86. White Hands
  87. White Hats Organization for Sustainable Development
  88. Woman Support Association
  89. World Vision International
  90. Yol Rehberi İnsan Hakları Dernegi
-