



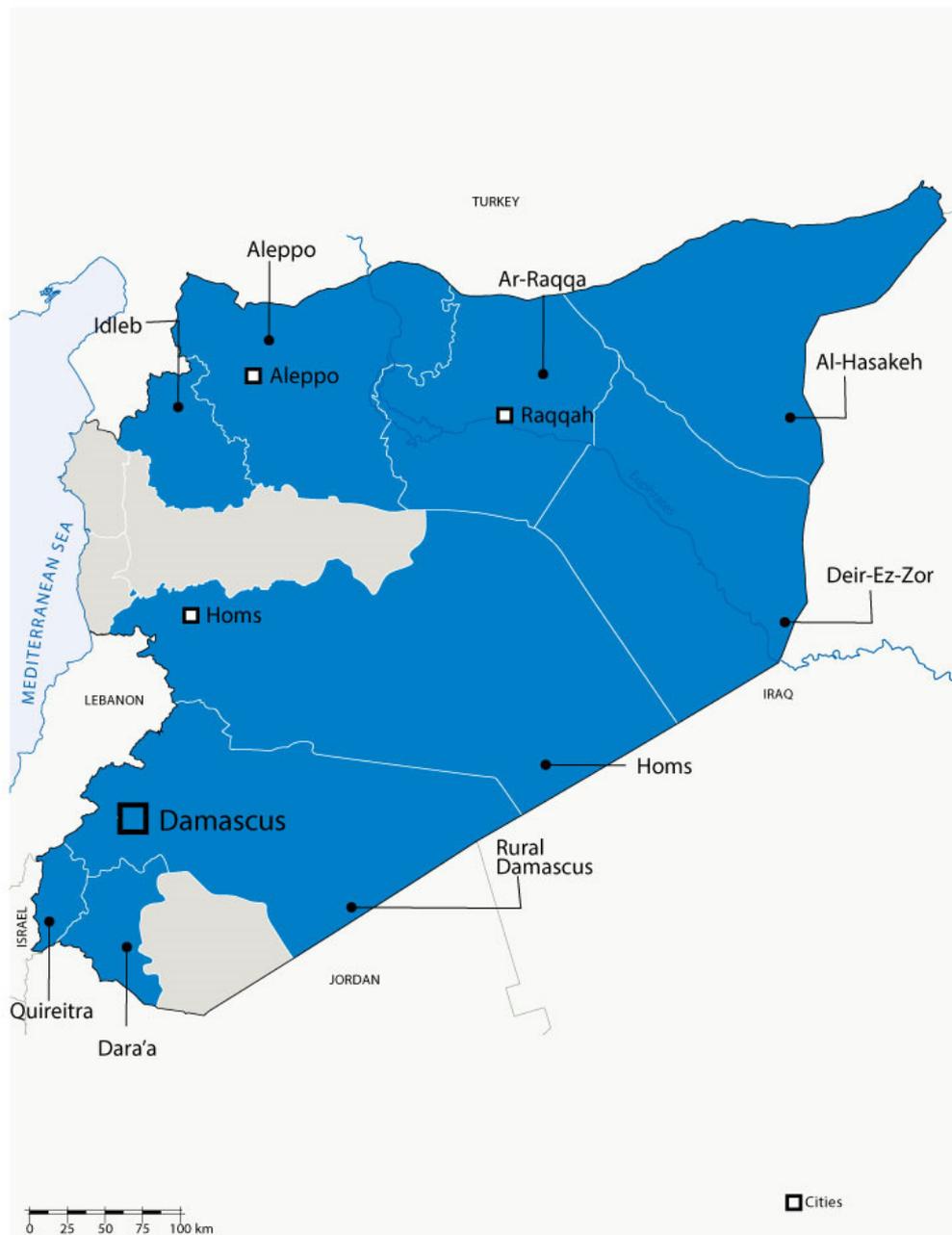
Country sheet
Syria 2024



HI's team and intervention areas

HI has 333 staff members in Syria.

Syrian Arab Republic



General country data

a. HI internal classifications of the country context

Level of violence	Operations Director Focus	Health Focus	Positioning Focus	Emergency Focus
	Focus No-go areas: North West Syria (Idlib/Aleppo gov.), and other GoS-controlled areas (Homs, Dera'a, Hamas, Aleppo Town...)	Yes	Yes	Yes

b. General data

Country	Syria	Neighbouring country (Jordan)	Neighbouring country (Lebanon)	France
Population	23227014	11 337 052	5 353 930	68170228
IHDI	0.567 (HDI) ¹	0,615	0.58 (HDI)	0.82
Gender-related Development Index	0.825	58,5	57,1	10,1
Maternal mortality	30 ²	41	21	8
GINI Index	26,6	33.7	31.8	31.5
Population within UNHCR mandate	7 448 826	698 919	817 857	762 378
INFORM index	7. ³	3,7	5.5	2.9
Fragile State Index	108.1.	74.3	92,7	28,3
Public social protection	1.9	22,6	13,9	100
Net official development assistance received (M USD)	277,4 ⁸	1 985,7	1 426,1	N/A

c. Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

Humanitarian law instruments	Status
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¹ <https://hdr.undp.org/inequality-adjusted-human-development-index#/indicities/IHDI>

² <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.STA.MMRT?locations=SY> (latest updates from 2017)

³ <https://drmhc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/INFORM-Risk/Country-Risk-Profile>

Mine Ban Treaty	Not signed
Convention on Cluster Munitions	Not signed
UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Ratified in 2009

d. Geopolitical analysis

The Arab Spring demonstrations in Syria in March 2011 triggered a complex military conflict that has caused a huge number of casualties, vast country-wide destruction and one of the largest humanitarian crises of our time.

Four main actors currently control different parts of the country, with the Government of Syria (GoS) controlling the majority of the country, including the centre and the Mediterranean coast. Several Opposition Armed Groups (OAGs), alongside the Turkish Armed Forces (TAF), control northern Aleppo governorate. The Salvation Government, supported by Ankara and backed up by HTS and other armed groups, controls Idleb governorate, while the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), supported by the international Coalition Forces (CF), control most parts of the North Eastern governorates of Hasakeh, Al-Raqqa and Deir Ez-Zour. The Islamist State Group (ISIS) lost control of the last of its territory in Syria during the first quarter of 2019 and has since been in insurgency mode, relying on sleeper cells and local support in NES.

Regional and international state actors also play a key role in shaping the Syrian context. The Government of Russia (GoR) and Iran-backed armed factions (Hezbollah and Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps) support the GoS; the Coalition Forces support the SDF, while Turkey provides support to the OAGs in northern Aleppo and Raqqa.

The inability of the UN Security Council and the international community to find a consensus on a political system for Syria has resulted in the failure of several attempts to negotiate a political compromise and bring the conflict to an end. This has encouraged the various actors to resort to the use of military action rather than political discussion to resolve their differences. There are no signs of this political consensus being reached any time soon, despite the renewed normalisation by Arab states of relations with Damascus.

In summer 2022, a battle between GoS/GoR and HTS in southern Idleb triggered the massive displacement of around a million civilians to the Syrian/Turkish borders. Many civilian infrastructures, including schools and hospitals, were damaged. The Islamist State group continues to orchestrate insurgency attacks against SDF in the north east of the country and against GoS around Homs, Deir Ezzor and Raqqa. Other anti-GoS incidents have been recorded in Daraa and Sweidah governorates, mostly motivated by the socio-economic crisis and GoS misgovernance. In addition, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) continues to launch regular attacks against Iranian and Hezbollah targets in Syria.

US sanctions on Iran and Syria have created major economic challenges for the GoS in the areas under its control. These challenges have caused price increases, electricity and fuel shortages and a major drop in the value of the Syrian pound. This situation will no doubt



lead to more demonstrations, strengthen alternative income mechanisms such as drug trafficking and smuggling and trigger more asymmetric attacks against GoS and its allies, as seen recently in the South.

The future of Syria depends on the decisions, agreements and compromises that international and regional actors are willing to make. Trilateral discussions between the Russian, Iranian and Turkish presidents would seem to have led nowhere, as the three countries have moved on to proxy wars through the GoS and the OAGs based in North Syria. Furthermore, Ankara, Damascus and Teheran are using proxies to extend their influence and fight in other conflicts. This jeopardizes any political or peace agreements, thereby ensuring the continuation of the Syrian crisis.

With the beginning of the war in Ukraine, Russia withdrew most of its experienced soldiers and military supplies. However, Moscow will maintain roots in Syria given the country's geo-strategy in order to pressure US and NATO allies.

The US and its allies, on the other hand, seem to be prioritising stabilization in NES by seeking a political transition, mostly dominated by Kurds. Their presence in Syria remains fragile and limited to counter-terrorism operations in the field. On the international scene, US has made way for Ankara to launch a military offensive in NES.

The crisis has exacerbated conflicts and divides between ethnic and confessional groups such as Sunni, Shia, Druze, Christian and Kurds and between political groups (supporters of the government vs supporters of the opposition groups). Restoring trust and social cohesion will be an extremely daunting challenge. Protracted social divisions will provide breeding ground for future forms of armed opposition and/or insurgency and will contribute to future instability.

All areas in Syria were affected by COVID-19 pandemic. The authorities in NES, NW and GoS, who were facing difficulties ensuring medical capacities following years of war, had to manage the crisis with limited trans-border access due to the UN Security Council Resolution and international sanctions.

In this environment, any humanitarian action encounters interconnected issues that undermine humanitarian principles and hinder the delivery of assistance: increased politicization and instrumentalization of aid by all actors – including donors; access and security issues; counter terrorism measures and limitations; violations of IHL, especially the protection of civilians, etc. Furthermore, the complexity of the political, confessional, economic and military situation leads to complex operational strategies, with different implementation modalities for different parts of Syria.



Summary of HI's presence in the country

HI has been operating in Syria since 2012 through cross-border modalities out of neighbouring countries.

Northwest Syria: HI launched its intervention out of Turkey in November 2012, opening a field base in northern Idlib governorate. We opened a second field base in northern Aleppo governorate in April 2015. Both of these bases were still active in 2023 through the remote management of HI local staff and partnerships with local actors. We opened a third field base in eastern Aleppo governorate (Kobane) in May 2015, with direct management of HI international and local staff, but this base was closed in March 2016 due to loss of cross-border access.

Central Syria: HI launched its intervention out of Lebanon in March 2013 through remote management of partnerships with local actors. Several HI partners closed their programmes in former opposition-controlled areas of rural Damascus and rural Homs during the 1st half of 2018, due to their takeover by the GoS. In 2022, three HI partners were still active in Damascus city, Homs city, Aleppo city and Dar'a governorate. The Centre hub is now referred to as Beirut office.

North-East Syria: HI launched its intervention out of Iraq in December 2016 through direct management of HI international and national staff. Currently, we are operating in the governorates of Hasakeh, Raqqa and Deir ez-Zor, implementing projects in Health, Humanitarian Mine Action, and Inclusion. We use a combined approach of direct implementation and strategic partnership through local organisations.

Since 2012, HI has progressively expanded its humanitarian access and operational capacity in Syria. The merger of the North, Centre and South programmes (previously two separate missions) into a single, integrated Syria programme in July 2016 enabled the pooling of resources and expertise and the definition of a unified, coherent intervention strategy and methodology for the whole country. HI has gradually built a strong position within the humanitarian community through active participation in coordination mechanisms and major consortium, gaining recognition for its expertise and commitment among the humanitarian community. Since its creation, the Syria programme has become very large and complex, with four sectors of activity in four different areas of Syria. The mission team had developed specific tools and methods to coordinate the work of the different teams, based in different countries. In 2020, the Syria programme initiated a major transition phase, driven by the implementation of the ROOTS transformation initiative and a progressive yet substantial reduction in donor funding in response to Syria crisis. This still ongoing transition, in the context of the Syrian population's critical need for aid, has required HI to continuously adapt its geographic and programmatic focus. As we move forward, our ability to evolve and strategically align our resources remains critical to addressing the evolving needs of the Syrian population.





Overview of ongoing projects

Sectors where HI conducts projects with a focus on beneficiaries and operational partnerships

Project title and main sector(s) of intervention	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Location	Project start and end dates	Partners	Donors funding the project
Inclusive emergency humanitarian response to the critical health and protection needs of the most vulnerable conflict-affected population in Syria – 2022-2024	Implementation of an inclusive emergency humanitarian response to critical health and protection needs in conflict affected areas with a focus on most vulnerable groups and via HI's inclusive Disability, Gender and Age (DGA) approach. Activities: 1. Rehabilitation Services 2. Community-based PSS (CBPSS) 3. Inclusion Services	17 889 direct beneficiaries	Ar-Raqqa, Deir-Ez-Zor, Rural Damascus, and Homs Governorates.	2022-04-14 to 2024-03-31	Local Partners Al Mukhales within Jesuit Fathers Congrégation des Sœurs des Saints-Cœurs de Jésus et de Marie Ar-Raqqa National Hospital Kasra Hospital Busaira Hospital Sawsan	Global Affairs Canada



<p>From Guidelines to Action: Promoting learning, localisation and adaptation of the IASC Guidelines on the inclusion of people with disabilities (IASC GL) in humanitarian action for disability-inclusive coordination, data collection and programming.</p>	<p>1. Fostering an enhanced understanding of the availability, scope, success factors and challenges of in-country disability inclusive coordination mechanisms with respect to IASC GL guidelines on enhancing inclusive coordination 2. Providing access to enhanced global tool sets based on existing practices to enhance disability (and age) inclusive data collection and programming on food security and protection 3. Improving the confidence, knowledge and skills of Key Food Security and Protection actors in Syria for adapting their organisational data and programming tools to become inclusive of disability data from an intersectional perspective</p>	<p>209 190 direct beneficiaries</p>	<p>Hassakeh, Al-Raqqa, and Deir-Ez-Zor Governorates</p>	<p>2022-04-04 to 2024-03-04</p>	<p>No operational partners under this project</p>	<p>European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) Center for Disaster Philanthropy (CDP)</p>
<p>Improving resilience and increasing human security and protection through Humanitarian Mine Action in Northeast Syria</p>	<p>Contributing to saving lives and increasing protection for at risk populations in conflict-affected parts of Syria. Activities: Clearance EORE Health</p>	<p>30 739 direct beneficiaries</p>	<p>Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor Governorates</p>	<p>2022-07-01 to 2024-06-30</p>	<p>Local Partners Raqqa National Hospital Tabqa National Hospital Kasra National Hospital Busayra National Hospital Hajin National Hospital</p>	<p>German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO)</p>



Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme 2020-2024	<p>Facilitating access to multi-disciplinary rehabilitation services, including physical rehabilitation, psychosocial support (PSS) and Prosthetic & Orthotic (PO) services for people with functional limitations.</p> <p>Activities: EO clearance EORE Support to victims and their families: Capacity strengthening of local/national actors</p>	1 280 direct beneficiaries	Hassakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, and Idlib Governorates	2020-09-01 to 2024-08-31	Local Partners Health for All Tabqa National Hospital	Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (BUZA)
Provision of life-saving health services in Northeast Syria, with a focus on the most vulnerable groups and environmental health	<p>Providing live-saving and specialised health assistance to targeted populations in Northeast Syria, with a focus on the most vulnerable groups</p> <p>Improving sanitation and hygiene in target health care facilities through the provision of comprehensive and safe WASH monitoring and health waste management services, in order to minimise the environmental risks and promote a do no harm approach</p>	84,831 direct beneficiaries	Hassakeh, Ar-Raqqa, and Deir-ez-Zor Governorates	2023-01-01 to 2023-12-31	Consortium UPP-KRC-HI Consortium: Un Ponte Per (lead) and Kurdish Red Crescent	Centre de Crise et de Soutien



<p>Life-saving and life-sustaining inclusive humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable people in the North West of Syria, with an emphasis on people with injuries and people with disabilities</p>	<p>Provision of: Health System Support Basic Primary Health support Psychosocial Support Services Support to humanitarian actors in improving the inclusiveness of their response EORE component</p>	<p>83 628 direct beneficiaries</p>	<p>Idleb and Aleppo Governorates</p>	<p>2022-01-10 to 2024-09-30</p>	<p>Local Partners Aqrabat Hospital Idleb Specialistic Surgical Hospital Al Rahmeh center and hospital Maraat Misreen Hospital Salqeen Hospital Happy Steps Al Kinanh Hospital Bab Al Hawa Hospital Al-Amal Specialized Hospital Al-Hidaya Hospital Harem General Hospital Shmarin Specialized Hospital Azaz National Hospital</p>	<p>Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance</p>
<p>Emergency protective and resilient response to specific needs of conflict-affected populations inside Syria</p>	<p>Increasing resilience for affected populations at community level and improving access to victim assistance services for people with functional limitations and their caregivers. Activities: Risk Education Multi-disciplinary rehabilitation services Inclusion Community based PSS</p>	<p>72 250 direct beneficiaries</p>	<p>Idleb, Aleppo, and Ar-Raqqa Governorates</p>	<p>2022-10-01 to 2024-05-30</p>	<p>Local Partners Happy Steps Idleb Specialised Surgical Hospital Aqrabat Hospital</p>	<p>Swiss Development Cooperation</p>



<p>Humanitarian Mine Action Response in Northeast Syria</p>	<p>Providing a comprehensive and integrated HMA response to conflict affected communities in Northeast of Syria Activities: EO clearance EO RE Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) Risk Education Capacity building support</p>	<p>HI is counting the communities targeted, rather than direct beneficiaries</p>	<p>Raqqa Governorate</p>	<p>2023-01-01 to 2022-12-31</p>	<p>FPI Consortium Consortium: iMMAP (lead), DanChurchAid, ITF Enhancing Human Security, MAG</p>	<p>European Commission</p>
<p>Earthquake emergency response in Northwest Syria</p>	<p>Activities: - Multi-disciplinary rehabilitation services with an emphasis on people injured after the earthquake (fractures, crush syndrome, etc.) - Case management of people with disabilities to access essential humanitarian services - MHPSS: Psychoeducation and recreational activities - Explosive Ordnance Risk Education</p>	<p>The number of beneficiaries shall be reported at the end of the project</p>	<p>Idleb and North Aleppo Governorates</p>	<p>2023-02-11 to 2025-02-10</p>	<p>Local Partners Happy Steps Idleb Specialised Surgical Hospital Aqrabat Hospital</p>	<p>Ensemble Pour Sauver Plus De Vies – Consortium 1212</p>
<p>Integrated and inclusive life-saving response to the critical protection needs of the most vulnerable groups for conflict affected populations in Northwest of Syria.</p>	<p>The project aims to provide an inclusive lifesaving emergency response to the health critical needs of the affected population and improve the protection of the target population through community-based and individually targeted protection intervention.</p>	<p>3760 beneficiaries</p>	<p>Idleb and North Aleppo Governorates</p>	<p>2023-01-10 to 2023-09-30</p>	<p>No partners</p>	<p>Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF)</p>



Inclusive humanitarian response to improve access to multi-disciplinary rehabilitation and CB-MHPSS services for the earthquake and conflict-affected population in Aleppo and Idlib, Syria	To improve the functional and psychosocial well-being of earthquake and conflict-affected people with injuries, people with disabilities and their caregivers in Aleppo and Idlib governorates, through the provision of inclusive multi-disciplinary rehabilitation and community-based psycho-social support CB-MHPSS services.	7,961 beneficiaries	Aleppo Governorate, (Government of Syria area) Idlib Governorate, (North West Syria area)	2023-07-10 to 2024-07-09	La Congrégation des Sœurs des Saints-Cœurs de Jésus et de Marie (SSCC) Health For All (HFA) in Idlib	Centre de Crise et de Soutien
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Donors

Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance - BHA



Syria Resilience Consortium Multi-Donor Fund (MDF)



SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION AGENCY



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF DENMARK
Danida



Norwegian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency – SIDA



SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION AGENCY

Centre de crise et de soutien



Global Affairs Canada – GAC



Global Affairs
Canada
Affaires mondiales
Canada

German Federal Foreign Office - GFFO



Federal Republic of Germany
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LE GOUVERNEMENT
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Ministère des Affaires étrangères
et européennes

Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs BuZa



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands



Swiss Development Cooperation – SDC



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**Swiss Agency for Development
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**United Nations Office for the Coordination of
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OCHA
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of Humanitarian Affairs

Consortium 12-12



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