



# Continuation of humanitarian aid to northwestern Syria - Syrian NGO Alliance

3 million people are food insecure in northern Syria! While various threats about the cross-border decision to UN aid continue, the lives of hundreds of thousands of displaced people are at risk.

UN aid's access must continue to reach those in need safely and urgently.

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## SNA Advocacy Campaign for the Continuation of UN Cross-Border Humanitarian Aid into Northwest of Syria

### Statement on the Continuation of UN-Led Cross-Border Humanitarian Assistance in Northwest Syria

On January 10th, 2023, the authorization provided by UN Security Council resolution 2642 that allows the UN and its agencies, through the current legal basis, to conduct essential humanitarian cross-border aid operations through the Bab Al-Hawa cross point will expire. This leaves more than 4.6 million Syrians living in Northwest Syria at risk of losing lifesaving aid.

The population in Northwest Syria has reached 4.6 million people, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance has increased from 3.4 million in 2021 to 4.1 million in 2022, and nearly 80 percent of whom are women and children. 2.9 million people residing in Northwest Syria are internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the majority of the population is food insecure with 3.3 million struggling to meet their basic needs as prices of food items continue to increase following the conflict in Ukraine.

The upcoming vote in January takes place during the merciless winter months in Syria, affecting more than 1.8 million IDPs living in camps or informal settlements where the majority of whom live with limited or no access to heating, electricity, or clean water, and are reliant on UN cross border humanitarian aid to reduce suffering during the winter season.

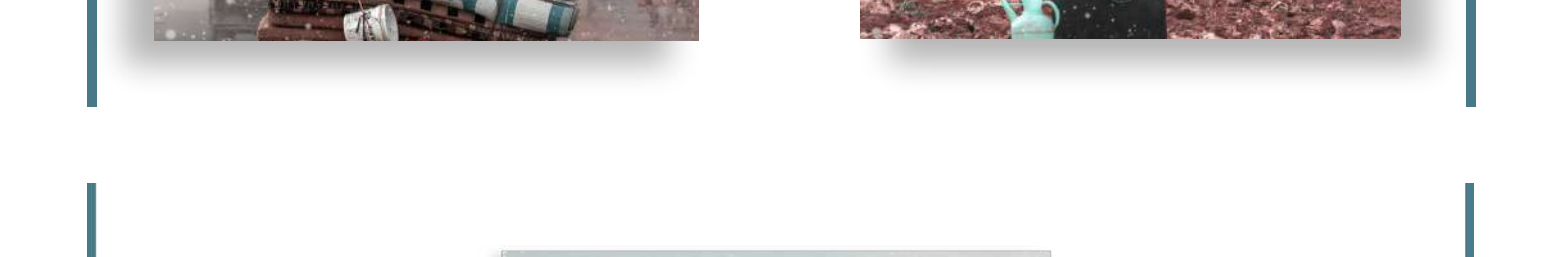
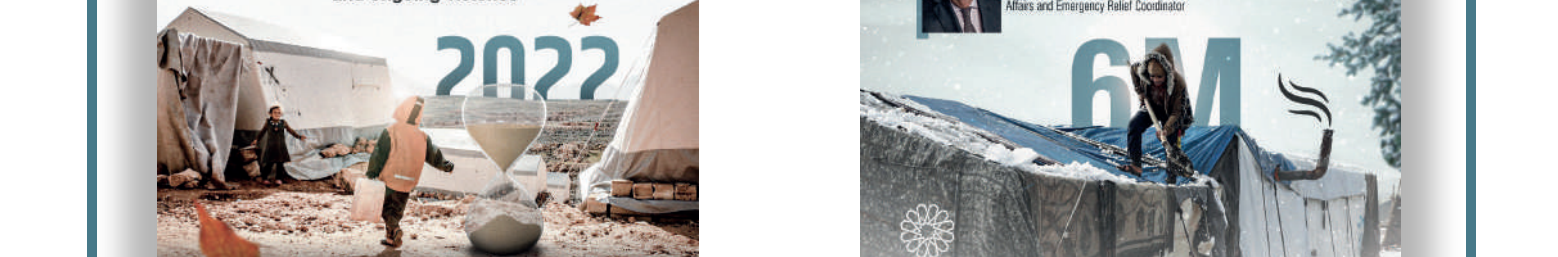
In addition to the already fragile humanitarian situation, Northwest Syria is also experiencing:

- A cholera outbreak, where reported numbers have shown more than 17 deaths out of more than 540 reported positive cholera cases (however, there are about 30,000 suspected cases).
- Alarming suicide rates in which 83 suicide cases in Northwest Syria were reported between early 2021 to mid-2022.
- Ongoing hostilities in the de-escalated area, where residents who have been constantly forced to flee their homes multiple times in the past years, are now again living under threat amid increased tensions thus jeopardizing their safety and security.

A failure to renew UNSC resolution 2642 will directly and negatively impact the lives and livelihoods of those residing in Northwest Syria. Discontinuing the delivery of aid, coordination, and operating services will leave the already fragile situation in a state of catastrophe, abandoning millions to deal with massive gaps with no access to medical facilities, protection centers, educational spaces, food, water, and shelter.

Syrian NGO Alliance (SNA), the American Relief Coalition for Syria (ARCS), Syrian Networks League (SNL) and the White Helmets, urges the UN Security Council members, through the current legal basis, to continue its authorization for UN-led cross-border humanitarian assistance and coordination in Northwest Syria for a minimum of 12 months with no further changes in the resolution language that would lead to restrictive interpretation of the humanitarian life-saving activities and access. In addition, after 8 years of annual negotiations and politicization of humanitarian aid in Syria, we urge UNSC members to support the consideration of alternative legal bases that allow for the UN and UN agencies to continue providing all activities pertaining to cross-border humanitarian response, including procurement, funding, and coordination, into Northwest Syria regardless of the consensus method in line with the humanitarian needs in Syria. A continuation of humanitarian aid provided by the UN and UN agencies is essential to prevent the deepening of the humanitarian crisis and to mitigate the risks to millions of vulnerable Syrians awaiting the UN Security Council actions.

January 5, 2023

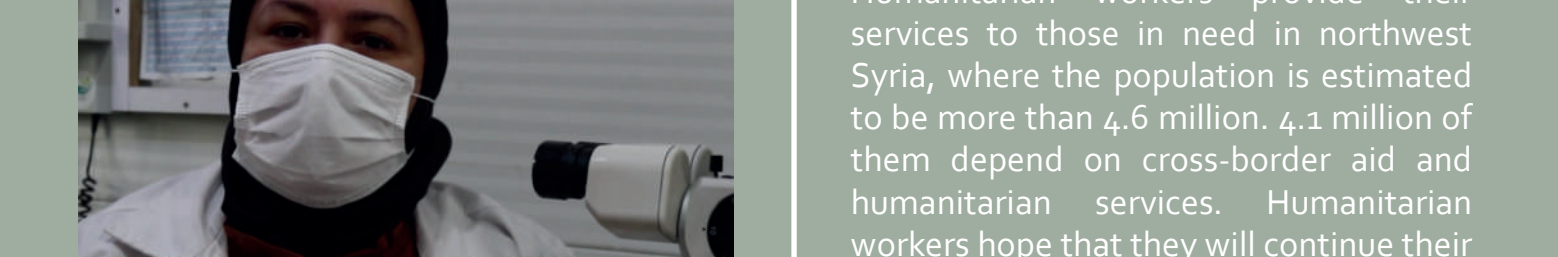


## Syrian NGO Alliance (SNA) Members Key Achievements.

### AI-Sham Humanitarian Foundation

Humanitarian workers provide their services to those in need in northwest Syria, where the population is estimated to be more than 4.6 million. 4.1 million of them depend on cross-border aid and humanitarian services. Humanitarian workers hope that they will continue their work in providing medical care to the people in the region. The cessation of cross-border aid delivery will expose those in need of these services to a great risk that they may lose their lives.

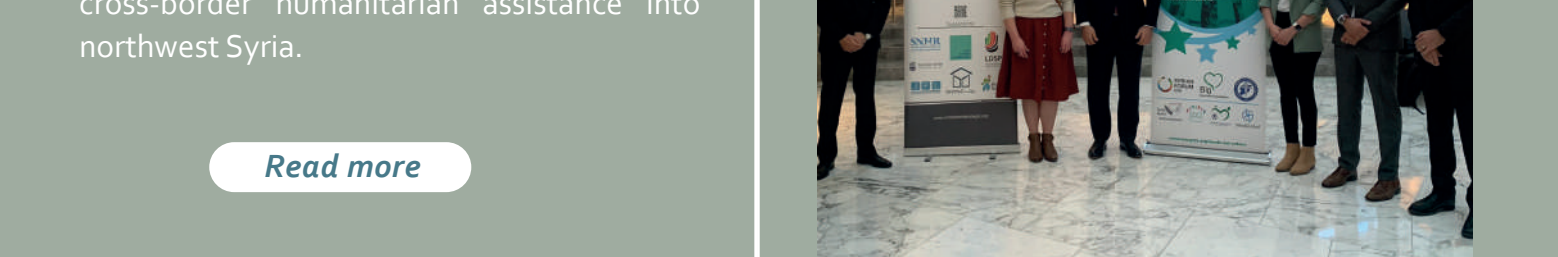
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### Big Heart Foundation

Big Heart, as a very active member of ARCS and SNA, lead and participated in a high level legal research and analysis, as a result of the continuous restriction and limitations of the cross-border humanitarian assistance into northwest Syria.

[Read more](#)



### Hand in Hand for Aid and Development

On the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 4 million people are raising their voice to demand their most basic rights and have life-saving aid reach them without conditions.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights stresses in its document that "recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world."

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### Ihsan Relief and Development

A single nightmare is haunting millions of Syrians every night. They're haunted by an impending humanitarian crisis if the only border crossing used to deliver humanitarian aid to Syria through the UN mechanism is vetoed by Russia and China. The spread of famine, disease, lack of clean water and worsening economic conditions are all real fears facing Syrians who depend on the international humanitarian aid. The nightmare could become a reality in a matter of days.

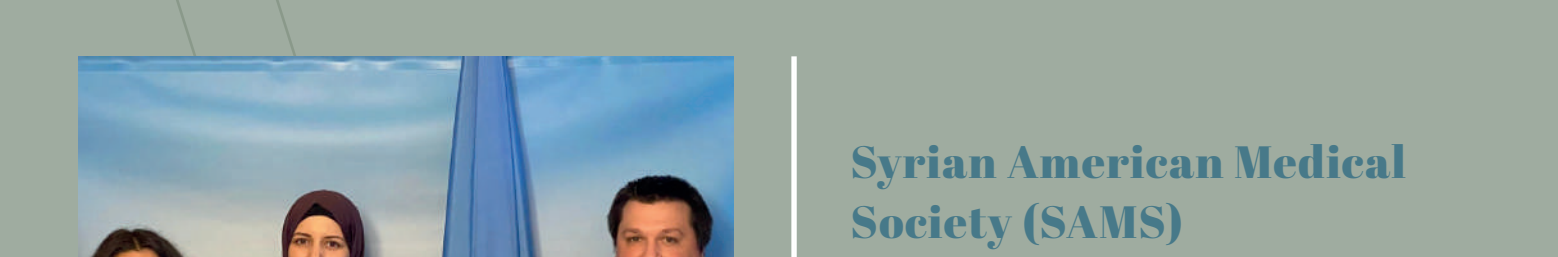
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### Önder for Cooperation and Development

Young Pioneers Project  
The project includes several activities and seminars about: (education, protection, and early recovery) The project aims to educate young people and highlight their role in society, by introducing them to the concept of management, entrepreneurship, culture, and renaissance.

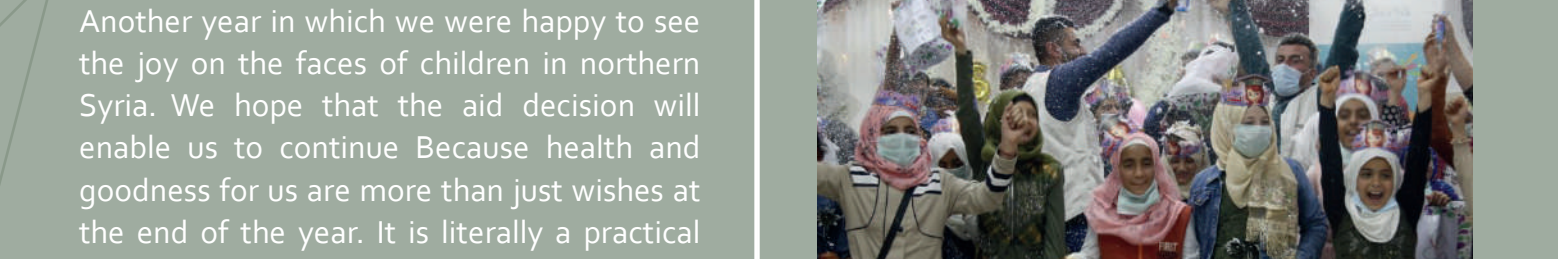
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### Shafak Organization

Difficult humanitarian situation that Al Ain is used to seeing in most of the camps in northwestern Syria. Exceptional conditions and a bitter reality are experienced by thousands in light of the lack of job opportunities and the inability to secure the necessities of life.

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### Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS)

Great to meet colleagues #UN #Human #Rights #MENA to discuss the ongoing challenges in #Syria for #vulnerable populations. We will continue to work together on improving understanding and access for all Syrian populations in-country and around the region.

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### Syrian Expatriate Medical Association (SEMA)

Another year in which we were happy to see the joy on the faces of children in northern Syria. We hope that the aid decision will enable us to continue Because health and goodness for us are more than just wishes at the end of the year. It is literally a practical platform every day. In particular, we were able to make health and goodness real values for the refugees, the displaced and all the sick in north and northwest Syria.

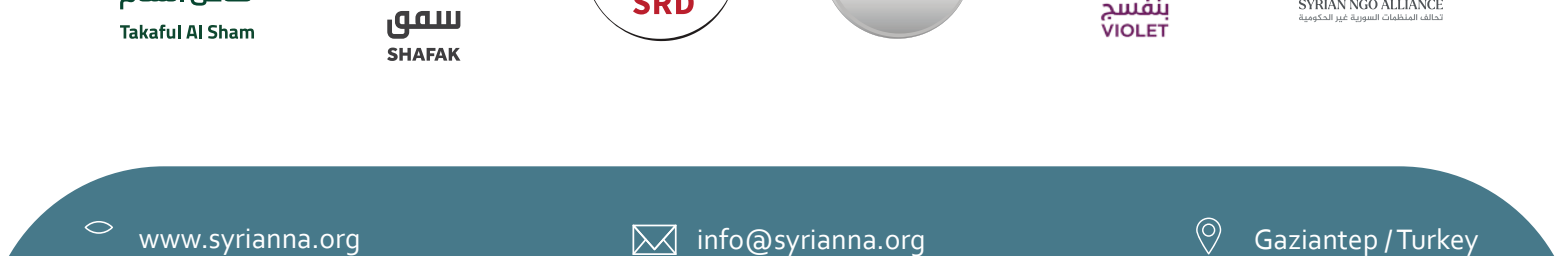
[Watch video](#)



### Takaful Al Sham Charity Organization (TAS)

Thousands of children and women will continue to face harsh weather conditions without any heating materials when the humanitarian crossings are closed. This will endanger their lives

[Watch video](#)



## Syrian NGO Alliance (SNA) Advocacy Activities:

In terms of coordination activities and efforts, SNA participates and attends several periodic and scheduled meetings, including HLG, ICCG, SSG, InterAction, NGO Forum GA meeting, PAWG meeting of SIRF, following up on updated contexts that support the mandate of the SNA, providing updates on the context, joint planning, Emergency Planning, contingency planning in case of non-renewal of UNSCR, the approaching winter, the main gaps, and challenges as well as the outbreak of cholera.

SNA attended donors' meeting in Istanbul where donors were briefed on NGOs key messages that resulted from the High-Level Meeting held on October 13, 2022 in Istanbul, regarding coordination, access, and funding in case of non-renewal of UNSCR.

