

Statement on the Continuation of UN-Led Cross-Border Humanitarian Assistance

in Northwest Syria

On July 10th, 2023, the authorization provided by the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2672 that allows the UN and its agencies to conduct essential humanitarian cross-border aid operations through Bab Al-Hawa (BAH) cross point will expire. This leaves more than 4.1 million people in need living in Northwest Syria at risk of losing life-saving aid.

While the majority in need of humanitarian assistance in NWS are women and children, this population is almost entirely reachable only through cross-border lifesaving assistance which supports 3.3 million food insecure people and 2.9 million IDPs, of which 1.9 million are living in camps or informal settlements.

The protracted humanitarian crisis has exceeded 12 years, marked by violence to civilians, epidemics, economic crisis, and the recent earthquake, which left thousands of homes destroyed, thousands of lives lost, even more injured leading to ever-worsening conditions in NWS.

While cross-border modality is led and coordinated by UN agencies, **the importance of the renewal is critical and not only limited to transferring humanitarian assistance.** The importance of this resolution also lies in other UN-funded programs delivered through the cross-border mechanism, including Syria Cross-Border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF) managed by OCHA, which guarantees funds to both INGOs and NNGOs for the **implementation of programs across different sectors with various critical interventions**, including supporting to health facilities, Education, WASH provision, Food Security, Protection, Shelter, Livelihoods and CCCM, etc.

The upcoming vote will ensure the continuity of these critical interventions by the UN directly or through INGO and NNGO Partners. **A failure to renew UNSCR 2672 will have a catastrophic impact on the lives of millions of people in need in Northwest Syria and these vital programs will be severely impacted.**

Therefore, **the NWS NGO Forum and the Syrian NGO Alliance** urge the UNSC members to continue its authorization for the UN-led cross border humanitarian assistance and coordination for a minimum of 12 months, and this renewal should be based on the scale of essential needs toward the affected population in NW of Syria.

NWS NGO Forum & Syrian NGO Alliance

