

**Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale**

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# Security Council

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

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

#### **I. Introduction**

1. The present report is the seventy-third 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) and paragraph 3 of resolution 2533 (2020), in the last three 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 April and May 2021.

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

##### **Key points**

1. The available information continued to indicate a high degree of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) transmission in the Syrian Arab Republic, far exceeding the officially recorded infection rates. On 21 and 22 April, the first COVID-19 vaccines arrived in the country through the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility, and distribution began in May.
2. The economy continued to deteriorate. On 15 April, the Central Bank of Syria officially devalued the Syrian pound for the first time since July 2020, from 1,256 to 2,512 Syrian pounds against the United States dollar.



The food security situation in the Syrian Arab Republic remains critical. Despite some recent improvement, the indicators for April remained far below the levels observed one year earlier.

3. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) verified 186 incidents, in which at least 150 civilians, including 15 women and 36 children, were killed and at least 154 civilians, including 17 women and 57 children, were injured as a result of hostilities across the Syrian Arab Republic.

4. Reduced water levels in the Euphrates reached a critical point during the reporting period, prompting the partial closure of the Tishrin Dam and electricity blackouts across the north-east of the country. Some 5.4 million people in the Syrian Arab Republic rely on the Euphrates and its tributaries for drinking water. In addition, some 3 million people in the north-east rely on electricity from the Tishrin and Tabaqah Dams, which provide critical irrigation for crops. Hospitals and other vital infrastructure also depend on electricity generated by the dams.

5. At Hawl camp in the north-east, the security situation continued to deteriorate. At least six murders and four attempted murders have been reported since the security operation in March and April. In late May, the de facto authorities in the north-east introduced to humanitarian partners tentative plans for a reorganization of the camp.

6. On 20 April, clashes erupted in Qamishli city between pro-government forces and the local security forces. An estimated 15,000 to 20,000 individuals were displaced during the ensuing five days of fighting. Fourteen civilians were killed, including three children.

### **Humanitarian update**

3. The overall level of violence in the Idlib de-escalation area remained relatively low, albeit with daily mutual artillery shelling and clashes between pro-government forces and non-State armed groups. Most of those incidents were concentrated on both sides of the front lines near the M4 and M5 highways. An increase in shelling was recorded in late April and early May, following a reported raid by Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham, which has been designated a terrorist group by the Security Council, on a position held by government forces. Aerial bombardments took place in rural Idlib and Hama, including on alleged locations of groups designated as terrorist groups by the Security Council. Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham continued its security campaign against rival groups. Daily shelling, renewed air strikes, infighting between non-State armed groups and the prevalence of explosive hazards in residential areas and public spaces continued to endanger civilians.

4. In northern Aleppo Governorate, low-level mutual shelling and occasional skirmishes between non-State armed opposition groups and pro-government forces continued across front lines near Bab. Mutual shelling and skirmishes intensified along contact lines in Afrin, I'zaz and Tall Rif'at in Aleppo Governorate, with reports of civilian casualties. Shortages of potable and agricultural water continued to be reported in Bab city and the surrounding areas, affecting some 185,000 people. The United Nations continued to advocate for a resumption of water supply to Bab from the Ayn al-Bayda station.

5. Multiple parties suffered attacks by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) cells. Reports indicate that there were dozens of casualties in areas across eastern rural Homs, Hama, Raqqah and Dayr al-Zawr Governorates. ISIL elements reportedly

kidnapped a large number of civilians and military personnel from rural Hama. Government and pro-government forces carried out counter-ISIL operations west of the Euphrates and, separately, the Syrian Democratic Forces continued their counter-ISIL operations east of the Euphrates. Throughout the reporting period, intensive air strikes were carried out on alleged ISIL targets west of the Euphrates and in the Syrian desert. Targeted assassinations and attacks by unknown perpetrators against local tribal leaders and notables continued to be reported, including in Dayr al-Zawr.

6. The situation in the south-west of the Syrian Arab Republic remained tense, with ongoing attacks and assassinations against civilians, government forces and fighters reconciled from former armed opposition groups. All actors maintained a heightened security posture, with tensions increasing across Dar'a Governorate. In Suwayda' Governorate, kidnappings and armed disputes flared up, only some of which were resolved by local leaders. In Umm Batinah, in Qunaytirah Governorate, following an agreement, 140 individuals from 35 families of local dignitaries and former members of non-State armed opposition groups were transferred to non-government-controlled areas in the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic. The group included women, children and elderly persons. Initially, the convoy was not allowed to enter Bab city and remained stranded at the Abu al-Zandayn crossing point for two days, reportedly pending coordination between relevant parties. On 22 May, access was granted and the convoy was authorized to pass through I'zaz and Afrin districts to reach Idlib Governorate, where the people were accommodated in a newly constructed camp.

7. The available information continued to indicate a high degree of COVID-19 transmission in the Syrian Arab Republic during the reporting period, far exceeding the officially announced infection rates. At the end of May, 24,495 cases, including 1,770 deaths, had been reported by the Ministry of Health. Another 23,541 cases, including 670 deaths, have been reported in areas outside of government control in the north-west since the onset of the pandemic. In addition, 17,857 cases, including 729 deaths, were reported in areas outside of government control in the north-east. The first COVID-19 vaccines received through the COVAX Facility arrived in the country on 21 and 22 April, comprising 256,800 doses. Of those, 53,800 doses were delivered through the United Nations cross-border operation to the north-west of the country, with distribution beginning on 1 May. Of the 203,000 doses sent to Damascus, 17,500 were sent to the north-east (13,320 for Hasakah Governorate and 4,180 for Dayr al-Zawr Governorate). Distribution of those doses began on 17 May. Vaccines distributed through the COVAX Facility are expected to cover only 20 per cent of the total population of the country. Some Member States have also reportedly provided additional vaccines to the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic.

8. The economic crisis continued to affect civilians across the country. On 15 April, the Central Bank of Syria officially devalued the Syrian pound from a rate of 1,256 to 2,512 Syrian pounds against the United States dollar. That was the first devaluation of the national currency since July 2020 and the third devaluation since November 2019. The value of the currency on the informal market stabilized at around 3,000 Syrian pounds against the United States dollar in April, after dipping to a record low of 4,700 against the United States dollar in mid-March. While food security indicators showed some month-on-month improvement between March and April, the overall situation in the Syrian Arab Republic remains critical. Surveys suggest that inadequate food consumption (poor and borderline consumption combined) remained nearly 50 per cent higher than in April 2020. More than two in five households report not having sufficient, or sufficiently nutritious, food. Nearly half of Syrian families surveyed (48 per cent) in April reported that adults ate less so that children could eat – an increase of one third since April 2020.

9. The fuel shortage also worsened across the Syrian Arab Republic. On 16 April, the Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection increased the price of

95-octane petrol from 2,000 Syrian pounds to 2,500 Syrian pounds per litre. That was the second increase in official fuel prices within one month. The price increase and continued shortages had consequences across the country, including for activities critical to agriculture, such as irrigation, underground water extraction and transportation. If diesel shortages persist, expected harvest operations in May and June 2021 will be negatively affected. Fuel shortages have also had an impact on humanitarian operations, with monitoring missions unable to deploy without the necessary fuel.

10. In the north-east of the country, water levels in the Euphrates reached a critical point during the reporting period. Water has reportedly been flowing at reduced levels since January 2021. On 20 May, the de facto authorities in the north-east reported that the Tishrin Dam was taking in only around 180 m<sup>3</sup> of water per second, well below the 500 m<sup>3</sup> required to keep the dam operational. The low water flow prompted the partial closure of the dam; only two of the six hydroelectric turbines were operational, which caused electricity blackouts across the north-east of the country. Water from the Tabaqah Dam was used as an emergency backup. By the end of May, however, water levels at that dam were 80 per cent depleted. Engineers warned of an imminent shutdown of the dam if water levels did not increase. Some 5.4 million people rely on the Euphrates and its tributaries for drinking water. About 200 water stations draw on electricity from the Tishrin and Tabaqah Dams to pump, treat and deliver water. Some 3 million people in the north-east, as well as hospitals and other vital infrastructure, rely on electricity from the dams.

11. Low water levels have further reduced anticipated agricultural output. Below-average rainfall in the north-east, which produces around 60 per cent of the country's wheat and barley, has already resulted in significant crop failures for rain-fed wheat and barley fields. The remaining wheat production in those areas is reliant on irrigation from the Euphrates. Drought conditions have a disproportionate impact on women and girls: some 70 per cent of people working in farming are women, of whom around 25 per cent are heads of their households. Insufficient water for irrigation jeopardizes their crops and, in turn, their income, putting vulnerable families at risk of sliding further into poverty. Women and girls can also be exposed to different risks, including gender-based violence and poor health conditions due to a shortage of clean water.

12. At Uluk water station, pumping remained limited during the reporting period. Water levels were insufficient to reach most of the population ordinarily served by the station, including Hasakah city and Hawl camp. Water-pumping from Uluk resumed on 24 April, after a 12-day interruption due to a fire at the Darbasiyah electrical substation. Water flow to Hasakah and Tall Tamr subdistricts, however, remains insufficient, as the station continues to operate at reduced capacity. The electricity supply to the water station also remains insufficient, and that has affected the amount of water that can be pumped. Furthermore, between 10 May and the end of the reporting period, technicians from the Hasakah water and electricity directorates were not able to gain access to the water station.

13. Clashes between pro-government forces and the local security forces erupted in Qamishli city between 20 and 25 April. The violence resulted in the displacement of up to 20,000 people and the death of 14 civilians, including 3 children. Many civilians sustained injuries in the crossfire. Humanitarian shipments were also affected; 30 United Nations trucks en route to warehouses south of Qamishli city were stopped at checkpoints outside of the city. On 26 April, a ceasefire was brokered, allowing displaced persons to return and trucks to enter the city. Mutual shelling and skirmishes nevertheless continued across contact lines around Ayn Isa in Raqqah Governorate and Tall Tamr and Ra's al-Ayn in Hasakah Governorate.

14. Some 60,400 people, including 31,000 children under 12 years of age, remained at Hawl camp during the reporting period. The overall total includes around 8,800 third-country nationals. The security situation at the camp continued to deteriorate, despite a large security operation in March and April. At least six murders and four attempted murders were reported in the ensuing weeks. On 27 May, the de facto authorities introduced to some humanitarian partners plans for a reorganization of the camp. Humanitarian actors have raised concerns about provisions in the plan for protection, access to basic services and measures to uphold the camp's civilian nature. Those consultations are set to continue in June.

15. The United Nations remained without humanitarian access to the 12,000 people living in Rukban. Residents of the Rukban area continue to live in dire conditions, with limited access to food, water, health care and other basic services. Residents remained unable to access the United Nations clinic on the Jordanian side of the border since its full closure as part of COVID-19 preventive measures, in March 2020. Access to medical treatment in areas under the control of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic continued to be facilitated by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and coordinated by the United Nations. The United Nations continued to advocate for immediate humanitarian access and assistance to reach those who remained at the camp and continued its efforts to support voluntary departures. On 8 April, the United Nations received written approval from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to use the Al-Dweir reception centre as a quarantine space for voluntary departures from Rukban. In April and May, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in partnership with the Ministry of Health in Damascus, assisted 25 children who had left the camp spontaneously to seek medical attention. Discussions around the roll-out of an intention survey for residents of Rukban, to be conducted from Jordan, are ongoing.

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

16. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria continued to engage with representatives of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, the opposition Syrian Negotiations Committee and the Co-Chairs of the Syrian Constitutional Committee, as well as members of the middle third, in preparation for a potential sixth session of the small body of the Constitutional Committee. As the Special Envoy noted in his briefing to members of the Security Council on 26 May 2021, a sixth round must be built on assurances that it will adhere to and implement the terms of reference and core rules of procedure of the Constitutional Committee. It must also restore and build trust and confidence in order to produce results and progress on the Committee's mandate to prepare and draft a constitutional reform for popular approval.

17. In pursuit of a sustainable and credible Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political process in line with Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#), the Special Envoy continued to engage regional and international interlocutors. In those engagements, the Special Envoy continued to highlight the full remit of resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#), including the importance of attaining a nationwide ceasefire, renewed efforts to combat groups designated as terrorist groups by the Security Council, in full compliance with international humanitarian law, unblocking progress on detainees, abductees and missing persons, ensuring unimpeded humanitarian access and avoiding and mitigating any humanitarian effects of sanctions that could exacerbate the plight of ordinary Syrians. He emphasized the importance of steps towards a safe, calm and neutral environment, including precise, realistic packages of mutual and reciprocal steps to be taken towards re-establishing trust between the parties to the conflict. He noted the holding of a presidential election in May under the auspices of the current Constitution of the Syrian Arab Republic, which was not part of the political process called for in resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#).

18. The Special Envoy continued to engage with the Syrian Women's Advisory Board. In separate consultations, members of the Civil Society Support Room reiterated that civilians continued to bear the brunt of the conflict and stressed the importance of progress on the political track in order to attain meaningful improvements in the lives of all Syrians. Civil society representatives continued to raise the issue of the economic plight of Syrians and the need for real progress with regard to detainees, abductees and missing persons.

### **Protection**

19. Civilians across the Syrian Arab Republic continued to suffer the direct and indirect consequences of armed conflict and violence. OHCHR verified 186 incidents, in which at least 150 civilians, including 15 women and 36 children, were killed and at least 154 civilians, including 17 women and 57 children, were injured as a result of hostilities across the country. These included incidents involving ground-based strikes, improvised explosive devices, explosive remnants of war, armed clashes and targeted killings at the hands of various parties to the conflict or by unidentified perpetrators. The majority of civilian deaths (51 per cent) were documented in government-controlled areas and were caused by attacks with improvised explosive devices and by explosions of remnants of war, as well as targeted killings. In the light of the patterns observed, it appears that parties to the conflict have failed to respect key principles under international humanitarian law, including the obligation to distinguish civilians from fighters and civilian objects from military objectives; to refrain from indiscriminate attacks; to respect proportionality in attack; and to take constant care to spare civilians and civilian objects in the conduct of military operations.

20. In non-government-held parts of the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic, OHCHR documented at least nine incidents, in which 14 civilians were killed. The total includes seven civilians, including two women, one boy and two girls, killed as a result of a ground-based strike.

21. On 18 May, following the decision of the de facto authorities in the north-east of the country to increase the prices of fuel and cooking gas, dozens of protests took place. Protesters were met with excessive use of force by members of the Syrian Democratic Forces, which resulted in the death of nine civilians, including one girl. At least seven others were arrested in house raids following the protests.

22. In Dar'a, despite a cessation of hostilities following the re-establishment of government control in July 2018, OHCHR continued to document incidents of targeted killings of civilians and of fighters reconciled from former armed opposition groups. The majority of such attacks have been carried out by unidentified perpetrators.

23. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) recorded an increase in reported cases of child and early marriage in the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic. The economic crisis, along with the compounding impact of COVID-19, overcrowded households in displacement shelters and a perceived need among families to protect their daughters, has exacerbated the occurrence of this form of gender-based violence.

24. Civilians at Hawl camp continued to suffer from threats to their safety. Protection concerns include family separation, restricted access to humanitarian assistance and restrictions on freedom of movement that, in some cases, may amount to deprivation of liberty. Levels of violence have increased significantly in recent months and have continued despite a large security operation in March and April (see para. 14). OHCHR verified at least six incidents, in which at least six civilians, including three women, were killed by unidentified perpetrators during the reporting period.

25. Parties to the conflict continued to detain individuals arbitrarily in areas under their control. In the majority of cases recorded by OHCHR, detainees were denied information about the reasons for their detention and other due process rights. The families of detainees were denied information concerning the detainees' whereabouts or their fate, raising concerns that, in some cases, such detentions may constitute enforced disappearance. In areas under the control of the Government, OHCHR continued to document cases of detainees who died in custody, allegedly of natural causes. In many such cases, individuals appear to have been subjected to enforced disappearance, and their detention by the Government did not become known until their deaths were acknowledged. The bodies are rarely returned to their families. Family members are also denied the opportunity to question the stated cause of death or to learn the whereabouts of the bodies of the deceased.

26. Parties to the conflict continued to systematically intimidate and harass civilians, including those working in the media and health services. Such tactics included targeted killings, abductions, deprivation of liberty, ill-treatment, torture, enforced disappearances, looting and confiscation of property. The whereabouts and fate of many of those deprived of their liberty remain unknown.

27. During the reporting period, the country task force on monitoring and reporting verified one incident of hostilities in January causing damage to educational facilities. On 20 January 2021, in Duwaylah village, Harim district, Idlib Governorate, air strikes hit a two-storey school building. The air strikes killed several children and injured many others. Additional incidents in May are yet to be verified as part of the United Nations monitoring and reporting mechanism.

28. The Surveillance System for attacks on health care of the World Health Organization (WHO) reported two incidents affecting health care. Additional incidents are yet to be verified as part of the WHO Surveillance System.

### **Humanitarian response**

29. Humanitarian assistance by United Nations agencies and their partners continued throughout the Syrian Arab Republic (see table 1). Assistance included World Food Programme (WFP) food assistance for 4.6 million people in April and 4.7 million people in May, across all 14 governorates. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) supported 128 operational community/satellite centres and 120 mobile units across the country, providing integrated services to persons of concern. UNICEF provided self-learning materials to 137,457 children (including 70,103 girls) in cross-line areas of Raqqah and Dayr al-Zawr. Additional support was provided for mine risk education for 92,365 children and caregivers in April, including 45,454 girls and 3,390 women. Explosive ordnance risk education teams trained by the Mine Action Service delivered awareness sessions to more than 8,500 civilians, promoting safe behaviour in communities most affected by explosive ordnance contamination. The United Nations continued to support the COVID-19 response across the Syrian Arab Republic, including by enhancing surveillance and diagnostic capacity, procuring vital medical supplies and equipment, supporting clinical readiness, protecting the delivery of essential health-care services, supporting protective measures in schools, promoting vaccine acceptance and supporting the roll-out of vaccinations.

**Table 1**  
**Average number of people reached each month by the United Nations and other organizations through all modalities throughout the Syrian Arab Republic: April and May 2021**

| <i>Organization</i>                                                            | <i>Average number of people reached monthly</i> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations                        | 48 400                                          |
| International Organization for Migration                                       | 72 500                                          |
| Mine Action Service                                                            | 9 930                                           |
| Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees                    | 199 000                                         |
| United Nations Children's Fund <sup>a</sup>                                    | 757 700                                         |
| United Nations Population Fund                                                 | 221 300                                         |
| United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East | 130 500                                         |
| World Food Programme                                                           | 4 630 000                                       |
| World Health Organization                                                      | 688 300                                         |

<sup>a</sup> Data for the month of April only.

30. From inside the Syrian Arab Republic, assistance provided by United Nations agencies included the delivery by WFP of food assistance for 3.4 million people in April and 3.4 million people in May. UNHCR reached 217,600 people with protection, shelter and core relief items. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) reached 96,800 people through regular programming. In April, under a joint UNFPA-WFP project, 68,234 pregnant and lactating women were provided with monthly e-vouchers to purchase hygiene items based on their needs. UNFPA delivered life-saving services relating to reproductive health and gender-based violence to 442,800 people. WHO supported the Ministry of Health in conducting a national immunization week from 4 to 13 April 2021, reaching 78,810 children who had dropped out of routine immunization. The Mine Action Service reached 9,100 people through regular programming and surveyed more than 70 hectares in western Ghutah, Rif Dimashq. More than 50 hectares of that area were confirmed as hazardous, and 57 items of explosive ordnance were located and marked. In Hasakah, Aleppo and Rif Dimashq Governorates, UNICEF supported access to safe water in April for 275,487 people in camps for internally displaced persons, collective shelters and host communities. Sodium hypochlorite was also delivered in order to improve the public water supply for around 13.6 million people across the country. Through its partners, UNICEF supported 115,000 people with access to improved sanitation in Rif Dimashq and Suwayda' in April. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) provided cash assistance for 261,000 Palestine refugees, of whom 82 per cent were in Damascus and Rif Dimashq.

31. Among the cross-border humanitarian assistance delivered into the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic in April and May, WFP delivered food assistance for 1.1 million people in April and 1.3 million people in May. UNICEF delivered cross-border assistance to 676,400 people in the north-west in April and May. UNHCR assisted 139,000 people. UNFPA provided assistance in the form of health and protection programming to 69,400 people. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) brought multisectoral assistance to 145,100 people. WHO provided COVID-19 testing and vaccines (53,800 doses), as well as medical supplies representing 193,500 treatments (see figure I and table 2).

Figure I  
**Number of beneficiaries targeted by the United Nations and its partners through cross-border humanitarian deliveries, by cluster: April and May 2021 (monthly average)**

(Thousands)

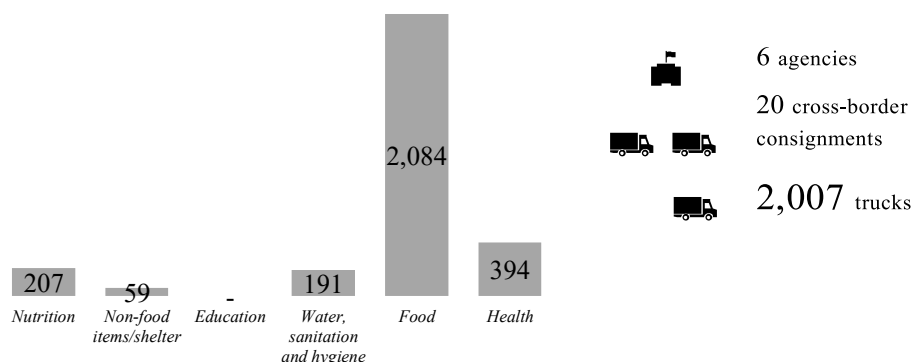


Table 2  
**Number of beneficiaries targeted through cross-border deliveries, by sector and by district: April and May 2021 (monthly average)**

| Governorate | District     | Early recovery/<br>livelihood | Education | Food <sup>a</sup> | Health  | Non-food items/<br>shelter | Nutrition | Water, sanitation and hygiene |
|-------------|--------------|-------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|---------|----------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| Aleppo      | Afrin        | –                             | –         | 282 805           | –       | 705                        | –         | –                             |
| Aleppo      | Bab          | –                             | –         | –                 | –       | 5 000                      | –         | 5 000                         |
| Aleppo      | I'zaz        | –                             | –         | 180 758           | –       | 13 483                     | –         | 5 750                         |
| Aleppo      | Jarabulus    | –                             | –         | –                 | –       | –                          | –         | 3 000                         |
| Aleppo      | Jabal Sim'an | –                             | –         | 85 720            | –       | –                          | –         | –                             |
| Idlib       | Harim        | –                             | –         | 1 386 678         | 393 722 | 22 477                     | 206 541   | 168 000                       |
| Idlib       | Idlib        | –                             | –         | 148 220           | –       | 17 000                     | –         | 8 750                         |

<sup>a</sup> Numbers reflect the assistance dispatched to warehouse locations before actual delivery as part of the pre-positioning effort.

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

### Humanitarian access

33. 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 and deliver assistance and to monitor and evaluate impact independently, including by engaging regularly and directly with affected people. The access landscape in the country is complex, with different geographical areas and different types of services requiring the use of different operating modalities. More than 1,800 United Nations staff members are based in the country, with more than 600 deployed in humanitarian hubs outside Damascus, in

Aleppo, Dayr al-Zawr, Hama, Homs, Ladhqiyyah, Qamishli, Suwayda' and Tartus. A further 3,610 UNRWA staff members are deployed across the country. This decentralized presence contributes to greater access and proximity to affected populations. 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.

34. United Nations agencies were not able to conduct several approved and planned missions owing to fuel shortages across the country and an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in the country, especially in April. In April, a group of international NGOs based in Damascus warned about the impact of sanctions on humanitarian operations as a result of overcompliance with the measures put in place, including in the financial sector. Such practices have reportedly contributed to serious banking challenges.

35. Every year the United Nations supports students in grades 9 and 12 in taking their national examinations. In 2021, the exams started on 31 May and will continue until 22 June. The United Nations facilitated the crossing of students from areas outside of government control to areas under government control to enable them to take exams based on the accredited curriculum. As at 31 May, out of the 9,334 students (in grades 9 and 12) and 2,640 companions projected to be received in 55 accommodation centres, 6,015 (5,789 students and 226 companions) had been received in 39 accommodation centres in Aleppo (4,776), Raqqah (669), Hama (147), Dayr al-Zawr (158) and Rif Dimashq (265). The crossing points between Idlib and Hama did not open, forcing 15 children to travel to Hama through Aleppo using unofficial crossing points. Many students from the north-west reportedly decided not to sit their exams in areas under government control out of fear of harassment, conscription and/or arrest. The United Nations called upon Member States with influence to ensure that parties to the conflict committed to providing the necessary protection guarantees and allowing the safe and unhindered passage of students and families wishing to cross the front lines to take the national exams.

#### *Access limitations related to the pandemic*

36. Overall, and notwithstanding the occasional restrictions on travel noted in paragraph 34, preventive measures relating to COVID-19 were no longer considered a significant impediment to humanitarian response activities, with humanitarian actors adapting programming to new operational realities, as well as with facilitating measures by relevant authorities.

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

37. In government-controlled areas, communities and enclaves that remained difficult to reach owing to administrative and security approvals included Shaffuniyah, Mayda'a and Kafr Batna in eastern Ghutah and Bayt Jinn and Mazra'at Bayt Jinn in western Rif Dimashq. In the south of the Syrian Arab Republic, insecurity and administrative restrictions continued to prevent sustained access to areas formerly controlled by non-State armed groups, in particular in the Dar'a al-Balad neighbourhood in Dar'a city and in parts of western Dar'a and Qunaytirah.

38. 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. In April and May, 1,722 regular programmatic movements took place with programme or blanket

approvals. That represented a decrease of 29 per cent compared with February and March, when 2,424 such missions took place (see table 3).<sup>1</sup>

Table 3

**Total number of missions conducted with programme or blanket approvals<sup>a</sup> from within the Syrian Arab Republic by United Nations agencies and third parties/facilitators, by type: April and May 2021**

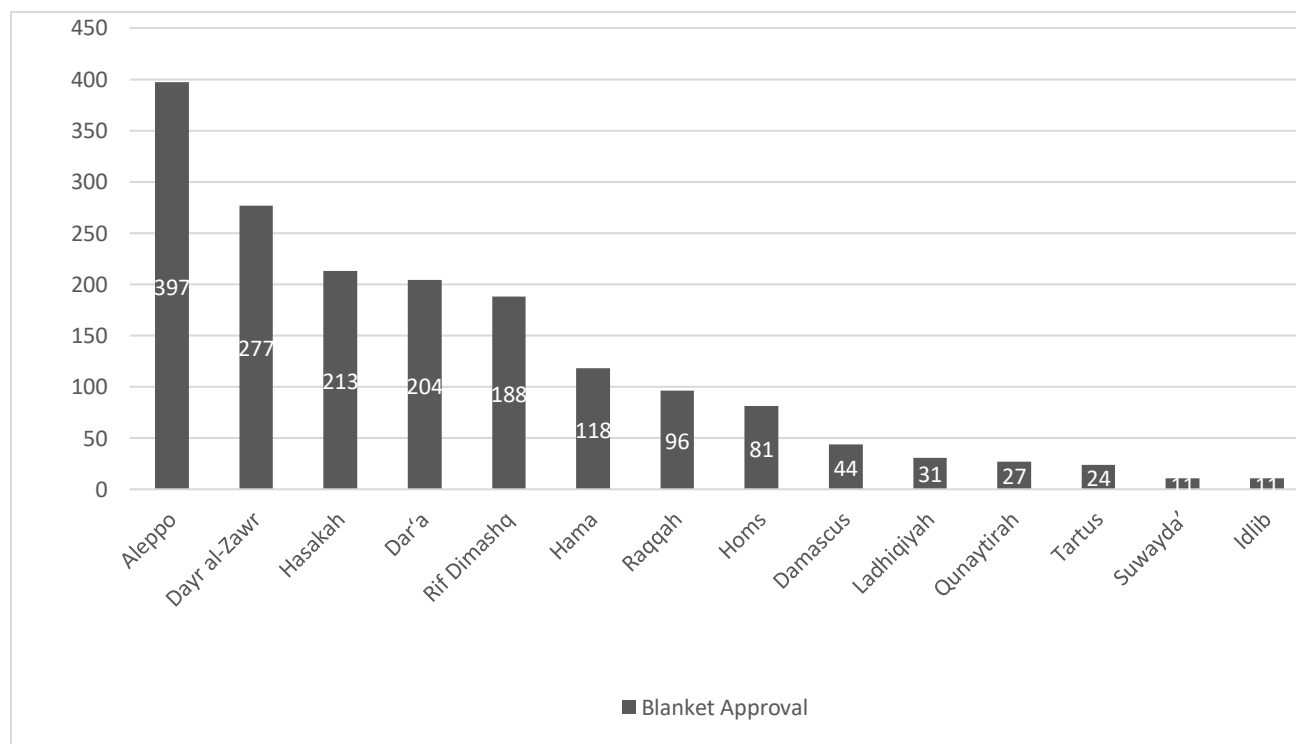
| Type of mission                                         | Blanket approval | Programme approval | Total number |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Assessment missions                                     | 16               | 2                  | 18           |
| Missions accompanying aid deliveries                    | 591              | 28                 | 619          |
| Monitoring missions                                     | 1 031            | 22                 | 1 053        |
| Security, logistics and administrative support missions | 27               | 5                  | 32           |
| <b>Total</b>                                            | <b>1 665</b>     | <b>57</b>          | <b>1 722</b> |

<sup>a</sup> Missions conducted with programme or blanket approvals do not require specific approval from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

*Note:* The total number of missions conducted with programme or blanket approvals does not include the missions conducted by WHO third-party monitors during May 2021.

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: April and May 2021**



<sup>1</sup> United Nations personnel and third-party contractors operating at humanitarian hubs outside of Damascus obtain “blanket approvals” to carry out movements as part of their regular programming. These enable regular access and reduce bureaucratic requirements.

39. For missions requiring specific approval by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the United Nations submitted 185 new requests, of which 93 (50 per cent) were approved (see table 4). This represents a decrease by 20 percentage points from the previous reporting period. It is also lower than the average over the previous 12 months, during which an average of 60 per cent of requests were approved.

Table 4

**Missions from within the Syrian Arab Republic requiring specific approval by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: April and May 2021**

| <i>Type of request</i>                                  | <i>Number requested</i> | <i>Number approved</i> | <i>Percentage approved</i> |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Assessment missions                                     | 24                      | 7                      | 29                         |
| Missions accompanying aid deliveries                    | 31                      | 14                     | 45                         |
| Monitoring missions                                     | 74                      | 42                     | 57                         |
| Security, logistics and administrative support missions | 36                      | 10                     | 28                         |
| Explosive ordnance assessment missions                  | 20                      | 20                     | 100                        |
| <b>Total</b>                                            | <b>185</b>              | <b>93</b>              | <b>50</b>                  |

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

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

40. In the north-east, the United Nations maintained regular and sustained humanitarian access in most parts of Hasakah Governorate and some parts of Raqqah Governorate. Other areas, including Manbij and Ayn al-Arab, remained difficult for the United Nations and its partners to reach from Damascus, owing to the lack of agreement between parties in control. The last United Nations cross-line convoy to Manbij was deployed in March 2019. During the reporting period, 591 missions were conducted in Hasakah, Raqqah and Dayr al-Zawr, of which 568 were conducted by third-party monitors and facilitators, 18 by United Nations personnel with blanket approvals to deploy, and 5 by United Nations personnel that required specific approval by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

41. Efforts continued towards the delivery of sufficient and sustained medical assistance to areas in the north-east outside of government control. In April and May, WHO delivered seven cross-line shipments, three airlifts and four road convoys, carrying 139,140 kg of aid representing 348,167 treatments and supplies for 10,500 trauma cases. Those shipments included COVID-19 vaccines, which were airlifted to Qamishli city in Hasakah Governorate on 3 May 2021. Around 84 per cent of the shipments were designated for health facilities. WHO reported no major operational or logistical challenges in those deliveries. While the United Nations has continued to scale up deliveries to the north-east across lines of control, they meet only a modest proportion of the total needs. Humanitarian organizations in the north-east continued to report limited functionality and capacity on the part of health-care facilities, a lack of adequately trained medical staff and imminent stockouts of medical supplies, including critical medicines, such as insulin and cardiovascular and antibacterial medicines. Overall, the situation has worsened since the expiration of the Security Council authorization for the use of the Ya‘rubiyah border crossing by the United Nations.

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

42. United Nations agencies and humanitarian partners continued to address the logistical and operational challenges resulting from the reduction to one authorized border crossing following the adoption of Security Council resolution 2533 (2020). All United Nations humanitarian assistance into the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic continues to be routed through the Bab al-Hawa crossing, and 8,343 trucks carrying humanitarian supplies have used that crossing point since Council resolution 2533 (2020) came into effect.

43. 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) and 2533 (2020). The Monitoring Mechanism monitored and confirmed the humanitarian nature of 20 consignments consisting of 2,007 trucks that crossed into the country from Turkey, all through the Bab al-Hawa crossing. That brought the total number of trucks monitored since the beginning of operations to 48,356 (38,384 through Bab al-Hawa, 5,268 through Bab al-Salam, 4,595 through Ramtha and 109 through Ya'rubiyah). There were no concerns or questions regarding the humanitarian nature of those consignments. For every shipment that crossed the border, the United Nations provided 48-hour advance notice to the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, including information on the humanitarian goods to be delivered, the number of trucks, the United Nations owner and the destination (district). The Mechanism continued to benefit from the excellent cooperation of the Government of Turkey.

44. Humanitarians continued to pursue an all-modalities approach to respond to rising needs in the north-west. The United Nations continued engagement with the parties concerned regarding the dispatch of a cross-line mission into the north-west from inside the Syrian Arab Republic. A revised concept of operations was presented to the relevant parties in March. Agreement had not been reached between all relevant parties on the operational details of the proposed mission by the end of the reporting period. Consultations continued in order to address their reservations, including on the issue of how aid would be distributed following the arrival of the convoy.

*Access in the south of the Syrian Arab Republic*

45. 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, but those who left for treatment have not been allowed to return to the Rukban area. UNFPA estimates that 2,500 women in Rukban are of reproductive age and in need of critical life-saving protection and reproductive health services. It is estimated that an average of 300 women in the area are pregnant at any given time. Increased risks of early marriage and pregnancy, with related complications, make access to medical services critically urgent.

46. During the reporting period, 244 missions were conducted in Suwayda', Dar'a and Qunaytirah. Of those, 239 were conducted by third-party monitors and facilitators, 3 were conducted by United Nations personnel with blanket approval and 2 were conducted by United Nations personnel requiring specific approval by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### Visas and registrations

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

Table 5

#### Requests for United Nations visas: April and May 2021

| <i>Type of request</i>                        | <i>Number requested</i> | <i>Number approved</i> | <i>Number rejected</i> | <i>Number pending</i> |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Visas requested during reporting period       | 72                      | 18                     | 3                      | 50                    |
| Renewals requested during reporting period    | 145                     | 97                     | 0                      | 46                    |
| Visas pending from before reporting period    | 66                      | 25                     | 0                      | 38                    |
| Renewals pending from before reporting period | 51                      | 47                     | 0                      | 4                     |

*Note:* The United Nations withdrew one visa request and two visa renewal requests submitted during the reporting period and three visa requests pending from before the reporting period. The number of pending visa requests and visa renewal requests shown in rows 3 and 4 covers the period from February 2020 to March 2021.

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

### Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and premises

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

50. Since the beginning of the conflict, hundreds of humanitarian workers have reportedly been killed, including 22 staff members of the United Nations and of the entities of the United Nations system, 20 of whom were staff members of UNRWA; 66 staff members and volunteers of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent; and 8 staff members and volunteers of the Palestine Red Crescent Society. Many staff members of international and national NGOs have also been killed.

51. During the reporting period, at least two humanitarian workers were killed. On 17 April, two NGO volunteers were killed in an armed attack on their way back from a humanitarian assistance project in Dayr al-Zawr.

52. A total of 16 staff members of agencies and programmes of the United Nations system (all from UNRWA) were detained, presumed detained or missing at the end of the reporting period.

## III. Observations

53. Syrians in all parts of the country continue to struggle with the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the sharp deterioration in the economic situation. In the context of these extremely challenging conditions, I am particularly concerned about the continuous impact of hostilities and violence, including attacks that are directed against civilians across the Syrian Arab Republic that have caused civilian suffering and displacement. Such attacks directed against civilians, including those in which improvised explosive devices are utilized in residential areas, in camps for internally displaced persons and in busy markets, are prohibited under international humanitarian law. I continue to call on all parties to the conflict to ensure

the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure in accordance with international humanitarian law.

54. The attacks on 21 March, including artillery fire that killed and injured civilians and damaged the Atarib Surgical Hospital, as well as the attacks on 12 June on Shifa' Hospital in Afrin city, including artillery shelling and missiles that killed and injured civilians, including health-care workers, are of deep concern. I reiterate that attacks that hit civilian objects, such as hospitals, must be investigated. Impunity must end, and there must be accountability for crimes perpetrated in the Syrian Arab Republic. It is incumbent on all parties to the conflict, as well as on the international community, to ensure that those who perpetrate serious violations of international humanitarian law are held accountable.

55. I welcome the first delivery of 256,800 doses of COVID-19 vaccine received through the COVAX Facility. However, that is only sufficient to cover approximately 0.5 per cent of the Syrian population. It is critical to continue and expand the timely delivery of COVID-19 vaccines to the Syrian Arab Republic using all access modalities.

56. When it comes to delivering life-saving aid to people in need across the country, all channels should be made, and kept, available. Despite the massive United Nations system response in the Syrian Arab Republic and across the region, more humanitarian access is required to reach those most in need. Intensified cross-line and cross-border deliveries are essential to reach everyone in need, everywhere, and I reiterate my call to the Security Council to achieve consensus on this crucial matter. The situation continues to deteriorate in the meantime. In the north-west of the country, the number of people in need increased by over 20 per cent in 2021. A failure to extend the United Nations cross-border authorization would disrupt life-saving aid to millions of people in desperate need, increasing civilian suffering in the north-west to levels not seen in 10 years of conflict. It would also disrupt the United Nations COVID-19 vaccine distribution plans for the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic, and the level of support across all sectors would be immediately affected as the critical aid provided by the United Nations cannot be replaced. A large-scale United Nations-supported cross-border response for an additional 12 months remains essential to save lives. With more crossings, and more funds, the United Nations could do more to help the rising number of people in need. This remains the case for both the north-west and the north-east.

57. The United Nations will spare no effort to improve access to all civilians in need across the north-west using all possible means, including through cross-line operations from within the Syrian Arab Republic. Consultations will continue with all parties to undertake such operations as soon as possible. Under current conditions, cross-line convoys could provide a vital complement to the essential lifeline provided from across the border. However, even if deployed regularly, cross-line convoys could not replicate the size and scope of the cross-border operations.

58. In the north-east, humanitarian needs remain high. The situation has worsened since last year, following the removal of Ya'rubiyah as a Security Council-authorized United Nations crossing. While the United Nations has continued to scale up deliveries to the north-east across lines of control, those deliveries meet only a modest proportion of the total needs. Many facilities remain short of staff, supplies and equipment. Overall, aid of all types reaches the north-east of the Syrian Arab Republic, but it remains insufficient. This includes Hawl camp, where almost 40,000 children remain in unsafe and deteriorating conditions. 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 international law and standards.

59. In March 2020, I called for the waiving of sanctions that may impede access to essential health supplies, COVID-19-related medical support, or food, in the Syrian Arab Republic. It is encouraging that a technical dialogue between relevant Member States and humanitarian actors about sanctions and humanitarian operations in the Syrian Arab Republic is under way. I hope that the relevant parties can find ways to address the challenges that several humanitarian actors in the country face in ensuring adequate and reliable access to financial services.

60. The Special Envoy continues his efforts towards the unilateral release of persons arbitrarily deprived of their liberty at a scale that is commensurate with the scope of this issue, in particular with regard to women, children, the elderly and the sick, who are especially vulnerable during the COVID-19 pandemic. The majority of those persons are being held by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic. I call upon the Government and other parties to account for the fate and whereabouts of those whom they are detaining and to allow humanitarian and human rights agencies access to all places of detention. All persons in detention should be promptly informed of any charges against them. Persons facing prosecution should be afforded all minimum fair trial guarantees. They should be promptly brought before a judge and immediately released if their deprivation of liberty is arbitrary. Detaining authorities should carry out prompt, effective, thorough and transparent investigations of deaths in custody and, if it is found that such deaths resulted from criminal acts, the perpetrators should be brought to justice. Families of persons who have died in custody should be informed and receive full and adequate reparations within a reasonable period in cases of wrongful death. Respect for these principles would also build confidence, both within society and between the parties and international stakeholders. A failure to address arbitrary deprivation of liberty would leave credible justice, true reconciliation and sustainable peace elusive.

61. The deteriorating economic situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, in addition to the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic, has further deepened the suffering of all Syrians. Several peaceful protests have been organized, both in areas within and outside the control of the Government. In Hasakah, peaceful protesters were faced with unnecessary and disproportionate use of force, and some were arrested merely for taking part in the protests.

62. I remind all relevant parties that only in exceptional cases may an assembly be dispersed. According to international human rights standards, the use of lethal force by law enforcement officials is an extreme measure, which should be resorted to only when it is strictly unavoidable in order to protect life or prevent serious injury from an imminent threat. In addition, arrest or detention for the legitimate exercise of the right to freedom of expression or peaceful assembly is considered arbitrary.

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

64. 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 Human Rights Council and with OHCHR, including through the establishment of a field presence with the mandate to protect and promote human rights.

65. Ongoing military activity across the country remains an enduring and unacceptable reality. I continue to urge all stakeholders to achieve a nationwide ceasefire, in line with Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#). The absence of a nationwide ceasefire is an impediment to a sustainable and credible Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political process in line with resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#). I continue to support my Special Envoy's efforts to remind international and regional stakeholders of the importance of constructive international diplomacy on the Syrian Arab Republic. The Syrian parties and all of the key players with the influence and authority to promote progress towards peace in the Syrian Arab Republic should agree on mutual and reciprocal steps to be taken. The plight of civilians obliges all concerned to take concrete steps towards a sustainable peace for the Syrian people, who have endured unimaginable suffering for far too long.

## Annex

### **Reported incidents affecting civilians recorded by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: April and May 2021\***

#### **Idlib Governorate**

- On 7 April, a humanitarian worker was reportedly arrested near the village of Turmanin in northern rural Idlib. The humanitarian worker continues to be detained.
- On 8 April, seven civilians, including two women, one boy and two girls, were killed and two boys and one girl were injured when a reported ground-based strike hit a car in the town of Najiyah in western rural Idlib.
- On 25 April, a civilian was injured as a result of a reported ground-based strike in the village of Kafr Yadin in western rural Idlib.
- On 3 May, three civilians, including two women, were killed and six civilians, including one woman, two boys and two girls, were injured in a reported explosion of a weapons depot near the Furussiyah camp for internally displaced persons in Fu'ah village in Idlib. The explosion damaged at least 50 tents in the camp.
- On 11 May, a civilian was killed and another was injured in reported crossfire in Dana in northern rural Idlib.
- On 12 May, five civilians, including one girl, were injured as a result of a reported air strike near Kinaddah village in western rural Idlib.

#### **Aleppo Governorate**

- On 12 April, two boys were killed by a reported landmine near the village of Judi Mazin in Afrin district in north-western rural Aleppo.
- On 13 April, a civilian was killed in reported crossfire in the village of Maydanki in Afrin district in north-western rural Aleppo.
- On 24 April, one girl was injured when a reported hand grenade detonated in Afrin city in north-western rural Aleppo.
- On 25 April, one boy was killed as a result of reported sniper fire outside Bab city in eastern rural Aleppo.
- On 27 April, one boy was killed and 14 civilians, including one woman and three boys, were injured in two reported improvised explosive device attacks in the city of Jarabulus in eastern rural Aleppo.
- On 5 May, five children, including four girls, from the same family were injured as a result of a reported vehicle-borne improvised explosive device that detonated in Afrin city in north-western rural Aleppo.

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

- On 6 May, three civilians, including one boy, were injured when a reported magnetic improvised explosive device attached to an armed group vehicle detonated inside the Bab al-Salam Qadim camp for internally displaced persons, near the city of I'zaz in northern rural Aleppo.
- On 8 May, a woman and a boy were killed and five other civilians, including two women and one boy, were injured when a reported ground-based strike hit Atarib city in western rural Aleppo.
- On 10 May, three civilians were injured after a reported roadside improvised explosive device detonated near their vehicle on the road between the village of Tall al-Aghbar and the camp for internally displaced persons in Zaghra al-Jadid in eastern rural Aleppo.
- On 10 May, two civilians were injured by a reported magnetic improvised explosive device attached to a motorbike that detonated between the Buthuth road and I'zaz in northern rural Aleppo.

#### **Hasakah Governorate**

- On 22 April, a man was killed and his son was injured by a reported indiscriminate exchange of small arms fire between armed forces in the neighbourhood of Hellok in the city of Qamishli. On the same day, a boy was killed in reported crossfire in the Zuhur neighbourhood of the city of Qamishli in north-eastern Hasakah.
- On 23 April, a boy was killed in reported crossfire in Qamishli city in north-eastern Hasakah.
- On 8 May, an Iraqi refugee was reportedly found shot dead at Hawl camp in eastern rural Hasakah.
- On 12 May, an Iraqi refugee was reportedly shot dead at Hawl camp in eastern rural Hasakah.
- On 18 May, seven civilians, including one girl, were reportedly killed while participating in a peaceful demonstration in the city of Shaddadah in southern rural Hasakah. On the same day, two more civilians were reportedly killed while participating in peaceful demonstrations in Hasakah.

#### **Hama Governorate**

- On 19 April, a man was killed and another was injured as a result of a reported drone strike that hit the village of Khirbat al-Naqus in Hama.
- On 22 April, a girl was killed and two boys were injured when a landmine reportedly detonated near the village of Abu Hubaylat in eastern rural Hama.

#### **Homs Governorate**

- On 18 May, a civilian was killed in reported small arms fire at a tent used for presidential election campaigning in the village of Farhaniyah in the Talbisah area in northern rural Homs.

#### **Rif Dimashq Governorate**

- On 2 May, the families of 27 civilians, including two boys, from the town of Kanakir in the western Ghutah area in Rif Dimashq Governorate, lost contact with them after they were arrested. The families have no information about their fate or whereabouts.

**Dar'a Governorate**

- On 2 April, a civilian and his son were killed and three boys from his family were injured as a result of a suspected magnetic improvised explosive device that detonated in the city of Jasim in northern rural Dar'a.
- On 22 April, a civilian was killed in a reported drive-by shooting in the village of Tall Shihab in western rural Dar'a.
- On 8 May, a civilian and his three daughters were killed after a reported landmine detonated near the town of Malihat al-Atash in eastern rural Dar'a.
- On 9 May, a civilian was killed in a reported drive-by shooting in the town of Sahwat al-Qamh in eastern rural Dar'a.
- On 22 May, a civilian was killed and three other civilians, including two women and one boy from his family, were injured as a result of a reported roadside improvised explosive device that detonated in the town of Jallayn in western rural Dar'a.
- On 23 May, one boy and one girl were injured as a result of a reported roadside improvised explosive device that detonated on the road between the cities of Nawa and Shaykh Miskin in western rural Dar'a.

**Dayr al-Zawr Governorate**

- On 23 April, a civilian was killed as a result of a reported indiscriminate shooting in the city of Dhiban in eastern rural Dayr al-Zawr.
- On 3 May, two boys were killed and another boy was injured when reported unexploded ordnance detonated in the village of Hatla in eastern rural Dayr al-Zawr.
- On 19 May, a girl and a woman were injured in reported crossfire in the village of Hasin in northern rural Dayr al-Zawr.
- On 22 May, three civilians were reportedly killed by unidentified perpetrators in a drive-by shooting in the city of Busayrah in eastern rural Dayr al-Zawr.

**Qunaytirah Governorate**

- On 23 April, a suspected magnetic improvised explosive device attached to a vehicle detonated in the town of Suwaysah in southern rural Qunaytirah, killing two children and injuring a boy.

**Raqqah Governorate**

- On 16 April, two men were killed and another four were reportedly injured in Judaydat Kahit village in eastern rural Raqqah.

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