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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), 2533 (2020) and 2585 (2021)

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is the seventy-fifth submitted pursuant to paragraph 17 of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014), paragraph 10 of resolution 2165 (2014), paragraph 5 of resolution 2191 (2014), paragraph 5 of resolution 2258 (2015), paragraph 5 of resolution 2332 (2016), paragraph 6 of resolution 2393 (2017), paragraph 12 of resolution 2401 (2018), paragraph 6 of resolution 2449 (2018), paragraph 8 of resolution 2504 (2020), paragraph 3 of resolution 2533 (2020) and paragraph 5 of resolution 2585 (2021), in the last four 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 August and September 2021.

II. Major developments

Key points

1. Violence further intensified in the Idlib de-escalation area in the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic during the reporting period, including intensified airstrikes, mutual shelling and limited clashes, amid a surge in coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases. In northern Aleppo Governorate, mutual shelling, airstrikes, occasional skirmishes and raids across contact lines increased.

2. Millions of people across the north and north-east of the Syrian Arab Republic are affected by the water crisis and are unable to reliably access sufficient and safe water on a regular basis, owing to the unprecedented low water levels of the Euphrates, erratic and low rainfall, the reduced



operational capacity of Uluk water station and disruptions to the water system. The prevalence of waterborne diseases in the affected areas has risen. The loss of crops and of agricultural livelihoods will likely worsen already high rates of food insecurity and malnutrition. Women and girls are disproportionately affected owing to their prominent role in the agriculture sector. To respond to pressing needs, the United Nations released a consolidated plan targeting 3.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance.

3. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) verified 206 incidents during the reporting period in which at least 126 civilians, including 17 women and 44 children, were killed as a result of hostilities. In addition, at least 197 civilians, including 24 women and 74 children, were injured as a result of hostilities across the Syrian Arab Republic.

4. In the south-west of the Syrian Arab Republic, heavy shelling and intensified ground clashes across parts of Dar'a Governorate in August, in particular in the Dar'a al-Balad neighbourhood, displaced more than 38,000 people. Civilians who remained in Dar'a al-Balad had restricted access to food and to basic goods and services. In early September, following the negotiation of a new agreement between the parties, the security situation in Dar'a al-Balad stabilized. Most of the displaced persons returned home and public services are being restored.

5. COVID-19 transmission rates in the Syrian Arab Republic remained high, exacerbating an already dire humanitarian situation. In the north-west, a surge of the COVID-19 Delta variant since the end of August led to more than 1,000 people testing positive daily, further taxing an overburdened health system. Across the country, only 1.6 per cent of the population has been fully vaccinated.

6. Humanitarian assistance by United Nations agencies and their partners continued throughout the Syrian Arab Republic. This included World Food Programme (WFP) food assistance for 5.0 million people in August and 4.8 million people in September, across all 14 governorates, as well as increased cross-line deliveries and a continuation of the cross-border mechanism. On 31 August, WFP completed a cross-line delivery of food and nutrition assistance from government-controlled Aleppo city, Aleppo Governorate, to a warehouse in opposition-controlled Sarmada city, Idlib Governorate. This is the first cross-line delivery to the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic since 2017.

7. The access landscape in the Syrian Arab Republic remains complex, with different geographical areas and different types of services requiring the use of different operating modalities. In the north-east, between January and September, 1,575 trucks containing humanitarian assistance crossed lines, an average of 175 a month. In August and September, the World Health Organization (WHO) delivered three cross-line shipments, including two airlifts and one road convoy, and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) supported cross-line deliveries by 31 trucks of over 40 tons of supplies, while other United Nations agencies also provided cross-line assistance. During the reporting period, 13 consignments consisting of 470 trucks crossed into the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic from Turkey through cross-border operations, all through the Bab al-Hawa crossing.

Humanitarian update

3. Violence further intensified in the Idlib de-escalation area in the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic, coinciding with a significant surge in COVID-19 cases. Airstrikes and mutual shelling continued to kill and injure civilians, including women and children. Aerial bombardments intensified mostly south of the M4 highway, damaging civilian infrastructure almost daily. Airstrikes also reportedly impacted on the outskirts of an internally displaced persons camp in Ma'arratmisrin in early September. Mutual shelling and clashes between armed opposition groups and government and pro-government forces across contact lines in the Idlib de-escalation area continued.

4. Mutual shelling, airstrikes, occasional skirmishes and raids across contact lines intensified in the northern part of Aleppo Governorate, including airstrikes in the southern countryside of Afrin district. For the first time since the ceasefire in March 2020, violence affected Bab town and surrounding areas. On 5 and 6 August, shelling injured at least 24 civilians and caused structural damage to civilian homes. Improvised explosive device attacks also continued, and unclaimed vehicle-borne improvised explosive device attacks in Bab and Afrin killed civilians.

5. Millions of people are affected by the water crisis across the north and north-east and are unable to reliably access sufficient and safe water regularly owing to a range of factors, including the unprecedented low water levels of the Euphrates, erratic and low rainfall, the reduced operational capacity of Uluk water station and disruptions to the water system. The prevalence of waterborne diseases in the affected areas has risen, placing additional strain on a public health system already debilitated by years of crisis and overburdened by the COVID-19 pandemic. Poor rainfall and drastically reduced irrigation have also led to loss of crops and of agricultural livelihoods. This is expected to significantly worsen the already high rates of food insecurity and malnutrition in the region. Because women comprise 70 per cent of the agriculture workforce, and 25 per cent of households are headed by women, women's incomes are particularly affected if insufficient water to irrigate lands leads to crop losses. Lack of access to safe, potable and clean water also has an impact on the health of women and girls, including their reproductive health. On 9 September, the United Nations released a plan entitled "Water crisis in northern and northeast Syria: immediate response and funding requirements" to respond to the needs of some 3.4 million people in the governorates of Dayr al-Zawr, Hasakah, Raqqah and in north-eastern Aleppo who have been affected by the water crisis. Projections suggest consecutive anomalous dry conditions in the upcoming winter season, potentially exacerbating the already dire economic and agricultural outlook and further affecting livelihoods and food insecurity.

6. At Uluk water station, pumping remained limited during the reporting period. From 20 August to 10 September, the station stopped functioning as a result of insufficient electricity and a reduction in the access needed for technicians to carry out maintenance and repairs. On 10 September, the power supply from Darbasiyah power station was reinstated and Uluk water station started to pump again. Water supply subsequently reached the Tall Tamr area and the Himmah reservoir. On 12 September, a technical team was able to access Uluk water station to conduct repairs and maintenance. At the end of the reporting period, Uluk water station remained functional, with 22 of its 34 boreholes functioning.

7. Disruption of potable and agricultural water continued to be reported in the city of Bab and the surrounding areas, affecting some 185,000 people. Bab has been among the top subdistricts reporting waterborne diseases across the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2017. The United Nations continued to advocate for the resumption of water supply to the city from the Ayn al-Bayda station.

8. Some 58,400 people, 93 per cent of them women and children, remained at Hawl camp as of the end September. Some 77 per cent of the children were under the age of 12. The security situation at the camp further deteriorated during the reporting period, with OHCHR documenting 11 murders and the injury of three civilians by unidentified perpetrators. Since January 2021, there have been at least 77 murders and 26 attempted murders. Access to food, medical care, clean water, protection and other basic services remains limited and the spread of COVID-19 is of concern. Regular threats and attacks against humanitarian workers, including camp management staff, forced some aid organizations to suspend programmes, jeopardizing access to even the most basic services. The United Nations continued to advocate for the provision of security at the camp in a manner that does not endanger residents or violate their rights and that does not restrict humanitarian access.

9. Da'esh, which has been designated as a terrorist group by the Security Council, continued to launch attacks in areas across Dayr al-Zawr, Hasakah and eastern rural Homs. The destruction of a major gas pipeline south-east of Damascus led to power outages in the city and surrounding areas. Government and pro-government forces carried out counter-Da'esh operations in multiple areas of the central Syrian desert. Separately, the Syrian Democratic Forces continued their counter-Da'esh operations.

10. In the southern part of the Syrian Arab Republic, heavy shelling and intensified ground clashes across parts of Dar'a Governorate in August, in particular in the Dar'a al-Balad neighbourhood, displaced over 38,000 people, including almost 15,000 women and more than 20,000 children. Civilians who remained in Dar'a al-Balad faced acute shortages of food, water, electricity, fuel and cooking gas, while health facilities experienced gaps in medical supplies. The Shifa' Hospital and the National Hospital of Dar'a were reportedly hit by mortars on 30 August, resulting in minor structural damage. In early September, following the negotiation of a new agreement between parties, the security situation in Dar'a al-Balad stabilized. Several security incidents continued to be reported across the south-west, however, including exchanges of fire, ambushes and targeted killings.

11. Since civilian movement to and from the area began, 77 per cent of displaced persons have returned home, including all those residing in shelters. Around 10 per cent of internally displaced persons living in host communities have reported the severe damage that has occurred to their homes as presenting a barrier to their return. Explosive hazard contamination has also reportedly hampered returns. Schools in Dar'a reopened on 12 September. In Dar'a al-Balad, public services such as water, electricity and telecommunication networks are being restored. Dar'a al-Balad and Tishrin bakeries have resumed operations after a two-month suspension. Food distributions recommenced across the Governorate on 10 September, damaged schools were rehabilitated and some humanitarian partners have resumed regular programming in Dar'a al-Balad.

12. 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. Efforts by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and the United Nations to support the voluntary transfer of some residents on 11 September had to be cancelled when drivers were accosted upon arrival at the camp (see para. 55 below). The United Nations continued to advocate for immediate humanitarian access and assistance to reach those who remained at the camp.

13. COVID-19 transmission rates in the Syrian Arab Republic remained high and likely far beyond official records, exacerbating an already dire humanitarian situation. Laboratory capacity remains insufficient. Protective and medical equipment are in short supply. As at 1 October, some 34,600 cases, including 2,247 deaths, had been reported

by the Ministry of Health. In the first three weeks of September the reported case load for COVID-19 had increased by 70 per cent, raising concerns of a fourth wave across the country. This has had a severe impact on hospitals, and hospitals that have been assigned to the case management of severe COVID-19 cases are now 100 per cent occupied. Many primary health-care facilities and hospitals have had to suspend services owing to the growing number of infections among health staff. The situation is particularly dire in the north-west, where a surge of the COVID-19 Delta variant since the end of August led to more than 1,000 people testing positive daily. There has been a 170 per cent increase in the total number of positive cases in September alone, overburdening intensive care units and further stretching the health system. In addition to a severe oxygen shortage, limited equipment to test for COVID-19 is also an issue. This spike is also affecting the ability of women and adolescent girls to access sexual and reproductive health services, including maternal health services.

14. Vaccinations are under way across the Syrian Arab Republic, prioritizing health-care workers, the elderly, people with comorbidities and teachers. On 15 August, the Syrian Arab Republic received the second batch of vaccines provided through the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility, totalling 138,240 doses, of which 11,232 doses were sent to the north-eastern part of the country. An additional 170,400 doses were received in September, of which 12,800 doses were also sent to the north-east. The next tranche of vaccines provided through the COVAX Facility of 244,800 doses is expected shortly. A separate shipment of more than 36,480 doses was sent to the north-west part of the country on 15 August. A third and fourth batch of vaccines provided through the COVAX Facility, of 358,800 and 45,200 doses, respectively, crossed into the north-west on 3 and 13 September. The north-eastern part of the Syrian Arab Republic received an additional 41,000 doses allocated through bilateral donations. As at 30 September 2021, a total of 835,917 doses of COVAX Facility and bilaterally donated vaccines had been administered, including 146,120 doses administered in the north-west. To date, only 1.6 per cent of the population is fully vaccinated. Coverage of routine immunization dropped in 2020 owing to limitations of movement and fears of infection by COVID-19, in addition to the effects of the economic crisis on family incomes.

15. The economic crisis continued to affect civilians across the country. According to WFP data in August 2021, 44 per cent of interviewed households in the Syrian Arab Republic reported poor or borderline food consumption, an increase from 41 per cent a year ago. This trend was higher among households headed by women (49 per cent) compared with households headed by men (43 per cent), and was more pronounced among internally displaced persons (53 per cent) and returnees (47 per cent) compared with residents (39 per cent). This deterioration highlights a sustained worsening trend in the food security situation across the country. Based on data from the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), wheat production for 2021 is estimated at around 1.05 million tons, compared with 2.8 million in 2020, and is only a quarter of the pre-crisis average of 4.1 million tons (during the period 2002–2011), posing a risk of wheat and flour shortages in the Syrian Arab Republic and worsening food insecurity. The worsening economic situation has had a further impact on production and transportation costs as well as on the availability of quality seeds and livestock feed for farmers.

16. The latest household survey conducted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and WFP under their socioeconomic impact assessment indicated a decreased monthly income in July 2021 compared with July 2020 for 37 per cent of surveyed households. One in five micro- or small businesses surveyed had to close, and others reported a decrease in their financial profitability. The further erosion of purchasing power and the degradation in households' economic capacity pushed nearly 7 of 10 households interviewed in August (69 per cent) to buy food on credit,

representing an increase of 5 per cent year-on-year, with a wider share recorded among households headed by women (76 per cent). The high price of commodities and the limited livelihood opportunities in the Syrian Arab Republic have also led many families to adopt food-based coping strategies, such as reducing the number of meals.

Update on overall developments

17. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria announced the convening of the sixth session of the small body of the Constitutional Committee in Geneva from 18 to 22 October. This announcement came after intense engagement with Syrian interlocutors, including the Co-Chairs of the Constitutional Committee nominated by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the opposition Syrian Negotiations Committee, and regional and international actors, which facilitated agreement by the Co-Chairs on the methodology for the Constitutional Committee, thus paving the way for the Committee to work on a process of drafting constitutional reforms, in accordance with its mandate and in line with its terms of reference and core rules of procedure ([S/2019/775](#)).

18. The Special Envoy continued to emphasize the importance of a nationwide ceasefire as a necessary step in any peace process. He continued to stress the importance of action on the crucial matter of detainees, abductees and missing persons as a humanitarian and human rights imperative and as a step towards building trust between parties to the conflict. The Special Envoy also continued to seek the engagement of international actors on issues of common concern and interest that can build trust and momentum towards a political solution to the conflict, in line with Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#).

Protection

19. Civilians across the Syrian Arab Republic continued to suffer the direct and indirect consequences of armed conflict and violence. From 1 August to 26 September, OHCHR documented 206 incidents in which at least 126 civilians, including 17 women and 44 children, were killed as a result of hostilities. In addition, at least 197 civilians, including 24 women and 74 children, were injured. Hostilities included airstrikes, ground-based strikes and attacks carried out by improvised explosive devices and explosive remnants of war, as well as armed clashes and targeted killings at the hands of various parties to the conflict or by unidentified perpetrators.

20. Military activity and violence perpetrated by parties to the conflict continued to have a severe impact on civilians and civilian objects across the Syrian Arab Republic. Civilians continued to be killed and injured by intermittent shelling and airstrikes in the Idlib de-escalation area and in surrounding areas, as well as by fighting between and within various armed groups in the northern and eastern parts of the country. Many of these attacks appeared to be targeting civilians or were carried out near locations of civilian character. Considering the patterns observed, it appears that parties to the conflict have seemingly failed to respect key principles under international humanitarian law.

21. The highest number of civilian casualties were documented in government-controlled areas, where at least 46 civilians, including 5 women and 12 children, were killed and at least 67 civilians, including 8 women and 27 children, were injured by ground-based strikes, drive-by shootings and explosive remnants of war.

22. In Dar'a, hostilities escalated between pro-government forces and former armed opposition forces. From 1 August to 5 September, OHCHR documented at least 15 civilian deaths, including 3 women and 5 children, and 32 civilian injuries, including 4 women and 9 children. OHCHR also documented damage to three mosques and six schools.

23. Parties to the conflict continued to systematically target civilians, including through killings, arbitrary deprivation of liberty, torture, ill-treatment and kidnappings, and continued to violate civilian's rights to freedom of movement and expression, peaceful assembly and association.

24. Parties to the conflict continued to arbitrarily detain individuals in areas under their control. In most cases documented by OHCHR, detainees were denied information about the reasons for their arrest and their rights to due process. The families of detainees were denied information concerning their whereabouts, raising concern that, in some cases, such detention may constitute enforced disappearance. OHCHR continued to document cases of detainees who died in custody, allegedly owing to natural causes. Families either coincidentally learned about these deaths or when government authorities contacted them directly. In many such cases, individuals appeared to have been subjected to enforced disappearance and their detention by the Government did not become known until their deaths were acknowledged. The bodies were rarely returned to their families. Family members were also denied the opportunity to question the cause of death stated in the notification or to know the whereabouts of the bodies.

25. Ongoing hostilities continued to impede civilians' access to health care and education. Parties to the conflict continued to systematically intimidate and target civilians, including those working in education, health services and the media, as well as humanitarian personnel. Such tactics included arbitrary deprivation of liberty as well as attacks using improvised explosive devices. Women and girls continued to be at risk for multiple forms of gender-based violence, including early marriage.

26. During the reporting period, four verified incidents caused damage to educational facilities. On 18 August, Banin al-Balad secondary school, in Dar'a al-Balad neighbourhood, Dar'a city, sustained structural damage in crossfire. On 27 August, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) supported Safsaf and Ayn Karim schools in Dar'a camp when they were damaged after several reported ground-based strikes landed in Dar'a city. On 3 September, one missile in Ayn al-Arus town, Idlib Governorate, fell inside school premises, damaging the building. On 5 September, several rockets hit an educational institute in Ma'arratmisrin town, causing civilian casualties, including six children, and destroyed the building. Additional incidents have yet to be verified as part of the United Nations monitoring and reporting mechanism.

27. The Surveillance System for attacks on health care of WHO reported six incidents affecting health care during the reporting period, with one health-care provider killed and two others injured. The attacks impacted the Suwayda' public hospital (Zaid Ash-Shariti), the Damascus public hospital (Al-Mujtahid), the National Hospital of Dar'a and the Dar'a Shifa' Hospital in August, and the Dar'a al-Balad Health Centre of the Ministry of Health in September.

Humanitarian response

28. Humanitarian assistance by United Nations agencies and their partners continued throughout the Syrian Arab Republic (see table 1). Assistance included WFP food assistance for 5.0 million people in August and 4.8 million people in September across all 14 governorates. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) supported 126 operational community/satellite centres and 117 mobile units across the country, providing integrated protection services to persons of concern. Explosive ordnance risk education teams trained by the Mine Action Service delivered awareness sessions to over 18,630 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: August and September 2021

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Average number of people reached monthly</i>
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	30 900
International Organization for Migration	161 500
Mine Action Service	18 630
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	430 000
United Nations Children's Fund	650 000
United Nations Development Fund	43 300
United Nations Population Fund	221 000
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	173 500
World Food Programme	4 900 000
World Health Organization	844 000

29. From inside the Syrian Arab Republic, assistance provided by United Nations agencies included WFP food assistance for 3.7 million people in August and for 3.5 million people in September. UNHCR reached 430,000 people with protection, shelter and core relief items. FAO assisted 61,850 people through regular programming. WHO supported the Ministry of Health in conducting a national COVID-19 vaccination campaign from 5 to 16 September and delivered essential equipment and devices to laboratories to boost testing capacities. The Mine Action Service carried out 37 assessment missions in western Ghutah, Rif Dimashq, in agriculture and residential zones to mark areas for clearance. UNICEF provided 262,000 people, including more than 145,200 children, in nine subdistricts with safe water. Through mobile teams and fixed clinics in 91 subdistricts, UNICEF provided outpatient consultations to over 131,600 people, 110,100 of them children. UNRWA provided cash assistance for 347,900 Palestine refugees.

30. Among the cross-border humanitarian assistance delivered into the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic, WFP delivered food assistance for 1.3 million people each month in August and September. To respond to the urgent shelter needs of displaced people and host communities, UNHCR assisted 27,000 people in Idlib Governorate through four cross-border trans-shipments. The International Organization for Migration brought multisectoral assistance to 202,000 people. UNFPA continued to build local health-care capacities and to support the provision of quality, lifesaving reproductive health services to the most vulnerable people in the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic, providing 122,000 pregnant and lactating women with monthly e-vouchers to purchase hygiene items and reaching more than 440,900 women with reproductive health and gender-based violence services. These efforts have focused on laying the foundation for longer-term health system recovery and resilience, including by supporting health emergency risk management capacities.

Delivery and monitoring of cross-border assistance

31. As with aid programming from within the Syrian Arab Republic, cross-border deliveries are conducted in line with humanitarian principles and based on independent assessments of need. All United Nations operations are conducted in response to needs identified in the annual humanitarian needs overview. Individual United Nations system entities delivering humanitarian programming also regularly assess needs through their monitoring operations, and joint assessments are conducted, including in response to systemic shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on those assessments, individual cross-border shipments are initiated by the United Nations and coordinated with humanitarian partners.

32. Assistance delivered through the United Nations cross-border mechanism is monitored throughout its delivery at four distinct levels: (a) at the border by the United Nations Monitoring Mechanism for the Syrian Arab Republic, which verifies the humanitarian nature of United Nations cross-border assistance; (b) at warehouses inside the Syrian Arab Republic, where aid is confirmed upon arrival at warehouses by trusted and vetted implementing partners and by United Nations-contracted third-party monitors; (c) at distribution points, where videos and time-stamped, geotagged photos are used; and (d) after distribution with beneficiaries, including through beneficiary interviews and community feedback mechanisms. United Nations agencies' transparency and accountability systems have been adapted to individual operational needs, such as Quick Response Codes to track individual items in real time, end-to-end third-party monitoring systems that track supplies from the warehouse in Turkey to the beneficiary, and monitoring at distribution sites throughout the distribution process. These monitoring and oversight measures are further outlined in the report of the Secretary General on the review of United Nations humanitarian cross-line and cross-border operations ([S/2020/401](#)).

33. The United Nations continues to engage with donors and partners to ensure accountability, including preventing aid diversion in areas where Security Council-designated terrorist organizations are present. Transparency is critical in such a complex operating environment, and the United Nations works closely with implementing partners and donors on all aspects of the response. Regular reviews are being conducted to ensure that aid is going exclusively to the civilians who are in greatest need. Systems are in place to identify and respond to any reports of aid not reaching the intended beneficiaries.

Cross-border distribution mechanisms

34. In the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic, humanitarian assistance is provided through different cross-border distribution mechanisms. Food and non-food items are provided directly (in-kind assistance) or in some cases indirectly through cash or voucher systems. Beneficiaries of in-kind food or non-food items are selected according to needs-based assessments undertaken by humanitarian organizations and based on agreed eligibility and vulnerability criteria. Humanitarian partners in the north-west perform distributions at a specific time and place, often monthly, at a market square or other central location, or through door-to-door distributions (owing to, in particular, COVID-19-related preventive measures). People must show proof of identification and match their names to distribution lists verified by the implementing partners.

35. According to the latest numbers available, 13 per cent of food assistance was delivered as cash and voucher in July, while cash/voucher assistance represented approximately 23 per cent of the total assistance for non-food items in August. People receiving vouchers or cash are selected on the basis of needs assessments and agreed eligibility and vulnerability criteria, similar to beneficiaries of in-kind assistance. The mode of assistance chosen in each location is based on a determination of the most

efficient means of meeting critical needs. Prior to starting the programme, a market assessment is performed to assess the availability and frequency of supplies in markets, as well as the accessibility of markets and vendor capacity. Paper vouchers with a security seal and a serial number are created for use at verified vendors. People receive their vouchers at an agreed location on a specific day and must show proof of identification. All used vouchers are collected from the vendors for verification. For cash assistance, an agreed amount of money is transferred to the individual based on the survival minimum expenditure basket, which is reviewed and updated monthly by a technical working group. People obtain their cash through a money service contracted by the implementing partner for the delivery.

36. Other forms of assistance are provided through a wide range of services, including, but not limited to, supplying existing medical facilities with essential health items and schools with fuel and providing protection services for gender-based violence cases and support for livelihood activities. Medications are supplied to pharmacies or medical facilities for their use, requiring prescriptions. Support also includes providing salaries to medical workers and teachers.

Figure I

Number of beneficiaries targeted by the United Nations and its partners (see annex II) through cross-border humanitarian deliveries, by cluster: August and September 2021 (monthly average)

(Thousands)

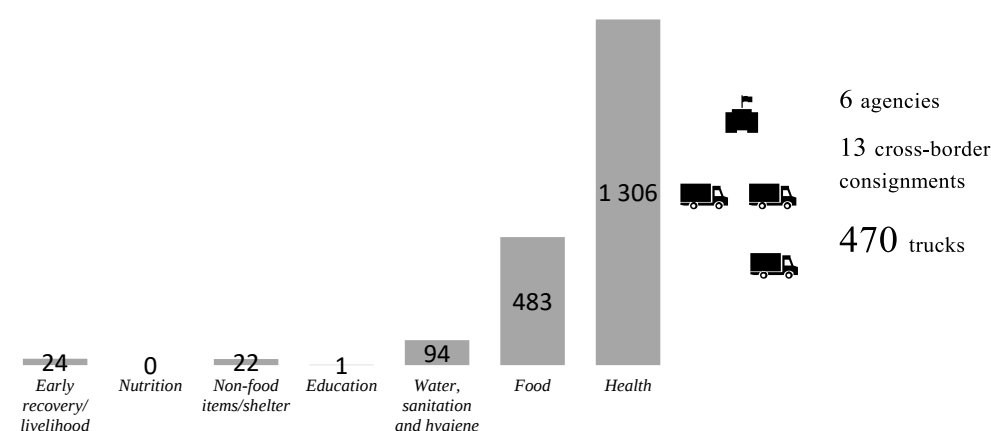


Table 2

Number of beneficiaries targeted by the United Nations and its partners through cross-border deliveries, by sector and by district: August and September 2021 (monthly average)

Governorate	District	Early recovery/livelihood	Education	Food	Health	Non-food items/shelter	Nutrition	Water, sanitation and hygiene
Aleppo	Afrin	2 477	—	27 500	—	900	—	—
Aleppo	Bab	4 133	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aleppo	I'zaz	352	—	43 454	750	1 500	—	4 500
Aleppo	Jarabulus	306	—	—	—	1 500	—	—
Aleppo	Jabal Sim'an	255	—	55 000	—	—	—	75 000
Idlib	Harim	974	—	319 461	—	4 375	—	14 241
Idlib	Idlib	8 577	992	38 013	1 304 974	13 500	—	—
Idlib	Jisr al-Shughur	7 282	—	—	—	—	—	—

37. 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.

Early recovery and livelihoods activities

38. Early recovery and livelihoods activities represent a core pillar of the humanitarian response in the Syrian Arab Republic, with the aim of enabling people in need to regain their way of life by reconnecting them with essential services and livelihood opportunities. The United Nations and its partners support early recovery and livelihoods projects across five distinct domains: (a) repair and rehabilitation of critical civilian infrastructure; (b) removal of debris and solid waste; (c) income-generating activities and market-based interventions; (d) vocational and skills training; and (e) social cohesion and community interventions.

39. Early recovery interventions are based on rigorous analyses of drivers of local conflict as well as local power dynamics to ensure that patterns of inequality and exclusion are not perpetuated. Interventions aim at not only rendering basic services more effective, but also more accountable and inclusive. Community participation in the rehabilitation of infrastructure and services builds social cohesion by promoting intercommunal cooperation on common interests.

40. To reduce the impact of the economic downturn and the COVID-19 pandemic, partners in early recovery and livelihoods activities provided a wide range of livelihood opportunities during the reporting period. For example, cash-for-work schemes provided people with an income while simultaneously supporting the rehabilitation of critical civilian infrastructure, such as schools and hospitals, and providing opportunities to manufacture critical items, such as face masks, locally. United Nations agencies also created business opportunities and supported entrepreneurship. UNHCR enabled 2,720 individuals to start a business and provided vocational training to 1,930 individuals. UNDP supported 1,590 rural enterprises, benefiting 7,950 people. With the support of UNDP and UNRWA, 7,980 people across 12 governorates in government-controlled areas took up temporary jobs, while 2,460 people benefited from regular employment opportunities, including 56 households headed by women. FAO provided 6,960 people in Aleppo with animal fodder, supported 54,000 people in Aleppo, Hasakah and Dayr al-Zawr in increasing herd sizes and trained 890 people in nutrition-sensitive agriculture, school gardening and irrigation management. UNICEF provided monthly cash transfers to 6,300 families of children with disabilities. Through cross-border assistance, in the governorates of Idlib and Aleppo, early recovery and livelihoods activities partners provided short-term work opportunities for 1,750 individuals in 14 subdistricts, supported 1,500 individuals in starting a business in 17 subdistricts and trained 3,500 individuals in 15 subdistricts.

41. Early recovery and livelihoods partners also supported the rehabilitation of critical civilian infrastructure to strengthen basic services. UNDP rehabilitated two schools for 650 children, one clinic and parts of the sewage system in Dayr al-Zawr and one clinic in Aleppo, as well as fishing-related infrastructure in Tartus. UNDP further removed 8,550 tons of solid waste in 33 neighbourhoods in Aleppo and Tartus. Through cross-border assistance, early recovery and livelihoods partners rehabilitated two markets in the Ariha subdistrict, removed 12,000 m³ of debris and waste in five subdistricts and rehabilitated one education facility in Aleppo Governorate and two health-care facilities in Darat Izzah in Idlib Governorate. Moreover, access to basic utilities such as electricity, water and sewage systems was restored for 1,629 households.

42. Several early recovery and livelihoods projects were aimed at strengthening social cohesion at the community level. In government-controlled areas, UNDP supported 13 initiatives targeting 1,900 individuals to promote social cohesion. Early recovery and livelihoods partners also supported social cohesion through cross-border assistance by convening 30 community and civic engagement initiatives in eight subdistricts in Aleppo and Idlib governorates.

Humanitarian access

43. 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 Syrian Arab Republic remains complex, as different geographical areas and different types of services require the use of different operating modalities. More than 1,800 United Nations staff members are based in the country, with over 600 deployed in humanitarian hubs outside Damascus, in Aleppo, Dayr al-Zawr, Hama, Homs, Ladhikiyah, 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.

44. Analysis of access combines quantitative and qualitative aspects, with reporting consolidated from United Nations agencies as well as international and national NGOs for each response modality. Recognizing the overall difficult landscape in which humanitarian operations take place, data indicate an overall degree of improved humanitarian access throughout the country, demonstrating that 62 per cent of people in need of assistance, or 8.3 million, live in areas with lower levels of access constraints, 35 per cent, or 4.7 million, live in areas with moderate access constraints, and 3 per cent, or 400,000, live in areas with high access constraints. The data also point to an increased mission approval and an extended physical presence of humanitarian country team members in the north-east and Dayr al-Zawr. Nevertheless, conflict-related dynamics continue to have a significant impact on access, with the presence of mines and unexploded ordnance being the single most prominent constraint.

Access in government-controlled areas

45. In government-controlled areas, communities and enclaves that remained difficult to reach owing to administrative impediments 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.

46. In the south of the Syrian Arab Republic, heavy shelling and ground clashes across parts of Dar'a Governorate affected United Nations mobility and access. In August, humanitarian partners reported access restrictions, including road closures, which affected the delivery of a wide range of life-saving assistance to displaced persons and the treatment of the injured in Dar'a al-Balad. Following an agreement on 6 September between parties, some humanitarian partners have recommenced operations. On 10 September, regular food assistance from WFP to Dar'a Governorate resumed and food rations sufficient for some 263,050 people were dispatched. WFP continues to reach 450,000 people with overall food assistance monthly.

47. United Nations personnel and third-party contractors continued to travel to field locations, along with national NGOs and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, to conduct assessment, monitoring, logistics and administrative support missions. Between 1 August and 20 September, 2,097 regular programmatic movements took place with programme or blanket approvals. That represented a 7 per cent increase compared with June and July, when 1,960 such missions took place (see table 3).¹

Table 3

Total number of missions conducted with programme or blanket approvals^a from within the Syrian Arab Republic by United Nations agencies and third parties/facilitators, by type: 1 August to 20 September 2021

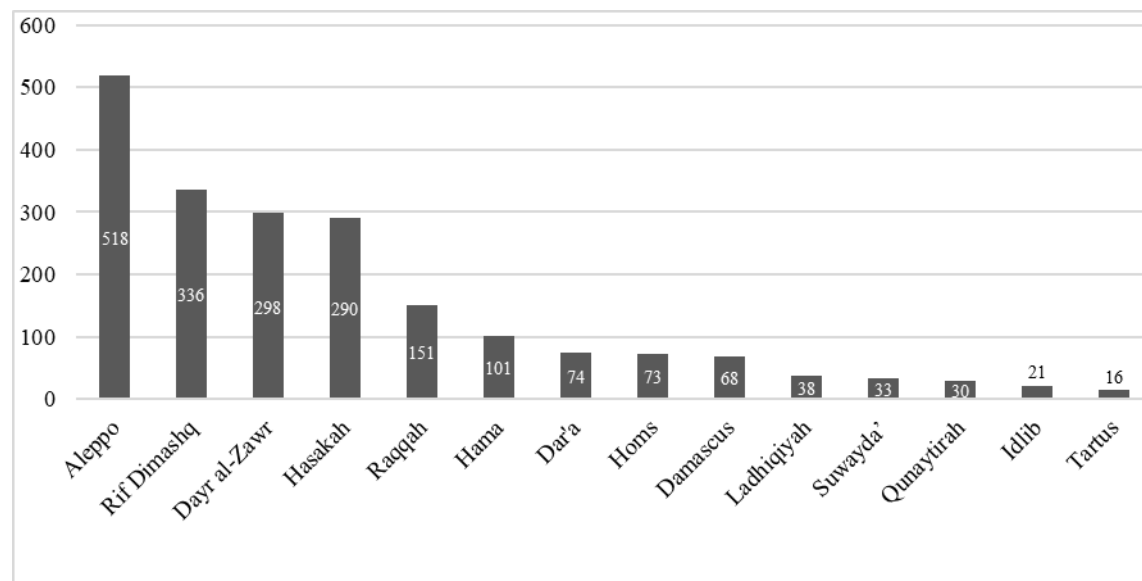
Type of mission	Blanket approval	Programme approval	Total number
Assessment missions	41	4	45
Missions accompanying aid deliveries	876	25	901
Monitoring missions	1 082	0	1 082
Security, logistics and administrative support missions	69	0	69
Total	2 068	29	2 097

Note: The total number of missions conducted with programme or blanket approvals does not include the missions conducted by WHO third-party monitors from 1 August to 20 September 2021.

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

Figure II

Total number of missions conducted with programme or blanket approvals from within the Syrian Arab Republic by United Nations agencies and third parties/facilitators, by governorate: 1 August to 20 September 2021



¹ 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.

48. For missions requiring specific approval by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the United Nations submitted 218 new requests, of which 182 (83 per cent) were approved (see table 4). This takes into account the 10-day response period by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and does not negatively count requests that were submitted but are still in process.

Table 4

Missions from within the Syrian Arab Republic requiring specific approval by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: 1 August to 20 September 2021

<i>Type of request</i>	<i>Number requested</i>	<i>Number approved</i>	<i>Percentage approved</i>
Assessment missions	45	35	78
Missions accompanying aid deliveries	20	18	90
Monitoring missions	90	66	73
Security, logistics and administrative support missions	30	30	100
Explosive ordnance assessment missions	33	33	100
Total	218	182	83

Note: Missions by United Nations personnel departing from Damascus or travelling cross-line generally require specific approval from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. An additional 14 missions were requested by United Nations agencies during the reporting period, all of which are currently in process. Figures outlined in table 4 are based on internal data reported by United Nations agencies and reflect submissions made and approvals received during the reporting period (August to September) of the present report. The figures may therefore differ from those recorded by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, with which discussions are being held to align methodologies.

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

49. In the north-west, WFP successfully completed a cross-line delivery of food and nutrition assistance on 31 August from government-controlled Aleppo city, Aleppo Governorate, to a warehouse in opposition-controlled Sarmada city, Idlib Governorate. The assistance delivered was sufficient for 43,500 people for one month. Distributions are anticipated to start in October. This is the first time since 2017 that humanitarian assistance has reached the north-western part of the country from government-controlled areas. UNICEF also provided cross-line support for water, sanitation and hygiene services for 130,000 people in non-government-controlled areas in Idlib through a partnership with the private sector.

50. The United Nations continued to engage with the parties concerned regarding further cross-line assistance to the north-west from inside the Syrian Arab Republic, including through multi-agency cross-line convoys. Challenges to sustainable cross-line operations into the north-west, however, continue, including identifying a suitable distribution modality that is acceptable to both the Government and concerned parties in the north-west, and securing security guarantees from parties on the ground.

Cross-line access in the north-east of the Syrian Arab Republic

51. In the north-east, the United Nations and humanitarian partners maintained regular and sustained humanitarian access in most parts of Hasakah Governorate and some parts of Raqqah Governorate.

52. Efforts continued towards the delivery of sufficient and sustained medical assistance to areas in the north-east outside of government control. In August and September, WHO delivered three cross-line shipments, including one road convoy

and two airlifts, carrying 57,360 kg of aid sufficient to provide 56,285 treatments and support 18,092 trauma cases. The shipments included a range of medical items as well as vaccines, including 8,360 doses of COVID-19 vaccines, which were provided to 77 primary health-care centres and 19 hospitals. Supplies to hospitals were delivered directly by WHO, while supplies to primary health-care centres were delivered through partners as well as through health authorities in Hasakah, Dayr al-Zawr and Tabaqah. WHO cross-line supplies have been based on need assessments, conducted jointly with health partners working in the north-east. WHO reported no major operational or logistical challenges during those deliveries. While the United Nations has continued to scale up deliveries of health supplies to the north-east across lines of control, needs continue to outstrip the response. NGOs supporting over 110 health-care facilities across the north-east continued to face delays in securing reliable supply chains, leading to shortages of essential medicines such as paediatric medications, insulin and cardiovascular and tuberculosis medicines as well as a lack of laboratory supplies and treatment for acute malnutrition. Health-care services continued to be affected by access challenges and underinvestment.

53. During the reporting period, WFP provided some 598,800 people with food assistance monthly in non-government-controlled areas of the north-eastern part of the Syrian Arab Republic. All WFP food assistance distributed to these areas was delivered from its warehouses inside the Syrian Arab Republic and dispatched onward to its cooperating partners for distribution. UNHCR, supported by NGO partners, delivered core relief items cross-line to over 15,000 beneficiaries in the north-east. UNICEF reached over 9,600 people cross-line with COVID-19 vaccines, screened more than 28,000 children for acute malnutrition and provided 29,000 children with routine immunizations, in addition to providing non-food items and support for education, protection and water, sanitation and hygiene, reaching thousands of vulnerable people cross-line in the north-east.

54. Other areas, including Manbij and Ayn al-Arab, remained difficult for United Nations agencies to reach from Damascus, owing to the lack of agreement between parties in control. Despite these challenges, UNICEF supported cross-line routine immunizations and COVID-19 immunization services in the districts of Ayn al-Arab and Manbij and provided water, sanitation and hygiene services for 25,000 people in 12 camps. The United Nations continues to explore options to establish cross-line access to the Ra's al-Ayn-Tall Abyad area.

55. 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. As part of the United Nations ongoing engagement with parties to identify durable, safe and dignified solutions for civilians living in Rukban, the United Nations supported a mission, alongside the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, to aid the voluntary departures of families who had expressed a desire to leave Rukban and requested assistance to do so. On 11 September, a convoy of five trucks entered Rukban to provide support for registered families who wanted to leave voluntarily. All relevant stakeholders had given permissions and assurances for the safety of the drivers and of the departing families. While inside Rukban, a small group of individuals obstructed the convoy and assaulted a driver. As a result, the mission was cancelled.

Cross-border access in the Syrian Arab Republic

56. 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 resolutions [2533 \(2020\)](#) and [2585 \(2021\)](#). 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 486 trucks carrying humanitarian supplies have used that crossing point since Council resolution [2585 \(2021\)](#) came into effect. The number of trucks that crossed in August is lower compared with the previous reporting period, owing to the large-scale pre-positioning of supplies before the expiration of Council resolution [2533 \(2020\)](#). Cross-border deliveries are expected to significantly increase again in the months ahead, commensurate with the massive needs in the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic.

57. The United Nations Monitoring Mechanism for the Syrian Arab Republic continued its operations as mandated under Security Council resolutions [2165 \(2014\)](#), [2191 \(2014\)](#), [2258 \(2015\)](#), [2332 \(2016\)](#), [2393 \(2017\)](#), [2449 \(2018\)](#), [2504 \(2020\)](#), [2533 \(2020\)](#) and [2585 \(2021\)](#). The Monitoring Mechanism monitored and confirmed the humanitarian nature of 13 consignments consisting of 470 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 50,302 (40,330 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.

Visas and registrations

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

Table 5

Requests for United Nations visas: 1 August to 25 September 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	98 ^a	52	1	38
Renewals requested during reporting period	139	108	–	31
Visas pending from before reporting period	73	27	2	44
Renewals pending from before reporting period	62	50	0	12

^a The United Nations withdrew seven visa requests submitted during the reporting period.

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

Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and premises

60. 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 explosive remnants of war, including unexploded ordnance and landmines.

61. 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.

62. A total of 15 staff members of the United Nations system (all from UNRWA) are still detained or missing as at the end of the reporting period, including one staff member detained in September.

III. Observations

63. In September, a grim announcement reminded us of the appalling suffering and losses of the Syrian people. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights confirmed that over 350,000 identified individuals were killed in the first decade of the conflict. More than 1 in every 13 was a woman, and almost 1 in every 13 was a child. This figure is certainly a significant undercounting of the actual number of deaths. It does not include enforced disappearances or missing persons.

64. Ongoing hostilities, the deepening economic crisis, water shortages and the COVID-19 pandemic continue to push millions of already vulnerable Syrians into even deeper crisis. Needs are by far outstripping available resources, as people across the Syrian Arab Republic struggle daily to make ends meet. Communities are determined to restart their lives, yet desperately need an end to the conflict, lifesaving aid, early recovery support and respect for fundamental human rights to do so. It is incumbent on all relevant parties to expand effort to provide Syrians in need with a more dignified life and a sense of hope for the future.

65. Despite the March 2020 ceasefire agreement in the north-west and more recent local agreements in the southern part of the country, civilians continue to be killed and injured, and tens of thousands have been displaced during the reporting period. The blatant disregard for the lives of civilians is truly appalling. All parties to the conflict must respect and protect civilians and civilian infrastructure in accordance with international humanitarian law and human rights law and take all feasible precautions to avoid, and in any event to minimize, incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians and damage to civilian objects. 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.

66. I welcome the cross-line delivery of food and nutrition assistance into the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic, the first United Nations cross-line mission since 2017. This progress is a vital step towards expanding the overall humanitarian response, as needs continue to grow. However, while the United Nations continues its efforts to strengthen access into the north-west from inside the Syrian Arab Republic, at this point such cross-line convoys, even if deployed regularly, could not replicate the size and scope of the cross-border operation. Sustainable cross-line operations into the north-west also require agreement on a suitable distribution modality that is acceptable to both the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and concerned parties in the north-west, as well as security guarantees from parties on the ground. The United Nations will continue its efforts in this regard. As is described in detail in the present report, cross-border assistance remains the central part of the humanitarian

response to ensure that aid reaches, in an effective and transparent manner, the millions of people in need in this area. A robust monitoring system and rigorous oversight measures are in place to ensure the integrity of all deliveries and distributions. With greater access and expanded funding, the United Nations could do more to help the rising number of people in need. I reiterate my call upon all parties to the conflict to allow and facilitate the rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief for all civilians in need, which is impartial in character and conducted without any adverse distinction, in accordance with international humanitarian law.

67. COVID-19 remains a grave concern across the Syrian Arab Republic. In the north-west, the Delta variant has led to a surge that is overwhelming an already overstretched health system. Cases have also increased pressure on the health-care system in the north-east, as well as throughout the country. While the vaccination roll-out is ongoing, I remain deeply concerned that only 1.6 per cent of the population is fully vaccinated. The timely delivery of COVID-19 vaccines to the Syrian Arab Republic using all access modalities remains essential. I reiterate my call for a dramatic increase in the scale and pace of vaccinations to protect lives and livelihoods.

68. 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.

69. The Special Envoy continues his efforts towards securing the unilateral release of persons arbitrarily deprived of their liberty, with priority given to women, children, older persons and those who are sick, to lay a foundation for credible justice, accountability, true reconciliation and sustainable peace. The majority are 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 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 charges against them, afforded fair and prompt trials and be released immediately if they are found to be detained arbitrarily. Deaths in custody should be promptly and transparently investigated, identified perpetrators brought to justice and the families of the deceased informed and compensated in cases of wrongful death.

70. Continued impunity for serious violations and abuses of human rights and international humanitarian law remains of grave concern. Perpetrators of such violations must be held accountable. I call upon all parties to the conflict, in particular the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as all States, civil society and the United Nations system, to cooperate fully with the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011, in particular by providing relevant information and documentation. Accountability for serious violations and abuses of human rights and international humanitarian law is 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.

71. 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.

72. The Special Envoy continues his efforts as he prepares to convene a sixth session of the Constitutional Committee's small body and endeavours to build a wider political process, based on constructive international diplomacy, to promote political progress to implement all aspects of Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#). A process of concrete, mutual and reciprocal steps could help advance the political process. I look forward to continued engagement by Syrian, regional and international interlocutors with my Special Envoy. 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 I

Reported incidents affecting civilians recorded by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: August and September 2021*

Idlib Governorate

- On 24 August, two boys were killed and two girls were injured when a reported unexploded ordnance detonated in agricultural land near Suwwaghiyah village in northern rural Idlib.
- On 7 September, seven civilians, including one woman, two girls and two boys, were injured when a reported airstrike landed in a house in the proximity of Maryam internally displaced persons camp near Ma'arratmisrin city in northern rural Idlib.
- On 7 September, four civilians, including one woman and one boy, were killed when reported ground-based strikes landed in a residential area of Idlib city.
- On 8 September, a boy and his mother were injured when a reported ground-based strike damaged a residential building in Mara'yan village in southern rural Idlib.

Aleppo Governorate

- On 5 August, two men were killed and two men were injured after a reported ground-based strike landed in Hazwan village in eastern rural Aleppo.
- On 5 August, six civilians, including one woman and one boy, were injured when several reported ground-based strikes landed in Bab city.
- On 6 August, 12 civilians, including two women, four boys and two girls, were injured when several reported ground-based strikes landed in Bab city in eastern rural Aleppo.
- On 23 August, seven civilians, including six men and one boy, were injured when a reported vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated in I'zaz city in northern rural Aleppo.
- On 1 September, two boys were killed after a reported landmine exploded in Siftik village in north-west rural Aleppo.
- On 16 September, a civilian woman was arrested by local police in Afrin city in north-west rural Aleppo. The reasons for her arrest and detention remain unclear to her family. Her fate is currently unknown.
- On 17 September, eight civilian men were injured when a reported magnetic improvised explosive device detonated in Bab city in eastern rural Aleppo.

Hasakah Governorate

- On 8 August, two men and one woman were shot and injured by unidentified perpetrators in phase No.1 in Hawl camp in eastern rural Hasakah.

* 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 17 August, a woman was killed and five civilians, including two boys, one girl and one woman, were injured when several reported ground-based strikes landed in Abu Rasayn town in northern rural Hasakah.
- On 25 August, a man was shot and killed by unidentified perpetrators in phase No. 1 in Hawl camp in eastern rural Hasakah.
- On 25 August, the body of a woman was discovered in Hawl camp. Unidentified perpetrators shot and killed the woman.
- On 18 September, a man was reportedly detained in Ra's al-Ayn city in western rural Hasakah. He reportedly died in custody several days later.

Hama Governorate

- On 7 August, three boys and one girl were killed and six other civilians, including a woman, two girls and two boys, were injured when a reported ground-based strike landed near their home in Qastun al-Gharbi village in western rural Hama.

Dar'a Governorate

- On 2 August, a girl was injured when a reported ground-based strike landed in the Dar'a camp area in Dar'a city.
- On 6 August, a civilian man was injured when several reported ground-based strikes landed in Nahtah town in eastern rural Dar'a.
- On 14 August, three civilians, including one woman and one boy, were injured after several reported ground-based strikes landed in Jasim town in northern rural Dar'a.
- On 23 August, a man was killed after a reported ground-based strike landed in Dar'a al-Balad area in Dar'a city.
- On 27 August, Safsaf and Ayn Karim schools in Dar'a camp were damaged when several reported ground-based strikes landed in Dar'a city.
- On 27 August, a woman was killed and six other civilians, including one woman, were injured when reported ground-based strikes landed in Tafas in western rural Dar'a.
- On 28 August, one boy and two girls were killed and their mother was injured when a reported unexploded ordnance detonated near their house between the towns of Qarfa and Ibt'a in northern rural Dar'a.
- On 29 August, two men were killed after a reported ground-based strike landed in Dar'a al-Mahattah in Dar'a city.
- On 29 August, two women were killed and four civilians were injured after several reported ground-based strikes landed in Jallayn town in western rural Dar'a.
- On 30 August, three civilians, including a 9-year-old girl and her mother, were injured after several reported ground-based strikes impacted in Dar'a al-Mahattah area in Dar'a city.
- On 30 August, a civilian man was injured when a separate reported ground-based strike landed in Dar'a al-Mahattah area in Dar'a city.
- On 3 September, a man was killed by reported sniper fire while working in an agricultural area near Tafas in western rural Dar'a.

- On 8 September, a man was killed when a reported unexploded ordnance detonated in front of his house in Dar'a al-Balad area in Dar'a.
- On 8 September, a man was injured when a reported ground-based strike landed in Tasil town in western rural Dar'a.
- On 10 September, two boys were injured when a reported ground-based strike landed near their home in Tasil town in western rural Dar'a.

Dayr al-Zawr Governorate

- On 11 August, two men were killed when a reported landmine detonated in Duwayr town in eastern rural Dayr al-Zawr.
- On 25 August, a civilian was killed in a reported drive-by shooting in Basirah city in eastern rural Dayr al-Zawr.
- On 29 August, three civilian men were killed and one civilian man was injured after a reported landmine detonated near Duwayr town in eastern rural Dayr al-Zawr.
- On 5 September, a boy was killed and another two boys were injured as result of what was reported to be a landmine exploded in an agriculture area in the village of Izbah in eastern rural Dayr al-Zawr.

Raqqah Governorate

- On 4 August, four civilians, including two girls and one boy, were killed and one woman and one girl were injured after several reported ground-based strikes impacted in Safawiyah village in northern rural Raqqah.
- On 6 September, a civilian was injured when several reported ground-based strikes landed in Khalidiyah village in northern rural Raqqah.
- On 8 September, a man was reportedly abducted and beaten in Suluk town, in the area of Tall Abyad in Raqqah Governorate. He was later released.

Annex II**List of United Nations humanitarian cross-border operating partners**

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

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

71. The Syrian Association for Relief and Development
 72. Turkish Red Crescent
 73. Ufuk for Relief and Development
 74. Union of Medical Care and Relief Organization
 75. Violet Organization
 76. War Child Holland
 77. Watan Foundation
 78. White Hands
 79. White Hats Organization for Sustainable Development
 80. Woman Support Association
 81. World Vision International
 82. Yol Rehberi İnsan Hakları Derneği
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