

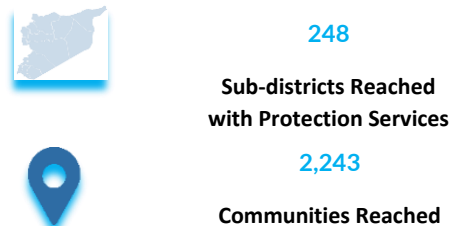
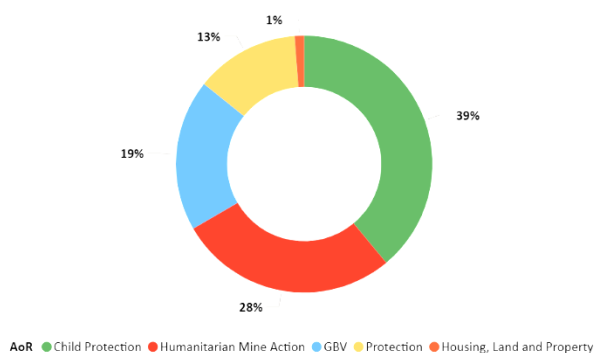
Key Highlights

- Sector Transition Completed:** The Protection Sector including its AoRs successfully completed the transition from three coordination hubs (Northwest, Northeast, and Damascus) to a unified Syria Protection Sector by the end of June. This includes **harmonized 5W reporting** and the first nation-wide **protection services mapping**. In addition, the **Housing, Land & Property (HLP) Technical Working Group** was reactivated at the national level, co-led by NRC, UN-Habitat, and UNHCR.
- In the first half of 2025, the Protection Sector **reached approximately 2.1 million individuals** with protection services, including Child Protection (38%), Mine Action (28%), Gender-Based Violence (19%), and General Protection including Housing, Land and Property (15%). Women and girls make up nearly half (50%) of all beneficiaries, with 26% women, 24% girls, 10% adolescent girls, followed by 24% boys, 8% men, 6% adolescent boys, and 2% elderly persons.
- Protection activities were implemented across **248 sub-districts and 2,243 communities**, and 97% of individuals reached were in areas with a protection severity scale of 3 (severe), 4 (extreme), or 5 (catastrophic), and 92% of all sub-districts within those severity levels were reached.
- These services were delivered through the **collective efforts of 193 partners** (103 national NGOs, 75 international NGOs, 8 UN agencies, 4 Red Cross/Red Crescent organizations, and 3 governmental institutions) who contributed to the 5Ws.
- In addition to direct services, the Protection Sector continued **efforts to enhance the quality and consistency of the response**. This included developing guidance and training frontline workers across the country, while also ensuring protection mainstreaming across activities.

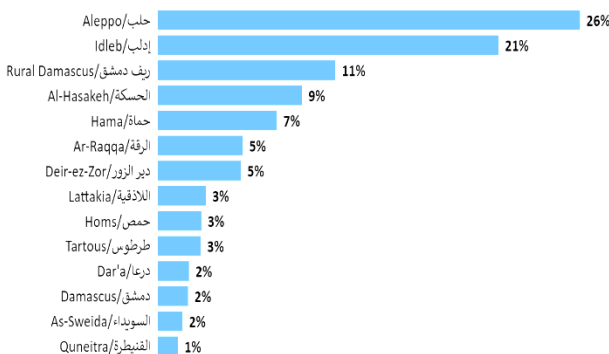
Key Figures



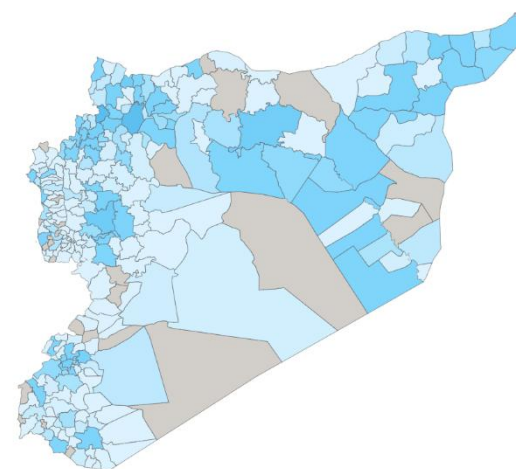
% of People Reached Per AoR



% of People Reached Per Governorate



Map of People Reached Per Sub-Districts



Protection Developments

- While there have been several positive developments since December 8th 2024 including enhanced freedom of movement enabling returns, Syria continues to face significant humanitarian and protection challenges after 14 years of conflict. These have been compounded by outbreaks of hostilities and continued insecurity in some parts of the country.
- The widespread presence of explosive ordnance, prolonged erosion of the rule of law, weak basic services, and the socio-economic environment also continue to drive protection needs especially for women, children, and the elderly.
- While some 1.23m IDPs have returned (as of June 2025) to their areas of origin, millions remain in a situation of protracted displacement, including 1.9 million still in camps or camp-like settings. Armed violence in some parts of Syria generated new displacement and caused harm to civilians. Over 16.5m Syrians are in need of protection services (Humanitarian Response Priorities 2025).
- Protection partners report the following as key concerns generating protection risks in 2025 to date:
 - Extensive explosive ordnance contamination across Syria inhibiting returns and recovery efforts.
 - Grave violations against children, including forced recruitment, as well as family separation, and child labour.
 - Lack of access to civil documentation, justice mechanisms, and legal remedies.
 - Widespread gender-based violence, with heightened risks in camp and informal sites.
 - Reintegration challenges in certain return areas (such as former frontline areas) due to the absence of or overstretched services, UXO, HLP disputes, etc., exacerbating exposure to protection risks.
 - Rising social/community tensions in parts of the country, driven in part by increased returns to resource-scarce areas, compounded by underlying societal divisions and a lack of inclusive local governance.
 - HLP issues including forced evictions, secondary occupation, and unresolved claims.
 - Psychological distress and trauma due to prolonged displacement, violence, family separation, and socio-economic stressors.
 - Targeted violence and killings affecting civilians as well as specific groups.
 - Exposure to and reliance on negative coping mechanism for vulnerable households.
 - Environmental degradation and protection risk due to prolonged drought conditions, with cascading effects on livelihoods, displacement, and community tensions.

Highlights

1. Protection

1.1. Response

- In the first half of 2025, the Protection Sector reached approximately 2.1 million individuals with protection services. Within this, Protection Sector partners reached 303,807 individuals across 172 sub-districts, with General Protection & Housing, Land and Property (HLP) services.
- Key achievements during the reporting period include the provision of psychosocial support services to 48,146 individuals and awareness-raising activities that reached 40,607 people. A total of 17,834 persons with disabilities received in-kind material assistance, rehabilitation supplies, medical equipment, and case management services. Additionally, 10,845 individuals benefited from case management and referral services. Targeted cash assistance was provided to 1,071 individuals at risk of or exposed to protection concerns. Approximately 94,746 individuals received legal support, including legal awareness sessions and interventions related to housing, land and property rights, civil documentation, and other legal matters.
- This was achieved through a network of 134 community centers, 18 satellite centers, 272 mobile teams, and 2,724 outreach volunteers. The response was coordinated through the national sector and seven sub-national coordination teams, engaging 193 protection actors.
- A key milestone during the first half of 2025 was the commencement of partner organized and supported returns from IDP camps in Northeast Syria to their areas of origin. By the end of June, 2055 IDPs from camps in NES had been supported with organized returns.
- The Syria-wide Protection Monitoring & Assessment Working Group was launched, and protection monitoring tools were successfully harmonised to enable joint data collection and analysis across Syria from Q3. A workshop to support the finalization of inter-agency referral mechanisms Syria-wide was also conducted to strengthen coordination and referral pathways among protection actors.
- In its standard-setting role, the Sector also developed and issued Syria-wide guidance on cash for protection, IDP returns, sudden programme closure and the use of appropriate terminology for sector partners. The Sector also published a snapshot [protection analysis](#).

1.2 Gaps/Challenges

- Only around 14% of the \$253m required by the Sector in 2025 is funded to date. Funding shortfalls have resulted in the closure of static facilities delivering integrated protection services in various parts of Syria. The suspension of U.S.-sanctioned humanitarian activities in January 2025 further disrupted operations and access to essential services.

- Continued closure or lack of (full) functionality of key social and civil institutions, including courts and civil registries, hampered access to services and reintegration efforts especially for returnees to access to legal identity and civil documentations further exacerbating protection risks such as arbitrary detention, statelessness, and housing, land, and property (HLP) disputes.

2. Child Protection

2.1. Response

- Child protection partners played a vital role to ensure all children at risk and those affected by the conflict IDPs, returnees and host communities received timely lifesaving child protection support across the 14 Governorates, partners reached 735,676(30%) of the target, 293,478 boys, 303,374 girls, 100,876 women, and 37,948 men were reached, with specialized case management, parenting programs, MHPSS and prevention/awareness to address social norms, enhance referrals and advocacy initiatives for child rights,
- To ensure a predictable timely response and a harmonized approach across board, CP AoR finalized three key strategic documents, CP AoR strategy Institutional capacity building plan for partners and government and the localization strategy, this sets the basis for preparing a clear approach to systematic planning, service delivery, advocacy/ fundraising and lays a foundation for a government lead coordination for child protection in Syria.
- Enhancing capacities of partners and Government is central for CP; to improve of data management and evidence generation, a total of 137 data and reporting officers were trained on Activity Info and key data quality assurance standards across Syria. Staff from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour and its General Directorates (MoSAL & DoSAL) and (HAC) Humanitarian Action coordination teams were trained on Child Protection in Humanitarian Action; Child Protection Coordination; Humanitarian Architecture; Data and Information Management ,35 staff (13 women and 22 men) from all governorates benefited.

2.2. Gaps/Challenges

- Low funding levels for child protection has limited the scale up of much Needed support, with suspension of US funding major gaps were created especially in the Aaraqa and Hasaka and generally in Syria.
- High dependence of service delivery to NGOs, UN and INGOs with the slow registration and liquidity issues has Impacted service provision.
- Absence of supportive legislative and policy frameworks has affected some critical services such as birth registration which has resulted in inability of children to access some critical basic needs/services
- Absence of the social welfare workforce affects the quality delivery of specialised child protection services.

3. Gender Based Violence

3.1. Response

- 406,491 women, girls, boys and men were reached through GBV programming. 90,165 GBV response services were provided in 1,323 communities in 211 sub-districts. Over 1,377 staff have been trained on GBV case management, risk mitigation, empowerment, among other topics.

3.2. Gaps/Challenges

- Funding cuts - implications on downsizing of programs, coordination of activities and closing of specialized service points (including community centers, women and girls' safe spaces, child-friendly spaces, physical rehabilitation centers, etc.) and distribution points, despite an increase in need.
- Gaps in specialized services and humanitarian partners with technical capacities that include: CMR and legal services, case management and MHPSS.
- Limited economic/livelihood opportunities especially for women and girls at risk and GBV survivors. Security threats on GBV staff and partners in some areas.
- Complex and highly sensitive operational environment, including various access constraints and conservative gender norms that inhibits access to services and require investment of resources and time in order to advance GBV outcomes.

4. Mine Action

4.1 Response

- 589,729 Syrians were provided services by Mine Action AoR partners, including explosive ordnance risk education (EORE), localised non-technical and technical surveys to determine levels of EO contamination, EO clearance and destruction, and victim assistance (VA) including physical rehabilitation, prosthetics and assistive devices, psychosocial support, inclusion services, etc.

4.2 Gaps/challenges

- Funding shortfalls pose the key challenge for MA partners to be able to scale up response within all pillars of mine action, especially survey/clearance, EORE and VA.

- Since the change in context, there is an urgent need to establish MA emergency clearance teams that would be deployed to areas where large population movements have been taking place. Urgent funding is needed to meet this need in order to reduce loss of lives and limbs.
- The full extent of EO contamination remains largely unknown as no Syria-wide non-technical survey to map out contamination has ever been conducted. This will remain the main priority for the sector in the second half of the year.
- Partners are exerting immense efforts to meet the demand for EORE to reduce the risk from death and injury, however additional support is needed to deliver EORE in hard to reach areas and areas with limited internet coverage.
- Immediate access to trauma care is the key factor in saving lives and limbs of people affected by EO accidents as well as the key element for MA partners to scale up response - availability of trauma care, especially in DeZ has been one of the most critical gaps for both civilians and MA operators.
- Access to prosthetics/orthotics and specialized care for EO survivors remains a challenge, especially with upper limb injuries. Support will be needed to scale up specialized services, especially for children who need frequent change of prosthetics as they continue to grow.

Sector and AoRs Publications

1. Protection

- [Syria Protection Response Monitoring Dashboard](#)
- [Syria Protection Service Mapping Dashboard](#)
- [Protection Sector - Snapshot Protection Landscape in Syria | GPC](#)
- [Protection Sector Operational Guidance Note on Returns of IDPs in Syria](#)
- [Cash for Protection Guidance](#)
- [Guidance on Using Appropriate Terminology](#)
- [Guidance on Sudden Programme Closure](#)

2. Child Protection

- [Institutional Capacity Development Plan](#)
- [Localization Strategy](#)
- [Child Protection Strategy](#)

3. GBV

- [GBV AOR Advocacy Brief](#)
- [Technology Facilitated GBV in NWS](#)
- [Women - and Girls - friendly integrated services in the WoS response](#)

4. Mine Action

- [MA AoR Situation Update No. 1](#)
- [MA AoR Situation Update No. 2](#)
- [MA AoR Situation Update No. 3](#)

Protection Sector and AoR Focal Points

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