



Brussels, 15 December 2022
(OR. en)

16058/22

COHAFA 123
MAMA 202
SY 2
INTER-REP 135

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	13 December 2022
To:	Working Party for Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA)
Subject:	Current crisis: Syria - presentation by DCA

Following the informal videoconference of COHAFA on 13 December, delegations will find in Annex presentation made by the DanChurchAid (DCA)⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾.

¹ DCA's identification number in the EU Transparency Register: 512758733410-58.
² This document contains a presentation by an external stakeholder and the views expressed therein are solely those of the third party it originates from. This document cannot be regarded as stating an official position of the Council. It does not reflect the views of the Council or of its members.



North-East Syria Humanitarian Context, Needs and Challenges



- More people in need than ever before estimated in 2023 due to **converging chronic vulnerabilities and lack of services resulting from complex socio economic dynamics and the water crisis.**
- Continuous **devaluation of the SYP** (over 450% depreciation over the past two years) and high inflation resulting in **increased prices for basic goods and services and decreased wages**, severely limiting purchasing power and expanding gap between income to expenditure ratio (USD 128 earnings vs 150 USD needed to survive).
- **The cost of living has seen an increase of an average 30%** this year in NES (REACH SMEB Data), reducing household ability to purchase food items and further threatening their food security.
- **8% of households are completely unable to meet their basic needs** (6% last year) while **77% of households are insufficiently able to meet basic needs** (up from 70% in 2021).
- **Worsening of negative coping mechanisms** with possible increase of protection issues, such as child labour exploitation, child marriage, involvement with armed groups, as well as a rise in illicit activities, drug consumption and mental health issues.

1



12 December 2022

North-East Syria Humanitarian Context, Needs and Challenges



- **Protracted crisis and the economic landscape** have weakened capacity for basic service delivery in NES such as water, health and electricity. This places further burden on families and communities who must seek out costly private alternatives or go without basic needs being met.
- **Complex water crisis** from two years of drought, increase in water trucking costs, lack of clean water, critical water infrastructure heavily destroyed from previous rounds of conflict which also impacts massively on the reduction in local wheat production, increased over-reliance on imports, and decrease in livelihood opportunities.
- **Ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict** restricting further access to food, imports, agricultural goods from international markets.
- **Around 150,000 households** are identified as farming households in NES, **impacted by climate change, reduced availability and affordability of agricultural inputs, and hindered access to equipment, water and energy.**

2



North-East Syria Humanitarian Context, Needs and Challenges



- **Increase in inequalities** across different areas and within communities due to deteriorating socio-economic context which also leads to higher competition over already limited resources negatively affecting the social fabric and increasing tensions between host communities and IDPs.
- **Increased displacement and camp population numbers** due to- ongoing Turkish hostilities and threat of a new Turkish incursion into the Peace Spring area. Displacements **to relatively stable areas** adding additional strain on essential services, employment opportunities and increasing tensions.
- **Levels of psychosocial distress will increase among** both adults and children, with ongoing conflict and socio-economic crisis further deteriorating their mental wellbeing. **Child rights violations** will also increase.
- **Reduced funding compared to increasing needs and increased cost of assistance** -hard to balance short term emergency relief with medium-long term early recovery/sustainable interventions. Risk that limited available funds for early recovery will be shifted back to emergency response to address most urgent needs.

3

Recommendations



Need to **increase funding for emergency assistance** as well as funding for **early recovery and livelihood interventions** to enhance access to water and bolster local crop and livestock production, as this will reduce humanitarian needs and food and nutrition insecurity.

12 December 2022

- Increased access to agricultural inputs and livelihoods requires a holistic economic and climate policy and interventions looking at **regional level challenges** and **investments in innovative systems** and integrated responses for agriculture as well as **climate smart** interventions.
- **Sanctions** are having a negative impact on the ability of humanitarian agencies to respond while also safeguarding the principles of neutrality and impartiality and the provision of aid solely on the basis of needs.

