



A statement from Syrian NGOs regarding the latest developments in North Western Syria

After the latest inter-factional fighting and its associated changes in control lines in North Western Syria, this statement is to provide facts to partners and beneficiaries about the resulted impact on humanitarian operations and to notify the concerned stakeholders and controlling authorities about the potential consequences on providing life-saving assistance to more the 2.7 Million people.

During the huge escalation in internal fighting, many NGOs suspended their operations momentarily due to closure of some roads and for the sake of staff safety. Currently, all signatory NGOs have resumed their operations and are fully functional in the above-mentioned area. Signatory NGOs would like to clarify that they have not ended any of their ongoing projects and that funding from humanitarian donors have not been affected. Moreover, there was no recent intervention by any faction in NGO operations after the last fighting.

NGOs will continue monitoring the situation in the field very closely and issue updates in case significant and influential developments took place.

We assert that access to humanitarian aid is crucial to save people's lives. Humanitarian aid shall not be subject to any political or military arguments and, if respected with the other principles, will not be affected by changes in in-charge or *de facto* local authorities. This is a commitment by humanitarian donors as well.

We affirm that humanitarian response must continue as independent and neutral as it was, away from all military and political contests. Any intervention that hinders those principles will be reflected as harm to the people in need and beneficiaries.

We call for all controlling parties to; neutralize humanitarian and civilian organizations, who are providing services to the affected population including local directorates and councils, from all kind of conflict, humanitarian access to continue unaffected and in accordance to humanitarian principles and free of movement and protection of civilians and humanitarian workers to be fully granted.

Finally, we recommend all partners including donors, UN agencies, international and local NGOs, who are providing and delivering assistance to the people in need, to continue their operations despite of all challenges, enlightened by the humanitarian and ethical principles.

Issued on Wednesday 26th July 2017

Signatories:

- The League of Syrian Networks which consists of:
 - Syrian Civil Coalition (TAMAS)
 - Syria Relief Network
 - Syrian General Union
 - Ellaf union for relief and development
 - Union of Syrian Civil Society Organizations
 - Suriyeli Dernekler Platformu



○ Syrian NGO Alliance, consisted of:

- Big Heart Foundation
- Binaa Organization for Development
- Ghiras Al Nahda
- Ghiras Foundation for Child Care
- Hand In Hand for Syria
- Human Care Syria
- Human Apeal
- Ihsan for Relief and Development - IRD
- Masrrat - The Syrian Establishment For Human Care & Enhancement
- Physician Across Continents - PAC
- Qatar Red Crescent
- Syrian American Medical Society - SAMS
- Syrian Expatriate Medical Association - SEMA
- Social Development International - SDI
- Al Sham Humanitarian Foundation - AHF
- Syria Relief and Development - SRD
- Syria Relief-SR
- Takaful Al Sham Charity Organization
- Union of Relief and Medical Care Organizations - UOSSM
- Orient for Human Relief
- Violet Organization for Relief and Development

● Other Organizations:

- The white Helmets (Syria Civil Defense)