



Syrian Humanitarians from the Ground

World Humanitarian Summit Side Event Recommendations

The international humanitarian response to the crisis in Syria—with effects locally, nationally, regionally, and now globally—provides a critical example of an unsustainable model. As stakeholders meet at the World Humanitarian Summit, the humanitarian community must acknowledge the cycle of project creation and destruction by aerial attacks and shelling, imminent funding fatigue around for the Syria response, unbalanced partnerships and risk between international and local organizations, and limited platforms for Syrian NGO leadership in the humanitarian response planning and design—though Syrian NGOs are at the forefront of assistance distribution, service provision, local skills trainings, and creative programming.

We as Syrian NGOs have a range of recommendations—from increased protection mainstreaming to enhanced access—but we are specifically putting forth four requests from our UN counterparts:

1. In all statements, policies, and actions, the UN and INGOs should ensure that they are accountable to protection challenges and needs of local humanitarians and civilians in Syria. The international community has a responsibility to give a platform to echo the calls of Syrian NGOs, as well as call for an end to the attacks on civilians and systemic mass atrocities. Long-term civilian protection objectives must be the priority.
2. Scale up cross-border assistance from Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq, and open additional cross points at all borders. Simultaneously, cross-line assistance coordinated with cross-border assistance should also be increased.
3. Allocate resources for national Syrian coordination mechanisms, including field coordination and national co-leads in clusters.
4. Increase the funds for cross-border projects through the Humanitarian Pool Fund.

