

SITUATION REPORT SYRIA



SWITCHBOARD

HIGHLIGHTS

SECURITY

Seven people were killed in clashes between factions of the Syrian National Army (SNA) in Aleppo city. In Daraa, in southern Syria, eleven people were killed after a pick-up truck passed over a landmine ([Reliefweb, 2022](#)). According to the Syrian Observatory of human rights, 34 were injured in the explosion. Syria is now full of landmines and explosive remnants left by different military actors and, according to Landmine Monitor, almost 3000 people have been killed or wounded by such contaminations ([The Monitor, 2021](#)). A humanitarian worker died while heading to work, targeted by an explosive device planted in his car. The victim had previously worked with the International Humanitarian Relief Association, known as IYD, a charity founded in 2013, registered in Turkey, and operating in Turkey and Syria ([ReliefWeb, 2022](#)).

DIASPORA COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The Syrian Welsh Society (SWS) organized two community events in Cardiff in June. One event targeted young Syrians aged between 11–17 for the Youth Club, where they played football and enjoyed a meal together. The other event was a group breakfast for women organized by the SWS women's committee and took place in Heath Park ([Syrian Welsh, 2022](#)).

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AND RESPONSE

Syria was hit by heavy rainstorms in June and two people were killed and many displacement camps damaged across northern Syria as a result. The Civil Defense team responded to help those affected and assess the damage. In addition, Syria was also hit by a sandstorm in June, which worsened the situation in displacement camps that provide no protection to communities ([The New Arab, 2022](#)). Due to the decline in humanitarian aid, Syrians in internal displacement camps in northern Syria are facing increasing challenges. There are 1500 camps in the area, none of which receives aid sufficient to addressing the needs of the displaced population. Food security and health have worsened severely due to aid cuts to the region ([New Arab, 2022](#)).

MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT

Syrian refugees in Turkey are being threatened with forced return to war-torn Syria following the Turkish government's recent announcement of settlement plans in the northwest region, where cinderblock houses will be built. The plans were issued after enraged public sentiment but were not welcomed by the international aid community. Even Turkey's representative to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) acknowledged that the situation in Syria is neither suitable nor safe ([New Arab, 2022](#)).

CASE STUDY

DIASPORA ADVOCACY WORK



Several Syrian diaspora NGOs joined advocacy efforts to support the continuity of a cross-border aid resolution. The [International Rescue Committee](#) (IRC), CARE, and World Vision were among other local and diaspora NGOs who supported the statement. More than four million Syrians in northern Syria are in dire need of humanitarian aid and without any support. Bab Al Hawa, the last passage for humanitarian missions crossing from Turkey to Idlib, is the last lifeline for Syrians in the north of the country. Cutting it will threaten their lives and exacerbate the humanitarian crisis. The possibility of Russia vetoing vital cross-border aid risks devastating consequences. The current mandate allowing such missions expires soon, the decision will be announced on July 10.

The Syrian NGO Alliance (SNA) published a statement addressing the recent Brussels VI Conference, "Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region," on May 9–10, 2022 ([Syrian NGO Alliance, 2022](#)). As SNA and its member organizations were concerned about the lack of genuine Syrian representation at the conference, the statement called for the better inclusion of Syrian civil society, humanitarian personnel and activists in dialogue and discussions during the conference, highlighting their voices as vital, strategic, experienced actors that must be strongly present in a space aiming to find solutions to the Syrian humanitarian crisis. Moreover, the statement requested the conference be more considerate of Syrian culture and holidays, as the event this year coincided with the Eid Al Fitr holiday. Despite communication and requests to change dates, no response or justification was given.