

ANNUAL REPORT

2023





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President's MESSAGE



HANAN ALLAKOUD
Chairwoman

Dear All,

Since its inception, Hurras Network has strived to be everywhere a child needs its help, do whatever it takes to keep children safe. We want to be there exactly when the children need us, and offer what meets their immediate survival, and longer term development needs to grow into healthy and empowered citizens. The children of Syria faced and continue to endure the most traumatic experiences in modern history. They have witnessed detention, sieges, and arbitrary shelling which did not spare residential areas but targeted schools systematically. The sheer scale of abusive aggression against the children requires unprecedented collective efforts to save the children who are at the risk of becoming a lost generation. For all the above reasons, this is why we are here!

WE WANTED THE VOICE OF CHILDREN TO BE LOUD AND CLEAR. STOP THE WAR ON CHILDREN IN SYRIA. Our experienced team of child rights defenders documented 37 attacks on schools in northern Syria during 2023. We certainly cannot stand idly by while we witness these crimes. Our team went to great lengths to record and document attacks on children. We also launched several campaigns and calls-to-action to support this just cause on the international level, with the aim of stopping the targeting of children wherever they are.

We helped children improve
their resilience, psychological
health,

and access to education
by providing

over **110,000** services.



During activities from mobile library visits

THROUGHOUT 2023, WE TIRELESSLY ENDEAVOURED TO ASSIST THE MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN CONFLICT AND NATURAL DISASTER ZONES. From the devastating earthquake in February to the shelling on displaced people fleeing earthquake-affected areas, and the brutal military campaign in October followed by military escalations and destructive floods, Hurras stepped in to aid over 109,600 children and their caregivers affected by emergencies and disasters. This included providing support for 105 cases of separated children and distribution of more than 32,700 protection kits.

WE HAVE CONTINUED TO WORK FOR A SOCIETY IN WHICH ALL CHILDREN ARE RAISED IN JUST AND EQUAL CONDITIONS by empowering the local community to understand and commit to protecting children's rights, identifying safe ways for child protection interventions by providing training, specialised support and capacity building. We also worked on changing local policies related to children and youth rights. We strived for protecting children from military recruitment, child labour, and exploitation of all forms, saving them from early marriage, and empowering society to provide equal opportunities for boys and girls.

WE HAVE ENDEAVOURED TO ATTAIN SUSTAINABILITY BY ACTIVELY ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY. Through our work in conflict zones, we have been able to activate community committees for child protection in 32 different regions inside Syria. We succeeded in integrating child safeguarding standards in 115 Schools along with a child friendly space in each school, in addition to rehabilitating 108 schools inside Syria so that they include staff trained in child protection.

WE HAVE NURTURED OUR CONNECTIONS WITH VARIOUS SEGMENTS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY. including institutions, and organisations operating inside Syria, especially through our capacity-building programmes. We were able to reach over 1,300 community members through the programme.

DRIVEN BY OUR CONVICTION THAT EDUCATION IS AN INHERENT RIGHT FOR ALL INDIVIDUALS, we have worked hard to ensure equal learning opportunities for all children. Over the past years. We supported non-formal education for over 16,800 children in north-western Syria, and provided special education services to 219 boys and girls who have advanced special needs in our centres and 32 centres in schools we support. Over the next year, our focus will be on training additional personnel to staff the established centres, specifically to support children with disabilities and promote their integration in classrooms. We aim to collaborate with regional partners to develop a strategy that enhances inclusivity in educational and learning environments, thereby providing greater educational opportunities for children with disabilities.

Hurra's Network are
now **CO-LEADING**
the Alliance for
**CHILD
PROTECTION**

WE HAVE ENHANCED OUR CONNECTIONS WITH OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS. In 2023, and after being an active member of its Steering Committee, Hurra's was elected to co-lead the The Alliance for Child Protection, which includes UN agencies, and local and international NGOs. In addition, we started co-leading two technical groups in the Alliance (Case Management Task Force, and Localisation Advisory Group. We also participate and play important leadership roles in a number of technical groups affiliated with the UN OCHA Protection Cluster, in addition to our strategic partnership with a number of international humanitarian organisations. Our leadership role in We Exist (Syrian Civil Society Actors Alliance) has come to an end as the alliance elected a new board. We started several projects with new partners (FDF: Fondation de France, SV: Stichting Vluchteling ,Choose Love and AFH: Action for Hope).

WE AIMED FOR 2023 TO BE A LANDMARK YEAR FOR OUR FEMALE MEMBERS. During 2023, Our representatives in the Women's Advisory Group played an active role in advocating for increased opportunities for women by supporting teachers to access maternity leave, thereby ensuring they wouldn't be deprived of work due to childcare responsibilities. Having the position of chairperson of Hurra's Board of Directors held by a woman since 2020, the proportion of female employees exceeded %33 in 2023. Notably, despite the hazardous nature of the work and mobility requirements, females comprised %27 of the field monitoring team. Moreover, female trainees represented %64 of the total trainees under the training grant. Additionally, there has been an increase in the number of women in managerial positions, with women being promoted to higher managerial roles both within and outside Syria, which makes Hurra's an organisation with a distinctly female leadership character.

Undoubtedly, we have faced significant challenges, especially the devastating earthquake in February in Syria and Turkey, which directly affected our teams' ability to operate and access. These circumstances have worsened with the subsequent displacement wave, increasing the needs gap for over 2.5 million children in Syria. It resulted in damage to 270 schools, making children more susceptible to the risks of military recruitment, child labour, early marriage, and dropping out of school due to the increasingly complex reality. Despite these challenges, we are striving to transform them into opportunities, enhancing our capacity to reach more children and families and amplify our voice globally.

THE YEAR 2023 IN NUMBERS



PROTECTION FROM ABUSE



Jawad and Iqbal, both nine-year-old twins, tragically lost their father to shelling. They suffer from a congenital lung deformity, worsened by their father's loss. Amidst constant displacement due to war, they found temporary refuge until the earthquake destroyed their home. Their fear and health conditions have prevented them from returning to school.

Our case management team met them after a call from the mum, where the assessment showed clear social and mental health challenges due to neglect and poor living conditions. A comprehensive intervention was delivered to meet their immediate and long-term needs, including solar energy tools to enable their mother to administer nebulisation sessions for the children at home and provide some lighting during night. In addition to new clothes, milk supply, and hygiene materials to improve their health, psychological support and integration activities enhanced the children's well-being. The team facilitated relocation to a suitable house and referred the children to a local nursery, which soon promoted their positive interaction with peers.

Boys and girls in need of urgent protection, such as Jawad and Iqbal, are identified through our case management team. Children need information appropriate for their age the child's vulnerability and protection needs are determined. A plan appropriate for his or her condition is then developed.

"We are Jawad and Iqbal, and we are very happy now at the kindergarten. We have many friends, and we love this place a lot. We want to come here every day."

Jawad & Iqbaal, 9 years.



SAVING THE MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN

Hurras Network team reaches children in several ways: some children approach Hurras by themselves, others are reached through the mobile case management team, and some are referred from child-friendly spaces, schools, local acting organisations or by local protection committees. In 2023, our team grew from 10 to 25 case workers, from 2 to 5 response officers and a coordinator.

COME TO US THEMSELVES?

The network's years-long, extensive efforts have succeeded in educating communities and encouraging their members to have a positive attitude to seeking specialised social services, particularly with regard to child protection. As a result, an increasing number of children and their families have begun to come to Hurras Network offices and child-friendly spaces seeking the services provided by the network.

MOBILE CASE MANAGEMENT TEAMS:

In addition to raising community awareness, mobile case management teams have also reached out to the most vulnerable children in remote areas. This year, Hurras Network teams have responded to 2260 protection cases that meet the vulnerability criteria.

REFERRAL FROM SCHOOLS:

Hurras Network has integrated child protection services into 115 schools inside Syria. A qualified protection officer is appointed and assigned with several responsibilities, including:

- Safely identifying children in need of protection.

- Referring children to case management services in Hurras Network.

- Mapping service in the community.

- Managing the school's Child Protection Committee, which plays a role in identifying the most vulnerable children.



Through this mechanism,
we have been able to
Respond to

2,260

PROTECTION CASES

CONTRIBUTION OF LOCAL PROTECTION COMMITTEES

For years, Hurras Network has empowered groups of community members to raise child protection standards within their respective communities. These individuals are coordinating their efforts within a network of committees that we call Child Protection Committees. Hurras Network worked with **32 CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEES**, during 2023. The Committees are playing an increasing role in improving our access to children who need urgent protection.

In 2023, child protection committees received specialised training in case management conducted by our team and local partners. They are now equipped to handle medium-risk cases and have played a pivotal role in referring at-risk children to our services.

in
2023

32 CHILD
PROTECTION
COMMITTEES

For years, Hurras Network has empowered groups of community members to raise child protection standards within their respective communities. These individuals are coordinating

in
Last year
WE RESPONDED



295

PSYCHOSOCIAL DISTRESS

182

NEGLECT CASES

126

CHILD LABOUR CASES

In addition to other cases including children associated with armed forces, domestic violence present in the home, child marriage, emotional, physical and sexual abuse.

WHAT MAKES US STAND OUT:

- Our Individual Protection Services (IPA) meets people's needs under specific criteria and has greatly impacted thousands of children positively.
- We are certified under the advanced case management training kit (35 days) from the Alliance for Child Protection and committed to the related case management guidelines. We started preparing trainers to uplift the case management work in the area to an advanced level.
- We co-lead the case management task force at the Alliance, setting international guidelines adopted by practitioners worldwide.

Noura, a six-year-old girl from western Aleppo, experienced a life-altering event during the earthquake on February 6th. The violent shaking of their house forced Noura and her family to flee immediately, causing immense panic for her. They sought refuge in a tent within a shelter centre in rural Aleppo, surrounded by unfamiliar faces, which was a stark departure from her usual environment.

Our team connected with Noura through recreational activities provided to children at the shelter centre. She also received winter and protection kits, complete with warm clothing, stationery, and toys. These initiatives play a vital role in aiding children's recovery and restoring a sense of normalcy to their lives.

«Life here in the camp is so tough. The tent is sometimes freezing, and other times it's too hot. I feel bored most of the time because all the children are strangers to me. I don't know any of them. I started attending a school that was recently established close to us. However, I have no friends. I don't know anyone.»

Noura, 6 years old.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE



Whenever any emergency happens to affect the safety of children, a collective response team is formed and activated to meet children's needs consisting of PSS facilitators, case management workers, mental health specialists and safety and security officers.

From the February devastating earthquake, the shelling on displaced people escaping earthquake areas to the brutal military campaign in October and the following floods, Hurras responded to over **109,600** children and their caregivers affected by emergencies and disasters, including **105** cases of separated children.

“The unique challenge in responding to the earthquake disaster was that it struck our operational area in northwest Syria, in addition to areas in southern Turkey where our main office is located. Communication between our teams on both sides was disrupted. It took our colleagues four days after the disaster to ensure the safety of their families and seek relatively secure places after leaving their homes.

We needed to assess the post-earthquake damage, particularly the impact on education as all efforts were focused on relief. Our team conducted a unique schools's safety mapping covering **1125 schools** in Idlib and Western Aleppo.

The additional challenge was reaching children in such circumstances due to school closures and the community's lack of preparedness for a similar disaster. Schools provided the greatest access to children, requiring us to reopen them to assess children's well-being and protection needs.”

Majdi Bashimam, Programmes Manager



“Adam lived in constant fear following the earthquake. However, he has made significant progress since attending the camp school and forming new friendships.”

Adam's mother

During our visit to the camp, we encountered Adam, an 8-year-old boy. Along with his family, consisting of two sisters and two brothers, he was displaced following the shelling of their house in Kafr Yahmoul five years ago. Adam lived in constant fear after the earthquake. However, he has shown significant improvement since attending the school we established and furnished in the camp. He has managed to overcome many of his fears and has developed several friendships, particularly after participating in social-emotional learning sessions with his peers.

MORE RESILIENT CHILDREN

One of our priorities is to provide psychosocial support to the most vulnerable children affected by war and displacement. The Network team tries to reach children soon after each attack or displacement incident to deliver First Psychosocial Aid. Psychosocial support activities help children recover and increase their resilience. They encourage them to continue their normal activities such as sports and recreational activities, helping children understand their feelings and reactions to traumatic conditions and experiences and how to deal with these feelings, and providing them with suitable activities. Our team presents these sessions in our access areas through the mobile library team, at child-friendly spaces, in Hurras-supported schools and those supported by local partners.

Over
30,300
children received
psychosocial
support services.

WHAT MAKES US STAND OUT:

Psychosocial support in Hurras Network is integrated into the protection process. All complex cases are referred as individual cases, and MHPSS workers and mental health service providers support and follow-up on these cases. Pre- and post-tests are made for all children attending recovery sessions to ensure that they have responded positively to the interventions and have developed their ability to return to the routine of normal life, including going to school.

We offer a range of PSS programmes tailored to different age groups, catering to children aged 6 to 17 years. Programmes encompass Social-Emotional Learning (SEL), Now, I am stronger, Be ready, be strong, survival strategies and others .

We provide caregiver programmes for caregivers of children aged 3 to 8 years, aimed at helping them manage stressors associated with crises and fostering positive interactions with their children during such periods.



“ Before coming to the centre, I used to feel bored and didn't have any games to play or friends to be with. But after coming here, I started feeling happy, and boredom is no longer there. I learned new techniques and skills in the sessions. For instance, I learned the technique of deep breathing, and it made me feel a change, relaxation, and it gives me strength to face situations that bother me or make me sad.”

Renaad, 10 years.

“Renaad was forced to flee her hometown due to war, finding refuge in a humble rented house that was later struck by the earthquake. Witnessing the devastation took a toll on her mental well-being, leaving her fearful and withdrawn. She often dwelled on distressing memories, particularly those of the earthquake and her fear of the night. After enrolling her in a group therapy programme, Renaad has been attending weekly sessions for a month now. Through various techniques tailored for the children in the programme, Renaad has reported positive changes in her life. She has managed to overcome the haunting images of the earthquake and its terrifying sound.” Bayan, psycho-social worker

EMPOWERING MINDS: OUR MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

HOW DO WE SUPPORT CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

The Mental Health Team provides mental health services and psychosocial support in accordance with standards and recommended intervention strategies set by the Technical Group on Mental Health in the World Health Organisation. Their interventions operate at two levels:

- Non-specialised Structured support: This involves offering basic mental health care for children and caregivers experiencing challenges in accessing existing support networks. It encompasses initial consultations, support groups, and counselling sessions led by Psychosocial Workers (PSWs).
- Specialised Structured Support: To address severe cases among children facing challenging circumstances, a Mental Health-Gap (MH-Gap) Doctor and Psychologist were included in the team. The MH-Gap Doctor conducts assessments, offers guidance and counselling, and may prescribe medication. The Psychologist may provide individual interventions based on the child's needs, in line with the MH-Gap Doctor guidelines.

In 2023, we successfully facilitated the mental health recovery of 233 children, holding 145 sessions for children, 68 sessions for parents and caregivers and referring 84 cases to specialised or external services.

In the coming year, our plan includes implementing a school health system. We'll train personnel in collaboration with educational assemblies and schools to address community mental health needs, overseeing case monitoring and referrals to specialised services.

IN 2023, WE
SUCCESSFULLY
FACILITATED THE
MENTAL HEALTH
RECOVERY OF

233
CHILDREN

WHAT MAKES US STAND OUT

- Service delivery follows a structured intervention plan designed by the MH Consultant.
- We adopt a Case Management approach in mental health, involving monitoring, assessment, and the development of appropriate action plans.
- Transportation for children is arranged by the team, ensuring children safety, accessibility to services, and adherence to appointments.
- Caregivers receive psycho-educational sessions, including parenting skills workshops and stress relief sessions.
- Caregivers-engaging events are held, fostering positive family interactions and bonding.

CHILDREN BETTER AWARE OF THEIR RIGHTS

Awareness campaigns carried out by Hurras Network over the past years have aimed to inform children and the community about children's fundamental rights, including their right to education and protection, as well as to ensure that boys and girls have access to the child protection services they need and to positively influence their overall behaviour, resilience and ability to adapt to the conditions they live in. The main awareness topics this year were selected based on an analysis we have conducted of the major protection risks in northwest Syria. The topics included are back-to-school, personal hygiene, time management, dealing with strangers, dangers of mobile phone usage and online safety, violence and harassment, and many others. Hurras Network utilises its extensive network of services and its access to the whole spectrum of society to deliver protection messages and inform the community about how to access and benefit from these services.

AWARENESS MATERIALS:

Hurras Network uses a variety of high-quality printed and electronic awareness materials designed specifically to deliver key protection messages to children and their families in a friendly, culture-sensitive language. The materials include videos, publications/posts, explainers, and awareness campaigns that our team periodically publishes on our social media accounts.

BENEFICIARIES
OF AWARENESS
CAMPAIGNS

1,376

OF CHILDREN AND
CAREGIVERS





TAYARA WARAK MAGAZINE

To deliver protection messages, we mainly rely on Tayara Warak magazine, the first child protection magazine of its kind in the Arab world. Launched in 2012 and intended for children between 7 and 14. The magazine seeks to deliver protection messages in an interesting and useful manner and in child-friendly language. Tayara Warak includes a collection of stories, songs, riddles, and handicrafts, prepared and designed by Hurras Network volunteers and staff to raise the awareness of children and their families on how to protect themselves in conditions of bombing, siege and violence. It also includes psychological support materials, and items that help children develop their critical thinking and emotional intelligence and instill the values of tolerance, solidarity and peace.

In addition to Tayara Warak, we presented «I am Maryam» for displaced children and their families.

«I am Maryam» is an illustrated book about a young girl forced to flee her violence-torn homeland. The story reflects the lives of many forcibly displaced children. We, at Hurras Network, played a crucial role in its development with a working group within the Alliance for Child Protection. Designed for children aged 5 to 12, the story is accompanied by eight stickers summarising its key messages and is available as an audiobook as well as a colouring book.

In addition to those, we use «Colour with Karam», which is a children's magazine that presents the code of conduct in a child-friendly language, highlighting potential harms children may face and the importance of reporting them.

Tayara Warak, I am Mariam and other awareness resources and publications are integrated into other activities such as mobile libraries, child-friendly spaces and school campaigns.

WHAT MAKES US STAND OUT:

All materials used in awareness campaigns are reviewed by protection and safeguarding specialists within the Network. A language expert is also engaged to present these materials in child-friendly language.





SAFE SPACES FOR CHILDREN

Child-friendly spaces (CFS) are safe spaces we create specifically for children in the affected areas with the aim of providing the necessary support for children according to their individual needs. These spaces have been designed to help our children gradually return to their normal lives by providing professional support, fun activities, as well as informal education. Hurras Network used child-friendly spaces as a tool to provide an initial response to children's needs and as an entry point for working with affected communities.

Children in remote areas, unreachable by other protection services, can go to these CFS where, with the help of local community members, they will receive a number of services in a child-friendly, safe and stimulating environment.

The number of child-friendly spaces managed by the network has reached 115 spaces integrated in schools in the form of libraries. Hurras continues to reach the most vulnerable children in remote areas through mobile spaces.

THE NUMBER OF
BENEFICIARIES OF THE
CHILD-FRIENDLY SPACES
OPERATED BY HURRAS
NETWORK HAS BEEN

Over
16,800 

Hurras Network operates **THREE TYPES OF CHILD-FRIENDLY SPACES**

1 STANDALONE SPACES

These are spaces attached to Hurras Network's offices where children who are referred from the local community or from the case management team have the opportunity to participate in specialised psycho-social support activities. These activities are provided using professional guidebooks. Children also receive remedial education using self-learning materials developed by UNICEF.

2 EMBEDDED SPACES

Hurras Network has successful experience integrating 558 child-friendly spaces within local schools. These spaces are managed by staff from education assemblies who are trained and mentored by Hurras Network. We have established these spaces and committed a 6-month training period for school staff to help them provide extracurricular activities for children as well as remedial education for the most vulnerable children. Each space is prepared to be supervised by a trained child protection officer whose job is to identify children in need of protection and refer them to Hurras Network or to social services.

During the year 2023, Hurras Network managed 115 integrated child-friendly spaces within several schools in Idlib and rural Aleppo.

3 MOBILE LIBRARIES

Hurras Network has a first-of-its-kind experience in using mobile libraries to reach children in remote areas. A mobile library is a van which is equipped with hundreds of books and educational materials focusing on child psycho-social support. These vans visit children in remote areas and schools accompanied by a specialised team whose mission is to provide psycho-social support activities for children. The team also works on educating children and their families on the basic methods of child protection. In addition, the team identifies children who need protection, and then refers them to the specialised case

WHAT MAKES US STAND OUT:

through different types of child-friendly spaces and mobile libraries, we are proud of our ability to reach children who need our help wherever they may be, especially in areas not covered by other protection and support services.

“In my family, we have several members with disabilities. I witnessed the disparity in opportunities available to them, which inspired me to advocate for their inclusion. Our responsibility is to ensure that they are not left behind and actively involved in social activities.” - Bushra, 18 years.

Bushra is an enthusiastic youth committee member and championed the importance of integrating youth with disabilities into community peacebuilding committees. Her participation in sign language training showcased her commitment to inclusivity. Recognising her proficiency, the Directorate of Health in Idlib sought her collaboration in translating Cholera prevention messages into sign language.

TOWARD EMPOWERED AND FULLY PARTICIPATING YOUTH

Since 2018, we have launched the Youth Guardians programme, believing in the importance of supporting and empowering adolescents (aged 17-15) and young people (aged 24-18) to safely access their rights and enhance their role in community building. It aims to create a safe and enabling environment that supports the full participation of young people in civic, social, economic, and cultural life, ensuring their rights and freedoms as guaranteed by the Human Rights Convention.

Programme Stages

The programme aims to achieve its vision through three stages.

The First Stage

begins by raising community awareness regarding youth support and empowering young people by providing them with appropriate tools, skills, and a conducive environment.



The Second Stage

aims to increase opportunities and empowerment projects for youth and enhance their ability to build and lead initiatives that serve the community through practical experience.



The Third Stage

it focuses on reaching a community where young people can have safe spaces to address the issues they face, provide community support for the solutions they offer, ensure that stakeholders in the field protect youth rights, and mobilise community and youth initiatives into influential and impactful entities.



Programme Activities

We have coordinated efforts for adolescents and young people by establishing and enhancing the capacities of community youth committees, connecting them with community centres and safe spaces in our outreach areas to promote a community-driven approach. We assist adolescents and young people in rebuilding their futures and strengthening their resilience, facilitating their involvement in self-protection and safeguarding other children and teenagers.

Each committee comprises 20 adolescent boys and 20 adolescent girls approximately, distributed across various geographical areas in Idlib and western Aleppo. So far, 9 youth committees have been established, comprising 380 volunteers. The programme operates on the principle of specialisation, where youth groups organise themselves into specialised committees such as media committee and mental health committee.

Achievements of Community Youth Committees in 2023:

- Response to the February Earthquake: After the February 2023 earthquake, the Youth Peacebuilding Committee (YPC) revamped an initiative to help those affected. They proactively gathered in-kind donations for families in neighbouring areas hit by the disaster, coordinating efficiently with other peacebuilding committees to distribute 3500£ worth of aid to the local community and displaced persons, leaving no one behind.
- They also prioritised creating a comprehensive PSS kit, including a puppet theatre for performances to enhance children's and adolescents' resilience post-earthquake. The kit also featured visually engaging posters with 'protection' messages. This youth committee initiative aimed to provide initial psychosocial support and create a safe space for recreational activities after the earthquake.
- The Youth Media Committee made a substantial contribution by preparing and documenting all visual materials, capturing key moments, conducting interviews, and creating compelling content, providing visual evidence and insightful analysis of their efforts in promoting peace, development, and community engagement.
- Ensuring equal opportunities for young people and adolescents with disabilities to participate in activities alongside their peers is crucial, especially in societies dealing with crises. 24 YPC members received Sign Language training to translate protection messages. The Mental Health Youth Committee was established, comprising 180 young individuals who received training from the Mental Health Team at Hurras Network to raise community awareness about mental health issues, including suicide and self-harm.
- Later the youth mental health group delivered sessions to 220 young people and 120 caregivers, which were focused on raising awareness for mental health, encouraging young people to have productive conversations about mental health, and calling for accessible, high-quality mental health services and information for young people. These trained youth used the power of mental health education to inspire, engage, educate, and equip young people to look out for themselves and their peers.
- 19 members of the Youth Committees participated in three-day workshops with the International, Impartial, and Independent Mechanism (IIIM) to share their perspectives on transitional justice concepts, accountability, and judicial authorities.
- Youth committee members have engaged in planning, designing, and executing initiatives for peacebuilding, community service, and early recovery support. These include dialogue forums, sports events, awareness campaigns, environment-friendly projects, and the rehabilitation of child-friendly spaces, parks, and public streets.



TOWARDS COMMUNITIES THAT PROTECT CHILDREN

Based on its approach of societal change, Hurras Network has worked on empowering groups of community members to raise the standards of child protection within their communities. These individuals coordinate their efforts within a network of committees that we call Child Protection Committees (CPCs). CPCs are organised in schools and wider communities. They involve active community members including civil defence, health and education workers as well as parents. School CPCs include representatives from students at each school as well.

**TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILD
PROTECTION COMMITTEE
VOLUNTEERS INSIDE
SCHOOLS**



864

child, adult

**TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILD
PROTECTION COMMITTEE
VOLUNTEERS OUTSIDE**



450

adult

Hurras Network worked with established 32 child-protection committees whose members meet periodically to work on the following objectives:

RESPONDING TO CHILD PROTECTION RISKS:

Providing the necessary response to child-protection concerns, and identifying prevailing social patterns in this regard

CHILD REFERRAL:

By identifying children who need help and referring them to our specialised case management teams

COMMUNITY AWARENESS:

Supervising community consultations and awareness initiatives based on the technical support received from Hurras

WHAT MAKES US STAND OUT:

- All community protection committees are established on a voluntary basis
- The Protection Committees established and supported by Hurras Network are the only community protection network of their kind in northwestern Syria. They include a wide spectrum of community members. Women play a distinguished leadership role within these committees.

CPC 2023 Achievements 2023:

Collaborating with School Protection Committees we successfully renovated and rehabilitated 108 schools, supporting community recovery and ensuring safe learning environments for 35,450 students.

CPCs participated actively in response to the earthquake crisis as they participated in planning, designing, and implementing initiatives to serve the community and support early recovery efforts, such as environmental-friendly initiatives and initiatives to rehabilitate child-friendly spaces, parks, and public streets.



A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILD PROTECTION

Hurras Network provides technical support to specialised and non-specialised NGOs in the field of child protection. The aim is to ensure that these NGOs meet the minimum standards of child protection, and that they have high quality standards when intervening to provide protection for children.

Our primary goal is to develop the ability of our partners in NGOs and various community institutions to safely identify children and families who may be particularly vulnerable, and to refer them to our specialised teams to provide them with professional intervention, through providing training and workshops to members of these institutions.

METHODOLOGY FOR TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Over the past seven years, Hurras Network has developed, tested and revised its capacity building methodology and training content. The network focuses on providing four core training modules among others:

- Child protection in emergencies (basics of safeguarding and child protection)
- Communicating with children during war (Psychological First Aid)
- Assisting the assistant (self-care techniques for frontline workers)
- Identifying cases that require specialised interventions and referring them to services

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR INSTITUTIONS

To ensure the mainstreaming of child protection basics within the various sectors of society, Hurras Network has developed an integrated approach to raise child protection standards within specialised and non-specialised NGOs as well as all types of public service institutions. This approach includes:

- Institutional Capacity Assessment
- Policy review and development
- Training and guidance for key workers in the field,
- Monitoring and ongoing support



The total number of beneficiaries from
**CAPACITY-BUILDING
PROGRAMMES** managed by
Hurras Network has reached over
1,300

WHAT MAKES US STAND OUT:

Hurras Network not only provides training and workshops, but also assesses institutional capacities, reviews and develops policies within the institutions themselves, in addition to monitoring and continuous support, which positively reflects on the continuity of institutional support and the continuity of change in concepts of child protection.

Hurras Network has succeeded in incorporating child protection policies into most schools in the governorates of Idlib and Aleppo.

Other Significant Achievements:

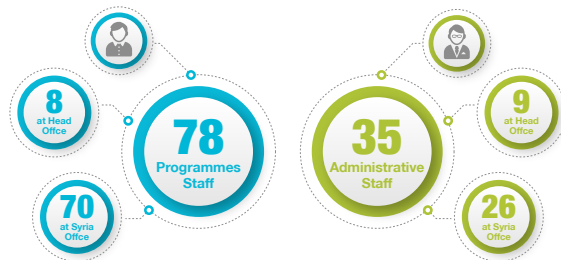
- We enhanced the capacities of 1,052 educational staff members, including 115 protection officers, through 600 hours of training and learning sessions aimed at ensuring safe school environments.
- We delivered 85 training hours on safeguarding concepts to 60 managers and coordinators in the protection and education sector, aimed at bolstering safeguarding capacities for humanitarian organisations.
- We are certified under the advanced case management training kit (35 days) from the Alliance for Child Protection and committed to the related case management guidelines. We started preparing trainers to uplift the case management work in the northwest area to an advanced level.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND FINANCIAL REPORT

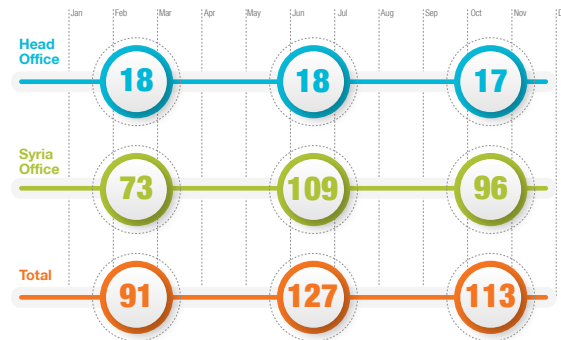
In addition to its service it offers, the Human Resources Department is implementing a comprehensive quality management system. This includes updating policies and procedures to align with the latest standards and meet the needs of network members. This ensures the ongoing development of a positive and supportive work culture that prioritises freedom, justice, and provides a safe space for expression and effective communication.

In 2023, there was a comprehensive update of secure recruitment policies, policies supporting employee welfare, and those fostering mental well-being, self-care, and team support. Additionally, there were updates to non-discrimination policies, as well as policies addressing harassment, intimidation, bullying, and gender equality. New policies for volunteering and internal training internships were also introduced. Currently, efforts are underway to develop policies aligned with the People and Culture concept, which will be integrated across all policies and procedures.

Administrative staff versus programmes staff by the end of 2023



Employee statistics and their distribution by offices



Volunteering

Volunteer work has long been the cornerstone of our efforts. Embracing its principles and encouraging the exchange of expertise and experiences, we have opened up several opportunities for volunteering with us



27 Volunteers in
Monitoring and
Documentation team

With compensations of

\$35,906



1,100 Volunteering
Education Assemblies staff

trained on CPIE, Safeguarding and CP Complain
Mechanism

With compensations of

\$725,558



15 Volunteering
Consultants

Specialists and technicians in various
sectors in Syria and abroad.

INTERNSHIPS



The Internship Award was launched
in Syria involving, till now,

19 Trainees
in all departments



**Expenses
Allocation**

In 2023, our total income amounted to

\$3,655,156

allocated as follows: %80 to Protection projects and
%20 to Education projects.

OUR CHILD SAFEGUARDING SYSTEM

What did we achieve in 2023

In 2023, we continued to integrate safeguarding standards with our education partners by collaborating with educational assemblies to review and refine the adopted safeguarding manual in **700** schools. Furthermore, we offered financial support, technical supervision, and monitoring for the safeguarding system in **115** schools across northwest Syria. This effort also involved enhancing the capacities of **1,052** educational staff members, including **115** protection officers, through **600** hours of training and learning sessions aimed at ensuring safe school environments.

Why does Hurras Network focus so much on safeguarding?

Protecting the children we work with is a top priority in all our interventions. We believe it is unacceptable for any child or adult, under any circumstances, to experience any form of neglect, exploitation, or abuse during our programmes and activities. We recognize that our staff, representatives, and partners are entrusted members of the community. We strive diligently to ensure this trust is not abused and that everyone adheres to safeguarding standards at all times.



%100 new employees completed their safeguarding training within the initial 3 months of employment, including:

- **114** new staff and **21** volunteers completed fundamental safeguarding training, encompassing 630 training hours and learning sessions on safeguarding principles and safe programming.
- **105** suppliers and service providers signed the code of conduct and participated in safeguarding briefing sessions to ensure the safety of all our operations.



308 training hours were dedicated to **270** individuals from community committees, volunteer teams, and community leaders, aiming to enhance community knowledge and awareness of child protection issues.



85 training hours on safeguarding concepts were delivered to **60** managers and coordinators in the protection and education sector, aimed at bolstering safeguarding capacities for humanitarian organisations.



Hurras successfully completed its safeguarding audit programme with the Resource and Support Hub for the Middle East and North Africa (RSH), confirming adherence to core safeguarding standards.



Other Achievements:

- We have achieved certification as active members within the Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH) network in Northwest Syria.
- We have been selected to join the Independent Investigation Group responsible for managing investigations into cases of exploitation and sexual assault in Northwest Syria, in collaboration with PSEAH Network.
- We have taken steps to provide inclusive awareness materials for people with disabilities, including translating several protection messages into sign language.
- Drawing from lessons learned in the past year, we have implemented various interventions to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of complaint mechanisms within the community, such as:
 - Redesigning complaint boxes in a child-friendly manner while ensuring safe programming.
 - Developing information-sharing materials with the community about complaint mechanisms and their functioning through a series of posters.
 - Creating child-friendly materials to introduce the concepts of abuse, misconduct, and safe reporting in the form of interactive activity sessions with children.

Proudly, we have achieved the following:

- Launched the Community Exploration Circles initiative, aiming to enhance the community's support for protection concepts related to children and adolescents' mental health. This initiative involved working with 30 adolescents, 20 caregivers, and 15 community opinion leaders through 200 hours of discussion and training sessions.
- Successfully passed safeguarding audits conducted by five of our key partners in the protection and education sector.
- Actively engaged and played significant leadership roles several high-level safeguarding international alliances and groups:
 - Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH) network
 - Gender Working Group
 - AAP (Accountability to Affected People) working group
 - AFNS (The Aid Fund for Northern Syria) Safeguarding community.

In 2023, we made progress in consistently embedding safeguarding protocol standards across all our programmes. We continued to prioritise the four aspects of Safeguarding: Prevention, Awareness, Reporting, and Response. Specifically, we placed greater emphasis on implementing safer recruitment procedures and ongoing prevention efforts through safer programming processes. However, there is still work to be done to achieve full implementation of the safe programming approach across all organisation functions.



LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL





Hurras Network views education as one of the most important humanitarian interventions and a top priority. The organisation started its educational activity in 2013, providing formal and informal education services at 16 educational centers in the Damascus suburb of eastern Ghouta. Since then, it has been avidly seeking to develop an effective strategy in the field of education. As such, it currently operates through 115 schools, benefiting more than 21,987 children and adolescents. These services are an integral part of the protection strategy adopted by the Network. They are provided alongside a host of other services, including case management, psychological support, child protection, and child-friendly spaces, which the Network has been providing in its areas of activity for years.

Hurras Network believes that all children have the right to receive education as one of their basic human rights in line with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) as well as other key international humanitarian law instruments. It works to grant children this right through its various programmes, which it provides through a range of platforms with the aim of adapting to the ever-changing humanitarian conditions so as to deliver high-quality education to children.

HURRAS PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO ALL CHILDREN THROUGH THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

Hurras provides high-quality education to about

17,000 children through literacy and numeracy programmes, as well as the provision of textbooks.

Hurras seeks to ensure that the most vulnerable children have full access to education. Hurras successfully managed

30 Special education centres in schools

Reaching

194 children with disabilities

In addition, 25 children reached through two standalone-centres of Hurras.

Hurras supported the continuation of the established distance learning platforms, which mainly included

545

WhatsApp groups to reach more than

16,300 children

and help them continue their education.

Hurras introduced the Early Childhood Programme to schools over the past two years. In 2023, we integrated the programme into

57 Schools

overseeing its implementation by 6 local partners as well as reaching 4,922 children

4,922 Children

and 1,453 caregivers directly.

A TOTAL OF

17,000

children through literacy



Benefited from the
EDUCATION PROGRAMMES
run by **HURRAS NETWORK**

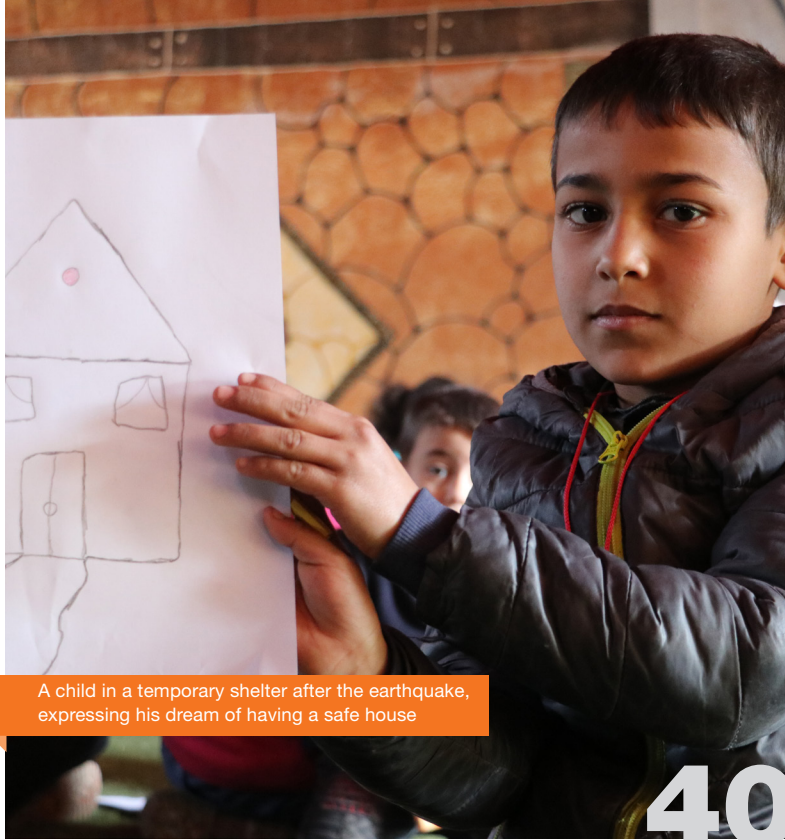
EDUCATION AFTER THE QUAKE

Recognising education as a fundamental pillar for restoring stability, we collaborated with various organisations and agencies operating in Northern Syria to conduct a rapid assessment of schools shortly after the earthquake. Working alongside education assemblies, engineers' unions, and teachers' unions, we assessed 916 schools comprising **1,036 buildings**. Of these, **15 blocks** were deemed hazardous and irreparable, while 80 required reinforcement and **914 needed repairs**.

In addition to school safety assessments, our response included rehabilitating schools, providing operational and educational supplies, and training staff on child protection minimum standards in emergencies for **115 schools**.

The earthquake tragically claimed the lives of at least **43 individuals** within the educational workforce. To address the ongoing extensive need, we provided stipends to **1,100 teachers** and educational staff.

The earthquake left an educational gap for at least **200,000 children**. To bridge this gap, we implemented catch-up programmes reaching over **16,800 children**, while also providing books and educational materials.



A child in a temporary shelter after the earthquake, expressing his dream of having a safe house

Following the February earthquake, Hurras promptly established and supported 20 temporary learning spaces. These classrooms in the schools that remained operational post-earthquake have been expanded to accommodate additional children following the resulting displacement aimed at aiding children in recovering from trauma and returning to normalcy.



"I love school here. I cherish my friends and teachers, and I wouldn't want to attend another school. My favourite classes are reading, maths, and science. Playing with my friends in the courtyard brings me joy. However, the bombings from warplanes can be frightening, as they are often nearby, and the noise is deafening. Nevertheless, we must persevere, learn, and continue our education."

Anas, 12 years.



Anas is determined to pursue his education despite the distance between his home and school. He is adamant about not changing schools and leaving behind his friends. However, the frequent bombings by warplanes in the vicinity of his school pose a significant risk to him and other children in the area.

Anas's teacher, Rabeaa, shared insights into his academic development:

Anas is exceptionally well-mannered in class. I've been providing him with tutoring in reading, maths, social studies, and science consistently throughout the academic year. Despite Anas's high academic aptitude, he struggles with anxiety related to bombings and warplanes, which affects his academic performance. Nonetheless, he maintains strong friendships, demonstrates great cooperation, and follows classroom instructions diligently.

IT IS NOT RANDOM EDUCATION, BUT HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION

It is not random education, but high-quality education:

Hurras seeks to provide quality education to children according to a curriculum that is based on state-of-the-art knowledge and studies, while taking into account child protection. For this purpose, the Network offers primary key stage teachers in 115 schools - from grades one to four - with salaries and professional development according to coaching approach in coordination with educational assemblies. Moreover, Hurras organises awareness-raising campaigns for parents and supervises the response to requests and complaints coming through the complaint and suggestion boxes in these schools. A total of nearly 16,800 children were reached by these services.

Mainstreaming protection into education:

A distinctive characteristic of the Hurras' programmes is mainstreaming protection into education methodology. Hurras maintained the established safeguarding system in education assemblies and child-friendly spaces within schools through which it implements protection, PSS, mental health as well as case management activities, and supports the initiatives of local protection committees.

Hurras provides the following materials and services to all supported schools

Publications and textbooks, stationery kits for students and teachers, special education materials, safety and security materials, publications on child integration and protection, awareness-raising campaigns for children and parents, support for meetings with the local protection committees, support for initiatives of the local protection committees, school supplies and sterilisation and hygiene materials, drinking water, support for case management, and complaint and suggestion boxes.

Over 16,800 children reached by education services supported by the Hurras Network

Over
16,800

CHILDREN
reached by non-formal
education services
supported by the Hurras
Network, with 10 learning
hrs/week on average



INTERVENING EARLY IS JUST AS CRUCIAL AS LATER

Hurras continued the successful integration of early childhood development (ECD) activities into the formal education sector, building on last year's achievements. This involved collaborating with new education partners and introducing and supporting the implementation of the ECD "Ahlan Simsim" programme in 57 schools.

**A TOTAL OF NEARLY
4,930 CHILDREN
AND 1,240 CAREGIVERS
WERE REACHED BY THIS
RESPONSE.**

The programme mainly focuses on addressing the social, emotional, cognitive, and physical aspects of a child's development, targeting children at early ages (under 8 years old) and their caregivers. It provides opportunities for learning through play and primarily contributes to their development and well-being.

The programme activities were implemented by facilitators in schools, with technical support and coaching provided by Hurras and supporting partners' teams. This ensured the quality of implementation and the proper use of related tools and materials.

The devastating earthquake has caused a humanitarian crisis, necessitating the inclusion of young children in tailored ECD activities to promote and support their well-being and development.

The emergency aspect of the Ahlan Simsim programme, developed by the IRC, included direct activities with both children and caregivers. Hurras' team of ECD facilitators conducted these sessions directly after receiving training from the IRC team.



REMEDIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

Hurras Network provides remedial programmes to children who are behind in literacy and numeracy competencies. It also provides after school interventions for children with gaps in education to catch up with their peers. In addition to distant learning programmes. These programmes aim to ensure that all children have access to education based on the principle “Leave No One Behind”.

IN THIS CONTEXT, HURRAS IMPLEMENTS THREE TYPES OF REMEDIAL LEARNING PROGRAMMES WITH ITS PARTNERS

1

REMEDIAL CLASSES:

Developing proficiency in reading, auditory awareness, comprehension, as well as numerical skills like numeracy and problem-solving, spanning across two levels for children from grades one to six.

2

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMMES:

Through after-school/catch-up clubs, two hours daily post-school or in summer clubs. It includes diverse study materials such as the Self-Learning Programme (SLP) curriculum, focusing on compensating for academic gaps among children who have been absent or lagging academically due to previous dropout or earthquake-induced displacement.

3

DISTANCE LEARNING:

Providing additional educational opportunities for children using online platforms, involving engagement of parents and caregivers, maintaining learning routines and acquired competencies from school, and

Over **16,800**
of children benefited from Hurras'
remedial learning programmes



8,034
MALE



8,812
FEMALE



INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Hurras seeks to ensure that the most vulnerable children have full access to education. Hurras successfully managed 30 special education centres in schools, reaching 194 children with disabilities, ranging from mild to moderate disabilities (autism spectrum, dawn syndrome, ADHD...). In addition, 25 children were reached through two Hurras-standalone-centres.

We equipped special education centres in collaboration with schools, providing essential tools and resources for inclusive learning. We conducted training sessions for school principals on inclusive education, raising their awareness of their role in nurturing this process and ensuring the required environment. Subsequently, we supported the recruitment of special education teachers, provided them with training, and equipped them with the necessary tools to enhance the skills of children with disabilities. The teachers are monitored by special education coaches from the Network's special education department who provide guidance and deliver step-by-step technical support.

We effectively operated

30 special education centres within schools, catering to **149** children with disabilities.

Additional **25 children** were served through two standalone centres established by Hurras.

Over the next year, our focus will be on training additional personnel to staff the established centres, specifically to support children with disabilities and promote their integration in classrooms. We aim to collaborate with regional partners to develop a strategy that enhances inclusivity in educational and learning environments, thereby providing greater educational opportunities for children with disabilities.



WE ARE NOT TARGETS

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS, MONITORING AND ADVOCACY PROGRAMMES

The children's rights, monitoring and advocacy programmes are an integral part of our child protection methodology we adopt. Through the monitoring and documentation programme, our team works on monitoring all grave violations against children in our work areas and collecting information about grave violations they observe in a quick, objective and ethical manner. These data are employed for local and international advocacy efforts, aimed at reducing its continuation and facilitating responses through our protection programmes.

The evidence we gather is of high importance as it regularly informs the work of the United Nations Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (UN-MRM) with field data, by sharing data with every incident we document. It also feeds the data of the International Impartial and Independence Mechanism (IIIM).

Using this data, over the course of several years, we have been able to link the International Commission of Inquiry with eyewitnesses to violations against children.

In addition, our documentation is a primary source of information for many international advocates such as Save the Children International and Unicef.

We actively participate in the United Nations Universal Periodic Review mechanism, specifically focusing on the review of the human rights situation in Syria. Our emphasis lies in safeguarding children from armed conflicts and violence. Moving forward, our goal is to enhance coordination with the Special Representatives of the United Nations Secretary-General on these critical issues through individual dialogue meetings.

What happened was a heinous crime in every sense of the word. A primary school, with children as young as ten, was targeted. I witnessed the terror on the children's faces as they screamed and cried in horror at the sight of blood among their classmates. Despite feeling momentarily lost, I had to gather the strength and wisdom to evacuate the school and attend to the injured children. The incident left the children traumatised, with some developing issues like urinary incontinence. The teachers, deeply affected by the sight of the injured children, mourned the loss of their colleague, which had a profound impact on them."

Kinan, the school principal.

Photo Credit to photographer Ahmad Rahhal

At around 11:46 AM on December 2, 2023, the town of Afes experienced heavy artillery shelling. One of the shells struck the courtyard of Afes Martyrs School during school hours, **causing injuries to a teacher and five children, some of whom were severely wounded. Tragically, one child and the teacher passed away from their injuries after several days.**

On that day, roads leading to the village were blocked from two directions by rockets and heavy gunfire, all originating from the south side of town.

HOW DO WE IMPLEMENT OUR MONITORING AND DOCUMENTATION PROGRAMMES?

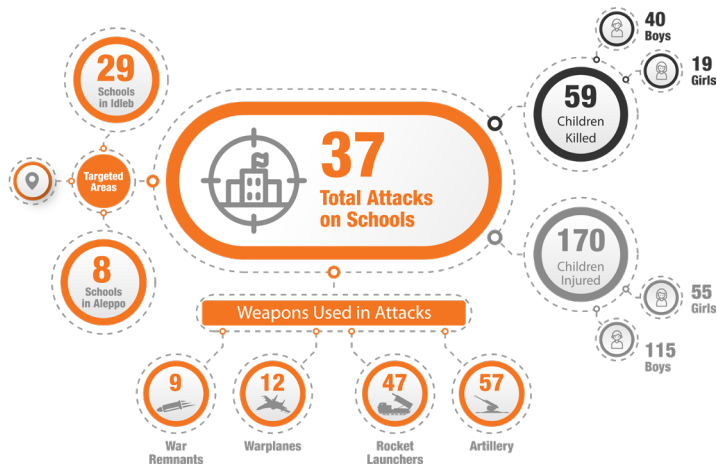
Our monitoring and documenting system primarily involves a first-line field reporting mechanism, followed by a rigorous verification process that gathers sufficient facts and reliable evidence to situate the incident and describe its direct and indirect impact on children or the relevant civilian entities such as health and educational facilities.

The team is led by experienced supervisors with over nine years of experience. They have received extensive training from specialised local and international entities (JRR, MRM, SLDP), qualifying them to monitor and document violations.

HOW DO WE USE THIS INFORMATION?

We use the data to provide evidence to decision makers about different patterns of grave violations against children committed in our areas of activity.

We also use the data to formulate key advocacy mission statements used by our team to influence target groups and bring about positive change, including in the communities within which we are active. Our primary goal is to respond to the main needs of the local community in Syria.



“Our goal in monitoring violations is to achieve justice. Our work supports international justice mechanisms. While we understand that full justice may not be attainable, the act of monitoring and documenting violations gives us hope of achieving some level of effective accountability. It may also contribute to deterring future violations, while preserving memory and establishing truth, thereby providing a measure of reparation for affected individuals and communities.”

Lawyer Mustafa Al-Ismail
Team leader of the field monitoring team

KEY ADVOCACY MISSION STATEMENTS IN 2023:

- **Response localisation is a necessity:** in planning, implementing, and evaluating—engaging partners, education authorities, and the children themselves!

Policies enforcing community participation in identifying its strategic interests need to be formulated, particularly in humanitarian response and early recovery.

- **Inclusivity for children with disabilities:** Policies should mandate service providers in the private and public sectors to adopt a universal design for disability services across buildings, education, and all services. Ensuring the active participation of individuals with disabilities in setting their priorities is essential.

- **Stabilising working conditions for teachers:** Policy of stabilising and standardising support and working conditions for teachers should be enforced, ensuring a minimum wage, providing paid leaves, and maintaining dignified living standards.

- **Shifting from emergency response to early recovery:** We need to achieve sustainability in education by prioritising formal and higher-level education over non-formal education. Long-term projects with an exit plan that ensures no harm to the community must be supported. Despite more than a decade of conflict, non-formal education remains essential in the UN's response plans for education. The humanitarian education sector in Syria urgently needs to adopt an early recovery lens.

CARRYING CHILDREN'S VOICES TO DECISION MAKERS AND THE PUBLIC

Hurras Network's mission includes delivering the voice of the victims and children to decision-makers and the public. To achieve this, the network participated in several international forums and media appearances during 2023.

Brussels VII Conference

June 14, 2023

We took part, represented by our executive manager, in dialogue days, engaging in discussions on various topics with civil society representatives, international organisations, and donor countries. Those included basic needs, access to basic services and early recovery, empowering and protecting local leadership, and furthering justice and accountability for the Syrian people.

Developments in Syria as a Catalyst for Advancing Resolution 2254

November 10, 2023

With the coordination of the Madaniya Network, a meeting was held with the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) of the UK government, attended by the UK's Special Envoy to Syria and representatives from Syrian civil society. The aim was to facilitate discussions on crucial Syrian issues such as justice, accountability, and the political future. Our representative, Maimouna Al-Ammar, focused her intervention on education, emphasising the importance of localisation in planning, implementing, and evaluating the response. She also stressed the need to support the transition from emergency response to early recovery and achieve sustainability in education by developing a safe exit strategy to protect education.

Shift The Powers Summit

December 5, 2023

Shift The Powers Summit, Bogotá, Colombia, held from 5-7 December, united change makers and civil Society leaders globally. The first session on the first day was opened by Our CEO, Riyadh Al-Najem, who shared a powerful highlight on Syria's child reality, emphasising peace strategies' importance as collaborating with global human rights and peace advocates aids local activists.

Meeting the Commission of Inquiry and the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism

(May, August, November and December, 2023)

We coordinated and participated in meetings with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria (COI) and the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM) for Syria. We provided data to support accountability efforts regarding crimes against children in Syria. Additionally, we worked to connect victims with these international mechanisms and supported IIIM's outreach to children groups inside Syria to include their voices and opinions regarding the mechanism's work.

Research plays a pivotal role in informed decision-making. It provides essential insights, data, and evidence needed to understand complex issues, assess available options, and identify the most effective strategies or solutions. Knowing that, we accumulated our efforts in partnership with international partners to work on one of the key issues we advocate for by participating in a research project and an advocacy brief about children with disabilities.

Inclusive Education in Northwest Syria

The research conducted in 60 schools across five sub-governorates in Syria sheds light on the significant challenges faced by children with disabilities in accessing education amidst the protracted crisis. The findings highlight chronic underinvestment in inclusive education, leading to barriers that hinder children's ability to reach their full potential and experience happiness. Three key themes emerged from the research: Educational Infrastructure, Educational Resources and Teacher Training, and Cultural Barriers to Inclusive Education, providing valuable insights for community-driven recommendations.

Leaving No One Behind: Empowering Children with Disabilities in Post-Earthquake Recovery

The recent earthquakes in Northwest Syria have had devastating effects, particularly on children with disabilities. This brief calls for urgent action to address the specific needs of this marginalised group, and consider how to support children and their families with the resilience to better withstand future shocks. By integrating comprehensive support mechanisms and fostering an enabling environment, we can ensure the long-term well-being and sustainable recovery of this vulnerable population, paving the way for a more resilient and inclusive future.



حراس الطفولة
Hurraas Network

SYRIAN CHILD PROTECTION NETWORK (HURRAS)

is the leading NGO in Syria in the field of child protection. Hurraas was established in 2012 in response to the need to provide urgent and critical protection to Syrian children, being the most affected victims of the Syrian war. The network has since become the loudest voice in advocating for the protection of Syrian children from the effects of the conflict and in providing them with the urgently needed support.

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