Hurras Network

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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Chairwoman's
MESSAGE

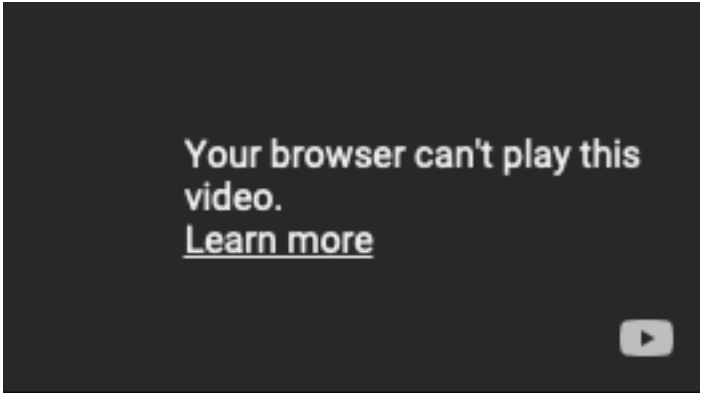
HANAN ALLAKOUD
Chairwoman

Dear All,

Since its inception, Hurras Network has strived to be everywhere a child needs its help. We wanted to be there for the children at the right time, using the right tools and through proven and tested methods, with the support of community members. The children of Syria have been subjected to 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 interventions to save the children who are at the risk of becoming a lost generation. For all the above reasons, we wanted to be always there for these children, even in the most dangerous of areas; we wanted to give children their right in living in peace, getting an education and having a good life.

WE WANTED OUR VOICE TO BE STRONG AND WELL-HEARD IN ORDER TO STOP THE WAR ON CHILDREN. The monitoring team in Hurras Network has documented 35 attacks on schools in northern Syria during 2020 only. 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 have succeeded in helping over **5,000 CHILDREN** return to school.



WE HAVE WORKED HARD TO REACH THE MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN CONFLICT ZONES, by creating a comprehensive case-management system through which Hurras has been able to provide urgent protection for over one million children for years. Hurras also helped improve the psychological health, access to education, and resilience of over 63 thousand children.

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, specialized 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 labor, and exploitation of all forms, saving them from early marriage, and empowering society to provide equal opportunities for boys and girls.

WE HAVE SOUGHT TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION. Through our work in conflict zones, we have been able to form community committees for child protection in 34 different regions inside Syria. We succeeded in integrating child safeguarding standards in 1,400 schools of the Directorate of Education within the Interim Government, in addition to rehabilitating 172 schools inside Syria so that they include staff trained in child protection.

WE HAVE FOSTERED OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH ALL GROUPS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, including institutions, authorities and organizations operating inside Syria, especially through our capacity-building programs.

BASED ON OUR BELIEF THAT EDUCATION IS A BASIC RIGHT FOR EVERYONE, we have worked hard to ensure equal learning opportunities for all children. Over the past years, we have succeeded in helping over 5,000 children return to school. We also supported formal education for 33,000 children in north-western Syria, and provided private education services to 30 boys and girls who have advanced special needs. Over the coming year, we look forward to securing greater educational opportunities for children with disabilities by establishing 17 centers integrated within schools.

A number of key **LEADING POSITIONS** at Hurras Network are held by **WOMEN**..

WE HAVE STRENGTHENED OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS. Hurras is a member of the Steering Committee for The Alliance for Child Protection, which includes government departments, UN agencies, and local and international NGOs. Hurras also participates and plays important leadership roles in a number of technical groups affiliated with the Protection Cluster, in addition to its strategic partnership with a number of international humanitarian organizations.

WE WANTED 2020 TO BE A GROUND-BREAKING YEAR FOR OUR FEMALE MEMBERS. During 2020, female members of Hurras Network assumed prominent leadership positions and played important roles in making strategic decisions. Two women from Hurras manage the rights and advocacy files. Another manages all the network's committees. The position of chairperson of Hurras's Board of Directors has been held by a woman since 2020. A number of other key leading positions are also held by women, which makes Hurras an organization with a distinctly female leadership character.

There is no doubt that the challenges we have faced have been tremendous, not the least among which has been the outbreak of the COVID19- pandemic with its effects on children, let alone the dangers of child military recruitment, child labor, early marriage, and school drop-out. These problems and others have been exacerbated by the inhumane displacement conditions of thousands of people in Northern Syria. However, we have strived at the same time to convert these challenges into opportunities to solidify our ability to reach more children and families, and make our voice heard worldwide.

THE YEAR 2021 IN NUMBERS

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PROTECTION FROM ABUSE

I'm Tasneem. The moments that I liked the best were when I went back to school and was able to play with my friends. I hope I will be able to go to school every day. I never get bored of running in the yard. I hope I will never have to be away from school again.

Boys and girls in need of urgent protection, such as Tasneem, who has been displaced for five times, are identified through Hurras Network's case management system. Children like Tasneem need information appropriate for their age, and each child must be responded to in an effective, multisectoral and child-friendly manner. Children are received in the case management system in accordance with well-considered vulnerability criteria whereby the child's vulnerability and protection needs are determined. A plan appropriate for his or her condition is then developed.

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, or by local protection committees.

HOW DO CHILDREN 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 specialized 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 ### protection cases that meet the vulnerability criteria.

REFERRAL FROM SCHOOLS:

Hurras Network has integrated child protection services into 390 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.

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 has formed **34 CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEES**, which are playing an increasing role in improving our access to children who need urgent protection.

in 2021 | 34 CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEES

PRESS HERE FOR GALLERY

Through these various channels and by empowering community members, Hurras Network has succeeded in reaching the most vulnerable children. Over the past year, the Network has been able to respond to:

in Last year WE RESPONDED TO

- 576 CASES MEDIUM AND HIGH RISK
- 1,215 LOW RISK CASES
- 73 LABOR CASES

WHAT MAKES US STAND OUT:

Hurras Network has developed and tested an automated case management system aimed at providing support to experienced social workers in its various offices.

I'm afraid that we may not be able to return and I may not see Toka and Farah again.

I miss my room and my toys.

Tasneem (8 years)

During a mobile library tour, eight-year-old Tasneem attracted my attention. She hid the balloon in her pocket every time and did not take part in the activities. I learned later from her mother that Tasneem had been displaced five times over the past few years, and that what hurt her most was her loss of her friends. She kept the balloons to play with them with her friends when she returns.» Maher, a case worker in Hurras Network.

The Coronavirus pandemic posed a serious challenge to the psychological support team. However, we succeeded, with God's help, in developing our work methods during the year. The psychological support team relied on home visits to each family, during which they provided the required support to children and helped them develop the skills they need to adapt to the new challenges resulting from the Covid19- pandemic and the interruption of education.

Jumana, Psychological Support Coordinator at Hurras Network.

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Learn more

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MORE RESILIENT CHILDREN

One of our priorities is to provide psychological 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 help them recover and to increase their resilience. Psychological support activities include encouraging children to continue their normal activities at school, 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 and in Hurras-supported schools.

59,438

children received psychological support services from Hurras.

WHAT MAKES US STAND OUT:

Psychological 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.

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The game I loved the most was the game of ladders. I learned when I should stay away from gatherings and how to act so I wouldn't get sick or infect my grandmother.

Abdullah (10 years)

We met 10-year-old Abdullah during one of the Protection Team's tours in a camp north of Idlib. Abdullah lives with his five brothers, his parents and his grandmother in a small, wretched tent after the family lost their home and were displaced several times. Abdullah and his brothers are in miserable conditions and are at risk in the camp environment. The Covid-19 related restrictions did not prevent us from visiting him and his family to provide awareness sessions on key protection risks and how to deal with them in simple language. All preventive measures were taken during the visit.

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 behavior, 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. Hurras Network utilizes 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

4,822

TAYARA WARAK MAGAZINE

To deliver protection messages, we mainly rely on to 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. Delivered to more than 20,000 children in Syria's worst conflict areas, 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.

Tayara Warak 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.

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Learn more

SAFE SPACES FOR CHILDREN

Child-friendly spaces 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 101 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

43,697

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 specialized 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 390 child-friendly spaces within local schools. These spaces are managed by staff from the Directorate of Education who are trained and mentored by Hurras Network. We have established these spaces and committed a -6month 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 2020, Hurras Network managed 120 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 specialized 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 specialized case management department.

HURRAS CURRENTLY OPERATES THREE MOBILE LIBRARIES IN THE NORTHWEST OF SYRIA

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.

"My name is Ahmad Salam. I started volunteering with the Child Protection Committee two years ago. Over these two years, I trained in the concepts of case management and identifying cases of children who are at risk. I witnessed many cases and identified them, then I referred them to the case management department in Hurras Network or to other organizations that can help. I was successful in helping some cases, but I was not able to help others."

One of the cases that I identified was the case of two children living alone, after the death of their parents, in a completely derelict house that lacked the minimum necessities of life. I was deeply moved by their situation and immediately registered the case as meeting the criteria of severe vulnerability. I contacted the committee facilitator and the case management coordinator in the network. I devoted all my efforts to providing them with assistance. I took their informed consent to photograph and share their suffering. We received an impressive response from several parties that wanted to provide assistance, including the Child Protection Committee. The house was provided with suitable furniture, electrical devices, food and other items. Most importantly, was the follow-up that culminated in the two children returning to school. I felt so happy, as I should, because I was able to make a difference in the lives of these kids."

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 the Child Protection Committees. These committees include members of the civil defense, local councils, health and education workers, as well as parents.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS INSIDE THE SCHOOL → **1,351** child, adult

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS OUTSIDE → **1,163** child, adult

Hurras Network has created 34 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 specialized case management teams

COMMUNITY AWARENESS:

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

VOLUNTARY COMMITTEES:

All community protection committees are established on a voluntary basis

WHAT MAKES US STAND OUT:

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.

"Women in the Protection Committees work side by side with their colleagues to handle cases, raise awareness, build capacities and do volunteer work in all its humanitarian dimensions. This is especially important for women beneficiaries. When women feel comfortable with those who provide services, they can participate more effectively. The presence of women in the Protection Committees has increased our ability to reach the most marginalized groups while taking into account the social norms and traditions."

Ahlam Al-Rasheed, a leader in the Community Child Protection Committees

"My name is Faisal. I started working with Hurras Network eight years ago. During these years we were able to provide many services in the communities in which we worked, especially with regard to raising awareness and building capacity on child protection issues. Our ability to reach all segments of society was and still is very high because of we depend on the community itself. We train and empower members of the community to take over initiatives aimed at transferring the concepts of child protection to other members of the community. Empowering the community is our mission. Empowering the community is what accelerated our ability to disseminate concepts of child protection to all members of the society."

Faisal Al-Hamoud, protection trainer and coordinator with Hurras Network in Syria.

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A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILD PROTECTION

Hurras Network provides technical support to specialized and non-specialized 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 specialized 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 five years, Hurras Network has developed, tested and revised its capacity building methodology and training content. The network focuses on providing four core training modules:

- 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 specialized 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 specialized and non-specialized NGOs as well as all types of government 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 PROGRAMS** managed by Hurras Network has reached **3,622**

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.

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT AND THE CHILD SAFEGUARDING SYSTEM

During 2020, we worked on rebuilding the organizational structure of Hurras Network. One of the positive outcomes of this procedure was the activation of the Child Safeguarding Department. This move enabled Hurras to move forward in linking all departments, operations and emergency response plans operated by the network with the Safeguarding department, in an effort to make the safety and well-being of the children we work with at the heart of all our activities.

WHY DOES HURRAS NETWORK FOCUS SO MUCH ON SAFEGUARDING?

The basic principle adopted by Hurras Network in all its activities and interventions within the community is that the protection of the children it works with is a top priority. We believe that it is not acceptable that any child, under any justification or in any circumstances, is subjected to any form of neglect, exploitation or abuse during the implementation of our programs and activities.

At Hurras, we are aware that our work in the community helps put our employees, representatives, partners, and contractors in a position of trust by the community. Thus, we strive to ensure that this trust is not abused, and that child safeguarding standards are adhered to by all our employees at all times, and that abuse is reported and handled effectively when it occurs. Therefore, during 2020, attending and completing a special training on the basics of safeguarding children was the first step that any new member of the network had to take. This year, 57 new members (36 males, 21 females), as well as 30 suppliers and service providers, completed this training and participated in discussion sessions we organized around the Child Safeguarding Code of Conduct policy.

In 2020, we provided 250 hours of training and learning sessions on the concepts and problems surrounding child safeguarding for staff and volunteers. In addition, this year witnessed the review of Hurras Network's Child Protection Policy, which was approved by the Board of Directors.

HURRAS TAKES ALL REPORTS OF CHILD SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS OR COMPLAINTS EXTREMELY SERIOUSLY. The network leads its own investigations guided by a set of core principles including the best interests of the child, causing no harm, respect for time, and confidentiality.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

Hurras Network views education as one of the most important humanitarian interventions and a top priority. The organization 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 118 schools, benefiting more than 50,000 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 programs, 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

30,000

children

through literacy and numeracy programs, as well as the provision of textbooks.

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

18 Special education centers

Benefitting

120 children with disability

During the COVID19- outbreak, the Network took the initiative to establish distance learning platforms, including about 1,180 WhatsApp groups, to reach around

28,937

children

during covid and help them continue their education.

Hurras set up

265

centers

to provide education to children in the IDPs camps, especially those who were unable to access schools.

A TOTAL OF **43,697** children through literacy

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

"I can't remember what happened before the war, I only remember what happened before we were displaced. Every time I settle in a new school, my education is disrupted. I want to study more so that I can become an engineer and go back to build our school in the village so that kids can go back to it."

Omar,
12 years old boy.

Omar is an eight-year-old boy who lives with his brothers and parents in Idlib province. The constant attacks on his town forced him to flee and change his school three times in just two years. When Omar arrived at a Hurras-supported school, his reading levels were low, and he had difficulty in integrating with the rest of the schoolchildren.

In these cases, children like Omar receive different levels of interventions to help them catch up with their peers, and receive the support required according to their individual needs. Khaled Younes, Education Coordinator in Hurras Network, says:

All children like Omar are initially subjected to a diagnostic assessment to determine the level of their literacy and numeracy skills. After that, the child receives lessons according to the track assigned to him and that better suits his level. He then gradually progresses within the curriculum from one track to the next one according to his or her own speed. This is precisely what distinguishes the therapeutic approach: If the child encounters any difficulties in passing a track, they are given remedial classes by the principal teacher in the resource room. They also get additional learning time through WhatsApp groups and using some qualitative activities.

These interventions have proven effective with a lot of children, especially Omar, who has become one of the top performing students in his school. He has also developed his ability to interact with others as he has made many new friends with whom he can mingle freely.

IT IS NOT RANDOM EDUCATION, BUT HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION

Hurras seeks to provide high-quality education to children according to curricula that are based on the state-of-the-art knowledge and studies, while taking into account child protection. For this purpose, the Network offers elementary stage teachers in 118 schools - from grades one to four - with salaries and training in coordination with the directorates of education. It also provides schools with publications, textbooks, stationery and special education materials, as well as providing security and safety programs, sanitation, hygiene kits and water materials. Moreover, Hurras organizes 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 30,000 children benefit from these services.

COMBINING PROTECTION WITH EDUCATION:

A distinctive characteristic of the Network's programs is combining protection with education methodologies. Hurras has managed to establish child-friendly spaces at its schools through which it implements protection programs and systems, as well as implements case management activities, and supports the initiatives of local protection committees.

HURRAS PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS AND SERVICES IN ALL SCHOOLS IT WORKS WITH:

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

A total of
43,697
CHILDREN
benefited from formal education services provided by the Hurras Network

"I am quite happy today because I was able to go back to school. I love my teachers a lot, and I will do my best to become a teacher and help young girls continue their education just as I did,"

Hajar,
12 years old girl.

HAJAR, a 12 years old girl, is one of the students registered in Hurras' Accelerated Education Center. Hajar and her family were displaced multiple times over the past several years, forcing her to drop out of education and thus was behind in her peers.

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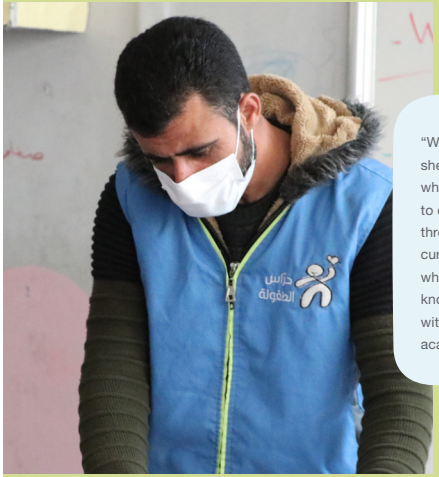

Abdullah Al-Muallem,
Accelerated Education Officer in Hurras Network, says:

"When Hajar registered in the center, she was out of education for two whole years. However, she managed to catch up with her schoolmates through the accelerated education curriculum offered by our center, which allows the child to obtain basic knowledge in literacy and numeracy within three months instead of a full academic year."

Abdullah adds:

"The girl suffered from a broken bone injury during the exams; her teachers took the initiative and thus the response officer went to Hajar's house so that she could take her exams. She successfully completed the accelerated education course exams, which helped her return to formal education in a school in northwestern Syria."

IT'S TIME TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL

Special Accelerated and Remedial Education programs, so that no child is left out of school

ACCELERATED LEARNING PROGRAMS

This program's aim is to help out-of-school children or children at risk of dropping out of school resume their education and catch up with their peers through accelerated learning programs within relatively short timeframes. The educational materials employed in this program were developed by the Hurras Network team benefiting from various curricula developed by other organizations active in this field. They cover literacy and numeracy skills and allow students comprehend the subject within only three months instead of a whole year, which helps them catch up faster with their peers.

A TOTAL OF 35,989 OF CHILDREN BENEFITED

all years from Hurras' accelerated learning programs

REMEDIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Hurras Network provides programs to help children who are behind in education catch up with their peers. It also provides home education programs and remedial classes for children who fail two or more subjects in order to ensure that they continue to receive education and achieve better results. These programs aim to ensure that all children have access to education based on the principle "Leave No One Behind".

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

IN THIS CONTEXT, HURRAS IMPLEMENTS TWO TYPES OF REMEDIAL LEARNING PROGRAMS WITH ITS PARTNERS:

1 REMEDIAL CLASSES:

These are being offered in partnership with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) organization, with children being taught mathematics, reading and writing, as well as social and emotional education curricula.

2 TEACHER-LED SELF-LEARNING PROGRAMS (SLP):

For the past three years, Hurras has used UNICEF-developed self-learning courses as a remedial intervention within its education program. Through these courses, the teacher assigns students with activities to do by themselves in order to achieve the desired results. Hurras, in partnership with UNICEF, WHO and the European Union, successfully used this approach to reach children in 65 schools in the period between 2016 and 2019.

A total of **1,846** of children benefited from Hurras' remedial learning programs

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Fatima is a -12year-old girl and was born with Down syndrome. She lives with her parents and three brothers. She has a passion for drawing and tries to express herself through drawing. In this way, she often expressed her love for her teacher, friends, and the things she loves, especially the garden, which appears frequently in her drawings.

However, these distinctive skills have significantly declined due to the frequent displacement and instability that the girl has suffered, especially since she was unable to regularly benefit from service centers that support her condition. In addition to the stability that, like any other child, she desperately needs, Fatima can benefit from special education services that help her develop her skills and support her mental and physical health.

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Muhammad Arafat, Coordinator of Special Education at Hurras Network, says:

"At the center, we assess cases of mental disorders in children at various levels, starting with gross and fine motor skills, daily life skills such as eating and dressing, social skills, early learning skills, and playing with things, perception and use of language, to academic skills such as numbers, arithmetic operations, reading and writing and other skills. Based on these assessments, a plan is developed for each child according to his or her needs that includes general and behavioral goals. We also offer them a set of supportive activities that are designed to achieve the goals of this plan."

Arafat adds:

"Even after the Covid-19 outbreak, the special education activities offered by the Network did not stop, but rather turned into individual in-home sessions through which the implementation of individual plans is followed up at a rate of one-hour session per day; and as such physical integration was replaced by online integration (WhatsApp groups).

WE ARE NOT TARGETS

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS, MONITORING AND ADVOCACY PROGRAM

The children's rights, monitoring and advocacy programs in Hurras Network are an integral part of the child protection methodology adopted by the network. Through this program, our team works on monitoring all violations committed against children in our work areas by collecting information about any major violations of children's rights in a quick, objective and ethical manner. This data is used later on to address violations systematically through prevention, response and advocacy activities.

The evidence we collect is of paramount importance in advocating child protection issues, as it is currently used as a secondary source of information for the data of the United Nations Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (UN-MRM), and is also used to feed the data of the International Impartial and Independent 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, Hurras Network documentation is a primary source of information for many international advocates such as Save the Children International and Amnesty International.

"My name is Ali. I am 10. One day, a jetfighter hit several areas of our village. Ten people died on that day. My brothers and I fled. We were displaced to another village, but the school there was also destroyed. We could not continue our education until a new school was built."

The school that Ali and his friend Muhammad went to was hit several times. The attacks destroyed the building block that was used for secondary education and it became completely out of service.

Hurras Network has monitored and documented the targeting of **46 SCHOOLS DURING 2020,2021,** including Ali's School which was targeted along with nine other schools in one day, leading to the deaths of four children and a female teacher on the same day.

A totla of **57 CHILDRN WERE KILLED IN THESE ATTACKS DURNG 2021.**

HOW DOES HURRAS NETWORK IMPLEMENT ITS MONITORING AND DOCUMENTATION PROGRAMS?

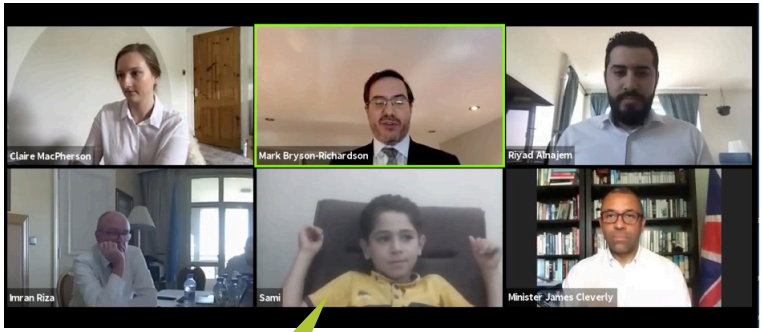
- Gathering information about the patterns of children's rights violations in society
- Documenting specific cases of major children's rights violations
- Verifying major children's rights violations that are being documented by other parties

HOW DO WE USE THIS INFORMATION?

We use the data obtained by our monitoring teams to provide practical evidence to decision makers about the different patterns of children's rights violations within 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 Hurras Network is active. Our primary goal is to respond to the main needs of the local community in Syria.

The process of documenting violations is just one of the steps for achieving justice for children and their families, which requires cooperation with relevant international children's rights platforms. Hurras Network is a member, for example, of the International Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, as well as other alliances and initiatives focusing on child protection.



"My friends and I used to go to school every morning. I loved my teachers very much. One day, we were at home, and we heard the whirr of a helicopter. I heard a lot of screaming outside and ran away with my family and our neighbors. This was the fifth time that I was displaced!"

Sami.

"One of the most important goals of advocacy is to shed light on the affected children and to convey their voices to international forums and decision makers. We also try to implement effective advocacy activities that would bring about a real change in humanitarian response policies in a way that positively reflects on the status of child protection."

Laila Zaza,
Hurras Network Director of Advocacy.

KEY ADVOCACY MISSION STATEMENTS IN 2020:

Ensuring access to education for all children: Improving access to education for all children inside Syria (including in emergencies), by:

- Removing barriers to education inside Syria, facilitating the access of out-of-school children to education, including children with disabilities; and ensuring that children who are already in school benefit from quality, safe and comprehensive education
- Ensuring improved working conditions for all teachers and school staff, and supporting them with Duty of Care programs to maintain the integrity and quality of the workforce and improve the quality of education

ENSURING THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM:

by monitoring and documenting all systematic attacks on schools and education centers through mechanisms that ensure accountability and contribute to the protection of civilians and guarantee the children's best interests.

Child protection mainstreaming: Ensuring the integration of child protection and mainstreaming minimum standards of child protection into formal education and other vital sectors, including water, sanitation and health sector in northwest Syria.

REMOVING BARRIERS TO RESUMING FORMAL EDUCATION:

including continuing education in emergencies, such as during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Developing effective advocacy strategies to change local policies: Before 2013, there was no effective child protection system in Syria. Today, most schools operating in northwest Idlib have adopted a child protection and safeguarding policy. Hurras Network has played a significant role in achieving this.

WE WORK TO CARRY CHILDREN'S VOICES TO DECISION MAKERS

Hurras Network's mission includes delivering the voice of the victims and children to decision-makers. To achieve this, the network participated in several international forums during 2020, the most important of which were:

Accountability High-Level Side Event to the United Nations Human Rights Council

March 15, 2021

The event was moderated by the UK ambassador for Human Rights. It focused on accountability in Syria after 10 years of war. Maimona Al-Ammar represented Hurras Network in this session where she explained what accountability means for Syrians, advocating for a UN resolution to release all the detainees and the forcibly disappeared from illegal Syrian detention centers. Al-Ammar called upon the International Commission of Inquiry on Syria to increase accountability mechanisms, clearly attribute the crimes to their actual perpetrators, and establish a comprehensive report whereby crimes and violations against children are reported to the UN Security Council and raised before the International Criminal Court to seek justice for the victims.

Brussels V Conference - Winning back a "Lost Generation"

March 24, 2021

The event was structured around three main points: in the first point, Carl Hallergard (EEAS) gave an overview of the situation in Syria, highlighting the effects of the conflict on Syrian children ten years into the conflict. In the second point, Maimona Al-Ammar, who represented Hurras Network in the session, and Sonia Khush from Save the Children, focused on measures to ensure and restore children's protection and safety, as well as mental and physical wellbeing, including through access to education. In the final point, Dimiter Chalev (OHCHR) focused on the impact of the conflict on the right to education and accountability.

Protecting and Empowering Syrian Adolescent G&B

Feb 16, 2021

This event discussed the state of adolescent rights in Syria and highlighted the importance of empowering adolescents and the role of international humanitarian actors in supporting their rights. Hurras Network representative, Maimona Al-Ammar, highlighted the key issues that impact adolescents in Syria. She pointed to child marriages, the deteriorating condition of the educational system, the lack of opportunities to learn, and the absence of sources of livelihood that give individuals a sense of purpose and security, as the main four factors that lead to the militarization of youth in Syria. Syrian children encounter various disruptions and barriers to receiving an adequate education. Orphaned children are more vulnerable to such barriers because of the added trauma they naturally face when losing one or both parents. The lack of access to higher education was highlighted as one of the main barriers that face children. At the end of the session, Al-Ammar gave some recommendations on how to support the youth.

EEAS Meeting Cross-border NWS

June 16, 2021

The high-level meeting with the EEAS was held in Gaziantep with the participation of several NGOs and INGOs. The participants in the meeting discussed UNSC Resolution on cross-border assistance in Northwestern Syria. Layla Hasso and Maimona Al-Ammar represented Hurras Network in this meeting and argued that the ending of cross-boarder resolution will lead to increased protection risks for children and to the collapse of the educational system, calling for the EEAS to put maximum effort to prevent this collapse from happening in Northwestern Syria.

Hurras Network

SYRIAN CHILD PROTECTION NETWORK (HURRAS) is the leading NGO in Syria in the field of child protection. Hurras was established in 2013 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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