



Brussels VII Conference Side Event

Rule of law in Northeast and Northwest Syria

The latest protection risks experienced by communities in NES





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Poor Access to Basic Services:

Water:

Lack of water resources due to the decline in rainfall caused by climate change.

The Turkish government's non-compliance with international water agreements and laws, and water resources have been used as a weapon and a tool of pressure in the military and political conflict between the conflicting parties, as is the case in the Alouk station, which has been controlled by the armed factions affiliated with Turkey since October 2019, and it cuts off water to a million and 200,000 civilians, using this as a means of war and pressure in its struggle with the Self Administration.





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Poor Access to Basic Services:

Food:

The region was affected by the climate change crisis, and thus the local production decreased.

The continuation of the siege with the continuation of the closure of the only humanitarian crossing (Al-Yarubiyah crossing) as a result of the Russian veto in the Security Council.

In May 2022, the World Food Program (WFP) had to reduce the size of food rations by 13% due to the burden of resources and funding.





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Poor Access to Basic Services:

Education:

Many schools have turned into military centers and shelters for the displaced (40 schools), in addition to the difficulty of accessing the documents necessary for the continuity of education.





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Poor Access to Basic Services:

Health:

the lack of health facilities as a result of the destruction of the infrastructure and the lack of supported Funds , medical staff and expertise due to immigration.





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The widening gap in protection services in northeastern Syria, with funding shortages occurring in 2022-2023:

Since November 2022, despite the cessation of funding, Salam Organization is still providing protection services voluntarily in 4 camps and Al-Hasakah's shelters, in addition to the cities of Al-Raqqa and Deir Ezzor.





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Increasing number of displaced people to north and east Syria:

An increase in the number of camps: 160,000 people in 17 camps in northeastern Syria, most of them women and children, with the continued lack of funding and services provided, as 12 camps are not classified as official camps by the United Nations.

In addition to dozens of random camps in the countryside of Deir Ezzor, Raqqa, and the Shahba area in Aleppo.

40 educational schools converted to shelters in Al-Hasakah governorate, which contain 1365 families suffering from a lack of provided services, especially protection services.





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The causes of legal protection risks:

The regions of northern and eastern Syria are under the control of the Autonomous Administration, with the exception of the center of the cities of Hasakah and Qamishli and Qamishli Airport, which are under the control of the Syrian government, in addition to the control of the Turkish government and its affiliated factions over the areas of Ras al-Ain and Tal Abyad.

official documents recognized internationally and legally can only be issued by the Syrian government.

Syrian Government closed all its institutions and departments within the areas outside its control and the absence of any coordination mechanisms and formulas to ensure their continuity in other cases.

Due to the lack of official recognition by the Syrian government or the regional or international neighborhood with the Self Administration of North and East Syria so the identity papers related to civil status issued by it are limited in validity to its regions only.



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Legal Protection Risks:

- Difficulty or inability to obtain personal documents issued by the Syrian government due to security risks or fear of arrest.
- Many residents in Deir Ezzor and Al-Raqqa lost ownership of their lands and private properties due to the absence of the Syrian government departments in the cities of Al-Raqqa and Deir Ezzor, and the Autonomous Administration's dependence on papers and real estate title deeds issued by the Syrian government as a basis. Therefore, its residents are unable to obtain any identity papers. They also suffer from very difficult access due to security concerns.
- The increase in the percentage of child labor, the recruitment of minors, the increase in exploitation and involvement in suspicious activities such as drug abuse due to their distance from education, as a result of the inability to obtain missing documents or the inability to register them with the Syrian government departments for new births after 2011
- The increase in the percentage of crimes related to forged documents due to the loss of the original papers and the inability to extract them, and thus weak control and security stability and increased exploitation.



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Legal Protection Risks:

- Many of the displaced in the camps of northeastern Syria are afraid of returning to their safe areas because they lack official documents and the inability to access legal services.
- The difficulty of the returnees integrate with their society due to the stigma and the loss of all their legal documents and their property, in addition to not requesting support from the Autonomous Administration and the Syrian government for fear of arrest and accountability.
- There are thousands of missing persons in north and east Syria who do not have legal protection for them and their families.
- Threatening the existence of the indigenous peoples of the region and the fear of the extinction of their history due to the systematic targeting of their areas, as the number of Assyrians in the villages of Khabour decreased from 33 thousand to 700 people, losing their rights to own their homes, which are under the fire of the Turkish-backed factions, and the houses in the Assyrian villages that contained the displaced from Ras al-Ain and Tell Abyad, following the Turkish attack in 2019.



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Recommendations

- Increasing support for the capacities of civil society organizations to facilitate linking the affected people to legal services.
- Supporting civil society organizations to advocate for missing persons issues and supporting efforts to uncover the fate of missing persons, and to form a United Nations committee to follow up on the issue of missing persons and to provide reparations.
- Finding a more flexible formula by the United Nations offices to coordinate and support civil society organizations outside the control of the Syrian government
- Supporting civil society organizations to facilitate returnees' access to legal services and their integration with society.
- Supporting the establishment of a personal Status Office at NES to issue personal documents while ensuring the protection of visiting individuals.
- Supporting local organizations to work on developing and amending laws and regulations to ensure the protection of the property rights of people who belong to the indigenous communities that migrated due to the crisis, and to activate control over looting and theft of property.



Thank you



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