



## Report of the Kurdish Red Crescent - Turkish attacks and damage in NES starting on October 4, 2023:

The humanitarian crisis in Northeast Syria resulting from 12 years of civil war – even before the current Turkish attacks – has not significantly changed in recent years and became even worse after the heavy earthquake in February 2023. According to the UN's Humanitarian Needs Assessment in late 2022, 15.3 million people need humanitarian assistance in Syria, of which 5 million are estimated to be in the regions of AANES. That was before the earthquake and before the recent attacks. But the attention of donors and media is constantly decreasing since at least two years. The conference on Syria in Brussels in summer 2023 was disappointing for the people of NES and humanitarian organizations working in north and east Syria. Most donors (public donors for humanitarian response and development) have assessed the situation as approaching “stable”. We strongly disagree with this assessment. NES is still hosting thousands of refugees and IDPs, the water situation is disastrous, the terrorist activities of the Islamic State (ISIS/ISIL) are constantly increasing, there is no future perspective for the population of NES and criminal activities are also increasing... The focus of donors may have changed from emergency response to a focus on sustainability, but that does not mean that the region became stable.

The recent Turkish attacks have destroyed essential public facilities and infrastructure which are essential for stability. Turkey destroyed energy resources, oil resources, health infrastructure, water resources as well as security forces. Repair and rehabilitation of these damages will require years of enormous efforts and funds.

**Meanwhile the Turkish state continues it's attacks and taking advantage of the public preoccupation with the Israel-Palestine conflict.**

The permanent drone attacks in the past months, the use of water sources as an act of war against the population, the ongoing cholera crisis, the constant increase of ISIS activities and the thousands of displaced people are clear measurements that we are still in an emergency and the region is not stable at all. For years humanitarian funding has been constantly decreasing, and the humanitarian needs must be addressed with limited resources.

Current situation of camps, informal settlements, detention centers and prisons in North and East Syria:

The AANES (Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria) is currently hosting tens of thousands in the camps and informal settlements in all North and East Syria. These camps are hosting IDPs and refugees from the war against the Islamic State, people who fled from Turkish invasions in 2018 and 2019, people who fled from the war in Idlib or other areas of southern Syria and recently also people who have lost their houses during the earthquake.

The displacement rate and camp coverage in northern Syria have reached their maximum capacities, and there is a significant shortage of basic services such as healthcare, food, education, and psychological support.

Especially the situation in the Al Hol Camp is concerning. The camp is still hosting almost 60,000 people, most of them are families of Islamic State members and many of them are from European countries. The camp is already now serving as a hub for radicalization among its residents. Children are developing as new soldiers for the Islamic State. Already before there was not enough capacity to respond to this worrying situation and the lack of humanitarian assistants and poor living circumstances were increasing the radicalization of the camp population.

The current Turkish aggression will increase tensions inside the camp and facilitate Islamic State cells in their efforts to influence and radicalize. Security forces, also heavily targeted, may not have enough resources to ensure the safety of humanitarian workers inside and outside the camp, nor to prevent residents from fleeing. The attack of Turkey is strengthening the Islamic State inside the camp but also in fragile security areas as Deir-Ezzor, where Islamic State cells are still mainly active and destabilize the whole region in north and east Syria even more.

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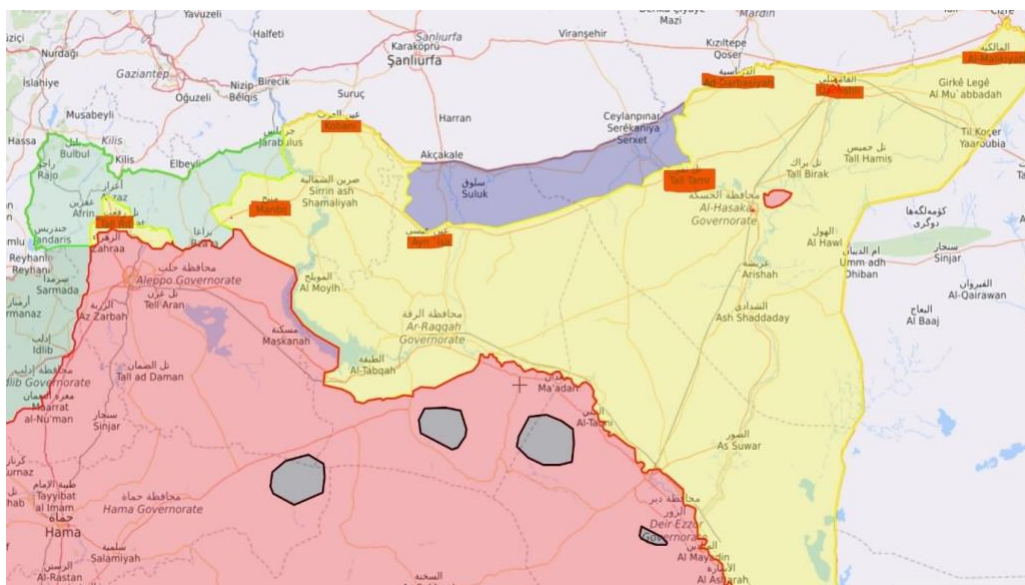
Prisons and detention centers in northeastern Syria host thousands of Islamic State members including international IS members. The structural and infrastructural conditions are very poor, the hygiene measurements are disastrous and accordingly many diseases are spreading in the prisons and detention centers. There is a significant lack of space. The inhabitants are still dangerous and there is no capacity for any kind of rehabilitation process for the inhabitants. Even in the prisons the IS continues their activities and are becoming stronger.

The instability of the entire region as a result of the 12-years civil war, through climate change, through constant Turkish attacks since years and especially the current ongoing major attack creates perfect conditions for the IS to become stronger again. Radicalization will increase, displacement of the population will increase, the need of humanitarian assistance will increase, the numbers of refugees seeking a safe life will increase.

The instability and insecurity, coupled with the significant decrease in international humanitarian funding for NES since the start of the Ukraine war, hinder the work of many international NGOs to the point of completely stopping their activities. At the same time, local NGOs like KRC do not have direct access to international funding and are forced to rely on the presence of international organizations in the field.

The current Turkish offensive is targeting civilian infrastructure, affecting all energy supply, industries, and farmers, cutting off roads and disrupting the supply chain for many essential goods. As of the time of writing this report, due to the Turkish attacks, most electricity stations, water stations, and gas stations in Hasake Governorate are out of service due to direct targeting, which is leaving some thousand people without access to electricity, which is also affecting the access to water.

Despite all of these challenges, and despite the fact that humanitarian workers and ambulances have been systematically targeted by Turkish airstrikes in the past, we have no choice but to continue with our mission and fulfill our duty of providing humanitarian aid to those in need in northeastern Syria.



Syria 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2023

AANES / SDF

Government of Syria / Russia

Islamic State (IS)

Occupied from Turkey since 2019

Occupied from Turkey since 2018 (northwest Syria)

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## Turkish Aggressions Damages:



### Energy – Oil - Electricity:

Power station in Sweida: It was severely damaged on the 5th of October and is now completely offline. Sweida was the main power station producing electricity in the region and the sole source of 24-hour power supply in the northern areas of Al-Hasakah Governorate, providing emergency power to hospitals, bakeries, and oil stations in Rmeilan and other vital infrastructure.

The gas station in Sweida was completely destroyed, supplying 13,000 gas cylinders daily to all the northeastern regions of Syria. Authorities expect the repair cost to exceed 50,000,000 US dollars. Six electrical substations were also significantly damaged - Amouda station, the northern Qamishli station, Sayyida station, Zaraba stations, Qahataniya station, and the western Al-Hasakah Dam station, all of them are now disabled. The repair cost for each station ranges from 1,000,000 to 1,500,000 US dollars.

Without electricity from the Sweida station, Rmeilan, one of the most important sites for pumping and refining oil, is no longer operational, and it remains unclear when operations can resume. Additionally, more than ten oil facilities and sites directly suffered strikes in northern Al-Hasakah Governorate. The total number of people affected by the energy crisis exceeds one million individuals in northeastern Syria.

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### WASH:

Alouk water station, which had recently resumed limited and irregular operation after being closed for nearly a year, is once again offline due to a power outage. The station is under Turkish control since 2019. More than 650,000 people in Hasakah and the surrounding areas, including camps, are affected when the Alouk station is not operational.

The water station in the Al-Himme area of Hasakah city, which receives water from Alouk, was heavily targeted, and two of its staff were injured and forced to evacuate immediately. The station is now out of service.

The water station at the Safan Dam, a critical water source for Qamishli, Qahtaniyah, Jawadiyah, and Malikiyah sub-districts, relied on electricity from Sweida, and the station is now out of service.

These damages and interruptions in water supply are occurring amid ongoing crises in northeastern Syria, including long-term disruptions at the Alouk station, restricted flow to the Syrian portion of the Euphrates River, and excessive reliance in northeastern Syria on limited groundwater sources.



### HEALTH:

Like every public facility in the region, health facilities in the area of Derik, Qamishlo, Hasake, Amuda, Dirbasiya are severely harmed by the loss of electricity from the main network, and medical resources requiring constant cooling (such as vaccines, insulin, blood, etc.) are at risk of spoilage if they have not already spoiled.

45 Health Centers in Hasake governorate reported being highly affected, including Health Centers in the camps of Roj in Derik region and Washokani in Hasake which was directly targeted.

Moreover, without the 24-hour critical services line operational, there are major risks to the cold supply chain inside health facilities and warehouses. Hospitals and clinics rely heavily on electrical power for equipment such as oxygen generators, ventilators, incubators, dialysis machines, and X-ray machines. Power outages can disrupt the operation of these critical devices, endangering patients' lives.

Water shortage risks hindering proper hygiene and sanitation practices among healthcare workers. This increases the risk of healthcare-associated infections and the spread of diseases within facilities and Infection Prevention and Control practices. Infection outbreaks, especially of waterborne diseases like cholera and healthcare-associated infections, can become more prevalent in health facilities with inadequate water supply and sanitation infrastructure, posing serious health risks to patients, healthworkers and the community.

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- The former Covid-19 Health Center in Derik and Kobane, as well as the former Covid-19 Health Center near Qamishli were all specifically targeted.
- The Kurdish Red Crescent ambulances were involved to transfer 31 injured people in the mentioned regions, not counting the military cases and fatalities.



*Former Covid-19 Center in Derik region*

### **IDPs, Camps & food Security**

On October 5, three strikes took place in close proximity to Washokani IDP camp, which hosts over 10,000 displaced persons. The vast majority of this camp's population (90 percent) were originally displaced from Serekaniye by the Turkish Invasion in 2019. Representatives of many local and international humanitarian Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) were present in the camp at the time of the strikes. Attacks have also occurred near roads frequently used by humanitarian workers in order to reach vulnerable populations at other sites.

While no conflict-related displacements have yet been reported — likely because strikes have so far been primarily concentrated on critical infrastructure — there will be increasing risks of displacements should escalations persist. Any increase in hostilities will also negatively impact the delivery of humanitarian aid in NES. As of October 5, multiple organizations providing vital services limited their activities from routine to life-saving. Continuation of service delivery for NGOs cannot be assured should the hostilities persist, due to operational risks and safety concerns for staff and beneficiaries.

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Bakeries, silos, and mills in four sub-districts — Qamishli, Qahtaniyah, Malikiyah, and Jawadiyah — are reliant on electricity from the Swediyeh station's 24-hour critical services line. With Swediyeh station offline, facilities in each of these sub-districts, and the nearly 500,000 people they serve, are critically impacted. Reports indicate that generators have been used at these sites to continue operations.

Continuing hostilities may prevent more than 3,500 farmers in 10 sub-districts (out of 25,000 total in NES) from accessing their wheat crop lands to prepare them for the planting season in October, causing delays which may critically impact crop yields. Reductions in oil production and rising fuel prices will also critically impact irrigation and other agricultural operations. Furthermore, more than 8 cement factories and wheat silos in the countryside of Kobani, Amouda, Qamishli, Al-Hasakah, Derik, and agricultural areas were targeted, resulting in highly damaging and also the killing of over 250 sheep. During these attacks, the region also lost vital resources and more than 1,500 workers and farmers lost their livelihoods.



Kurdish Red Crescent (KRC) / Heyva Sor a Kurd  
Qamişlo North Syria. 7<sup>th</sup> October.2023

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