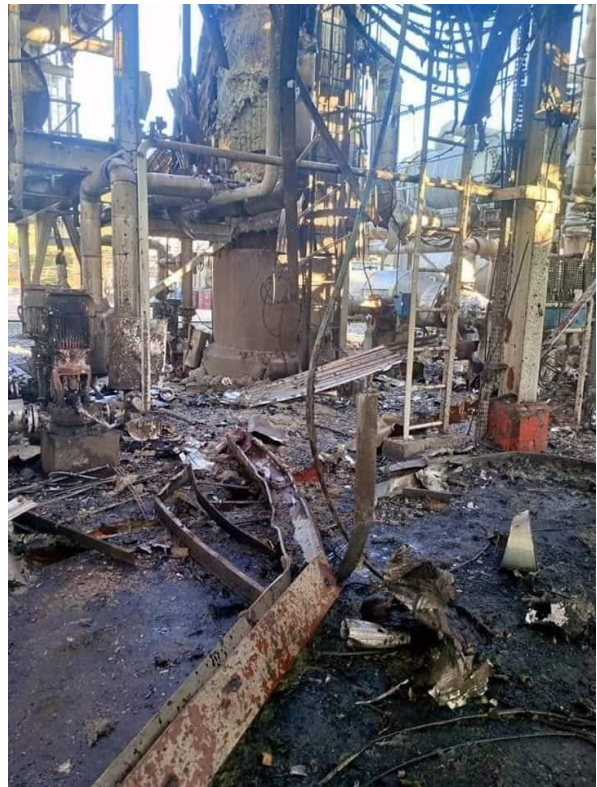


Status update on the airstrikes by the Turkish state between 26.12.23 and 17.01.24

The previous attacks were primarily directed against civilian critical infrastructure. The attacks were mainly aimed at energy resources, but food supplies and medical facilities were also affected. A cement factory near Kobane was attacked, and while the firefighters were putting out the fire, there was another attack on the factory. In Derbasiye, a house was destroyed, and a woman and two children were injured.

Between 13th-15th of January: At least 7 employees were seriously injured in an attack on the Swediyeh gas extraction plant. The Swediyeh Gas Station, serving over 920,000 people, is completely non-operational. Four electricity transfer substations in Hasakah governorate were taken fully out of service. Consequently, the Alouk Water Station is now completely isolated from the grid, 96 boreholes across the governorate are non-operational, and 80 boreholes are operating on rapidly dwindling stocks of fuel, threatening access to water for over 815,076 inhabitants in NES (source: NES Forum). A total of 53 gas and oil production facilities and warehouses were hit.



Swediyeh gas station: while and after the attack in the night of 14th of January (Picture: KRC Communications office)

In Al-Jazeera district alone, 7 power supply facilities were directly destroyed, indirectly affected, and until further notice no longer in operation are 9 main power transfer stations in: Derbasiye, Amuda, Qamishli, Tirbesipye, Derik, Swediye, Tilkocer, Til Elo, Til Tewil. As a result, 9 towns and 1,232 villages were completely or partially without electricity. In Kobane, Targeting of a transfer station led to the loss of electricity in the city and 550 villages around Kobane and Ain Issa.



Al-Qamishli – power supply station after the attack on 15th of January (Picture: KRC communications Office)

Private households as well as public institutions such as public hospitals, clinics, bakeries, and wheat mills had to stop their operations completely or partially (according to the energy department of the self-administration). This also includes the newly opened cancer ward of the Kurdish Red Crescent. Although most hospitals have emergency generators, they are far from being able to cover the entire electricity demand due to the huge lack in Fuel. In addition, water pumps cannot be operated, which means that millions of private households and public facilities can no longer be adequately supplied with water. In addition to wheat warehouses, a seed warehouse was also hit. Fresh seed was already a problem before and will now increase the food shortage and becoming a long-term and sustainable problem.



The seedbank after the attack on 14th of January (Picture: KRC Communication Office)

The Turkish government is taking advantage of the media's focus on the Israel-Palestine war and destroying the basic life needs for the people in NES. We consider the targeted attacks on civilian infrastructure as an attack on the civilian population and a violation of international humanitarian law. We call on the international community to take a stand and force Turkey to stop the attacks on civilian infrastructure immediately.

The Kurdish Red Crescent Administration - Qamishli

KRC Report on Turkish attacks in Northeast Syria 25th - 26th of December 2023

Yesterday, 25th of December, the Turkish state conducted a major attack on northeast Syria with airstrikes. The airstrikes continued until late at night. At least 8 people died in the attacks and 15 were injured.

The main targets were civilian infrastructure. In Kobane an outpatient clinic specialized in diabetes and supported through a German association was hit and destroyed. Fortunately, the clinic was closed due to Christmas holidays and no casualties were reported. This center was serving mainly the elderly people in Kobane city and villages through a mobile clinic. Now there is no chance to obtain the same services. Fortunately, the clinic was closed due to Christmas holidays and no casualties were reported.



Outpatient Diabetes Clinic in Kobane, after the attack by Turkish airstrikes. (picture by poverty and health association, Germany)

In Qamishlo a Kidney dialyses centre which serves monthly between 650-700 patients in need of weekly multibed dialyses sessions, and the oxygen storage for medical supplies were targeted.



Kidney Dialyses Centre in Qamishlo (picture by KRC media office)

The targeting of the main printing press for student books in north-eastern Syria (Simav), resulting in the immediate death of six of its workers. This printing Press distributes books to over 800,000 students in more than 4,400 schools in the region. In addition, two cement production factories, a wheat storage granary, an olive oil factory, a flour and Tahini mill, a plastic factory, a car repair workshop, and even a wedding hall (luckily, no wedding was taking place at the time).

Due to the targeting of the electricity and oil stations, the electricity is cut from Qamishli City, 9 towns, and 2680 Villages. Including Bakeries, health Facilities and public facilities.



Simav printing press in Qamishli city (Picture by KRC media office)

Despite recent relative stabilization of the Syrian crisis in terms of frontlines and significant internal displacement, the situation is totally different in northern Syria. It's residents face harsh living conditions due to ongoing bombardment by Turkey and its drones against the civilians and essential infrastructure: power stations, oil stations, bakeries, cement factories, health facilities, and children's educational facilities. The attacks and damage are ongoing for many years now and were hugely intensified against civilian infrastructure since October 2022. The repair and rehabilitation of these damages will require years of enormous efforts and funds.



Northeast Syria was already suffering from a severe food crisis, besides the lack of energy resources such as gas and fuel. The recent attacks on infrastructure will increase the humanitarian tragedy in Northeast Syria.

The permanent fear of new attacks with drones is deeply affecting the mental health of the population, especially the children.

The permanent drone attacks in the past months, the curtailment of access to water 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 indicators that show that we are still going through 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 our own 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. ISIS families are raising their children to become new soldiers for the Islamic State. Even before, there was not enough capacity to respond to this worrying situation and the lack of humanitarian assistance and poor living conditions 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.

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 assistant will increase, the numbers of refugees seeking a safe life will increase.

According to the Red Cross statistics, over 90% of Syrians live below the poverty line. According to the UN 16.7 Million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in Syria, of which about 6 Million lives in the areas of north and east Syria. Nevertheless, Turkey targets flour mills and ovens in the region, depriving thousands of families of bread.

As a local humanitarian organization and local workers operating in the area since 2012, we can understand and empathize with the civilians' suffering. Many who migrated from Syria, especially northern Syria, did so primarily to secure a safe and a better future for their children with ability to learn like any other child in this world.

Turkey seeks to drive people away from the region to change the demography in northeastern Syria, similar to its efforts in other Kurdish regions like Afrin since its occupation in February 2018. And despite recent regulations and restrictions on migration routes to Europe by the European Union, the Turkish attacks on civilians and infrastructure drive parents to flee and risk losing their lives to save their children from Turkish aggression, despite knowing the risks of migration routes or sea crossings.

The only way to alleviate even part of the civilians' suffering is through clear international pressure to stop Turkey from targeting civilians, health facilities and other infrastructure critical for the living conditions of the population in North and East Syria.

Kurdish Red Crescent - Qamishlo

(by time of finalizing this report, heavy shelling of Qamishlo restarted again in the evening of the 26th of December)