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DIASPORA
EMERGENCY ACTION
& COORDINATION

DIASPORA
HUMANITARIAN
ENGAGEMENT IN
NORTH-WEST SYRIA
REAL-TIME REVIEW

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H2H Network
Humanitarian
Action Support



DISASTERS
EMERGENCY
COMMITTEE



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Acronyms and abbreviations

DEMAC	Diaspora Emergency Action & Coordination
EQ	Earthquake
DO	Syrian Diaspora Organization
HQ	Headquarters
KII	Key Informant Interview
IOM	The International Organization for Migration
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
MoT	Mobile Outreach Team
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NWS	North-west Syria, the focus area of this Real-Time Review
PHC	Primary Healthcare Centre
PSS	Psychosocial Support
RTR	Real-Time Review
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Key Definitions

Diaspora Organization: Diaspora are migrants, refugees and their descendants who live outside their country of birth or ancestry, yet still maintain emotional and material ties to that country. Diaspora organizations (DOs) are groups or associations formed by members of a diaspora community residing in a different country or region than their ancestral homeland. They can be registered organizations, volunteer groups or NGO networks.

Cross-border Diaspora Organization: In this RTR, this refers to the organizations who have a registration in Türkiye and operating cross-border to provide assistance to North-west Syria.

Global Diaspora Organization: In this RTR, this refers to the organizations who are operating outside Türkiye and do not participate in cross-border operations.

Institutional humanitarian actors are defined as international organizations founded for the purpose of delivering humanitarian assistance that are bound constitutionally by humanitarian principles. They can include UN agencies, international NGOs, networks and coalitions¹.

¹Humanitarian Actors. UNOCHA. <https://asiadisasterguide.unocha.org/III-humanitarian-actors.html>

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1. INTRODUCTION

The crisis in Syria that began more than a decade ago in 2011 displaced millions of Syrians and many are now living in Idleb and Aleppo governorates (non-government controlled areas in northwest Syria) in precarious living situations. On 6 February 2023, a powerful magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck southern Türkiye near the northern border of Syria, followed on the same day by another strong earthquake with a magnitude of 7.5 near to the initial tremor.² Since the first earthquake struck in February, the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in North-west Syria (NWS) increased by more than 100,000 with millions more affected. The earthquakes exacerbated an already dire humanitarian situation.

The primary objective of this real-time review (RTR) is to provide comprehensive and up-to-date information regarding the humanitarian response of Syrian diaspora organizations (DOs) to the earthquakes in North-west Syria. The RTR seeks to provide a reliable account of the response by these diaspora organizations, focusing on their interventions, coordination, challenges, and impact.

The study is designed based on the understanding that the diaspora organizations' responses to the earthquakes took place both on the formal and more institutionalized level, as well as on the more informal and unstructured level. In view of this, the methodology involved the participation of a wide range of stakeholders engaged in the earthquake response.

The timeline of this research covers the Syrian DOs' responses starting from the first day of the earthquake on the 6th of February 2023 until the drafting time of this research in mid-July 2023.

² UNOCHA. Flash Appeal: Syrian Arab Republic. Earthquake February - May 2023.

The objectives for this RTR were to identify:

1. Profile and structure of Syrian DOs involved in the earthquake response and produce a mapping of Syrian DOs responding to the earthquake.
2. Trends of Syrian DO intervention areas of the earthquake, including the key activities and response modalities; and
3. Strengths and challenges in the Syrian DOs response.

After identifying the key themes, the Real-Time Review focused on the following:

- Sectors and modalities of response among cross-border and global diaspora.
- Coordination of Syrian diaspora organizations in responding to the earthquake.
- Identified impacts of the earthquake response by Syrian diaspora organizations.
- Challenges for Syrian diaspora organizations; and
- Recommendations.

The RTR will be used by DEMAC, Syrian DOs, local actors, and institutional humanitarian actors to enhance knowledge and awareness of the Syrian diaspora response and provide directions and recommendations for future programming and coordination.





2. METHODOLOGY

The RTR was qualitative-led and involved key informant interviews and internet-based research including social media mapping and analysis of DOs to see the earthquake response timeline and activities as well as specification about each DO regarding their typology, location of registration, estimated size and the locations for intervention. Stakeholders interviewed included 27 individuals representing diaspora organisations, coordination networks, local authorities and local actors.

The research also encompassed local actors such as volunteer groups, search and rescue teams, volunteer-based women's centres and youth teams. While these local actors are not part of the diaspora, they received support from DOs and networks during the earthquake. The study encountered several limitations, the most important of which were the availability of data from DOs, the earthquake response itself and the rapid nature of the RTR.

3. THE SYRIAN DIASPORA & DIASPORA ORGANIZATIONS

The term “diaspora” refers to individuals who have migrated or been displaced from their country of origin but maintain strong emotional and material ties to it.³ The RTR identified 97 Syrian DOs who responded to the NWS earthquake response in some capacity. These Syrian DOs were categorized as: Registered Organisations (74), Volunteer Organisation/ Association (10), or Networks (13).

Typically, these Syrian DOs consist of individuals or groups from the Syrian diaspora who have chosen to establish and operate initiatives aimed at providing various forms of assistance and other essential services to affected communities in the region. The RTR further classified DOs as either cross-border or global (for those based outside Türkiye).

Figure 1: Syrian Diaspora Organizations



³DEMAC. Toolkit Pocket Guide. Definition and Typologies of Diaspora. 2022.

3.1 Typologies of the Syrian Diaspora Organizations

Drawing upon the definition of the diaspora and the insights gained from the research, the researchers categorized each of the 97 DOs mapped according to three categories: registered organizations, volunteer organization/association, or network. This categorization allowed for a comprehensive overview of the diverse range of diaspora organizations actively engaged in addressing the aftermath of the earthquake. The typologies of Syrian diaspora organizations mapped for this RTR are:

1. **Registered Diaspora Organizations:** Organizations with a formal structure, officially registered in the country of residence and usually comprising volunteers or staff and a formal governance structure.⁴ 74 registered DOs were identified by the RTR through social media mapping and 13 of those based outside of Türkiye maintained a local office within Türkiye, while also being registered outside Türkiye simultaneously. These organizations were primarily⁵ registered in Türkiye (31), USA (14), Germany (10), France (7), UK (5), Sweden (3) and the remaining are in Morocco, Belgium, Jordan, and the Netherlands.
2. **Diaspora Volunteer organization/association:** Organizations and associations with a less formal structure and governance, sometimes registered in the country of residence but who are staffed almost exclusively by volunteers⁶. For the RTR, ten volunteer organizations were identified as responding to the earthquake (according to their social media and websites)⁷. Six of these organizations are located in Germany, two in Türkiye, one in the USA and one in Denmark.
3. **Diaspora Networks:** An NGO network refers to a collection or alliance of non-governmental organizations that come together to collaborate, share resources and work collectively towards common goals.⁸ Over the course of this RTR, 13 Diaspora networks were identified who responded to the earthquake. Four of these networks are in Türkiye, three in the USA, two in Germany, one in Lebanon, one in Denmark, one in Sweden and one in France. All the networks analysed for this research were diaspora networks.

⁴ DEMAC. Toolkit Pocket Guide. Definition and Typologies of Diaspora. 2022.

⁵ ESDO considers the primary country where the HQ is located as the registration location for DOs with multiple registration.“

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ The registration category of the organizations was identified through their social media, which may introduce a level of uncertainty in the results. While efforts were made to make accurate assessments, it is important to acknowledge that this method relied on educated estimations rather than precise and verifiable data. The organization organizations were classified as global or cross-border diaspora, depending on the primary country of registration.

⁸ Lister et al. Building Civil Society in Fragile States: Exploring the Role of Non-Governmental Organizations. 2018.

The Cross-border DOs were found to be strongly integrated into the humanitarian system that is working cross-border through Türkiye. This was particularly the case in the cities close to the border with Syria such as Gaziantep, Kilis, Hatay and Şanlıurfa. Often these organizations had their headquarters in Türkiye, with their/or their partner's core field staff on the ground in NWS as the project implementers.

Table 1: Location of mapped diaspora organizations

Country	Registered organization	NGO Network	Volunteer group
Belgium	1		
Denmark		1	1
France	7	1	
Germany	10	2	6
Jordan	1		
Lebanon		1	
Morocco	1		
Netherlands	1		
Sweden	3	1	
Turkey	31	4	2
USA	14	3	1
UK	5		



4. FINDINGS

4.1 Diaspora Response to the North-west Syria Earthquake

Together with institutional actors (donors, UNOCHA, clusters), the Syrian DOs inside and outside Türkiye mobilised to respond to the earthquake. Humanitarian response efforts were initiated both within Türkiye and by DOs situated in Europe, the USA and other locations globally. These organisations had diverse timelines to respond, taking between one day and one month to begin providing assistance.

4.2. Timeline of the Earthquake Response

The first week of the response (spanning from 6th February to 13th February) was the most challenging due to the slow response time of donors, issues with sectorial coordination and the lack of available staff who were themselves affected by the earthquake. According to multiple key informants interviewed from global DOs and the diaspora coordination bodies outside Türkiye, it took several days for the UN and other institutional actors such as donors, INGOs, and clusters, to begin to efficiently respond to the earthquake, delaying funds and support during the critical initial period. By comparison, the global DOs were able to respond within the first few hours of the earthquake through social media campaigning, fundraising, information management, communication support, aid coordination and advocacy efforts.

During the second week, personnel availability stabilised for all actors including DOs, contributing to a more efficient response. As the third week commenced (27th February onwards), assistance became notably more organized, with clusters and Cross-border DOs operating at full capacity.

4.3. Areas of intervention

Cross-border DOs responded to the earthquake in the primary response sectors of shelter, search and rescue, multi-purposed cash distribution, health, nutrition, WASH and protection. Education and early recovery services were also developed and deployed. Global DOs were more focused on fundraising, advocacy, information sharing, cash transfer and partnering with local organisations to provide humanitarian assistance directly. Coordination Networks for DOs responded through informational management, coordination meetings, resource mobilisation, advocacy, fundraising and policy coordination.

Figure 2: Response activities of 8 interviewed DOs

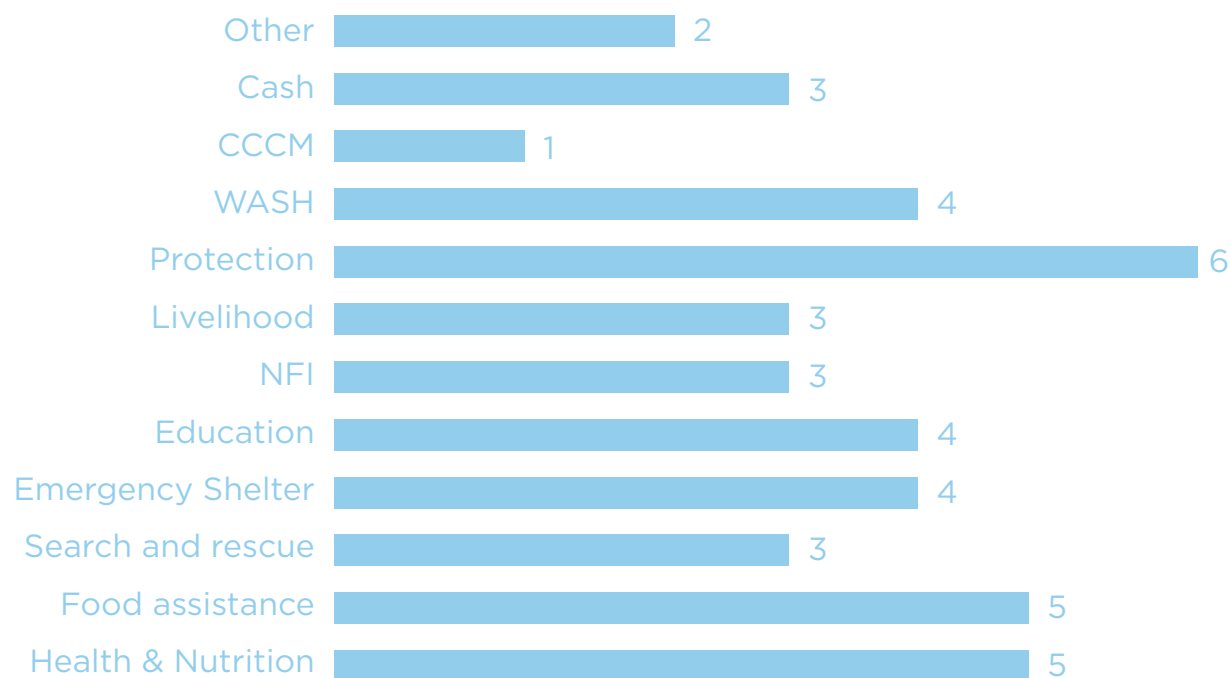


Figure 3: Response location of DOs in north-west Syria

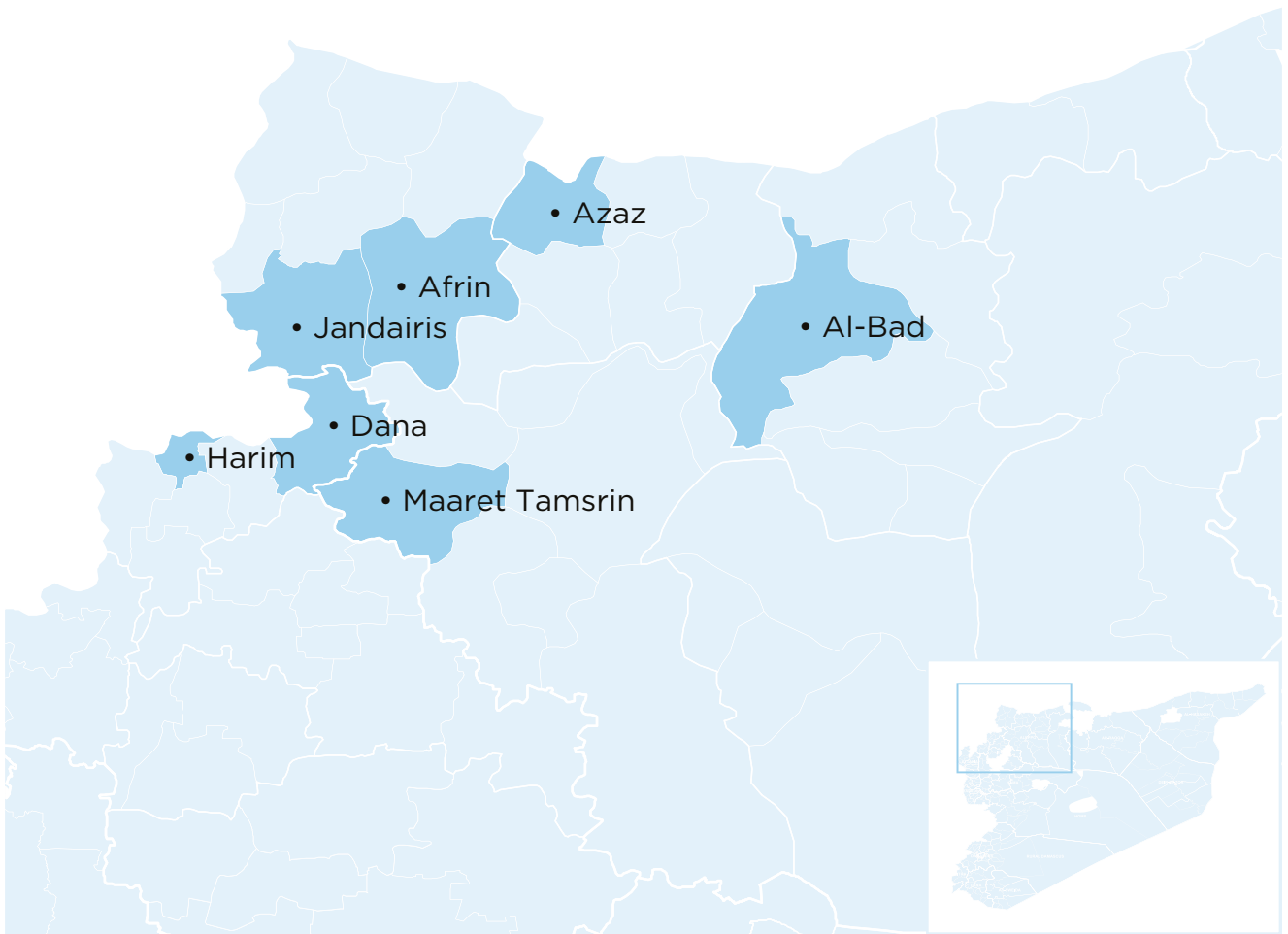
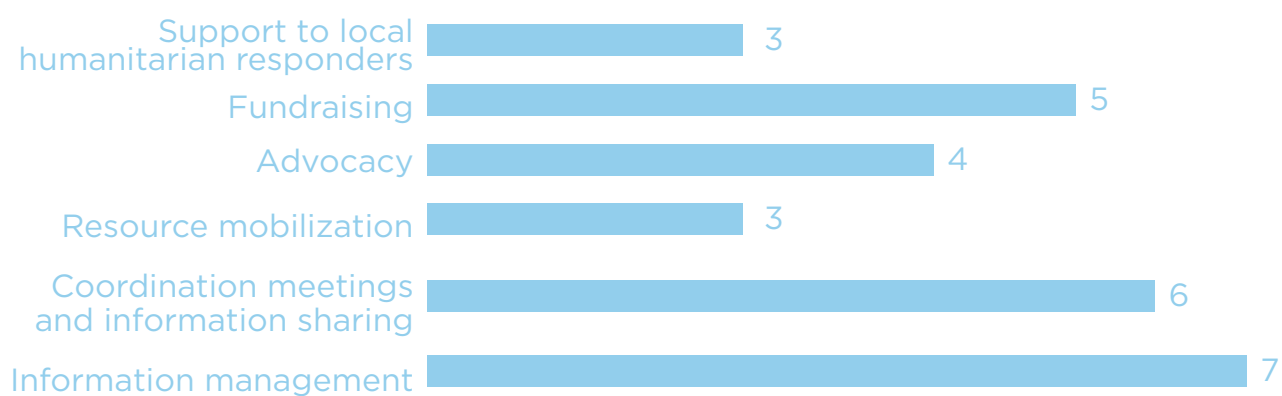


Figure 4: Response activities of 7 Interviewed coordination bodies



4.4. Coordination

During the earthquake response, the cross-border Syrian diaspora organizations (DOs) faced the challenge of coordinating with institutional actors to ensure an effective and streamlined relief effort. They aimed to avoid duplication of efforts, gain a comprehensive understanding of the needs on the ground, identify appropriate response categories, and influence how aid reached the affected communities in North-west Syria (NWS). This coordination process involved collaborating with key players, including the United Nations (UN) and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs). The coordination was facilitated through relationships and cooperation that existed prior to the earthquake among cross-border DOs, humanitarian actors and the cluster system.

Once coordination with institutional actors was restored, it unfolded across two primary dimensions. Firstly, the DOs coordinated aid through clusters, which are groups formed by the UN and INGOs to manage specific response sectors. These clusters helped decide the locations where aid was required, and the types of assistance needed. They also facilitated reporting mechanisms and fund management to ensure an efficient and targeted response. Secondly, the DOs coordinated with institutional actors for needs assessments. This involved collaboration at both cluster and NGO/INGO levels, facilitated by reporting mechanisms to avoid duplicating efforts. UNOCHA and IMPACT/Reach played a critical role in creating the Assessment and Analysis Working Group to coordinate needs assessments on the ground, and this information was shared with all organizations, including DOs.

These needs assessments played a crucial role in guiding the DOs' response strategies and ensuring their aid efforts aligned with the actual needs on the ground.

Global DOs, which had pre-existing connections with institutional actors, coordinated by participating in meetings and coordination groups or using their internal resources and networks. Some organizations shifted their operations to rely on staff in affected areas for coordination. The focus of communication and coordination was on sharing information to avoid duplicating assistance for the same individuals.

Moreover, coordination among the cross-border DOs was facilitated by well-established Syrian diaspora networks. These networks played a pivotal role in fostering communication and collaboration among global and cross-border DOs responding to the earthquake.

They utilized online platforms and collaborative tools, held regular or ad hoc meetings, and maintained direct communication with DOs and local partners in NWS. The diaspora networks actively ensured that the DOs within their network were adequately engaged and supported to respond effectively to the crisis.

In addition to coordination with institutional actors, cross-border DOs also engaged in coordination with global DOs outside of Türkiye. They utilized various communication channels including WhatsApp, Skype, Telegram, social media, and phone calls. When global DOs lacked direct communication with UN bodies, the cross-border DOs or DO networks served as channels to access the necessary information from the field about the needs of affected communities and the assistance required.

4.5. Impact

The research highlighted several areas where diaspora organizations played a pivotal role for the earthquake response. While it was not feasible to accurately assess the total funds raised by diaspora responding to the earthquake for this RTR, the research indicates that significant funds were raised by Syrian diaspora both global and cross-border. Global diaspora organizations and networks fundraised small amounts through many different initiatives. Cross-border DOs fundraised larger amounts through fewer initiatives due to their access to donor funding. Data collected on earthquake funds raised from six interviewed DOs alone approximately amounted to a total of 51.5 million USD, indicating that the actual funds raised are likely to be significantly higher than this.

4.5.1. Fast response

The global Syrian diaspora organizations demonstrated a prompt and timely reaction to the earthquake. Their ability to swiftly mobilize resources and initiate response activities supported the affected communities in addressing urgent needs following the disaster. One of the key reasons why the global DOs were more active during the first few days of the crisis was that their staff and volunteers were not primarily affected by the earthquake since they reside outside the earthquake affected areas.

Case-Study

Verband Deutsch-Syrischer Hilfsvereine E.V.: German Diaspora Coordination

The umbrella diaspora network, based in Germany, consists of 33 German Syrian Diaspora organizations. Upon the occurrence of the earthquakes, the network promptly initiated response efforts by communicating with its member organizations (within the first 24 hours). They actively announced and shared fundraising and donation pages of member organizations, supported the media response, and facilitated the collection and coordination of donations through the member organizations' connections within Syria. The network reported conducting weekly meetings to assess the situation with member DOs. They engaged with Bousla and Hand in Hand organizations in Syria to facilitate the transfer of donations received from a Turkish association and the funds collected.

Location	Germany
Response Activities of member organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-Food Items Food donations Cash donations Shipments Media and communication support

4.5.2. Using internal resources

Several of the cross-border DOs made use of own internal resources and flexible funds to support initial response efforts within the ongoing humanitarian programs in NWS. Despite the reported need surpassing their capacities, the organizations' swift mobilization of funding and internal resources proved impactful. Their ability to rapidly gather financial support and utilize internal resources played a significant role in immediately addressing the needs resulting from the earthquake despite the risk posed by committing resources that they did not yet have.

Case-Study

Shafak Organization: Cross-Border Operations and Resource Mobilization

Registered in Türkiye in 2013, Shafak Organization is an autonomous civil society organization operating as a non-profit entity. Its primary objective is to offer humanitarian assistance to the most marginalized individuals, without any discrimination based on religion, ethnicity, or political affiliations. The organization is dedicated to the revitalization of Syrian society, based on principles of justice, equality, and freedom. Shafak organization supported the earthquake response through cross-border operations as well as establishing an earthquake response component in Türkiye. Shafak utilized its available funding and reprogramming flexibility in collaboration with partners, including UN agencies and INGOs. Through a combination of approaches such as in-kind aid and cash distribution, Shafak successfully responded to the diverse needs of the affected communities across several sectors.

Total Budget for Earthquake Response	18,000,000 \$	
Response Activities	Food Vouchers	Tents
	WASH	Food Basket
	Protection Activities	Cash
	Health	NFI
	Nutrition	VT/IGAs/SMEs
	Ready to Eat Rations	Cash for Work
	Hot Meal Distribution	Rehabilitation of Schools

4.5.3. Coordinating with local and diaspora actors

The DOs highlighted the importance of collaborating and coordinating with local actors in the affected region. By working closely with these local partners, they leveraged their knowledge of the area to identify the affected populations in areas beyond the media coverage and address the specific needs and challenges arising from the earthquake.

“(..). Yes, we coordinated with the White Helmets in NW Syria through regular communications with their representatives. (...) the coordination in Syria is dependent on the local authorities, so we often communicated with them to avoid duplications and to detect the locations for the assistance and the types.” KII, cross-border DO representative.

Case-Study

The Syrian NGO Alliance

The Syrian NGO Alliance is an umbrella organization based in Gaziantep, Turkey, comprised of 22 Syrian NGOs working cross-border to respond to needs in Syria. SNA coordinates and advocates for joint messages to amplify the voices of affected populations. The members and the SNA coordinator actively engaged in external meetings with other platforms (HLG, SIRF, SSG, SCNP, SNL, PAWG, NGO Forum and HISMA). Regular coordination meetings, joint task forces, and working groups were formed for information sharing and synchronized response efforts. This allowed SNA members to quickly address the urgent needs of affected populations. SNA members supported the search and rescue operations by volunteer networks and local staff playing pivotal roles, especially in debris removal, infrastructure rehabilitation, and capacity-building initiatives.

Location	Gaziantep/Turkey
Response Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination Logistics Funding re-allocation Information Sharing Advocacy

Case-Study

SCNP: Umbrella Platform for Syrian DOs

Launched on February 8, 2016 late 2017, the Syrian Civil Society Networks Platform (SCNP) is a self-governing platform that operates as a non-profit entity. It consists of various networks from the Syrian diaspora who aim to bring together rights-based Syrian diaspora organizations, civil society networks, and coalitions from a range of countries. It serves as a cross-country, cross sector, and cross network coordination platform. SCNP supported the earthquake response together with its 9 member networks (127 organizations) through mobilizing resources, advocacy efforts, coordination, and support to deliver a unified message for the earthquake response and the needs in NWS. The platform hosted a series of meetings in March to discuss the overall earthquake response with the member organizations and hosted a webinar in May to identify a round table discussion to be joined by the local actors.

Location	Global
Response Activities	Coordination Advocacy Information Management Workshop/meeting

4.5.4. Solidarity between the populations across North-west Syria, Türkiye and north-east Syria:

DOs highlighted a solidarity across the diaspora and the affected communities in NWS and Türkiye. The Global DOs mentioned receiving support from the Turkish diaspora abroad to support NWS.

“Some Turkish friends were directing us - they had quicker access to the donations (clothes, food) and they contacted us and they linked us to the trusted NGOs in the ground. We coordinated them through network and Whatsapp. (KII, Germany Based DO representative).

Additionally, it was mentioned in two key informant interviews that after the closure of the Al Hawa Border the local communities and the communities in Northeast Syria supported the earthquake response in the NWS, which was an important sign of solidarity between populations in Syria. The organizations made use of tribal networks (communities) or alliances to enhance their response efforts. Tribal structures often hold significant influence and can facilitate community engagement, resource mobilization, and coordination. By leveraging these existing tribal networks, the organizations were able to tap into additional resources and support networks to strengthen their response and reach a wider population.

Case-Study

Bahar Organization: Immediate Multi-Sectoral Cross-Border Response to Syria and Türkiye

Bahar Organization is established 2014 and is officially registered as a Syrian NGO in Türkiye. Their mission is to work towards enhancing the resilience and wellbeing of communities by providing a principled and rights-based humanitarian response. Bahar organization provides comprehensive assistance to the affected regions in NWS, spanning across multiple sectors. Notably, Bahar organization's response went beyond the borders of Syria, as they extended their humanitarian aid to populations in Türkiye.

Recognizing the shared impact of the earthquake and the interconnectedness of the affected regions, they effectively mobilized their resources and assistance to respond to the needs of both Syrian and Turkish populations. This inclusive approach aimed to ensure that no one was left behind and that assistance was provided where it was most needed.

Total Budget (EQ response only)	8,607,894.29 \$	
Individuals Benefited (EQ response only)	337,598 in Syria 7,796 in Türkiye	
Response Activities	Food Vouchers WASH Protection Activities Health Nutrition Ready to Eat Rations	Tents Food Basket Cash NFI VT/IGAs/SMEs Cash for Work Rehabilitation



4.6. Challenges

Cross-border Syrian diaspora organizations faced significant challenges during the earthquake response. These challenges included a lack of heavy equipment for crucial tasks including debris removal and infrastructure repair and difficulties in providing duty of care to humanitarian workers. Moreover, limited flexibility in funding, disruptions in the supply chain leading to shortages of essential items, and constraints in fuel and vehicle availability further hindered response efforts. Additionally, the closure of the Al Hawa border and rapidly changing needs on the ground posed additional obstacles. Overcoming these challenges required resourcefulness, adaptability, and collaboration among the organizations to effectively contribute to the relief efforts and respond to the earthquake's impact in the region.

“(…) The search and rescue never made it in, since there was difficulty to cross the borders. The first few hours there was assistance from actors on the ground already, so I would say search and rescue was delayed.” KII, cross-border DO representative

The earthquake also had a direct impact on staff members in both Türkiye and North-west Syria, affecting their ability to effectively respond to the crisis. The staff in Türkiye are generally located in the cities that were affected by the earthquake including Gaziantep, Sanliurfa or Hatay. This caused a shortage of staffing for the DOs, INGOs and coordination bodies working cross-border. It was noted that many staff had to work from cars, without housing or shelter. Staff with families in affected areas were particularly impacted.

“(..) the biggest challenge was the loss of staff. Even some of our staff were injured or had their members injured. They had to be displaced as some of them were based in Antakya, which was the most affected city.”
KII, cross-border DO representative.

The study identified key challenges faced by global diaspora organizations (DOs) during the earthquake response. These challenges included weak linkages to international donors and INGOs, making it difficult to collect sufficient funds. Obtaining accurate information from North-west Syria was also challenging due to rapidly changing needs, limited access and communication barriers. Additionally, DOs lacked the capacity and experience to respond to such a major humanitarian crisis, necessitating additional resources and expertise. The sanctions imposed on Syria further complicated financial transactions, procurement, and the overall humanitarian response.

Another challenge for the smaller global DOs was collecting larger funds for the response. Because of DOs' limited access to donors, instead a significant portion of funding was directly allocated to international non-governmental organizations (INGOs). Some respondents claimed that the DOs could have used their own networks within the affected communities to mobilize faster during the earthquake response, if they had access to more funding.

“It was quite difficult to coordinate among the global DOs because they are quite small, and they didn't have access to the international bodies like the INGOs. There are often varying capacities, not all organizations have systems, staff and departments required to respond effectively to a crisis at this stage”. KII, global diaspora network representative.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Contingency funds and equipment provisions are critical for NWS where formal government is absent and local organizations and DOs are the first responders.** The UN and other international actors should reverse the reduction of contingency funding and plan how to incorporate DOs, both global and Cross-border into contingency planning for future emergency responses in NWS, so the response can be faster and build on the strengths of Syrian responders.
- 2. International coordination mechanisms for NWS should better incorporate global DOs to enable more effective field-level coordination.** Findings from the RTR showed that global DOs, while less integrated in humanitarian coordination systems than Cross-border DOs, were among the first responders to the earthquake in close partnership with local actors. Ensuring integration of global DOs in humanitarian coordination mechanisms therefore has the potential to increase agility and localisation of future large and small-scale emergency responses. This is especially important for speed in the unique context of NWS.
- 3. Explore alternative response mechanisms using the global diaspora:** The earthquake as well as current and historical challenges with the cross-border response mechanism highlight the fragility of this response mechanism to ensure aid to the people of NWS. Considering the vulnerability of the region, alternative modalities for emergency response mechanisms including and building on the strengths of the global DOs should be explored. Such mechanisms have the potential to improve access and localization of future responses, particularly in cases where the cross-border mechanism is not functioning.

4. **Strengthen local capacity through collaboration with the DOs:** The earthquake has shown that the local organizations were the first responder in the affected communities. Cross-Border and global DOs and the diaspora networks should continue actively engaging and partnering to enhance the capacity of local organizations in NWS to respond to similar incidents in the future. Institutional humanitarian actors should partner with DOs and build on their strong local connections to facilitate knowledge sharing, resource allocation, and expertise transfer to empower local actors in disaster response. Establish and fund mentorship programs and partnerships that foster sustainable and locally led initiatives.
5. **Integrate “Duty of Care” for DO staff:** The DOs operating for NWS through Türkiye are vulnerable to exposure to natural disasters, economic challenges, and political crises. To ensure the well-being of the staff and maintain the operations during emergency situations, the diaspora organizations and the institutional actors (such as the donors) should integrate “Duty of Care” mechanisms into project budgets and diaspora organizations and networks should continue advocating for such mechanisms. It is crucial for local and diaspora organizations to be able to ensure assistance and support to affected staff in case of emergencies and the allocation of dedicated resources is required to do this.
6. **Identify the lessons learned from the earthquakes in February 2023:** Most of the interviewed organizations mentioned concerns about whether changes would be made based on lessons learned from the earthquakes in February 2023. The diaspora organizations, whether they are based in Türkiye or elsewhere, should consider conducting a joint analysis of lessons from the earthquake response and share it with the broader humanitarian network. By doing so, they can contribute valuable insights, enhance coordination, and improve future emergency responses.
7. **Conduct further studies about the integration of Syrian diaspora into the formal humanitarian system:** In comparison to diaspora responding to humanitarian needs in their countries of origin in other context, Syrian diaspora, specifically the Cross-border diaspora are highly integrated in the formal humanitarian system. Findings from this RTR and knowledge of the context in North-west Syria indicate this is due in part to the unique context of North-west Syria, the cross-border response mechanism, and the high number of Syrian diasporas based in Türkiye. However, further research may uncover additional reasons behind the Syrian diaspora’s integration into the humanitarian system including best practices, lessons learned, and challenges that could be valuable for diaspora responders in other contexts





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