



Humanitarian Aid
and Civil Protection



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An Overview of the Humanitarian Coordination Structures in Turkey For the Syrian Diaspora

Introduction

There are several hundred Syrian NGOs as well as international humanitarian organizations present in Turkey providing cross-border aid into Syria. In order to coordinate activities among each other a range of networks, platforms and other coordination mechanisms have been established. From the outside it is often difficult to identify them and understand their exact services and differences. Bearing in mind that the following list is by no means exhausted; this paper provides a first overview of some of the biggest humanitarian coordination mechanisms as well as some practical information about them. This paper should not be read as a recommendation for diaspora organizations to become part of these structures, but it aims to support informed decision-making and provide orientation in a complex humanitarian landscape.

OCHA Gaziantep

Since 2013 the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Gaziantep is one of three UN hubs which coordinate cross-border humanitarian assistance operations. For the purpose of pooling information and coordinating aid delivery more effectively, the UN supports the regular meetings of groups of humanitarian organizations (both UN and non-UN) – so called “clusters” – for each main sector of humanitarian action, e.g. water, health and logistics etc.

OCHA provides updated needs assessments, a map of the operational presence of Syrian civil society organizations, upcoming meetings and response plans – mostly in English and Arabic – here: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/stima>

OCHA Turkey has also initiated the **Syrian Civil Society Organizations (CSO) Platform** which is an instrument to support Syrian civil society organizations to:

- engage in international coordination mechanisms (including clusters)
- participate in inter-agency exercises (such as needs assessments, response plans etc.)
- participate in advocacy activities led by the humanitarian community at the Turkey hub
- Network with INGOs, UN agencies, donors, and other international organizations/bodies
- receive information on funding opportunities, call for proposals, training opportunities, meetings with decision makers etc.
- benefit from capacity development opportunities.



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The platform currently consists of 163 Syrian CSOs that implement relief and non-relief activities in Syria. In order to identify response gaps across sectors and locations, OCHA has created a map of the operational presence of its platform members. You can find the latest map here: http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/syr_sngos_august2016_overview_annex_2016_0818.pdf (updated August 2016).

Application Process: In order to become a member of the platform, organizations are requested to demonstrate a commitment to humanitarian principles and standards and need to be by definition nongovernmental, non-political and non-military. In case you are interested in filing an application to OCHA, please fill out this form (available in Arabic): <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D5TTYQN>

Syrian Networks League (SNL)

The Syrian networks league is an umbrella coalition of six relief and non-relief NGO coordination bodies that include collectively more than 350 Syrian NGOs operating from Turkey. The establishment of the Syrian Networks League has been encouraged by OCHA. With its already large number of member organizations, the SNL aims to become a civil society focal point and increase Syrian representation at the international level. It aims to collectively advocate for the cause of the Syrian society; build the capacity of its partners; improve monitoring of organizations and support information sharing. Those member networks mainly coordinating relief activities are the Syria Relief Network and the Syrian General Union, which are further described below. Other networks of the SNL are: Union of Syrian Civil Society Organizations, Ellaf Union for Relief and Development, Syrian Civil Coalition (Tamas), and the Syrian Association Platform.

Contact details: In case you want to know more about the SNL or its member networks, please contact: Rami Alshiekh (engramishe@gmail.com)

Syria Relief Network (SRN)

The Syrian Relief Network is an umbrella of 42 Syrian humanitarian NGOs. SRNs main goal is to support the work of Syrian NGOs in order to efficiently and effectively address the humanitarian needs of the Syrian people. It aims to represent the interest of its member organization to the international humanitarian community; conduct training workshops and provide a multi-sector need assessment database and [mapping humanitarian activities](#) of its member organizations. It serves as a hub for cooperation and communication between its member organizations. More information can be found here: <http://syriareliefnetwork.com/en/>

Syrian General Union (SGU)

The SGU is a coordination body of 152 Syrian humanitarian NGOs and civil society organizations which aims to strengthen coordination and unity between them and build capacity of its members. The SGU has an officer in Hatay, Turkey. More information can be found on the SGU's website: <http://www.unsyr.com/>



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Hurras Network

The network was initiated by a group of experts in psycho-social support and child-protection. The network provides psycho-social services to children across Syria, provide trainings for people working with children and works on raising awareness of children rights. Hurras has around 20 partner organizations and 115 experts. Representatives of Hurras take part in the protection cluster meetings of OCHA. Their office is based in Gaziantep, more information can be found here: <http://www.childprotectsyria.org/>

The Syrian NGO Alliance (SNA)

Syrian NGO Alliance was established in February 2014. It is a voluntary body that is governed by membership criteria that comply with international standards, and it is run by a steering committee elected by the SNA General Assembly. Member organizations must comply with the basic humanitarian principles. SNA's main objectives are to:

- Advocate for issues aiming to improve the humanitarian operations responsive to the needs of the Syrians on all levels.
- Advocate for protection mainstreaming within the humanitarian operations generally and SNGOs specifically.
- Support Syrian organizations working in the humanitarian field to participate in the planning and coordination mechanisms.

SNA is participating in different coordination meetings at Turkey level and Whole of Syria level. For further information about SNA and membership criteria, or for any other inquiries, please contact SNA coordinator, Dr. Mohammed Alhammadi Email: coordinator@syrianna.org or info@syrianna.org; Phone: +905383685851

Syria Hope Alliance for Modernity and Liberty (SHAML)

SHAML is a coalition of seven leading civil society and relief organizations in Syria: Basmeh and Zeitooneh, Olive Branch, Kesh Malek, Emissa, Local Development & Small-Projects Support (LDSPS), Women Now for Development and the Public Civil Defence Committee in Dera'a. SHAML members coordinate humanitarian activities among each other and attempt to achieve their aims through supporting the existence of a democratic, civil, pluralistic system based on the principles of social justice and freedom. It aims to build their members and local partners organizational capacity. For more information please contact Wisam Hamoui (wisamhamoui@gmail.com).



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