HUMANITARIAN ACCESS FROM ALL LOCATIONS (FROM WITHIN SYRIA AND CROSS-BORDER)

- **Menbij**
  Agreement by the parties and insecurity (from Aleppo) and capacity constraints (from Qamishli). Unpredictable security environment for cross-border NGOs.

- **Frontline areas**
  Limited access given proximity to frontlines and insecurity for all response modalities

- **East Ghouta**
  Administrative regulations

- **South West**
  Insecurity and administrative regulations

- **Tell Abiad/Ras Al Ain**
  Access subject to agreement by the parties, some NGOs access from Turkey. Response also limited due to ongoing insecurity.

- **Northern Hasakeh**
  Administrative regulations presence of armed actors and insecurity

- **Eastern Deir-ez-Zor**
  Limited access due to significant security concerns for all response modalities

- **Rukban**
  Access subject to agreement between parties

**Methodology:** This analysis examines the quality of humanitarian access in Syria. The assessed access levels reflect the sustainability of humanitarian assistance, diversity of partners able to reach areas, availability of services and principled manner in which access is obtained. The three hub-level maps (page 2-4) reflect access dynamics from the perspective of each response modality. Based on available empirical data, the assessment focuses on two common indicators: 1. Ability of humanitarian actors to access populations in need and 2. ability of populations to access basic services. Additional context-specific indicators are used for each of the response modalities. In the current context, humanitarian actors continue to experience significant access constraints throughout Syria due to the security situation and bureaucratic impediments. The categories used are for purposes of showing comparative levels of access. More information on the methodology can be found on: https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/methodology_qoa_0919.pdf

**Map Notes:**
- Approximate lines of control
- Higher quality of access (but still subject to access constraints)
- Moderate quality of access (increased access constraints)
- Lower quality of access (significant access constraints)

**Percentage of people in need per access level**

- Higher quality of access (but still subject to access constraints)
- Moderate quality of access (increased access constraints)
- Lower quality of access (significant access constraints)

The boundaries shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Whilst access constraints remain throughout the country, UN agencies, INGOs and Syrian NGOs operating from within Syria reported comparatively higher quality of access in most parts of government-controlled governorates, including Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Hama, Lattakia, Tartous and Aleppo. More than 70 percent of mission requests were approved in August and September. Several communities and enclaves remain difficult to access, including Rukban; Duma, Zamalka, Arbin, East Harasta, Kafr Batna, Modira and Nashabieh in Eastern Ghouta; Bait Jan and Mazraat Beit Jin; Zakeyeh and Deir Khurbieh and Daraya – owing to administrative and security approvals.

In the northeast, the humanitarian access situation was made more complex by the recent Turkish military offensive. Following Operation Peace Spring, areas under control of Turkish Armed Forces and Non-State Armed groups remain difficult to access, with a limited number of cross-line missions thus far authorized. Further, the proximity of the M4 highway to frontlines led to significant disruption for the transportation of humanitarian supplies and staff movement, although a reported agreement on 1 December saw the resumption of commercial traffic. While most of the Raqqa and Hasakeh governorates are regularly accessed by Quamishli-based UN and partners, access to Shadadah and Markadah sub-districts remains difficult due to security concerns owing to the presence of IEDs, general criminality and ISIL infiltration continue to hamper sustained access and presence. Extensive explosive hazard contamination continues to present a barrier to scaling up assistance and basic service provision in Raqqa city.

In the southern governorates, there is limited UN and INGO permanent presence, limiting the scope and sustainability of humanitarian activities. Field missions are authorized in specific areas and a number of Syria Humanitarian Fund projects are implemented by humanitarian partners. Access remains challenging in areas under local agreement due to insecurity and administrative regulations.

**Percentage of people in need per access level**

- Higher quality of access (but still subject to access constraints): 32%
- Lower quality of access (significant access constraints): 25.7% in north-west
- Higher quality of access (but still subject to access constraints): 5.8% in north-east
- Lower quality of access (significant access constraints): 0.3% in other areas
- Moderate quality of access (increased access constraints): 14%

**Estimated number of people in need from Humanitarian Needs Overview (November 2019)**

- Higher quality of access (but still subject to access constraints): 54%
- Lower quality of access (significant access constraints): 32%
- Higher quality of access (but still subject to access constraints): 25.7% in north-west
- Lower quality of access (significant access constraints): 5.8% in north-east
- Lower quality of access (significant access constraints): 0.3% in other areas
- Moderate quality of access (increased access constraints): 14%
In the period October-December, humanitarian access was generally permissive across the northwest for cross-border humanitarian actors, with the notable exception of frontline or conflict affected areas where violence inhibits systematic access. Insecurity makes operating in these frontline areas highly dangerous and unpredictable. As new areas are impacted with violence, humanitarian staff often become displaced themselves; humanitarian infrastructure used to deliver basic services in the areas affect by this violence is then damaged or destroyed. In some instances, partners suspend operations to keep staff and affected people safe. In the frontlines of the violence, the degradation of humanitarian infrastructure is a significant barrier for both humanitarian actors to reach people and for people to access basic services.

To reach all those people in need with the full spectrum of humanitarian services, additional humanitarian capacity is needed. Throughout most of the northwest, cross-border partners have systematic, routine access to the people in need, and the population have regular access to humanitarian services. Humanitarian access improved in 2019 in some areas, such as northern Aleppo and northwest Idlib. In northern Aleppo countryside (Afrin, Azaz, Al-Bab and Jarablus districts) administrative restrictions affected some humanitarian partners ability to operate in the area. In the Dana area, ongoing skirmishes and violence was reported throughout the period, with IED incidents, reports of arrests, assaults, and kidnappings. Additionally, access to health facilities was reduced due to significant increase in the IDP population.

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11 sub-districts recorded moderate access levels, including, Azaz, Aghtrin, A’rima and Jarablus sub-districts in northern Aleppo countryside mainly due to the lower levels of assistance delivered by humanitarian partners coordinating through the formal coordination system. In Idlib de-escalation area, Dana, Ma’arrat An Nu’man, Ariha, Ehsem, Mhambal, Jisr-AAsh-Shugur and Badama sub-districts recorded moderate quality of access due to hostilities and proximity to frontlines as well as restrictions by local actors controlling the territory.

- 28 sub-districts recorded higher levels of access despite some limited access constraints.

- 11 sub-districts with lower quality levels of access in southern Idleb, northern Hama, western Aleppo and northeast Lattakia due to hostilities and proximity to frontlines.
ACCESS FOR CROSS-BORDER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NORTH-EAST SYRIA

Despite recent shifts in control, access remains permissible in the large majority of areas, with continued operations across Raqqa and Hasakeh governorates, including Menbij and Ain Al Arab to respond to humanitarian needs. However, while access is reported as moderate across a large number of areas, there is comparatively better access in Hasekeh given additional presence of humanitarian actors, significant number of offices and increased predictability in security following recent agreements between parties.

Menbij and Ain Al Arab are currently characterized by more limited international staff presence. Access has become extremely challenging in areas between Tell Abiad and Ras-al-Ain following recent military operations. Some Turkish and Syrian NGOs have access to this area from Turkey, but humanitarian activities are limited due to ongoing insecurity. Access remains limited in South Eastern Deir-ez-Zor due to on-going insecurity and far distances to existing NGO bases (although there are plans for additional presence in North Eastern and Western Deir-Ez-Zor to address this).

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**Percentage of people in need per access level**

Estimated number of people in need from Humanitarian Needs Overview (November 2019)

- **18%** Lower quality of access (significant access constraints)
- **82%** Moderate quality of access (increased access constraints)

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This map shows the locations of people who are in need of humanitarian assistance. Humanitarian actors require effective humanitarian access to address these needs.

**INTER-SECTOR SEVERITY**
- (1) Minor need
- (2) Moderate need
- (3) Major need
- (4) Severe need
- (5) Critical need

**NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN NEED**
- 1 - 500
- 501 - 5,000
- 5,001 - 10,000
- 10,001 - 25,000
- 25,001 - 50,000
- 50,001 - more than 1M