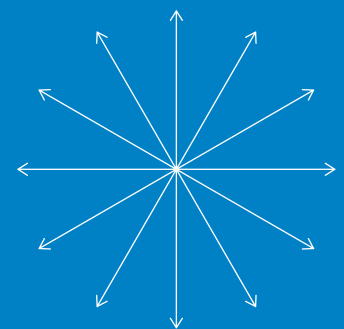


# GENDER WORKING GROUP

Gender Digest  
North-west Syria



Issue 1  
October 2023





## UN WOMEN POST-EARTHQUAKE GENDER ANALYSIS

Through this assessment, UN Women sought to understand the specific needs and perspectives of women, girls, men and boys affected by the earthquakes. The objective of the study is to inform a gender-responsive humanitarian response that ensures equal access to essential services, prioritizes the safety and protection of women and girls, and addresses the unique needs of the impacted population in the affected areas. From the detrimental impact on shelter and housing conditions to the heightened risks of gender-based violence (GBV), this assessment underscores the critical importance of prioritizing the needs of women and girls.

The assessment produced original and baseline data for the region through a survey with women and men in the impacted households. Previous and ongoing shifts in the population reflect the forced displacement, ongoing since 2011, that has resulted in complex demographics, social relations and pressures on limited economic resources. The analysis employed an intersectional lens to identify and understand the complex dynamics and multiple factors contributing to the distinct experiences and challenges faced by the affected population. UN Women gender analysis link: [here](#)



## THE EFFECTS OF BOMBING AND DISPLACEMENT ON WOMEN

On October 12th, Equity and Empowerment issued a position paper on the effects of the recent escalation of hostilities in north-west Syria based on individual meetings conducted by Equity and Empowerment, through the field research team, physically with women from various areas of displacement, which included northwest Idleb and the western countryside of Aleppo, in addition to a group of workers in the medical sector and a group of activists within the current response phase.

The paper highlights the multifaceted impact of bombing and displacement on women, delving into their health, psychological well-being, social dynamics, economic stability, and legal circumstances.

Furthermore, it offers vital recommendations for the emergency responses to be sensitive to the specific needs of women. Read [more](#)



## PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION MANUAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT (EA\$E)

IRC introduced the economic and social empowerment program model to the Syria response to increase women's access to and control over economic resources and social networks, and ultimately increase women's decision-making power and reduce their vulnerability to violence in the home. The implementation guide is available [here](#).

### *A displaced woman from Ariha shared:*



We did not believe it, and we strived to overcome fear and tension after the earthquake until we returned. Honestly, I cannot sleep, and the dreams I have are filled with destruction and blood. I can't sleep at all."



Photo: OCHA/Bilal Al Hammoud



## 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GBV

In 2023, the GBV AoR and the GWG have decided to join efforts to lead the Campaign in north-west Syria with the goal of guiding Humanitarian actors interested in taking part in the initiative and setting up a series of activities, key messages, and initiatives both in Gaziantep and in north-west Syria.





## AL-MOUNEH HOUSE

In December 2021, UNDP partnered with Takaful Al Sham (TAS) NGO under the "Water Crisis in Northern Syria - Building Climate Resilience of Conflict-Affected Communities in Deir-Ez-Zour and Idlib, Syria " project. One of the project's key objectives was to enhance women's economic resilience by expanding green job opportunities, including value-added processing and entrepreneurship, to mitigate the effects of climate change and the ongoing crisis in Syria.

As part of this effort, two food processing groups of women were formed and received training in basic food processing, business management, and marketing. Additionally, kitchen equipment was acquired for these groups. Post-project, UNDP aimed for sustainability and consequently, TAS, in close coordination with UNDP, looked for a suitable Community-Based Organization (CBO) to utilise the kitchen equipment. After a long search, TAS signed an MOU with the Women and Child Rehabilitation Centre (WCRC) in Kafr Takharim, established in 2017, which consisted of 20 members, including administrators and volunteers.

In 2021, WCRC initiated the "Your Plate, Your Heritage" program, where women prepared regional dishes for a competition, leading to the inception of the Al-Mouna Houses project.

Following receiving equipment, the WCRC Board of Directors developed a new plan to maximise equipment utilisation. This led to the expansion of the workforce, with three new full-time workers joining, bringing the total to eight, and the hiring of eight part-time workers, including three displaced individuals from outside the region.

The product range expanded to include pomegranate molasses, tomato molasses, labneh, dabarka, cheese, pepper, pastries, and sweets. The introduction of automated equipment like dough mixers, chippers, and ovens allowed the production of higher-quality products in larger quantities, resulting in a 30% increase in profits.



## DANIA'S STORY

**Dania, born in Aleppo in 1987, married and has four boys, shares her success story:**



I was displaced to Kafr Takharim in 2017 and worked on the project for about six months. Using the new equipment, I contributed to adding new products, thus guaranteeing continued work despite the difficult circumstances I was going through, as my husband is a daily worker and receives only a little.

My work at Al-Mouneh House contributes to providing medicine for my child until his development improves. We seek to expand our products according to customer demand in the region, and thus, I will ensure my presence within the work team."



**For more information:**

**Lama Al Jaradi**

Gender Working Group (GWG) Coordinator

UN WOMEN Türkiye

[Lama.aljaradi@unwomen.org](mailto:Lama.aljaradi@unwomen.org)

Cover photo: OCHA/Ali Haj Suleiman