

# Activity Report

## The White Helmets Work Report

June 2024



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## Executive summary:

The White Helmets volunteers continued their humanitarian operations and responses to save lives in northwest Syria during June. They provided diverse services in the areas of emergency response, ambulance services, healthcare, and awareness-raising within 537 communities and 600 camps.

The volunteers carried out 16 emergency response operations to military attacks, during which they recovered five dead bodies, including a child, and rescued three injured individuals, including two children.

Firefighting teams successfully controlled 1,190 fires, a significant increase compared to May of this year and June of the past two years. During firefighting operations, the volunteers rescued nine injured individuals, including two women. Additionally, the fires resulted in the death of one man.

The volunteers responded to 177 traffic accidents, providing assistance to 190 injured individuals, including 19 women and 64 children. Water rescue teams saved ten people from drowning, including two children and two women, and recovered the bodies of four drowning victims, including two children.

In the healthcare sector, the ambulance system transported 12,512 patients, including 5,274 women and 3,121 children. Moreover, 11,703 individuals, including 7,192 women, 2,020 boys, and 1,422 girls, benefited from healthcare services provided by Women and Family Healthcare Centers. Community health teams also organized 5,230 awareness activities benefiting 6,339 individuals, including 5,045 women, 251 boys, and 503 girls.

The Protection Program conducted 83 awareness sessions attended by 2,764 individuals, including 1,041 women, 634 boys, and 447 girls.

On the other hand, the White Helmets volunteers conducted 1,177 community resilience activities. Ensuring the delivery of these humanitarian responses to all segments of society, especially vulnerable groups such as women, children, and persons with disabilities, was a priority.





**Section One:**  
Search and  
Rescue Program



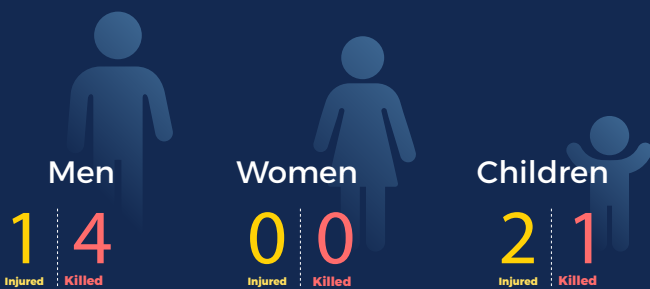
## Emergency Response to Military Attacks

The search and rescue teams persisted in delivering quality emergency responses to military attacks targeting northwest Syria. The response included life-saving first aid for the wounded both at the site of injury and during their immediate transport to medical facilities. This also included retrieving the deceased and conducting technical interventions for victims trapped under the rubble. Moreover, our firefighters extinguished fires caused by bombardments or explosions, ensuring the safety of the sites.

The White Helmets teams conduct their life-saving operations with strict compliance with the International Humanitarian Law, and full respect for neutrality as a core value, ensuring that all victims receive assistance based only on their humanitarian needs, without any discrimination.

The White Helmets volunteers responded to 16 military attacks, bringing the total number of emergency response operations to military attacks during the year to 392. The volunteers recovered five deceased individuals, including a child, and rescued three injured persons, including two children.

**Figure 1: Civilian casualties during responses to military attacks**



Syrian regime forces were responsible for most of the attacks, 11 attacks. While one attack originated from areas controlled by the Syrian regime and SDF, along with four anonymous attacks.

The largest number of attacks were carried out using artillery shells (seven attacks), with four attacks by drones, and two attacks with guided missiles.

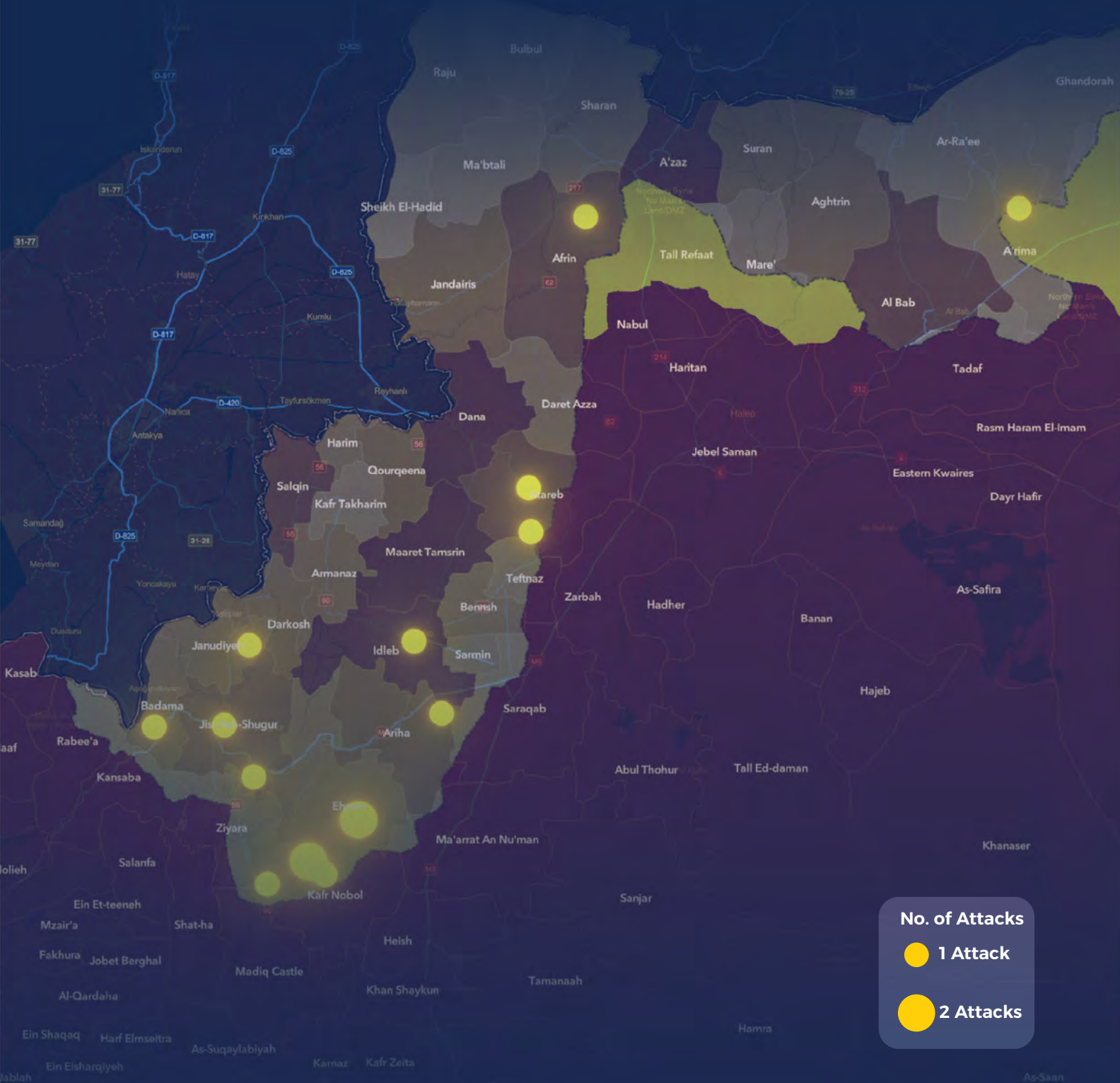
## Noteworthy Response Operation

On Saturday, June 1, Syrian regime forces launched an anti-tank guided missile attack on a farm vehicle in the Wasita area, located on the eastern outskirts of Al-Atareb. The attack killed two men and a child, all from the same family.



Search and rescue operations in response to the military attacks covered 14 communities spanning cities, towns and villages in Idlib and Aleppo countryside.

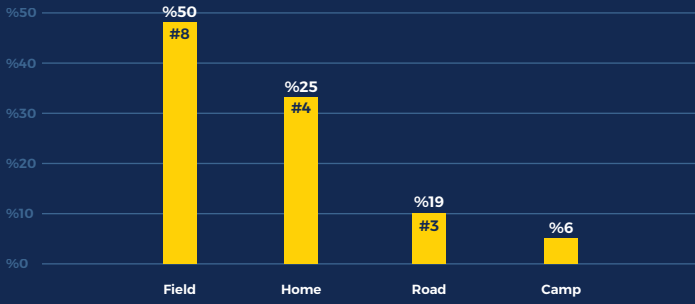
Map: Military attacks during June



The majority of the attacks were concentrated on agricultural fields, amounting to eight incidents. These were followed by four attacks on civilian homes, three on roads, and one on a camp.

All necessary measures have been taken to respond to the different attacks in these various places by adhering to the established standard work procedures that ensure the provision of timely and professional life-saving responses, taking into account the unique challenges and logistical considerations imposed by different environments.

Figure 2: Military Attacks Response Locations



## Firefighting operations:

WH volunteers extinguished 1,190 fires in 331 communities and 22 camps in June this year, a significant increase compared to May with 501 fires, and the first four months of the year, which saw 522 fires.

The number of firefighting operations this summer has notably risen compared to the previous two summers. In June last year, there were 564 fires, and in June 2022, there were 276 fires. May last year saw 294 fires, and May 2022 had 213 fires.

With the rise in temperatures, the harvest season, and the recurring threat of agricultural and forest fires in Syria, there is a pressing need to protect crops, especially strategic ones like wheat. To prevent fires and ensure optimal response when they occur, White Helmets has implemented a response plan for agricultural fires. This plan covers all areas in northwest Syria and aligns with the distribution of their centers and cultivated areas in each region.

The plan designates 17 advanced firefighting response points across the countryside of Idlib, Sahl al-Ghab, and Aleppo, covering over 265,000 dunams of farmland. These points are supported by 28 main fire response centers, covering approximately 985,000 dunams of cultivated land. Additionally, 43 White Helmets centers have been integrated to ensure swift coordination and response, aiming to minimize the losses from crop fires through practical measures and awareness campaigns.

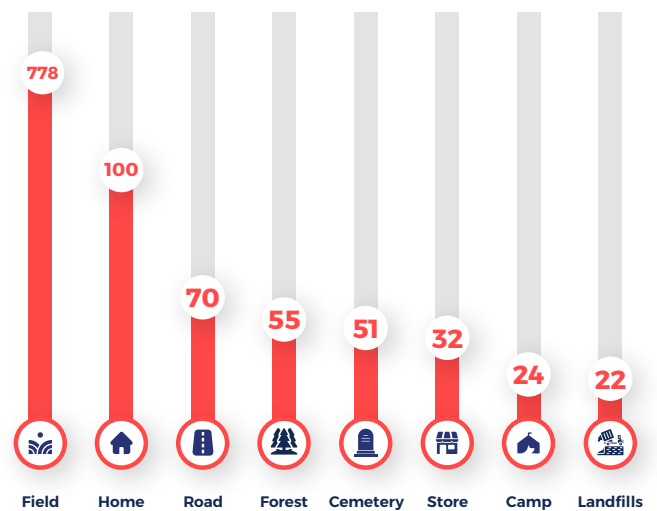
The increase in fires is attributed to high temperatures and the lack of preventive measures by farmers. However, the implemented plan has improved fire response across all operational areas, including remote regions where civilians previously handled firefighting themselves.

Firefighting operations during the first six months of the years 2023, 2022, and 2024:



Al-Bab and Akhtar in Aleppo countryside experienced the highest number of fires, each with 40 incidents. Idlib and Suran followed with 31 fires each, while Jarabulus and Qabasin saw 25 fires each. The volunteers extinguished 778 agricultural fires, a significant increase from the 321 agricultural fires in 2023. Additionally, they tackled 100 fires in civilian homes, 70 on roads, 55 in forests, 51 in cemeteries, 32 in shops, 24 in forests, 51 in cemeteries, and 32 in shops.

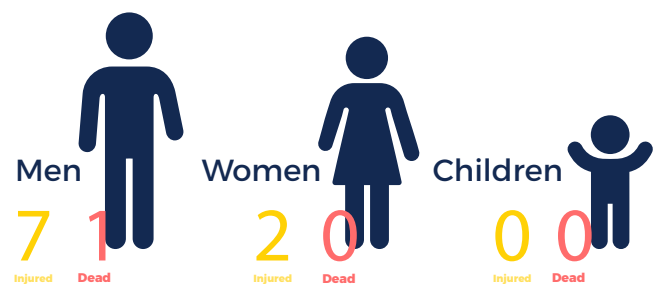
Figure 3: Firefighting operations by location of the fire



During these operations, nine people were rescued, including two women. The fires also claimed the life of a man.

The majority of the fires, 93 %, were due to unidentified causes, while 5 % were caused by electrical short circuits.

Figure 4: No. of people rescued during firefighting operations



## Response to traffic accidents

The White Helmets teams responded to 177 traffic accidents in 90 communities, during which they aided 190 injured individuals, including 19 women and 64 children. The incidents resulted in the deaths of seven children and one man. Idlib city experienced the highest number of traffic accidents, with ten incidents, while six accidents each occurred in Sarmada, Termanin, and Kafr Kafldeen.

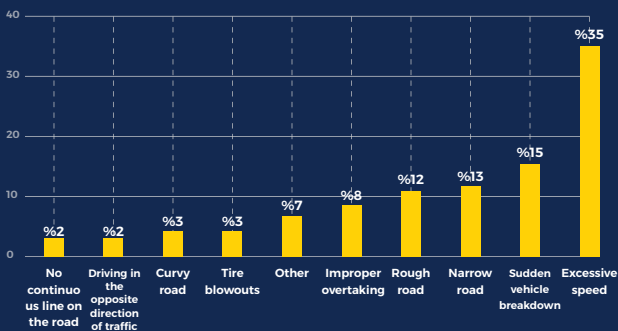
Figure 5: No. of people rescued during traffic accident response operations



Motorcycle accidents accounted for the highest proportion of incidents at %47, followed by car accidents at %36, and truck and heavy machinery accidents at %15.

The causes of these traffic accidents varied, with excessive speed being the leading cause at %35, followed by sudden vehicle breakdowns at %15, narrow roads at %13, rough roads at %12, and improper overtaking at %8.

Figure 6: Causes of traffic accidents



## Response to Drowning Incidents:

Water rescue teams rescued ten people from drowning, including two children and two women. They also recovered the bodies of four drowning victims, including two children.

## Response to the School Bus Fall Accident

At 2:35 PM on Thursday, June 6, the White Helmets received a report about an accident involving a school bus. The bus, carrying students, some of their relatives, and teachers on a recreational trip, had fallen off a steep cliff into the Orontes River in the western countryside of Idlib.

Upon receiving the report, the White Helmets mobilized water and land rescue teams along with ambulance units. Five water rescue teams, five search and rescue teams, and eleven ambulances equipped with the necessary equipment were dispatched to the scene.

After approximately six hours of operations, the search and rescue efforts concluded. The incident resulted in the deaths of seven civilians (four female students, two male students, and a woman), while the volunteers rescued 20 others (13 girls, four boys, two teachers, and the bus driver).



## Response to the Child's Fall into an Artesian Well

A young boy named Askar Diab faced a terrifying ordeal on Saturday, June 8th. At 8:54 PM, the White Helmets received a report of a seven-year-old child falling into an artesian well under construction in southwest of Idlib.

Upon reaching the scene, rescue teams discovered Askar trapped at a depth of no more than 5 meters within the well's casing, entangled in water pump cables. The urgency of the situation demanded a swift and coordinated response.

A large team of 50 White Helmets volunteers from 10 search and rescue teams mobilized to the incident. They arrived equipped with 10 heavy engineering machines, 3 ambulance teams, and a dedicated medical team to address Askar's well-being. The rescue operation commenced at 9:18 PM, prioritizing the child's survival.

By around 11:30 PM, our teams had reached proximity to the child's location through a side opening created in the well wall. At 12:18 AM on Sunday, June 9, the child, Askar Diab, was rescued with the help of civilians. He was found unconscious with symptoms of hypoxia, chest compression, and injuries to his face, shoulders, and legs from the fall. The child was immediately transported to the hospital for first aid. He received treatment in the intensive care unit and was later discharged to his home, where our teams continue to visit and monitor his health according to doctors' instructions.



A blue-tinted photograph of an ambulance interior. The word "AMBUL" is visible on the side panel. A person in an EMT uniform is seen from behind, standing near the open rear door. The scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

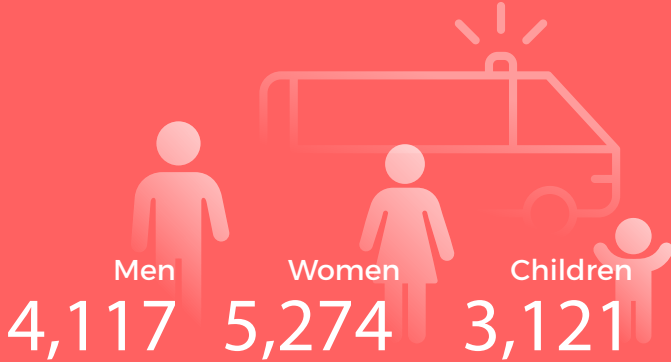
# **Section Two:** Health Program



## Ambulance Services

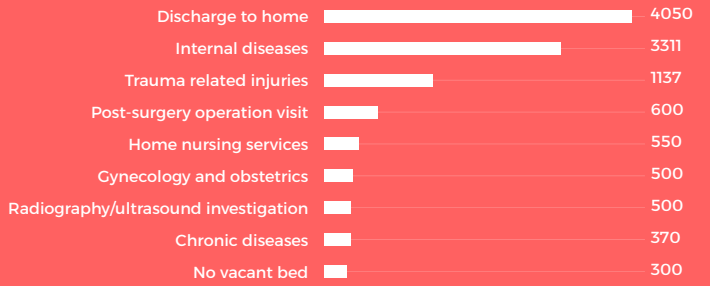
The White Helmets ambulance service reached 12,512 patients, including 5,274 women and 3,121 children in 409 communities.

Figure 7: No. of ambulance service beneficiaries by gender and age



From a diagnostic perspective, 4,050 patients benefited from being discharged to their homes after receiving treatment. Additionally, 3,311 patients with internal diseases and 1,137 patients with injuries and trauma were served.

Figure 8: No. of ambulance operations by type of ailment

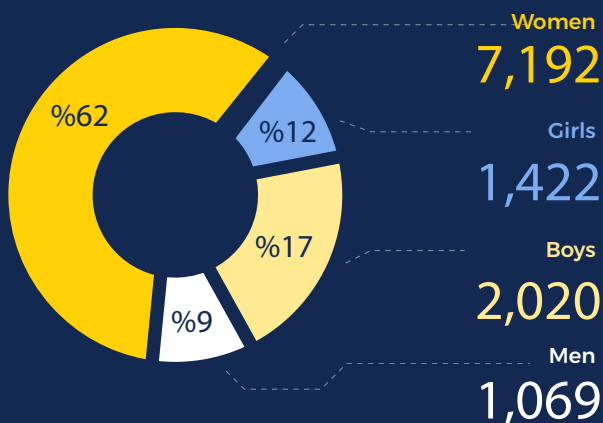


The volunteers continued to transport patients and those in need of ongoing medical care, such as kidney failure patients for dialysis sessions, and return them to their homes. Many dialysis patients require multiple sessions per week. In this context, our volunteers transported 4,198 dialysis patients and discharged 3,930 dialysis patients, returning them to their homes after treatment.

## Health Services at Women and Family Healthcare Centers

The Women and Family Healthcare Centers continued providing primary health services, catering to general community health and specialized maternal and child care. These centers provided health checks and consultations for 11,703 beneficiaries, including 7,192 women, 2,020 boys, and 1,422 girls.

Figure 9: No. of beneficiaries at Women and Family Healthcare Centers by age and gender



Reproductive health services were the most frequently provided, benefiting 4,808 women, including 254 under the age of 18. This was followed by dressing and follow-up treatment services, which were provided to 3,716 beneficiaries, including 909 women, 1,517 boys, and 581 girls. Nursing services came next, benefiting 3,229 individuals, including 1,754 women, 511 boys, and 595 girls.



Ninety-five percent of the health examinations were conducted at the Women and Family Health Centers, while 5% were provided in camps as part of the regular visits by volunteers to address cases unable to reach the centers. These visits also included home visits for patients such as the elderly and those with mobility difficulties due to their health conditions, including dialysis patients.

A total of 1,889 individuals benefited from psychological support sessions, including 1,017 women, 301 boys, and 566 girls. These individual and group sessions included psychological first aid, individual psychological education, awareness

sessions, PSS structured sessions for children, and various activities and events. Additionally, 255 people received physical therapy, including 142 women, 57 boys, and 56 girls.

The Women and Family Healthcare Centers surveyed their beneficiaries to measure satisfaction with the health services provided, aiming to continually improve their service delivery mechanisms.

The findings revealed that the main factor influencing the choice of these centers was the high standard of services offered at a rate of %49, followed by the positive interactions experienced by beneficiaries with the female staff at these facilities at 24 %. Other factors included the availability of free services and the fact that the center serves as the sole medical facility in the area.

**Figure 10: Survey results illustrating the reasons for beneficiaries choosing Women and Family Healthcare Centers**

**%49** The quality of services

**%24** Good treatment

**%12** Free services

**%10** Because the center is the only medical center in the area

**%4** Its proximity to the place of residence

## Community health

Community health teams organized 5,230 awareness activities that benefited 6,339 people, including 5,045 women, 251 boys, and 503 girls. These awareness-raising activities aim to strengthen the role of the centers within the community. The centers utilize their effective reach to community members, especially women and children, to deliver awareness messages in the areas of preventive health care. This is done through specialized training kits that are constantly updated. The awareness-raising activities included individual awareness, group awareness, household visits, and school awareness. The awareness topics included non-communicable diseases, communicable diseases, healthy lifestyle, and a nutrition guide.

## School Health Care

White Helmets volunteers continue providing healthcare services in schools. The program involves deploying mobile health teams equipped with first aid and hygiene supplies, in addition to conducting thorough medical examinations for students. The aim is to promote a culture of health within the school community and create a safe and healthy learning environment for students and staff alike.

167 female students and teachers and 136 male students and teachers within 23 schools benefited from the healthcare services in schools. Respiratory diseases were the most common diagnoses, followed by skin diseases and digestive diseases.





## Section Three:

# Community Resilience Program

This section includes the White Helmets' operations executed as part of the humanitarian response projects in the WASH sector and early recovery, aimed at bolstering local community resilience. It also covers other logistical activities supporting public facilities. In this context, the volunteers conducted 1,177 community resilience activity across 205 communities and 98 camps in northwest Syria.



# The White Helmets volunteers conducted

road opening operations spanning 28,000 meters in length in 55 communities and five camps.



111

internal and external washing operations, including streets, squares and mosques within 67 villages and 5 camps.



161

rehabilitation operations, including schools and facilities within 21 communities.



106

ground leveling and graveling operations, covering 33,300 square meters across 63 communities and 37 camps.



142

diverse logistical community services in 40 communities and six camps.



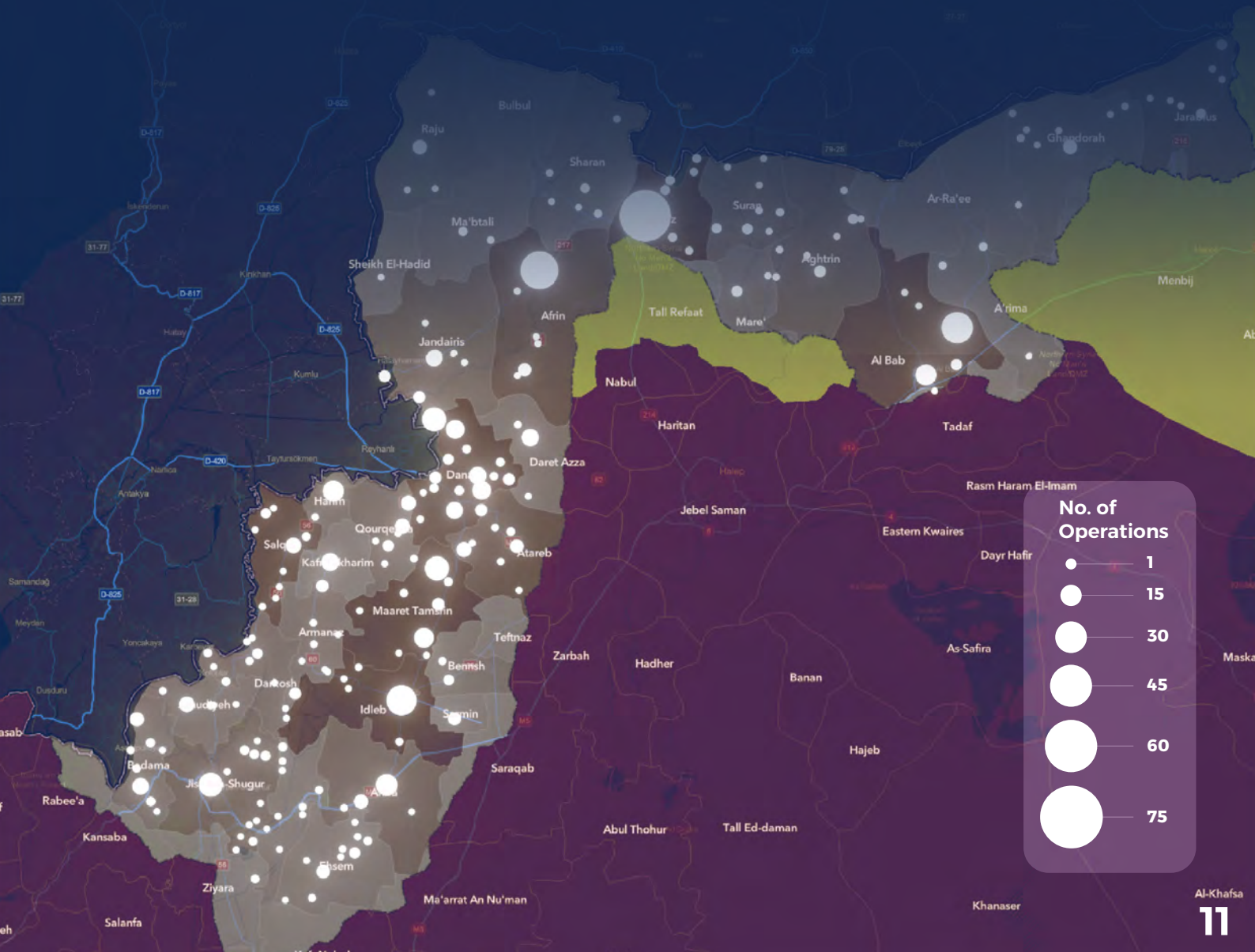
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excavation operations that included digging technical trenches, and foundations within 66 communities and 28 camps.



133

Map 2: Community resilience activities in June



White Helmets volunteers completed the rehabilitation of Al-Maland Mosque, which had been severely damaged by the earthquake. The official opening took place on June 16, 2024, coinciding with the first day of Al-Adha Eid.



White Helmets volunteers also continue working on the following projects:



Construction of the Cancer Treatment Center in Afrin City.



Construction of the Khalid bin Al-Walid School in Jandairis.



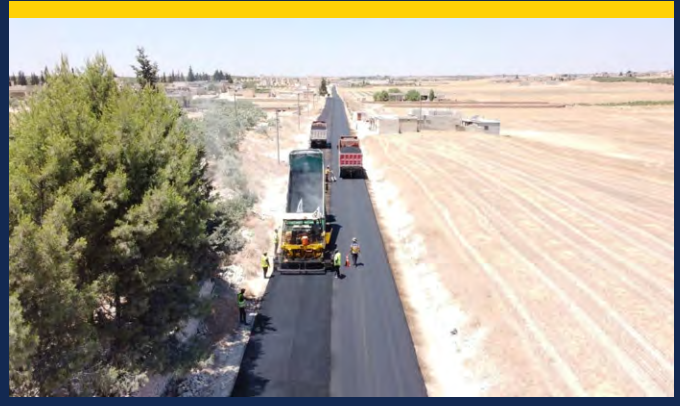
Rehabilitation of wastewater networks in Azaz City.



Winter response work, including land leveling and graveling in more than 50 camps affected by floods.



Rehabilitation of the 6-kilometer-long road from Namra intersection to Bal'a.



Rehabilitation of the 8.5-kilometer-long Ain al-Beida-Qandaria road.



The crushing machine and screen have started recycling the rubble generated by the earthquake.

The impact of natural hazards and other climate shocks in North Syria, intensified by global climate changes, underscores the urgent need for a tailored system to manage sudden onset disasters. Communities in northwest Syria lack a comprehensive system for forecasting, anticipating, monitoring, and mitigating disaster risks. This need aligns with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, which emphasizes the importance of multi-hazard early warning systems and accessible disaster risk information and assessments to reduce harm.

The Disaster Risk Reduction System (DRRS) seeks to understand and anticipate the drivers of disasters to mitigate their impact through an evidence-based response. Integrating operational aspects of weather forecasting, the DRRS employs high-resolution models for very short-range prediction, based on data assimilation from observations collected at environmental monitoring stations and satellites.

A comprehensive analysis is being conducted of the environmental factors and weather conditions in five different locations in northwest Syria: Idleb City, Kafer Yahmul, Al-Bab, Al-Ghab and Sarmada. Data are gathered from weather stations installed by the White Helmets, covering a wide range of environmental factors such as air temperature, dew point, solar radiation, vapor pressure deficit (VPD), sunshine duration, relative humidity, precipitation, Delta T, wind speed and direction, evapotranspiration (ETO), soil moisture, and volumetric ionic content. These factors are crucial for understanding the climate and weather patterns of a region, aiding in disaster risk reduction and environmental conservation planning and decision-making processes.



التأمين في الطريق  
يضمن وصولك بسلام

## Section Four: Protection Program

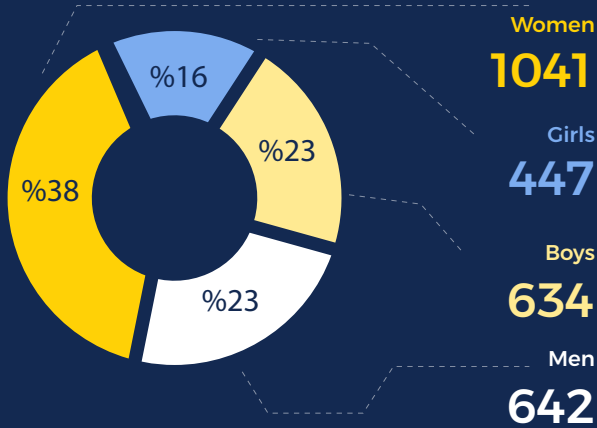




## Awareness Activities

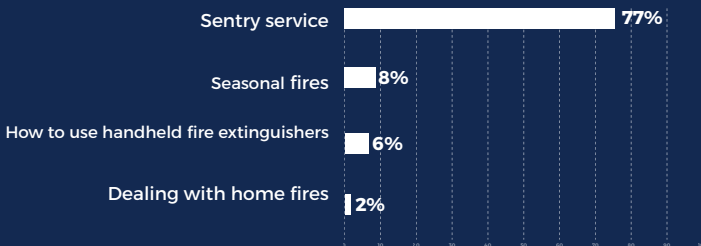
The protection program conducted 83 awareness sessions that were attended by 2,764 people, including 1,041 women, 634 boys, and 447 girls.

**Figure 11: Number of beneficiaries of protection sessions by age and gender**



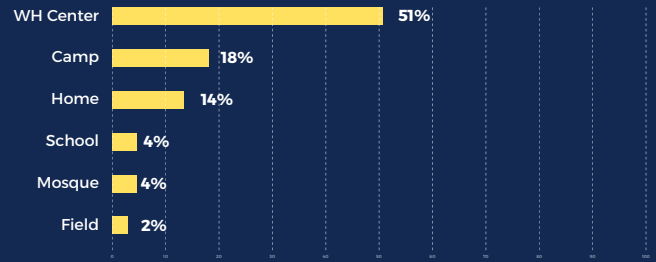
Seventy-seven percent of the activities were dedicated to raising awareness of the Sentry service. The awareness activities also included several topics, most notably seasonal fires, the use of manual extinguishers, and dealing with home fires. Our volunteers also participated in the Eid joy and celebrations with Children.

**Figure 12: Topics of awareness activities**



The locations where the protection sessions varied to ensure the widest participation from all segments of society. 51 % of the activities were held in White Helmets centers and Women and Family Healthcare centers. While %18 of the activities were directed to displaced people in their camps. The locations also included civilian homes, schools, mosques, and fields.

**Figure 13: Protection activities according to the location of the activity**



## Mine Action

### Non-technical Survey Operations

Non-technical survey operations contribute to the protection of civilians by identifying areas contaminated with unexploded ordnance. Non-technical survey teams work to identify the locations of ordnance in contaminated areas and inform final disposal teams of their locations, who carry out the final disposal and secure these locations.

UXO clearance teams carried out 83 non-technical survey operations in 22 communities, confirming the presence of 24 areas contaminated with UXO. These areas included 19 within agricultural lands. In addition to urban areas (public squares and residential buildings), a well, a mountain and a roadside. This proactive identification and mapping of contaminated areas helps protect civilians and guides UXO removal efforts.

### UXO Removal

Based on non-technical survey operations and civilian reports, final disposal ordnance teams carried out 90 disposal operations of unexploded ordnance in 27 communities in northwest Syria, during which they safely and successfully disposed of 100 unexploded ordnances. This count included 32 projectiles, 20 mortar rounds, 18 grenades, 17 submunitions (cluster bombs), nine rockets, two fuzes, and two air-dropped weapons.

#### Breakdown of the unexploded ordnance removed by type



### Breakdown of UXO Removal by Location

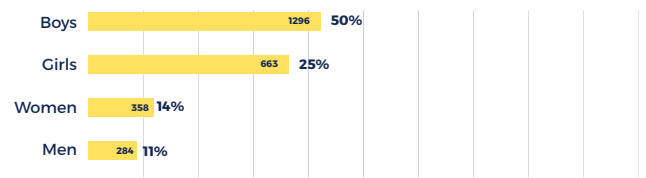
UXO removal operations included 60 operations in agricultural lands, 11 operations in homes, eight operations on roads, four on roadsides, and three operations in factories. The efforts of the survey and removal teams helped enable hundreds of farmers to safely return to their land and resume their agricultural activities.

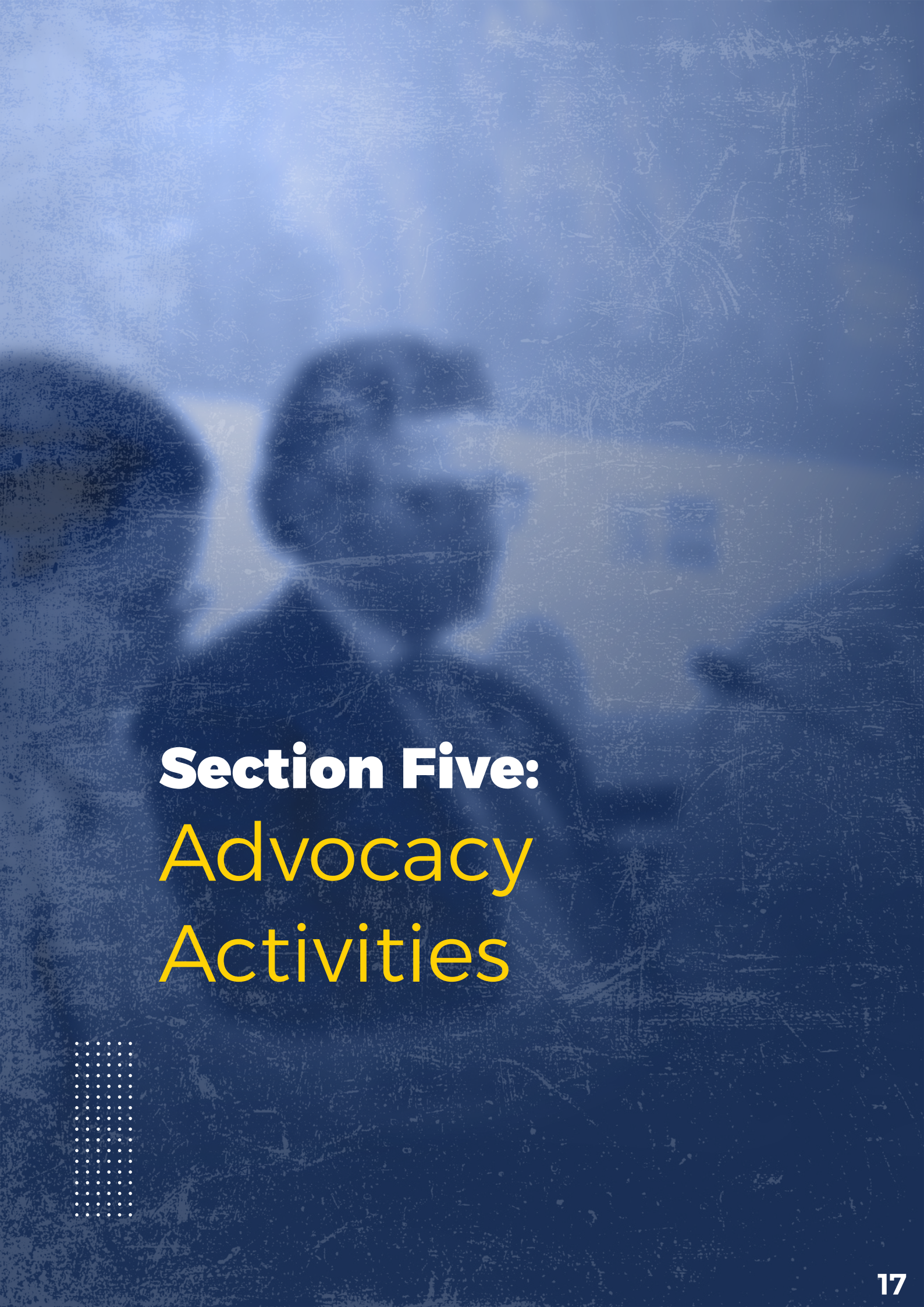
## Mine Action Awareness Raising

Awareness-raising teams on the dangers of mines and unexploded ordnance carried out 200 awareness-raising activities to educate the community about the dangers of remnants of war and unexploded ordnance. These sessions, which focused on school students, aim to reduce the number of victims by teaching participants the appropriate procedures for dealing with unexploded ordnance, and providing them with the knowledge they need for the standard procedures for dealing with explosive remnants of war (ERW) to reduce casualties and to be able to report the presence of unexploded ordnance to the UXO teams.

A total of 2,601 people benefited from these awareness-raising activities, including 284 women, 1,296 boys, and 663 girls. The awareness-raising sessions targeted children because of the great risks to their lives due to playing with or approaching these objects or unexploded ordnance. The sessions provided included schools and homes, mosques, markets, and community centers.

Figure 14: No. of the beneficiaries of the awareness activities led by the UXO teams





**Section Five:**  
Advocacy  
Activities



## Direct advocacy

We held two meetings with Ambassadors to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons – Norway and Germany – to discuss our work to connect on documentation and to connect civil society with the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The advocacy department supported a volunteer from the capacity building roster to attend a meeting with the Ukrainian Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva to discuss the Universal Periodic Review of Syria. This meeting covered violations of international humanitarian law, including attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure witnessed by the White Helmets. The meeting was coordinated by the Syrian Legal Development Program (SLDP).

We also met with staffers in Congress to discuss the situation in Syria and the challenges faced by local NGOs, like the White Helmets, in responding to the high level of humanitarian need with limited funding.

## Joint statements

We signed a joint statement welcoming a Paris criminal court sentencing of three high-ranking Syrian security officials for complicity in crimes against humanity and war crimes against two Syrian-French nationals (Dabbagh case).

## Reports

With SLDP, Lawyers and Doctors for Human Rights (LDHR), the Truth and Justice Charter and the Access Centre for Human Rights, the White Helmets submitted a mid-term report to the 3rd Cycle of Syria to the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review. Our contribution to the submission highlights regime attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure during the reporting period (January 2022 to April 2024) and makes recommendations to support accountability for violations of international humanitarian law.

## Events

Two representatives from the White Helmets attended the NGO Forum for Northwest Syria General Assembly Workshop to input into the Terms of Reference and Strategy for the Forum.



Two members of the White Helmets attended the Danish People's Festival to participate in the "Syria Corner" Baytna, The Day After and the Syria Emergency Task Force. More than 60,000 people attend this festival every year, and at least 300 people engaged directly with the White Helmets over the course of the three days.

The White Helmets spoke during a panel discussion about the current situation in Syria, sharing information about our work and our response to military attacks and the protection of civilians.

**The White Helmets also attended the InterAction Forum.**

## Capacity building

One volunteer from the advocacy and communications roster participated in two mentoring sessions to prepare for and debrief from a first advocacy meeting.

