



# The White Helmets Monthly Activity Report

January 2024





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## Executive summary:

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The White Helmets (WH) teams continued their humanitarian operations and life-saving responses in northwest Syria during January, providing various services in the areas of emergency response, ambulance services, health, and awareness services in 495 communities and 648 camps.

The WH volunteers executed 93 emergency response operations to military attacks, during which they recovered ten dead bodies, including a woman and two children, and rescued 50 wounded persons, including five women and 16 children.

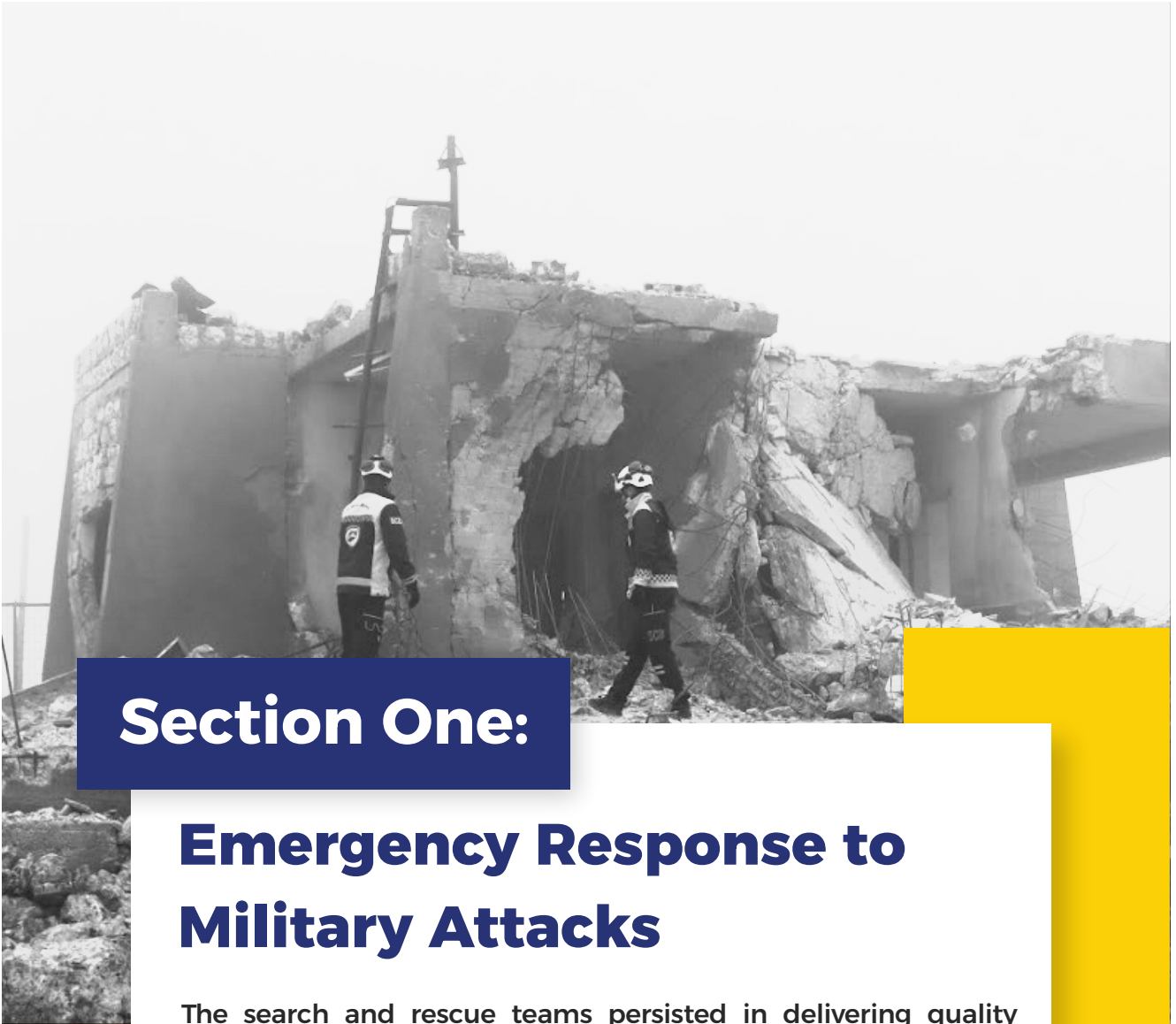
The firefighting teams also extinguished 150 fires through specialized firefighting operations, during which 27 injured people, including six women and 11 children were rescued. On the other hand, the White Helmets responded to 120 traffic accidents, during which they rescued 82 wounded people, including 21 women and 17 children. Unfortunately, these incidents also resulted in the death of a boy.

In the health sector, the number of beneficiaries of the emergency services was 8,839, including 3,955 women and 2,008 children. While the number of beneficiaries of medical examinations provided by the Women and Family Centers amounted to 13,843 beneficiaries, including 8,261 women, 2,135 boys, and 2,007 girls. All these health activities were provided in cooperation and coordination with the humanitarian sector of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The White Helmets volunteers also provided 275 awareness-raising activities, benefiting 4,473 people, including 1,071 women, 1,173 boys, and 1,307 girls.

On the other hand, the White Helmets volunteers conducted 1,943 community resilience activities in 322 communities and 292 camps, ensuring reach to all components of society, including the most vulnerable groups, especially women, children, and people with special needs, and considering the principles of community protection in a way that preserves the safety and dignity of beneficiaries through safe and effective access to those services.







## Section One:

# Emergency Response to Military Attacks

The search and rescue teams persisted in delivering quality emergency responses to military attacks targeting northwest Syria during January. 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

# 93

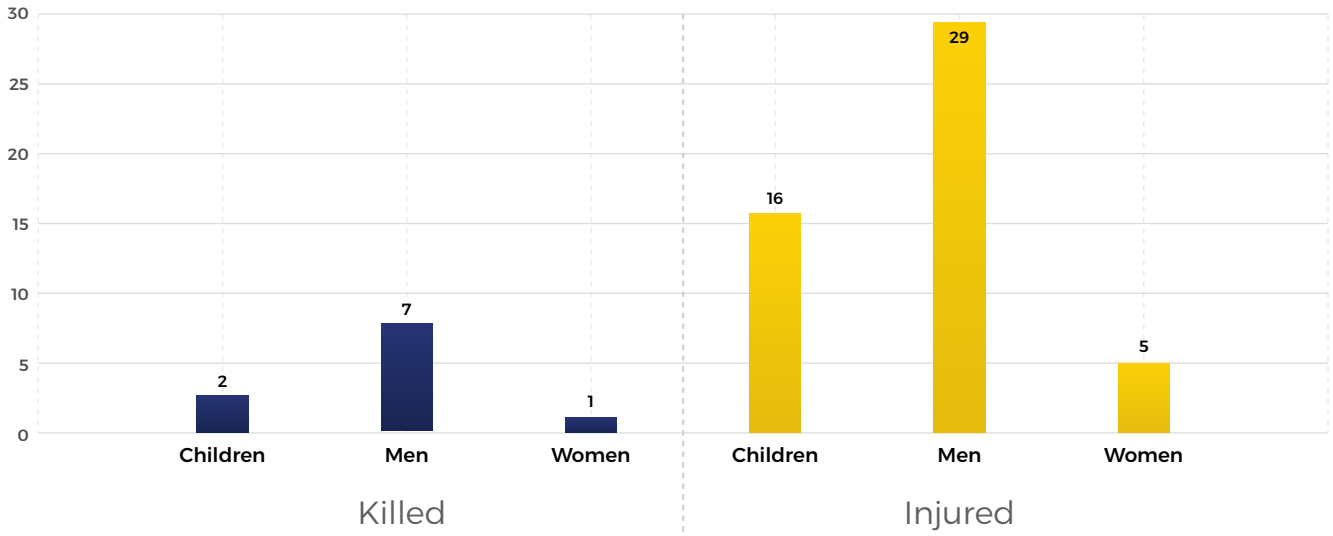
## Military Attacks

### In January

During these operations, the teams recovered ten deceased individuals, including a woman and two children, and rescued 50 injured persons, including five women and 16 children.



Figure 1: Civilian casualties during responses to military attacks



## Noteworthy Response Operation

Syrian regime forces targeted the residential neighborhoods in Ariha city in Idlib southern countryside on January 16, killing two men and injuring seven other civilians, including two girls and a woman.



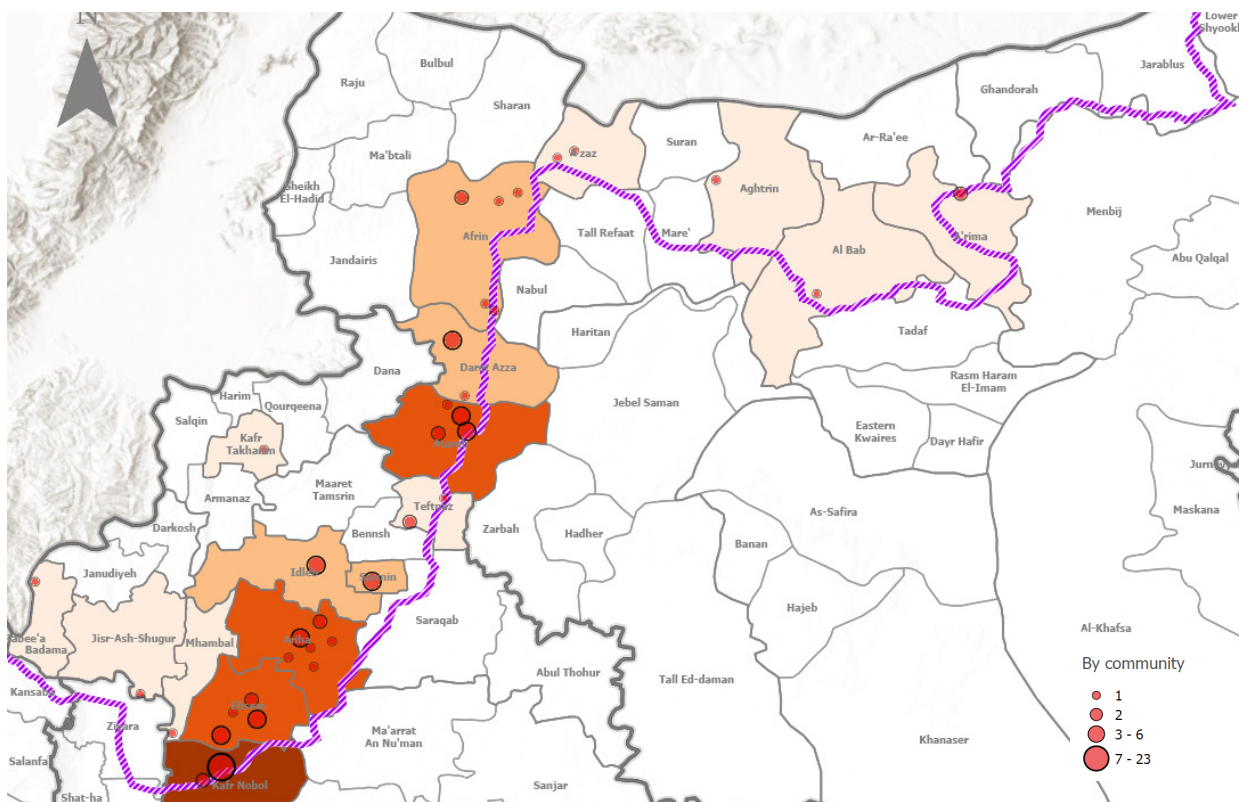


Syrian regime forces also launched an attack on the city of Ariha in Idlib countryside on January 22, injuring six civilians, including a woman and four children. The attack also caused partial damage to the Computer Technology School and several civilian homes.



The White Helmets recovered the deceased, transported the injured to hospitals, and extinguished the fires. Search and rescue operations in response to the military attacks included 36 communities spanning villages, towns, and cities. Notably, the village of Ftireh witnessed the highest number of attacks (23 attacks), followed by Kansafra (six attacks).

Map 1: Military attacks during January



There were 52 attacks on agricultural fields, 20 attacks on civilian homes, and six attacks on roads. Additionally, the attacks targeted schools a public markets, public buildings, and mosques.

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.

Infographic: Military Attacks Response Locations







## Section Two:

# Firefighting and Rescue Operations

### Firefighting operations:

WH volunteers extinguished 150 fires within 56 communities and 23 camps. The city of Idlib witnessed the highest number of fires with 14, followed by the cities of Azaz with 13 fires, and Al-Bab with 12 fires. Additionally, both Tarhin and Afrin experienced 11 fires each. The volunteers successfully extinguished 63 fires in homes, 25 fires in camps, 15 fires on roads, 12 fires in shops, 11 fires in makeshift refineries, and five fires in schools.





The White Helmets  
Extinguished

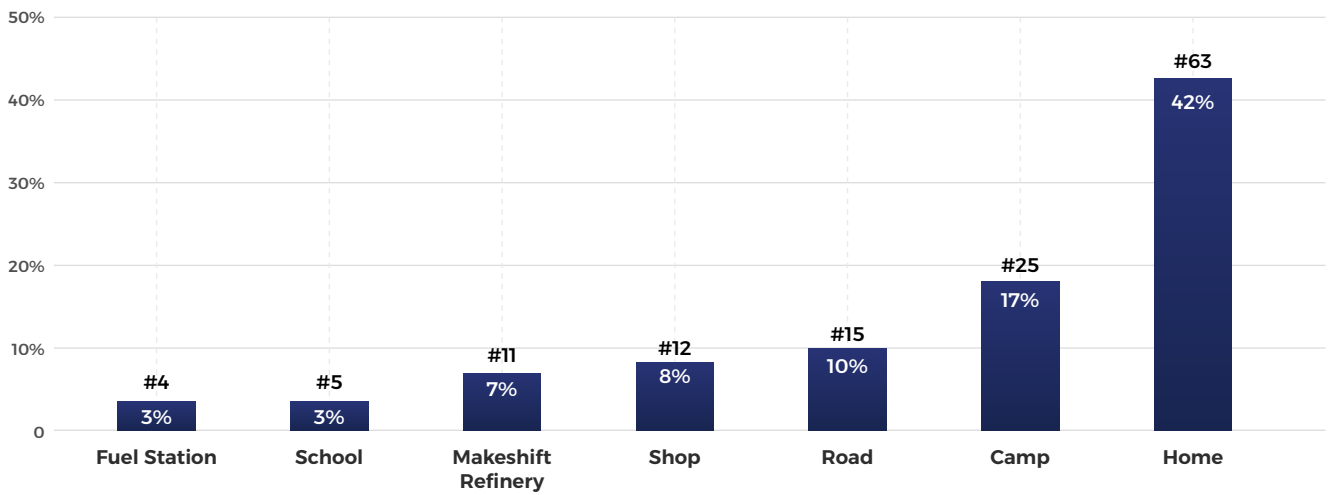
# 150

Fires

**In January 2024**

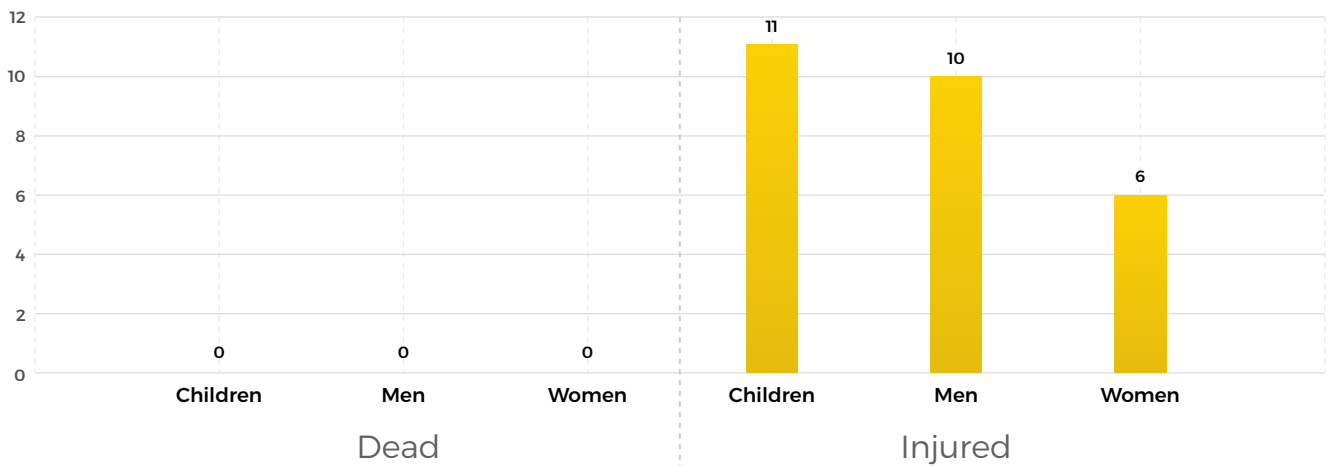


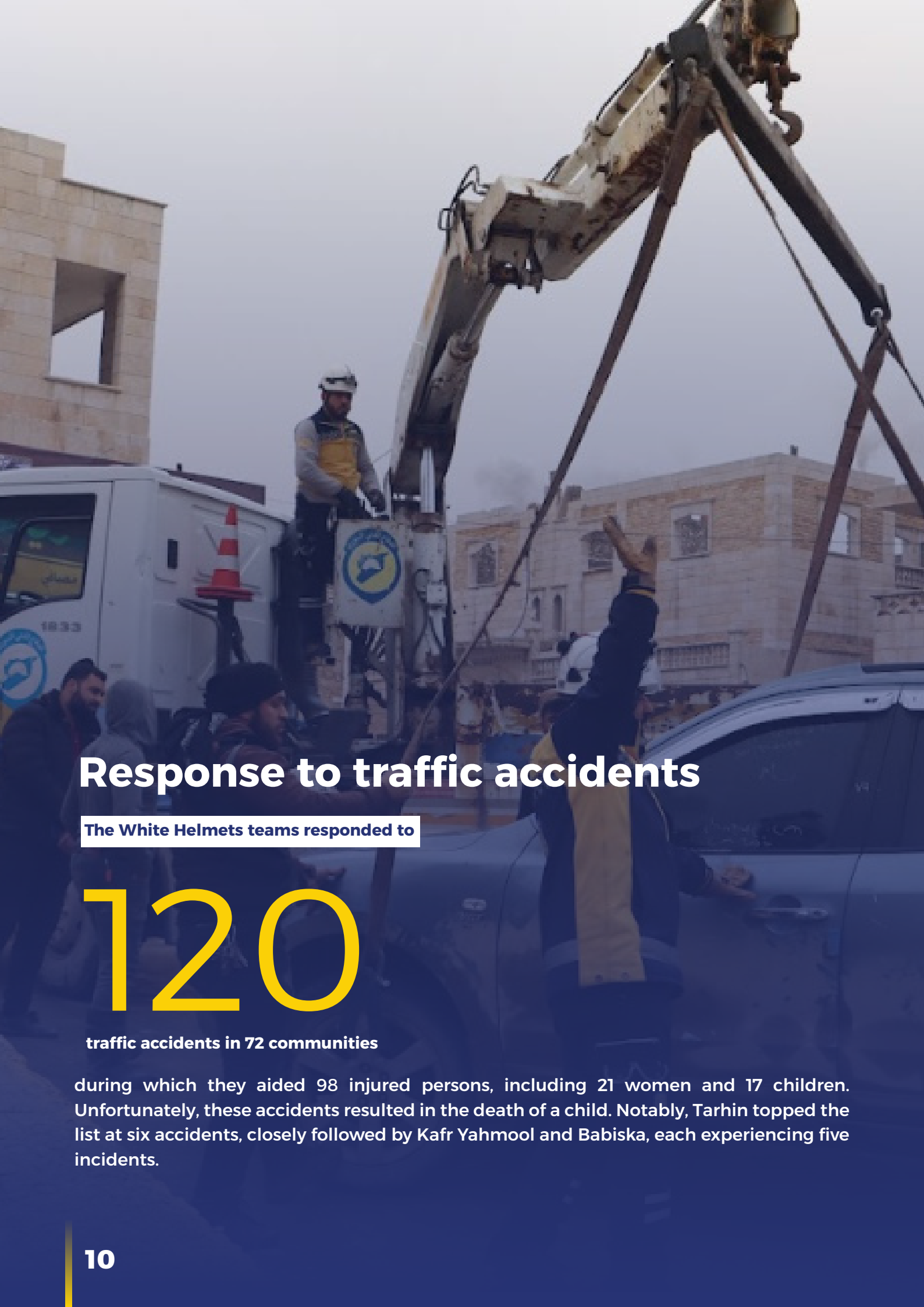
Figure 2: Firefighting operations by location of the fire



During these operations, 27 injured people were rescued, including six women and 11 children. The majority of the fires, %42 were caused by fuel leaks, while %33 were due to unidentified causes, %20 were caused by electrical shorts, and %5 by gas leaks.

Figure 3: No. of people rescued during firefighting operations





# Response to traffic accidents

The White Helmets teams responded to

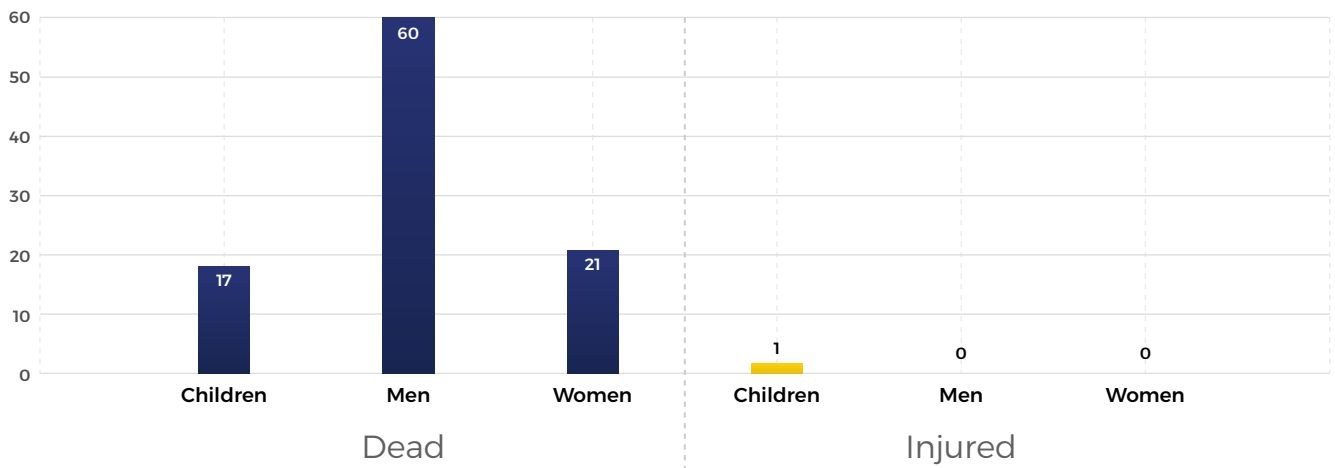
# 120

traffic accidents in 72 communities

during which they aided 98 injured persons, including 21 women and 17 children. Unfortunately, these accidents resulted in the death of a child. Notably, Tarhin topped the list at six accidents, closely followed by Kafr Yahmool and Babiska, each experiencing five incidents.

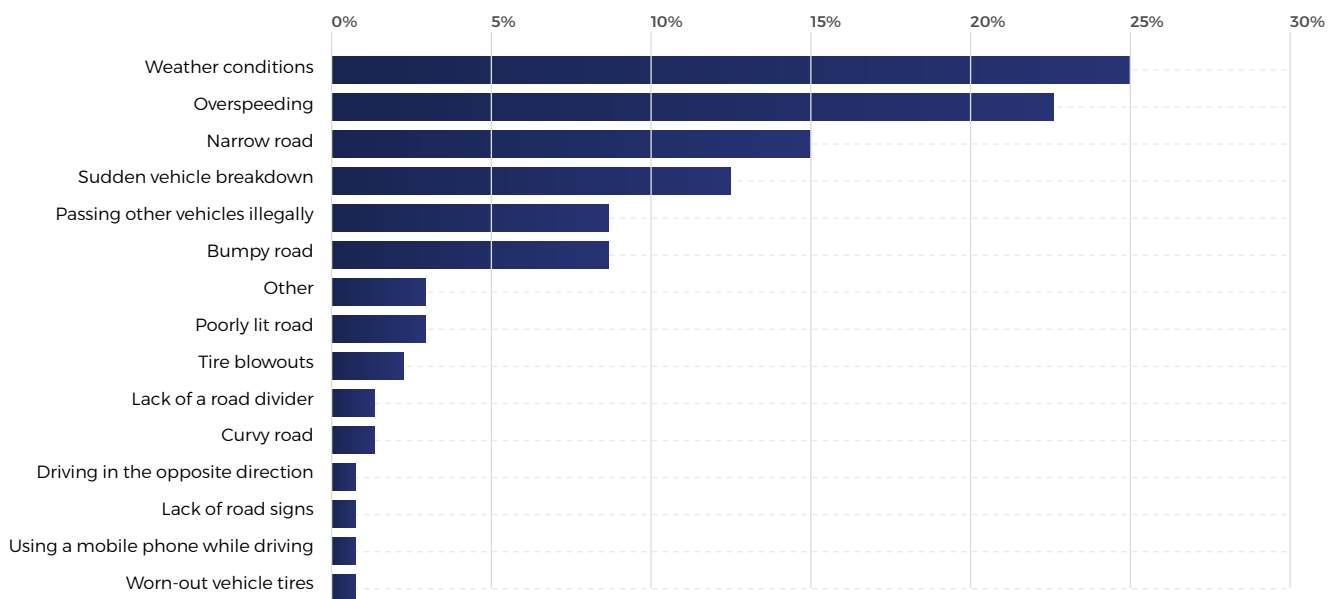


Figure 4: No. of people rescued during traffic accident response operations



Car accidents accounted for the highest proportion of accidents, followed by motorcycle accidents, then heavy machinery and truck accidents. The causes of traffic accidents also varied. Weather conditions topped the list at %25, followed by overspeeding at %23, then narrow roads at %15, sudden vehicle breakdowns at %13, and incorrect overtaking and rough roads at %8 each.

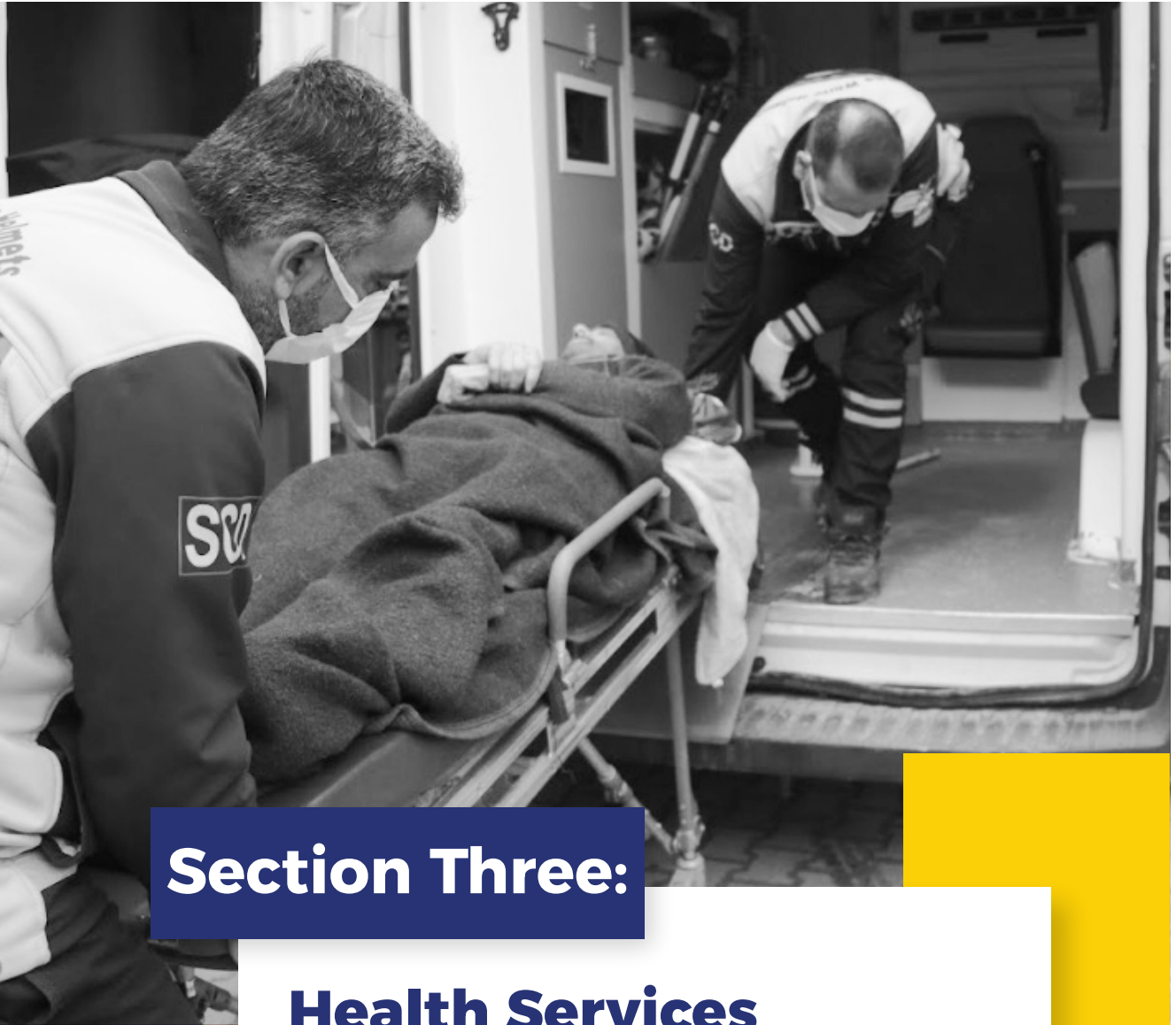
Figure 5: Causes of traffic accidents



## Evacuation

The White Helmets volunteers evacuated 56 people, including those affected by the rising water levels of the Orontes River, and transported them to safer areas or to safe homes or tents with their relatives.





## Section Three:

### **Health Services**

#### **Ambulance Services**

The White Helmets ambulance service reached 8,939 patients, including 3,955 women and 2,008 children.





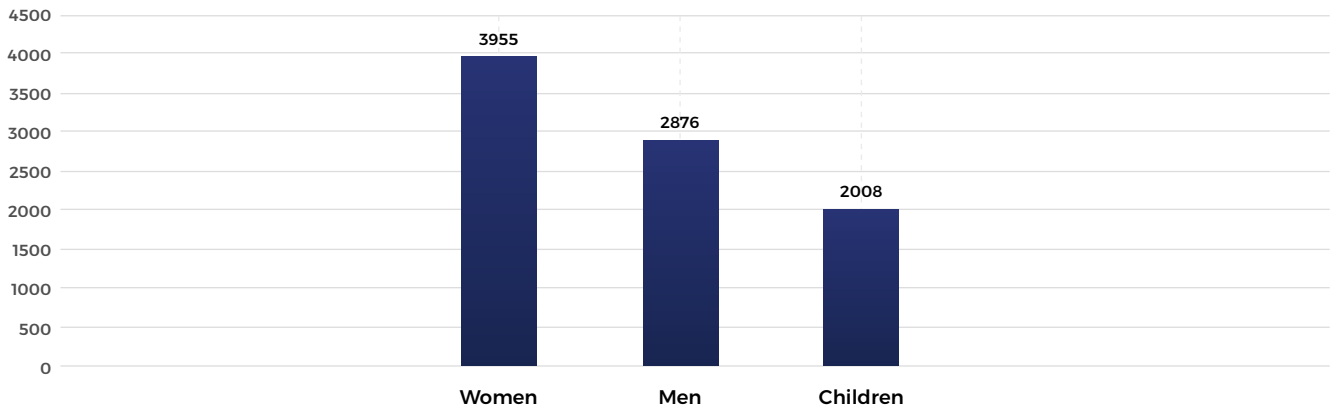


The White Helmets  
ambulance service reached

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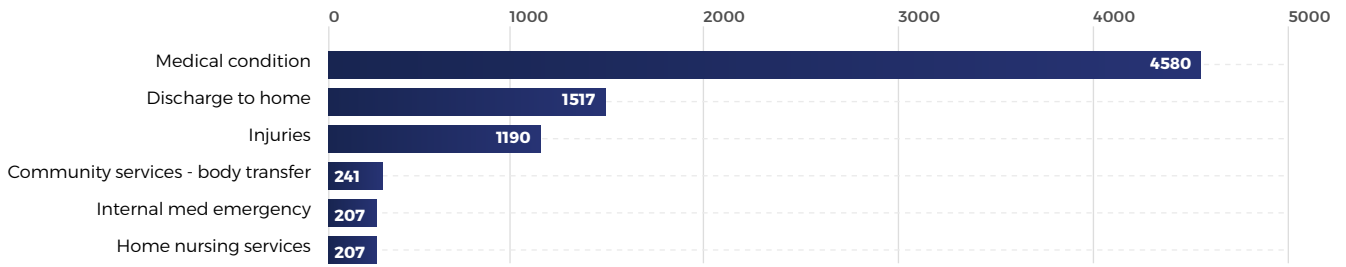
8,839

Figure 6: No. of ambulance service beneficiaries



In terms of diagnoses, medical cases dominated the emergency operations, totaling 4,580 operations. The volunteers also carried out 1,517 operations, including the service of transporting patients back to their homes after receiving treatment, and 1,190 operations involved transferring patients with injuries and wounds.

Figure 7: No. of ambulance operations by type of ailment

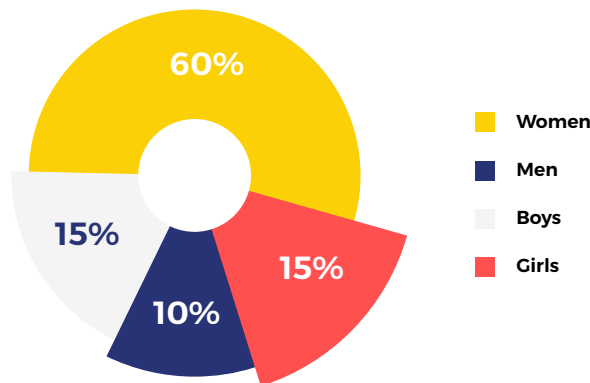


The volunteers continued to transport those requiring ongoing medical care, such as kidney dialysis patients, and ensured their return home. It is worth noting that many kidney dialysis patients require multiple sessions per week. Occasionally, volunteers might transport multiple dialysis patients in a single trip. In this vein, the volunteers executed (1,218) dialysis patient transfers, and (1,155) operations to return dialysis, thalassemia, and physiotherapy patients to their homes after receiving treatment.

## Health Services at Women and Family Centers

The Women and Family Centers continued providing primary health services, catering to general community health and specialized maternal and child care. In January, these centers provided health checks and consultations for 13,843 beneficiaries, including 8,261 women, 2,135 boys, and 2,007 girls.

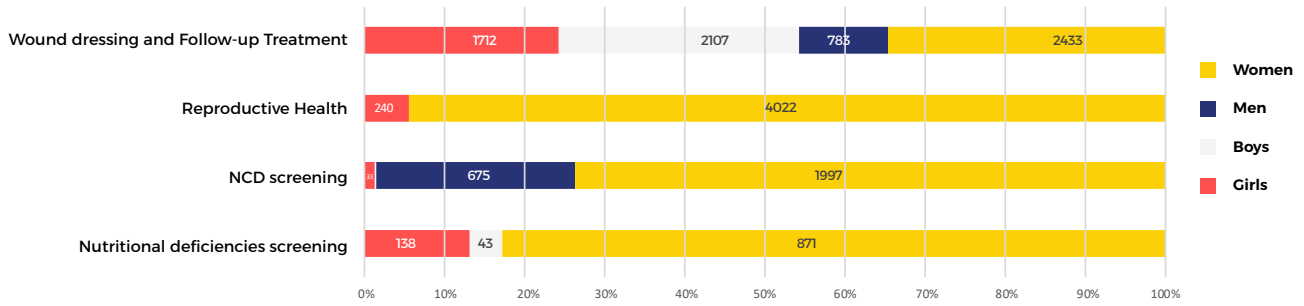
Figure 8: No. of beneficiaries at Women and Family Centers by age and gender



Wound dressing and follow-up treatment services were the most provided health services, with 7,035 patients receiving them. This included 2,433 women, 2,107 boys, and 1,712 girls. Reproductive health services were the second most provided, with 4,022 women receiving them, including 240 under the age of 18. Chronic disease screening also covered 2,172 patients, including 1,997 women, 7 boys, and 33 girls.



Figure 9: No. of beneficiaries of medical interventions at Women and Family Centers by type of ailment



The majority of the health examinations, %93 were provided within the Women and Family Centers, while %4 were provided in patients' homes for the elderly and those with mobility challenges, including dialysis patients, and %3 were provided within camps as a part of the periodic visits by the volunteers to assist patients unable to reach the Centers.

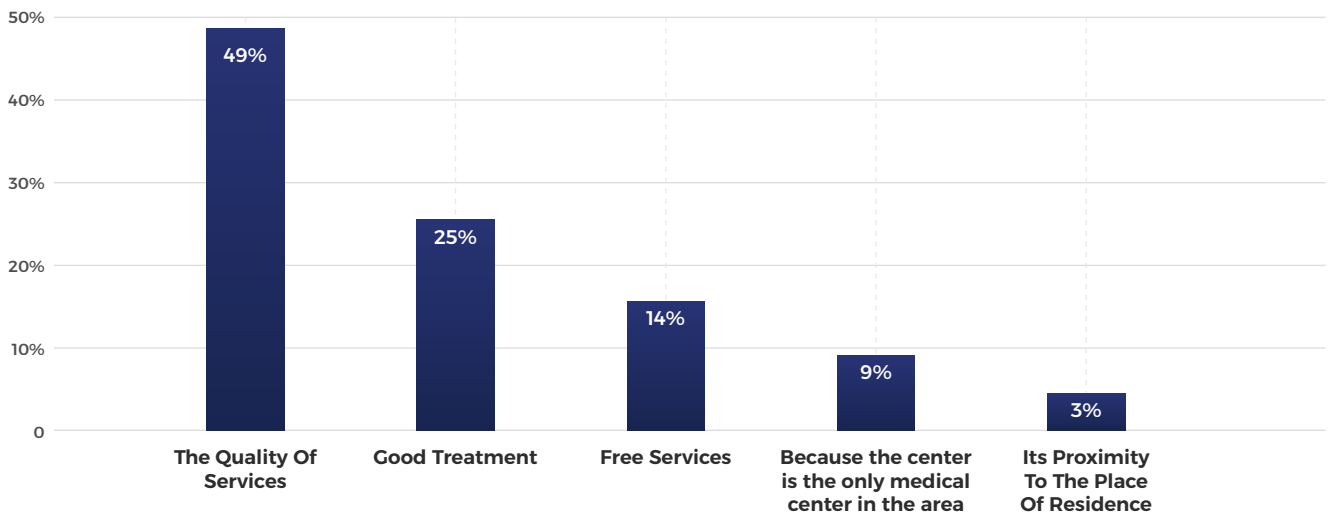


White Helmets volunteers provided psychological support for 3,689 persons, including 2,103 women, 538 boys, and 1,090 girls, through individual and group sessions that included dealing with stress, parenting skills, early childhood, recreational activities, and gender-based violence.

The Women and Family 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. This was closely followed by the positive interactions experienced by beneficiaries with the female staff at these facilities at %25. 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 centers.



## School Health Care

The White Helmets continued the recently initiated program to offer comprehensive school health care services. This initiative involves the deployment of mobile health teams to 33 schools, equipped with first aid and hygiene kits, as well as the provision of thorough health check-ups for students. This initiative aims to promote a culture of health and well-being within the school community, and to create a safe and healthy learning environment for both students and staff.

A total of 418 female students and teachers, as well as 387 male students and teachers, benefited from school health care services within 31 schools. Respiratory diseases topped diagnoses, followed by skin diseases and digestive diseases.



## Section Four:

### **Awareness-Raising Activities**

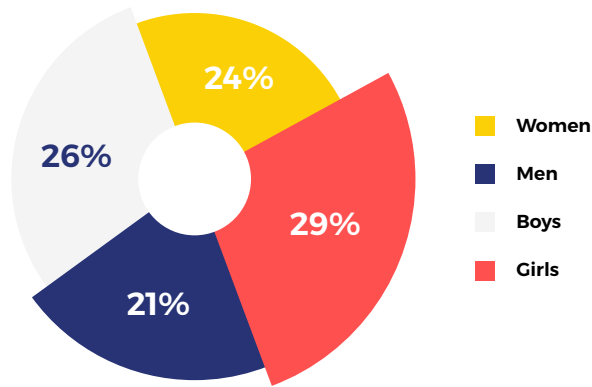
The White Helmets volunteers organized 275 awareness activities reaching a total of 4,473 beneficiaries, including 1,071 women, 1,173 boys and 1,307 girls. These awareness-raising activities enhance the role of these centers, leveraging their effective outreach to community members, particularly women and children, to deliver the awareness message in various areas, including health prevention and civil protection, using specialized and regularly updated training toolkits to keep pace with the evolving challenges of the local communities.

The activities included awareness sessions, children’s activities, and gift distributions. Awareness publications were also distributed, and wall posters were placed in most public buildings, especially in schools and educational institutions, in coordination with the directorates of education and municipal councils.



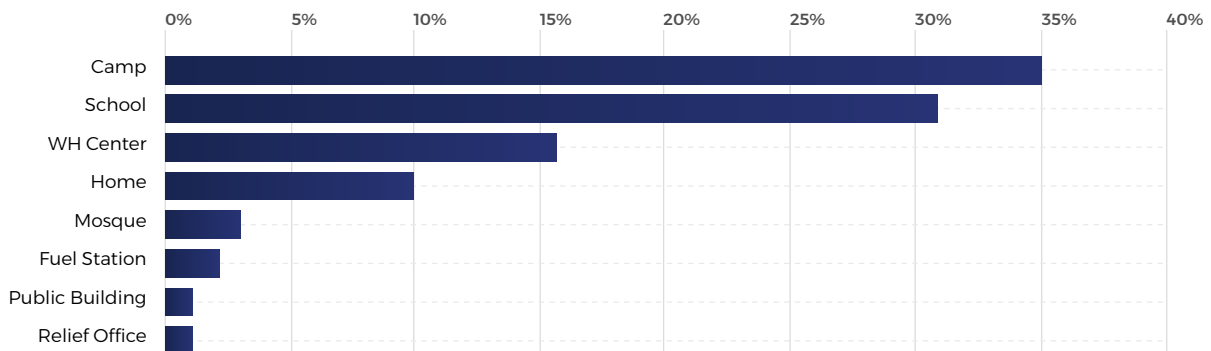


Figure 11: No. of beneficiaries of awareness-raising activities by age and gender



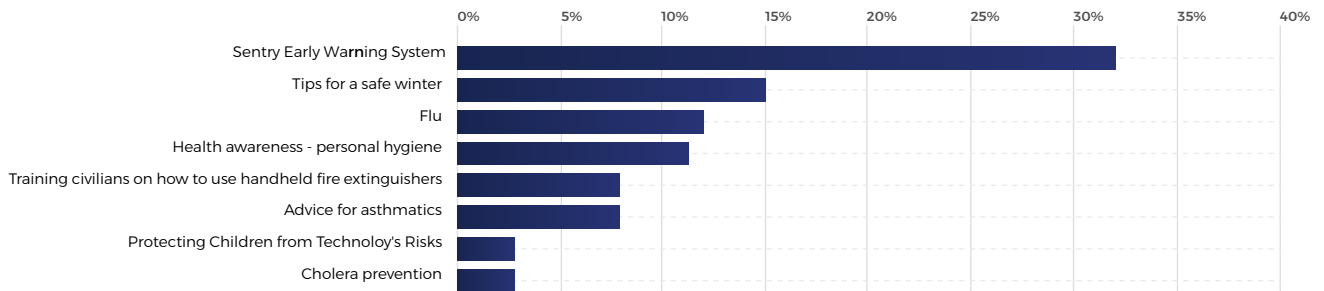
These awareness-raising activities were organized in diverse locations to ensure the widest participation of all segments of society. Activities within camps constituted the largest proportion, accounting for %35, while %31 of the activities were in schools. Meanwhile, 16 of these activities were hosted at White Helmets Centers the Women and Family Centers.

Figure 12: Distribution of awareness-raising activities by location



The centers continued to track pressing issues on the ground, tailoring topics based on current priorities. Therefore, %36 of the activities were allocated to health awareness, which included several topics, the most prominent of which were the importance of personal hygiene, tips for asthma patients, and prevention of diseases and viruses, while %32 of the activities were allocated to raising awareness of the Sentry Early Warning System, and %15 of the activities provided tips for a safe winter.

Figure 13: Topics of the awareness-raising activities





## Section Five:

# Community Resilience Activities

This section includes the White Helmets' operations executed as part of the humanitarian response projects in the WASH sector and response to storms and winter conditions, aimed at bolstering local community resilience. It also covers other logistical activities supporting public facilities. In this context, the volunteers conducted 1,934 community resilience activity across 322 communities and 292 camps in northwest Syria.







## Response to Storms and Floods

The winter storms in January, especially the rainstorm that began on January 2024, 12, with heavy and continuous rain, accompanied by a significant drop in temperatures. It cast its shadow on the camps of the displaced and temporary shelters for earthquake victims and civilian homes, and disrupted traffic due to the accumulation of water and mud.

Between January 12 and 19, our White Helmets volunteers responded proactively to the crisis, attending over 100 regular and random camps that housed more than 400,000 displaced individuals in the flood-affected regions of Idlib and Aleppo countryside, and graveled roads and drainage rainwater inside 33 camps. The storm inflicted complete damage to over 1,500 tents and partial damage to more than 3,000 others, along with responding to damaged civilian homes.

The repercussions of the rainstorm extended to sewage systems, causing water to overflow and submerging sewage openings in several areas across Idlib and Aleppo countryside. This led to the mingling of floodwater with sewage, posing a serious environmental threat to crops and wells in the affected regions. Contaminated water now poses a significant risk of disease transmission.

Undeterred by these challenges, our White Helmets persisted in their response efforts, establishing drainage channels, cleaning existing channels, pumping water, and setting up barriers to prevent floodwater infiltration.



## Tragic Accidents:

Three brothers (two children and a young man) died from suffocation caused by coal heater emissions in the Mutawa 1 camp in the Atma camps, north of Idlib, on Monday, January 15.

A 13-year-old girl also experienced severe suffocation due to a household gas leak in her home in the village of Balyun, south of Idlib, on the same day.

These tragic incidents emphasize the urgent need for improved living conditions, proper heating facilities, and enhanced safety measures to prevent such occurrences.

# 303

**Opening waterways operations** spanning 16,800 meters in length in 132 communities and 120 camps.



# 316

**ground leveling and graveling operations,** covering 44,416 square meters across 127 communities and 80 camps.



# 396

**car towing operations** in 146 villages and 55 camps.



# 136

**various digging operations,** including digging (technical holes and foundations) in 69 communities and 21 camps.



# 148

**various logistical and community services** in 146 villages and 55 camps.



# 157

**Road opening operations** spanning 72,451 meters in length in 87 communities and 20 camps.



Map 2: Community resilience activities in January

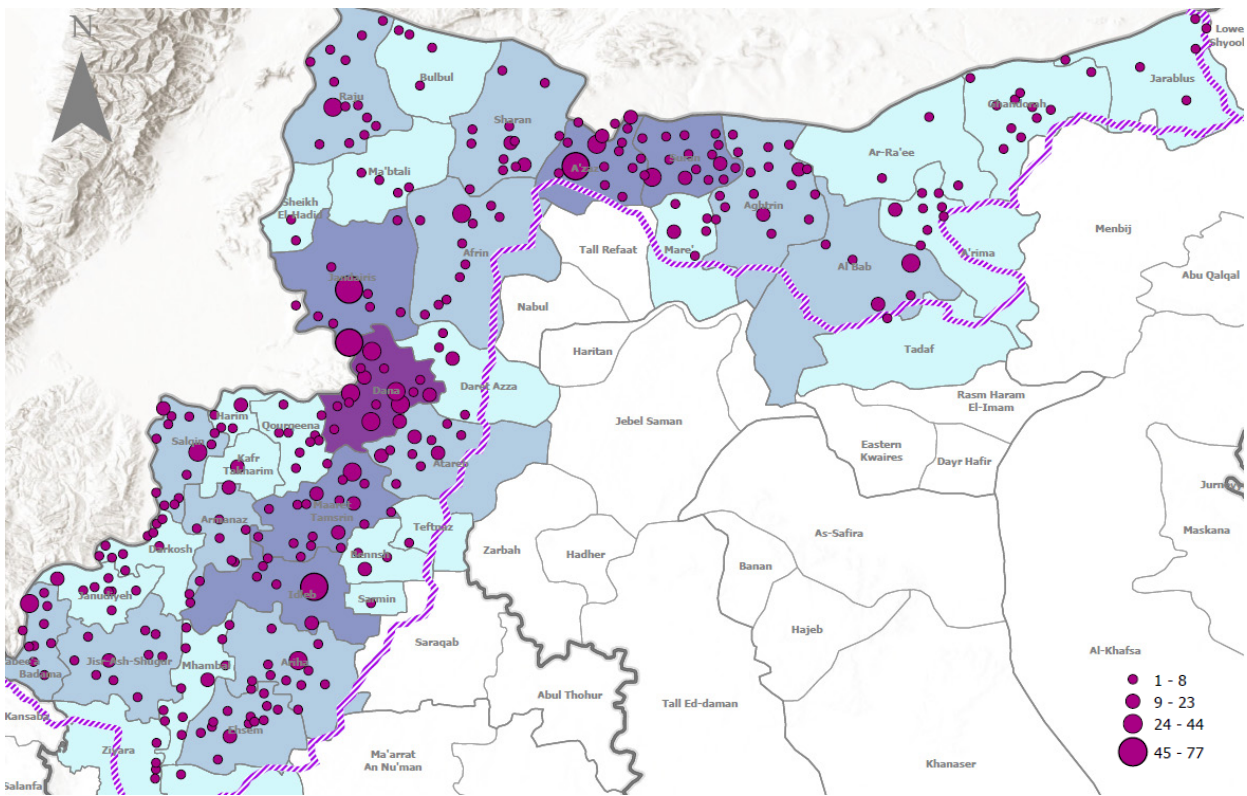


Figure 14: Community resilience activities

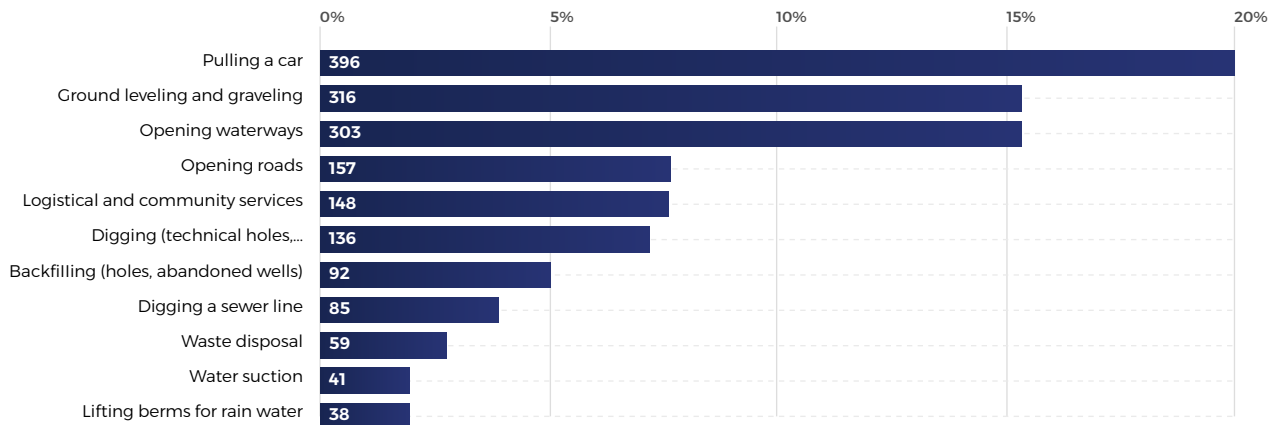
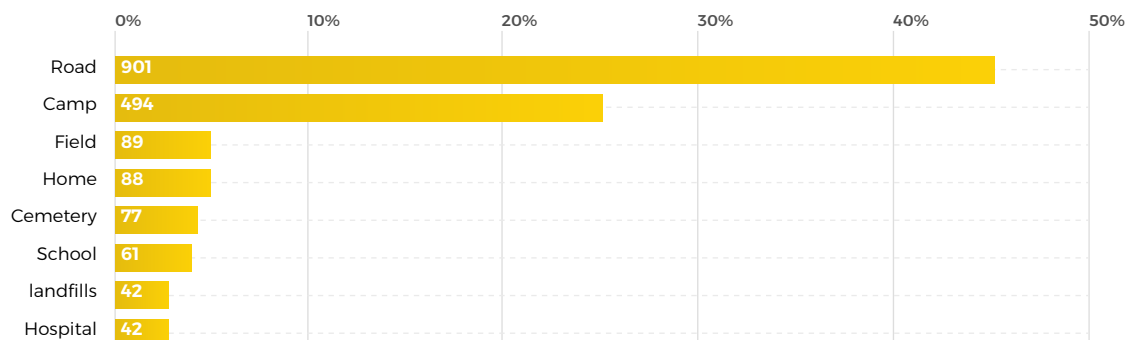


Figure 15: Distribution of community resilience by location





## White Helmets volunteers continue to implement infrastructure projects, including

- Rehabilitation of the Faculty of Economics in Al-Bab: Work includes supplying the college with office supplies and technical equipment after the completion of the rehabilitation work.
- External and internal cladding work at the Al-Maland Mosque.
- Building Khalid bin Al-Walid School in Jenderes: The foundation excavation work has been completed, and preparations are underway for the pouring of the foundations.
- Excavation of the foundations for the construction of the Cancer Center in Afrin:
- Rehabilitation of a community center in Afrin:

## Opening Three Medical Centers

The joint operational alliance of the White Helmets and the Al-Ameen for Humanitarian Support Organization launched three medical centers in northwest Syria on 22 January 2023. The initiative aims to support the resilience of our communities affected by war and disasters while improving the overall effectiveness of humanitarian response efforts.

The three newly established centers are as follows:

**A Physiotherapy Center in Ariha**, featuring separate sections for men and women. The center focuses on therapeutic interventions for central and peripheral nervous system injuries, cerebral palsy, spinal cord injuries, polio, and more, utilizing specialized training and equipment. Additionally, the center offers accommodation for patients traveling from distant areas.

**A Primary Health Care Center in Kafr Jales**, equipped with specialized clinics to address various healthcare needs.

**A Prosthetics and Rehabilitation Center in Sarmada**. This center provides comprehensive support for individuals who have lost limbs or sustained injuries. Services include prosthetic fitting and maintenance.





## Section Six:

## Mine Action



## Non-technical Survey Operations

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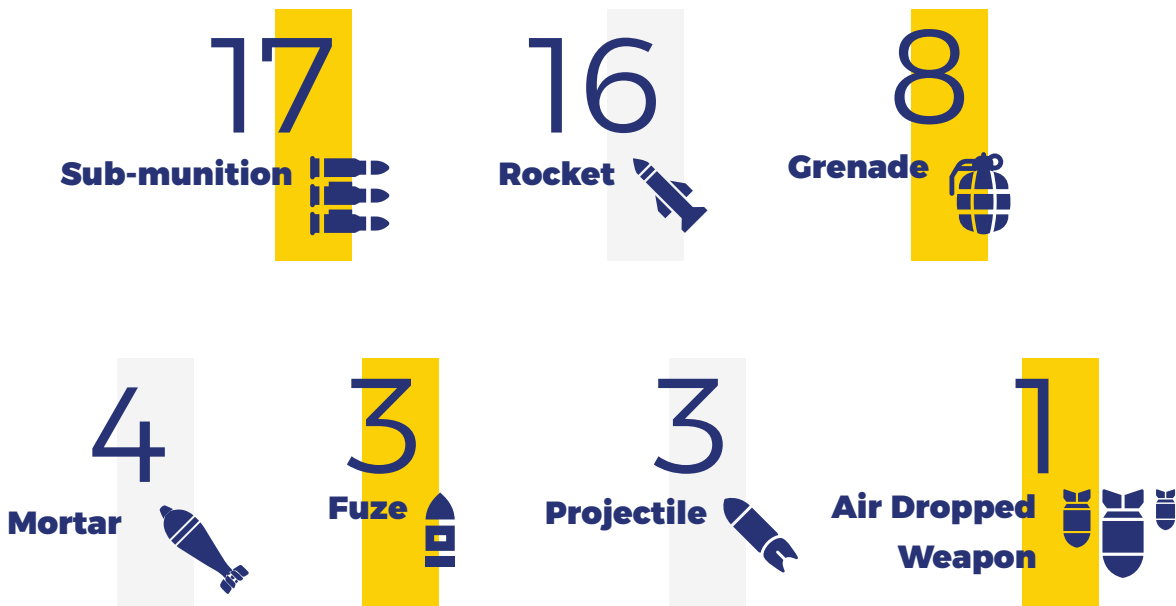
Non-technical survey operations contribute to the protection of civilians by identifying areas contaminated with unexploded ordnance. Non-technical survey teams work to identify the locations of ordnance in contaminated areas and inform final disposal teams of their locations, who carry out the final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

UXO clearance teams carried out 114 non-technical survey operations in 96 communities, confirming the presence of 38 areas contaminated with UXO. These areas included 19 within agricultural lands. In addition to 11 within urban areas (public squares and residential buildings). In addition to and the remainder in educational facilities, roads, and grazing areas. This proactive identification.

## UXO Removal

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Based on non-technical survey operations and civilian reports, final disposal ordnance teams carried out 52 disposal operations of unexploded ordnance in 32 communities in northwest Syria, during which they safely and successfully disposed of 52 unexploded ordnances. This count also included 17 sub-munitions (cluster bombs), 16 rockets, eight grenades, four mortar rounds, three projectiles, three fuses, and an air dropped weapon.





## Breakdown of UXO Removal by Location

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The removal of unexploded ordnance included 18 operations in agricultural lands, 17 operations in homes, five operations in educational facilities, three in grazing areas and three on roads. The efforts of the survey and removal teams contribute to enabling hundreds of farmers to safely return safely to their lands and resume their agricultural activities.





## Awareness Raising

Awareness-raising teams on the dangers of mines and unexploded ordnance carried out 206 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.

3,558 people benefited from these awareness-raising activities, including 251 women, 1,992 boys, and 1,191 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 88 sessions in schools, including schools inside the camps.



Figure 16: No. of the beneficiaries of the awareness activities led by the UXO teams

