

Activity Report

The White Helmets Work Report

August 2024



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Executive summary:

The White Helmets volunteers continued their humanitarian operations and responses to save lives in northwest Syria during August. They provided diverse services in the areas of emergency response, ambulance services, healthcare, and awareness-raising within 497 communities and 664 camps.

The volunteers carried out 74 emergency response operations to military attacks, during which they recovered 12 dead bodies, including two children, and rescued 42 injured individuals, including six women and 11 children.

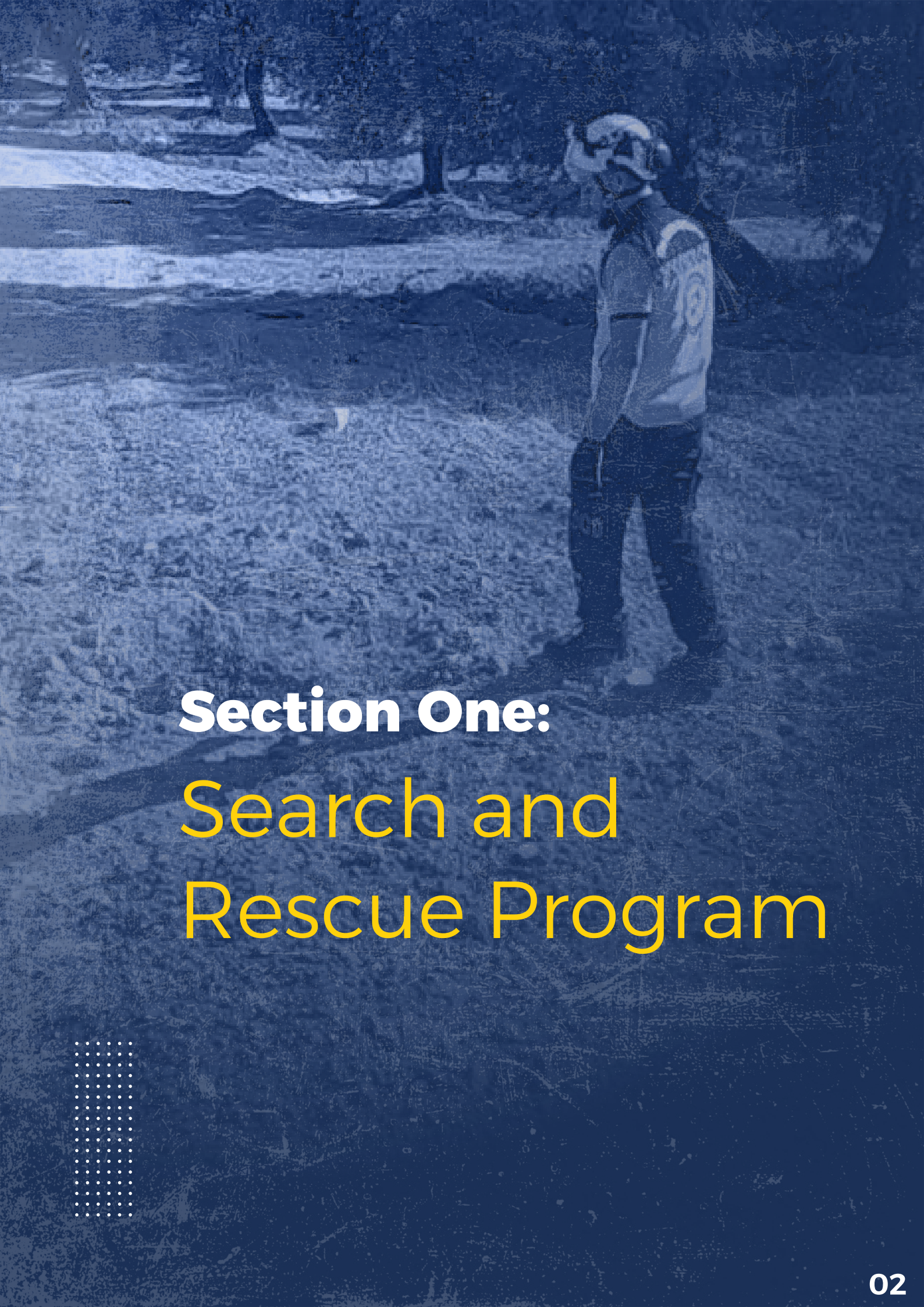
Firefighting teams successfully controlled 383 fires, rescuing seven injured individuals, including a child. Additionally, the volunteers responded to 172 traffic accidents, providing assistance to 161 injured individuals, including 19 women and 52 children. The accidents also resulted in the deaths of two men and one child.

In the healthcare sector, the ambulance system transported 14,226 patients, including 5,856 women and 3,494 children. Moreover, 13,618 individuals, including 8,291 women, 2,292 boys, and 1,795 girls, benefited from healthcare services provided by Women and Family Healthcare Centers. Community health teams also organized 6,257 awareness activities benefiting 8,113 individuals, including 5,930 women, 477 boys, and 948 girls.

On the other hand, the White Helmets volunteers conducted 1,463 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.

The Protection Program conducted 147 awareness sessions attended by 2,192 individuals, including 1,157 women, 352 boys, and 220 girls.





Section One:
Search and
Rescue Program



The White Helmets conducted 74 emergency response operations

The search and rescue teams persisted in delivering quality emergency responses to military attacks targeting northwest Syria during August. 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 74 military attacks. The volunteers recovered 12 deceased individuals, including two children, and rescued 42 injured persons, including six women and eleven children.

Figure 1: Civilian casualties during responses to military attacks



Syrian regime forces were responsible for most of the attacks, 60 attacks. Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) carried out two attacks. Additionally, five attacks originated from areas controlled by the Syrian regime and SDF, along with seven anonymous attacks.

The largest number of attacks were carried out by drones (33 attacks), while 27 attacks were conducted by artillery shells, and four attacks with rocket launchers.

Details of Some Response Operations

Syrian regime forces targeted with a guided missile a three-wheeled motorcycle in the village of Al-Mashiak in the Al-Ghab Plain in Hama northwest countryside on August 6, injuring seven civilians (three children, three women, and one man).



A refrigerated truck detonated at the western entrance of Azaz city in Aleppo countryside on August 7, killing nine men, and injuring 12 others, including two children.



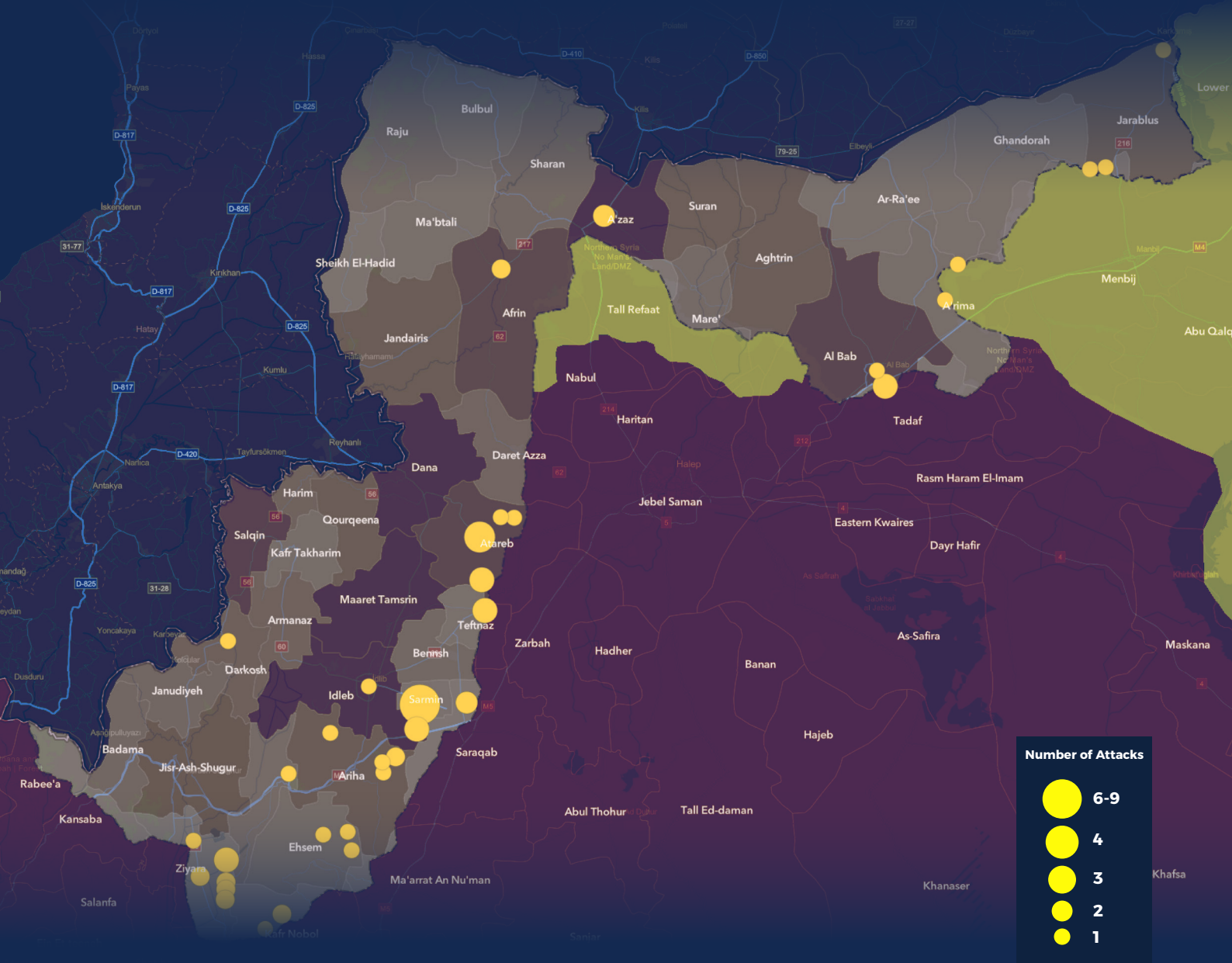
Targeting White Helmets Teams

On August 7, a refrigerated truck exploded at the western entrance of Azaz city in Aleppo countryside, killing nine men and injuring 12 others, including two children. White Helmets volunteers responded swiftly, retrieving the bodies, transporting the injured to hospitals, clearing the explosion site, securing the area, and reopening the road. While our teams were on the scene, artillery shells fired from areas controlled by Syrian regime forces and Syrian SDF, targeted them. Despite the double-tap attack, our teams successfully evacuated to a safe location.

On August 16, Syrian regime forces targeted a White Helmets team on the Sarmin highway with a double-tap attack while they were inspecting areas hit by artillery in Sarmin, in the eastern countryside of Idlib. No casualties were reported.

Search and rescue operations in response to the military attacks covered 35 communities spanning cities, towns and villages. Notably, Sarmin city experienced the highest number of attacks (nine), followed by Al-Atareb city (six attacks).

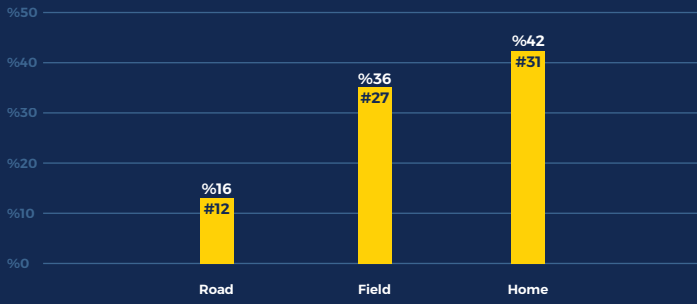
Map: Military attacks during August



The vast majority of the targets were civilian homes, with 31 attacks, followed by agricultural lands and fields with 27 attacks, and 12 attacks on roads. The attacks also included a relief office, a water body, a shop, and the Omar bin Abdul Aziz Mosque in the city of Sarmin.

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

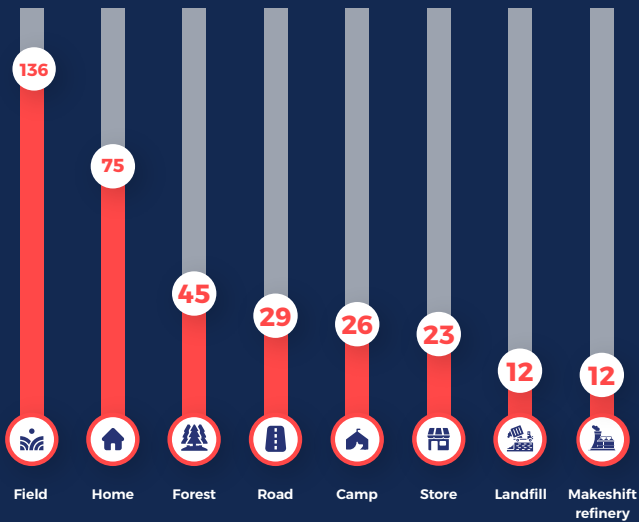
Figure 2: Military Attacks Response Locations



Firefighting operations:

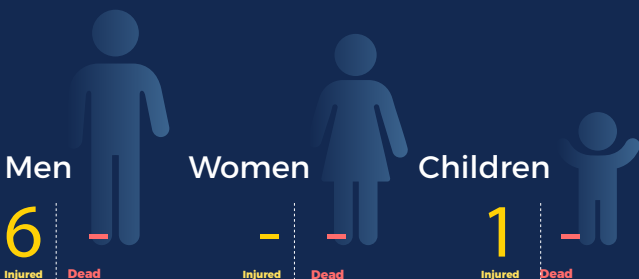
The volunteers responded to a total of 383 fires in 171 communities and 23 camps. The city of Idlib witnessed the highest number of fires with 25 incidents, followed by the city of Jisr al-Shughur with 23 fires, and then the village of Tarhin with 14 fires. The volunteers extinguished 136 fires in agricultural fields, 75 fires in civilian homes, 45 fires in forests, 29 fires on roads, and 26 fires in camps.

Figure 3: Firefighting operations by location of the fire



The volunteers rescued seven injured individuals during the firefighting operations, including one child. A total of 83% of the fires were caused by unknown reasons, 8% resulted from electrical short circuits, 5% were due to fuel leaks, and 4% were caused by gas leaks.

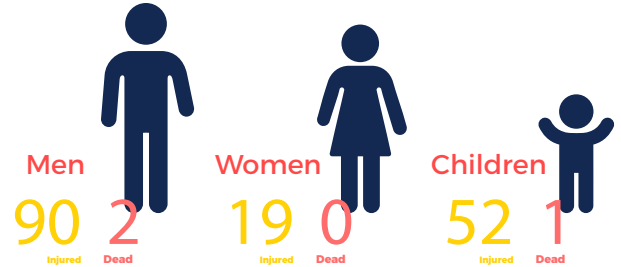
Figure 4: No. of people rescued during firefighting operations



Response to traffic accidents

The White Helmets teams responded to 172 traffic accidents in 92 communities, during which they aided 161 civilians, including 19 women and 52 children. Notably, the highest number of traffic accidents occurred in Arshani (eight accidents), while six accidents occurred in each of the cities of Idlib, Azaz, and Kafr Jannah.

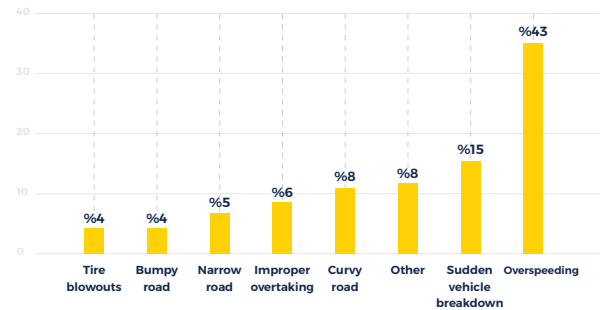
Figure 5: No. of people rescued during traffic accident response operations



Motorcycle accidents accounted for the highest percentage of accidents at 48%, followed by car accidents at 39%, while truck and heavy machinery accidents made up 10%.

The causes of traffic accidents varied, with overspeeding being the leading cause at 43%, followed by sudden vehicle breakdown at 15%. Other causes included road curves, improper overtaking, narrow roads, and bumpy road conditions.

Figure 6: Causes of traffic accidents



Response to Drowning Incidents:

The White Helmets water rescue teams rescued a man and a child and retrieved the bodies of four drowned, including a child.





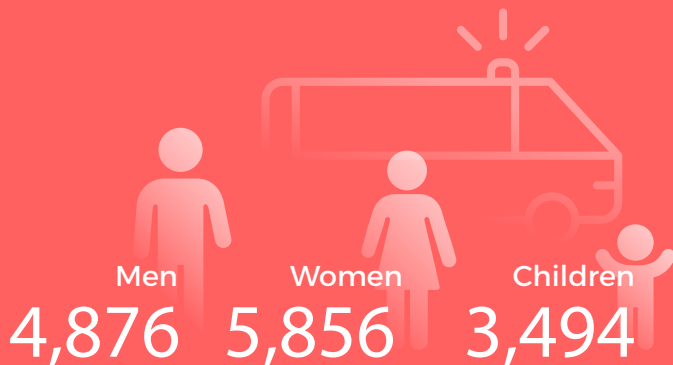
Section Two: Health Program



Ambulance Services

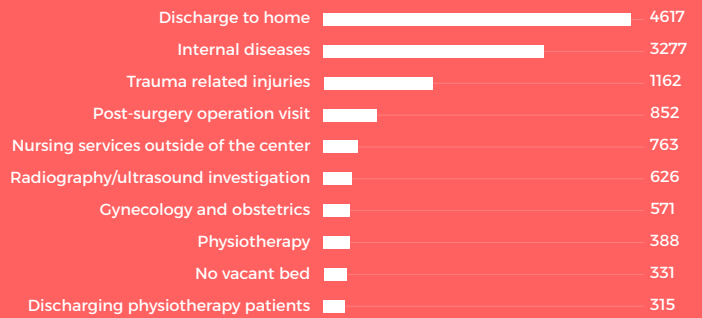
The White Helmets ambulance service reached 14,226 patients, including 5,856 women and 3,494 children in 396 communities.

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



From a diagnostic perspective, 4,617 patients benefited from being discharged to their homes after receiving treatment. Additionally, 3,277 patients with internal diseases and 1,162 patients with injuries and trauma were served.

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

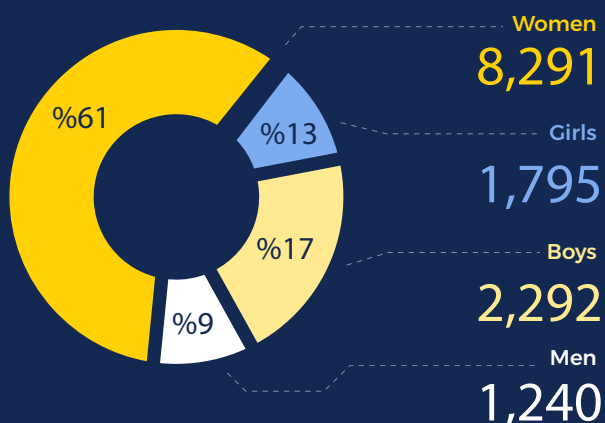


The volunteers continued to transport patients and those in need of ongoing medical care, such as kidney failure patients for dialysis sessions, and return them to their homes. Many dialysis patients require multiple sessions per week. In this context, our volunteers transported 4,599 dialysis patients and discharged 4,486 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 13,618 beneficiaries, including 8,291 women, 2,292 boys, and 1,795 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 5,438 women, including 348 under the age of 18. This was followed by dressing and follow-up treatment, which were provided to 4,852 patients, including 1,155 women, 1,848 boys, and 922 girls.



The majority of the health examinations, %94 of the health consultations were conducted within women's and family health centers, while %6 were provided in camps as part of the regular visits carried out by female volunteers to address cases where individuals cannot reach the centers. This also included home visits to patients, such as the elderly and those with mobility challenges due to their health conditions, including dialysis patients.

1,942 people, including 1,009 women, 321 boys, and 609 girls, benefited from psychological support sessions, through individual and group sessions that included psychological first aid, individual

psychological education, awareness sessions, PSS structured sessions for children, and various activities and events. Moreover, 300 people also benefited from physical rehabilitation, including 176 women, 66 boys, and 58 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

%11

Because the center is the only medical center in the area

%4

Its proximity to the place of residence

Community health

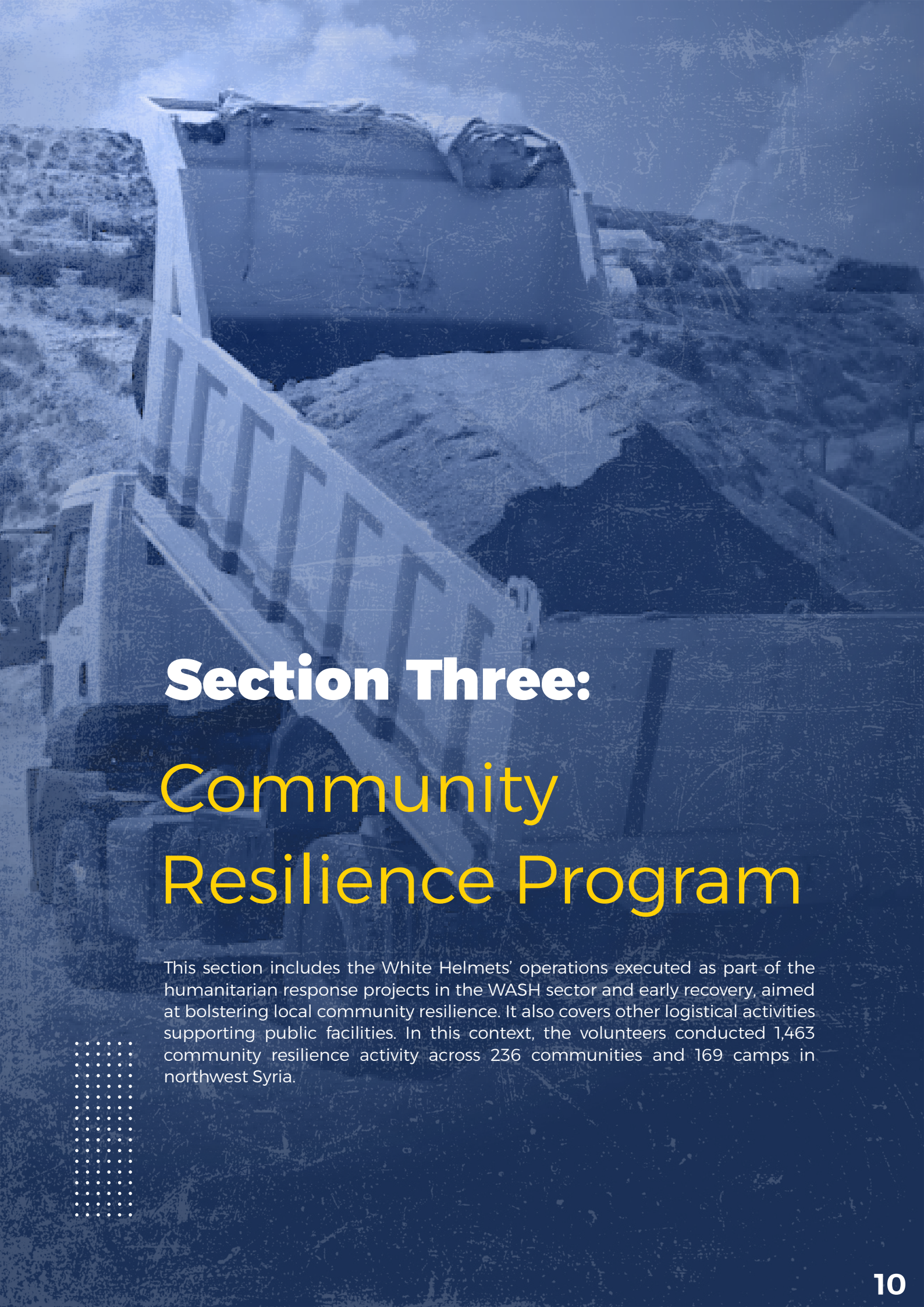
Community health teams organized 6,257 awareness activities that benefited 8,113 people, including 5,930 women, 477 boys, and 948 girls. These awareness-raising activities aim to strengthen the role of the centers within the community. The centers utilize their effective reach to community members, especially 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 nutrition guide.

School Health Activity

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.

130 female students and teachers and 139 male students and teachers within 26 schools benefited from the healthcare services in schools. Respiratory diseases were the most common diagnoses, followed by digestive diseases and skin 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 1,463 community resilience activity across 236 communities and 169 camps in northwest Syria.



The White Helmets volunteers conducted

rehabilitation operations of schools, centers and facilities in 23 communities and three camps.



110

ground leveling and graveling operations, covering 46,000 square meters across 107 communities and 69 camps.



291

road opening operations spanning 26,000 meters in length in 60 communities and ten camps.



107

various digging operations, including digging (technical holes, foundations, and electrical maintenance) in 87 communities and 55 camps.



200

digging sewage networks operations spanning 94,000 meters in length in 64 communities and 27 camps.



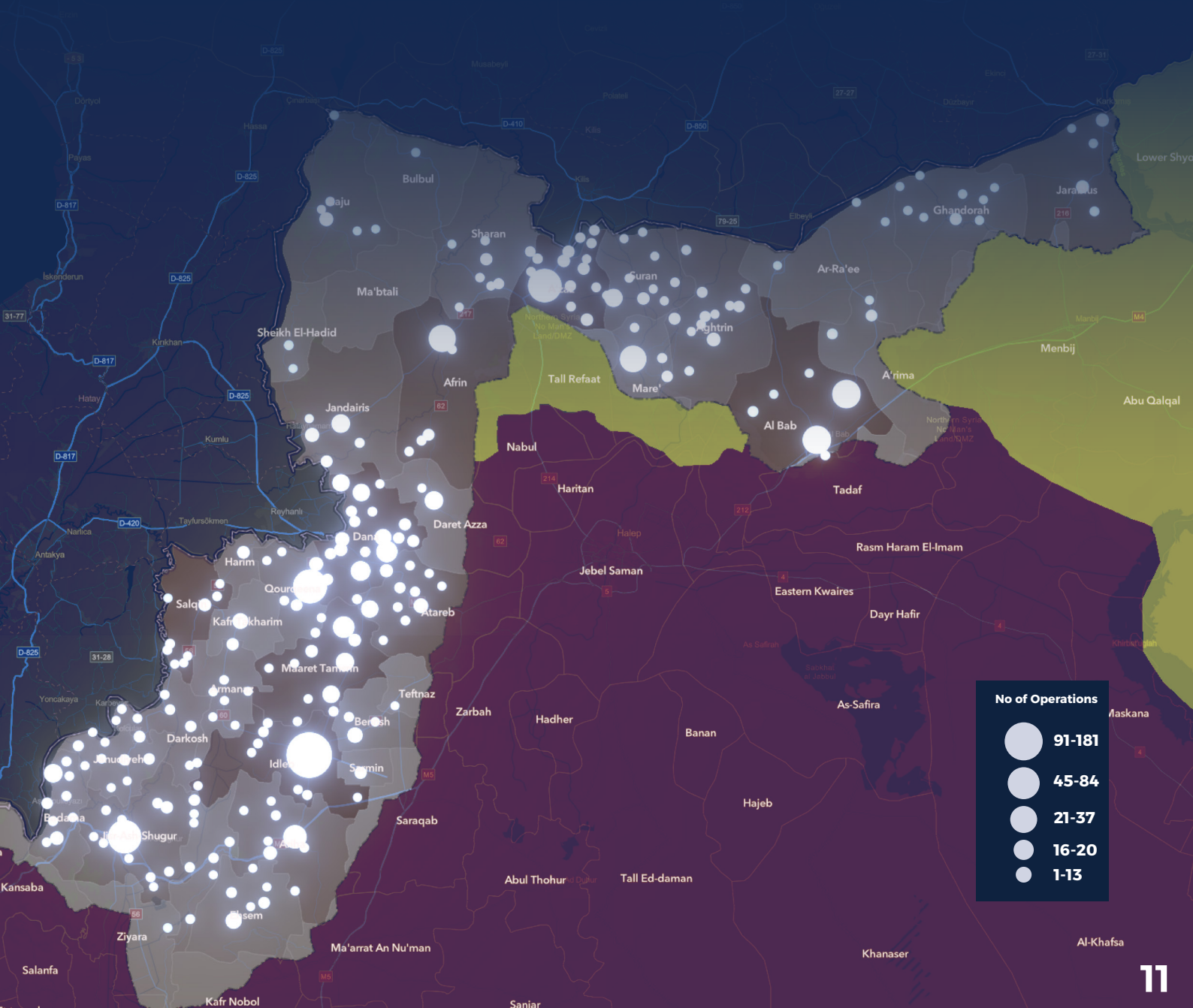
105

logistical and community services in 61 communities and 16 camps.



168

Map 2: Community resilience activities in August



No of Operations

- 91-181
- 45-84
- 21-37
- 16-20
- 1-13

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 3,300 meters of water networks and 5,050 meters of sewage systems in Al-Bab City.



Rehabilitation of 22 Schools.



Rehabilitation of five Women and Family Healthcare Centers and the Blood Bank in Azaz in Aleppo countryside.



Rehabilitation of roads from Sijer - Bqesemtoh to Al Fidaa Camp and from Kafruhin to Bishmaroun Camp.

Mine Action

Non-technical Survey Operations

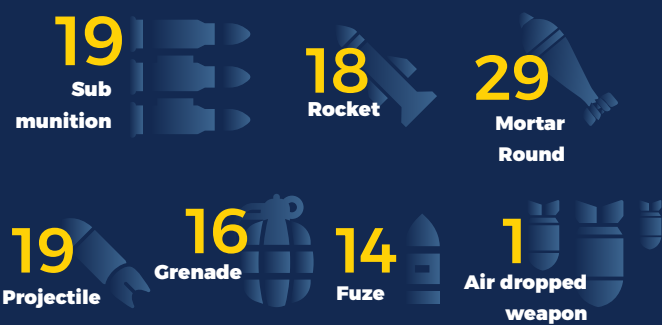
Non-technical survey operations contribute to the protection of civilians by identifying areas contaminated with unexploded ordnance. Non-technical survey teams work to identify the locations of ordnance in contaminated areas and inform final disposal teams of their locations, who carry out the final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

UXO clearance teams carried out 100 non-technical survey operations in 92 communities, confirming the presence of 57 areas contaminated with UXO. These areas included 37 within agricultural lands. In addition to urban areas (public squares and residential buildings), a factory, a forest 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 116 disposal operations of unexploded ordnance in 58 communities, during which they safely and successfully disposed of 116 unexploded ordnances. This count included 29 mortar rounds, 19 submunitions (cluster bombs), 19 projectiles, 18 rockets, 16 grenades, 14 fuzes, and an air-dropped weapon.

Infographic: Breakdown of the unexploded ordnance removed by type



Breakdown of UXO Removal by Location

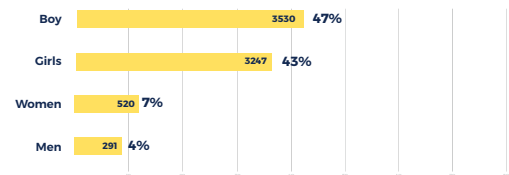
UXO removal operations included 73 operations in agricultural lands and 21 in homes. The operations also covered mountains, canals, factories, and educational facilities. The efforts of the survey and clearance teams enabled hundreds of farmers to safely return to their lands and resume their agricultural activities.

Mine Action Awareness Raising

Awareness-raising teams on the dangers of mines and unexploded ordnance carried out 409 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 7,588 people benefited from these awareness-raising activities, including 3,530 boys, and 3,247 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 182 sessions in schools, including schools inside the camps.

Figure 11: No. of the beneficiaries of the awareness activities led by the UXO teams





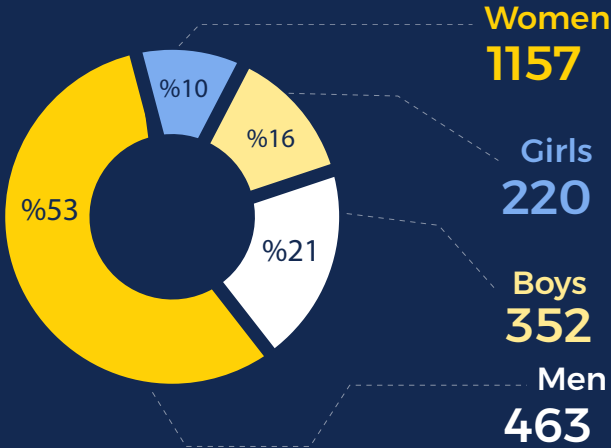
Section Four: Protection Program



Awareness Activities

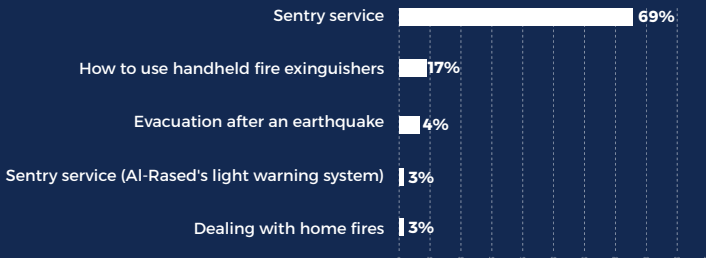
The protection program conducted 147 awareness sessions that were attended by 2,192 people, including 1,157 women, 352 boys, and 220 girls.

Figure 12: Number of beneficiaries of protection sessions by age and gender



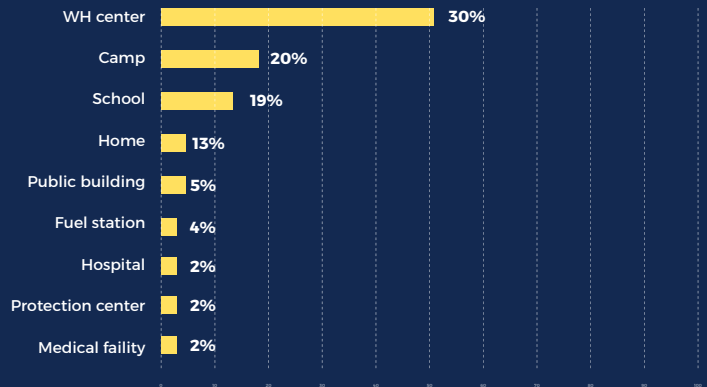
%69 of the activities were dedicated to raising awareness of the Sentry service. The awareness activities also covered several key topics, including the use of hand-held fire extinguishers, dealing with household fires, and safe evacuation after an earthquake.

Figure 13: Topics of awareness activities



The locations where the protection sessions varied to ensure the widest participation from all segments of society. %30 of the sessions were also held in White Helmets centers and Women and Family centers. While 20 % of the activities were directed to displaced people in their camps, the focus was on topics that are a priority within those camps. The locations also included civilian homes, schools, and fuel stations.

Figure 14: Protection activities according to the location of the activity



Section Four:
Advocacy
Activities



Direct advocacy and meetings

The Advocacy Department held 12 bilateral meetings, two of them were in person in Washington DC, including one with a member of the US Senate. We also met with USAID OTI to discuss participation of the White Helmets in OTI's 30th Anniversary Event in late October.

Campaigns

The eleventh anniversary of the chemical massacre in the Ghouta of Damascus

The White Helmets worked with Don't Suffocate the Truth to coordinate events to commemorate the chemical attacks in Ghouta. The Media Team organised a stand in Idlib city in solidarity with the families of the victims of the chemical attacks in Ghouta, Damascus; the team also arranged for the planting of seedlings with yellow flowers to be planted to commemorate the victims of the chemical massacre, a public mural in Idlib, and Don't Suffocate the Truth coordinated two exhibits of our art exhibition "We Remember, We Resist" in Austria and the Netherlands.



International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances August 30

The media team led activities to mark this international day with a stand and photo exhibition in the city of Azaz and a graffiti mural.



Reports

We partnered with civilian causality monitoring group Airwars to consolidate data on attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure in the wake of the 2023 earthquake. We responded to 1,245 attacks in the months following the earthquake, 80% of which were in areas that had experienced the most intense earthquake shocks in Syria. [Our new interactive map](#) overlays our responses with a heat map of earthquake intensity. The findings were presented in a joint article published in the [Explosive Weapons Monitor](#), reflecting on the importance of local first responders in tracking the civilian impact of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

Events

The White Helmets brought together 26 participants from 19 different States Parties to the OPCW at their offices in the Hague. The primary objective of the meeting was to strengthen relationships between the White Helmets and international representatives, with the aim of fostering long-term support for our advocacy efforts, and to mark the commemoration of the Ghouta chemical attacks. This included promoting justice and accountability, and ensuring the success of the next CSO CW Conference in November. During the meeting, we provided an overview of the White Helmets' work, focusing on our Justice and Accountability Program, while also showcasing key initiatives such as the interactive map of Syria and recent reports on chemical weapons attacks. The event offered a platform for open dialogue, where we explored potential collaboration, funding opportunities, and continued support from various states. Attendees expressed strong interest in our work, with several, including representatives from the U.S., Canada, Ireland, and Germany, offering concrete steps for future engagement, such as speaking opportunities, funding discussions, and increased cooperation. Feedback from the event was overwhelmingly positive, with attendees appreciating the informative presentations, the collaborative format, and the opportunity to connect in an engaging, welcoming environment.



One representative from the White Helmets attended a virtual panel at the AFS Youth Assembly on "World Humanitarian Need". The White Helmets discussed the situation in Syria and how emergency responses could be improved by supporting local organizations and enhancing the humanitarian system to be more effective in helping civilians worldwide. The AFS Youth Assembly is one of the world's largest youth events focused on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, with 20,000 Alumni from 160 countries.

Capacity building

The advocacy, communications and media volunteer roster received two virtual information sessions this month:

- Internal session with Abdulrahman Al-Mawas, Archive Manager: Colleague Abdul Rahman presented an information session about the Justice and Accountability Program, in which he discussed the mechanism for establishing the program, operation, methods for archiving and verifying data, and the general goal of the program. The session was attended by 12 volunteers from the roster.
- Session with Mariam Al-Jalabi, Board Member of the Syrian Women's Political Movement and Syrian Coalition's representative to the United Nations: Ms. Maram Al-Jalabi, spoke about the UN Security Council, working mechanism, member states, how it was established, and the decisions regarding the Syrian issue. It was followed by a lively discussion with the 20 participants.
- The advocacy team also organized a meeting for Board members to hear an analysis of normalization from Ivan Neilsen, a member of the White Helmets Advisory Board.

