



Snapshot

# HI intervention in Syria

Handicap International – Humanity & Inclusion





## HI committed to Syrians since 2012

Humanity & Inclusion (HI) has been a leading humanitarian actor in Syria for more than 13 years, responding to a wide range of needs across health, protection, and inclusion. HI places a particular focus on supporting persons with disabilities and people injured by violence and explosive ordnance (EO), providing physical rehabilitation, psychosocial support, and access to assistive technologies. In parallel, HI's expertise in humanitarian mine action (HMA), including risk education, clearance, victim assistance and advocacy, helps mitigate the daily threats posed by explosive ordnance and facilitates the safe return and recovery of affected







communities.

## Over 13 years of actions in Syria and neighboring countries

HI initially launched its response to the Syrian crisis in neighbouring countries, Lebanon and Jordan, in May 2012, and commenced operations inside Syria in November 2012. Subsequently, HI expanded its operations to include Syrian refugees in Iraqi Kurdistan in the summer of 2014.

Currently, HI provides **physical rehabilitation and psychosocial support** to people with disabilities or people who have been injured in the violence, including the provision of assistive devices and prosthetic and orthotic services. HI has extended psychosocial support to the caregivers of people with disabilities.

In addition, HI is providing **stimulation therapy** to malnourished children to prevent the long-term consequences of malnutrition.



The programme actively promotes the **inclusion** of people with disabilities in humanitarian relief efforts. Recently, HI started implementing **inclusive education** activities to promote the access to school for children with disabilities.

As part of HI's HMA activities, it also conducts **clearance operations** and delivers **risk education** awareness campaigns to protect civilians from the dangers of explosive remnants of war.



## The 2023 earthquake

Since the earthquake on February 6, 2023, HI has been providing assistance to victims and their families, focusing on post-surgery rehabilitation care and psychosocial support.

HI also started contributing to **disaster risks reduction** efforts through supporting communities and local partners to better prevent disasters, prepare for them, act in anticipation based on warnings, and adapt to climate change impacts, while leaving no one behind.

HI's intervention spans across main governorates of Central / Northwest Syria such as Rural Damascus, Homs, Hama, Aleppo, Idlib and of Northeast Syria such as Hassake, Raqqqa and Der-Ez-Zor.

## 2024 figures

- **51 154** beneficiaries of mental health
- **9 597** assistive devices distributed
- **134 871** beneficiaries of rehabilitation
- **16 532** m2 of shallow water cleared (Euphrates River)
- **488 716** m2 of land cleared



- **218** UXOs identified in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-Ezz-Zor Governorates
- **3** national hospitals

## Our intervention

### Multi-disciplinary Physical Rehabilitation

Provision of physiotherapy, prosthetics & orthotics, assistive devices and PSS to injured individuals and persons with disabilities, through HI partners and mobile teams working in fix points located in health facilities.

### Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

Individual and group support for trauma recovery, anxiety and psychosocial distress, with a focus on people with disabilities and caregivers.

### Protection

Inclusive case management of persons with disabilities and vulnerable persons among IPDs and host communities to overcome barriers to access humanitarian assistance.

### Inclusive Education in Emergencies (EiE)

Operational and technical partnerships with major EiE actors to support inclusion of children with disabilities in non-formal education.

### Humanitarian Mine Action: A Comprehensive Approach

In schools, IDP sites, and communities across Northeast Syria and Northwest Syria to reduce civilian exposure to explosive hazards; carrying out Explosive Ordnance Clearance (in Northeast Syria) to remove explosive ordnance from critical areas and infrastructure, including water channels; supporting Victim Assistance: identification and referral of victims of explosive ordnance to relevant services, including medical care, rehabilitation, mental health and psychosocial support and socio-economic inclusion.



## **Inclusive Humanitarian Action**

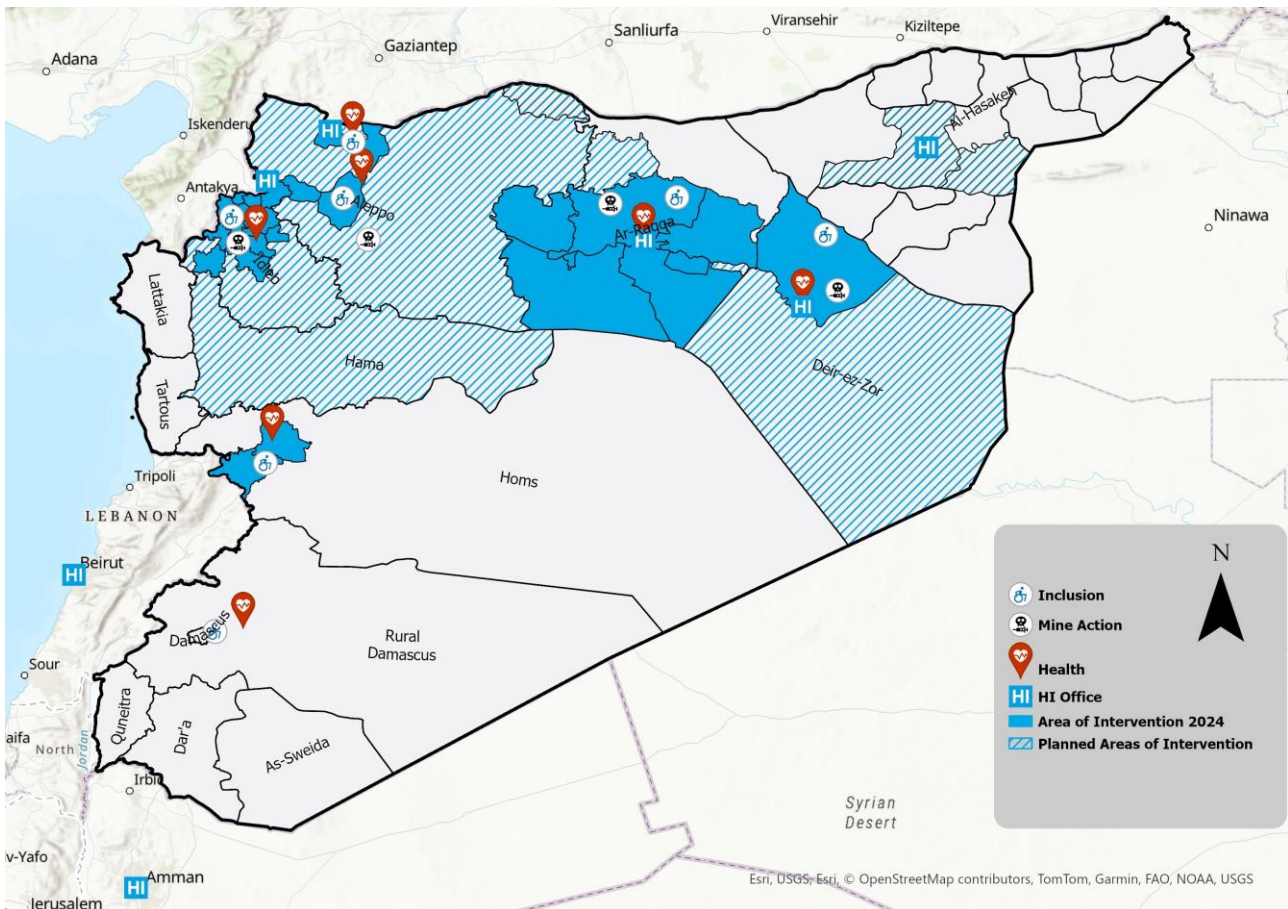
Training and technical support to humanitarian coordination mechanism and actors, including local stakeholders, to ensure their services are inclusive of persons with disabilities.

## **Advocacy**

HI conducts evidence-based advocacy to promote the rights of persons with disabilities, survivors of explosive ordnance, and returnees in Syria. Efforts focus on protecting civilians, ensuring inclusive access to humanitarian services, supporting safe and voluntary returns, and securing sustained humanitarian access in line with international humanitarian law and disability rights frameworks.

## **HI Partners**

As of 2025, HI collaborates with over 15 national and local partners across Syria. These partnerships cover a wide range of activities such as physical rehabilitation, psychosocial support, risk education, and contamination mapping. By working closely with health actors, mine action organizations, and local NGOs, HI ensures a comprehensive, community-based response that enhances the reach and impact of its humanitarian programs.



## HI Teams

Syria programme has 231 staff members (among which 20 international staff).

- Amman: 24 staff
- Atmah base: 74 staff
- Al Salama: 27 staff
- Raqqa: 78 staff
- Deir Ez-Zor: 13 staff
- Hassakeh: 9 staff
- Beirut: 6 staff



## About Handicap International – Humanity & Inclusion

HI is an independent international solidarity organisation that has been working for 40 years in situations of poverty and exclusion, conflict and disaster.

Working alongside people with disabilities and the vulnerable, it acts and advocates to meet their basic needs and improve their living conditions.

It is committed to promoting respect for their dignity and fundamental rights. Since its creation in 1982, HI has set up development programmes in more than 60 countries and intervenes in numerous emergency situations

The network of 8 national associations (Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States) works constantly to mobilise resources, co-manage projects and promote the principles and actions of the organisation

HI is one of the six founding organisations of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), co-winner of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize and winner of the 2011 Conrad N. Hilton Award.

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### Credits of photo:

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Photo 2: View of a destroyed street in a city in Idlib governorate © A. Misseri / HI

Photo 3: Unexploded ordnance in Idlib governorate © A. Misseri / HI

