

# **Local Development**

A monthly newsletter issued by Local Development Organization (LDO)

highlighting the news and activities of local councils and civil society organizations in Syria

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# Displaced numbers and their needs.



Mid March has witnessed a strong storm in northern Syria that had a negative impact on the Syrian-Turkish border camps and their residents, as more than 19 camps were affected by this storm, causing more than 983 families to be affected, dozens of families were displaced within the camps, and homelessness was lacking for some families In full, mentioning that the numbers of the displaced during the last military campaign from November 2019 to March 2020 reached more than one million people, distributed as follows: 387,673 in random and regular camps and 210,640 distributed in safe villages and towns, 108,556 in the open and under trees and it is no secret to anyone The tragic situation of the displaced people, especially those who did not find a place to shelter them and remained under the trees, even for the displaced people in the camps, they need many basic needs such as health, education, warmth and drinking water.

# Coronavirus prevention measures

The most important actions taken by public authorities in northern Syria to prevent Coronavirus

The directorates of education suspended • the work of schools and educational facilities in the liberated areas, starting from 15/3/2020 until 28/3/2020 to prevent the .spread of the virus

The Syrian interim government announced • that the transit movement of people and goods in a number of crossings in northern Syria has been completely closed for fifteen days, as part of the precautionary measures .for the spread of the Corona virus

The Aleppo Health Directorate, in coopera- • tion with the local councils, distributed leaf.lets to the people to prevent corona virus
The Ministry of Health of the Syrian inter- •
im government announced its intention to
take a precautionary measures package



The Ministry of Health of the Syrian interim. government announced its intention to take a precautionary measures package against Cornavirus, the most important of which is to work on preparing 3 isolation units for severe infections and each unit can accommodate 20 beds, in addition to 28 community hospital units for light cases in Darat Azza and .Salgin in rural Idleb and the city of Al-Bab The Ministry of Health announced, in coop- • eration with the Support Coordination Unit, that they will equip an early warning network laboratory with the necessary equipment to confirm infections and provide health guidelines for the prevention of this dangerous virus in Idleb city. The Ministry will also set up a tent to detect and investigate suspected cases of each of the crossings-border, and also training a group of medical cadres, in cooperation with the Turkish Ministry of Health, to conduct laboratory analyzes for detecting the Corona virus, and the training .course will be in the capital, Ankara

The Syrian Civil Defense launched a cam- paign to sterilize schools and educational facilities in the Syrian north, which started in the city of Afrin, where 262 schools were sterilized

# Local councils and organizations in Aleppo province updates

#### Al-bab Area

#### Al-bab local council

- The local council announced a sealed envelope tender for building rooms and a warehouse for the local council's bakery according to certain conditions.
- Gaziantep University announced that YÖS exams will be conducted for students wishing to enroll
  in the colleges and institutes in northern Syria.
- The Council's Health Directorate, in cooperation with the EWARN, held an awareness session at the Cultural Center on the Coronavirus, its symptoms, methods of spread, and ways to prevent it.
- The local council launched a project to maintain the water network in the city, and it also requested all who know the places of faults in the water networks to submit an application in the municipality to make the necessary reforms.
- The local council announced the launch of an auction for the transportation directorate cafeteria, according to specific conditions.
- The Chamber of Commerce and Industry announced the opening of registration for merchants and industrialists who wish to obtain express passage to enter Turkey, according to certain conditions.
- The local council asked the investors of the new and non-verified stores in Al-Hal market to review the council, taking with them the personal identity issued by the local councils to confirm their contracts.



### Bazagha local council

- The local council carried out sterilization work for mosques, schools, health centers, official departments and gathering places in both the city and the countryside to avoid any communicable diseases.
- The Directorate of Municipal Services, in cooperation with the Local Development Office, has finished the works of building the first roof of the clothing market in Bazagha.
- The local council, in cooperation with the Turkish Health Directorate, conducted a medical survey of all schools in the city and its countryside.
- The Directorate of Municipal Services prepared the well in Al-Sukkariya Al-Kabira
   School to ensure the school needs water.
- The Directorate of Municipal Services maintained a sewage line in Al-Faruq neighborhood.
- The Directorate of Municipal Services worked to clean the gardens and pour excavations on the main roads of the city.





#### Azaz Area

### **Azaz local council**

- The service office has completed its work in the new Al-Hal market, to move the market from inside the city to alleviate the burden of crowding in the city center.
- The service office worked on setting the last points to equip a garden in the city that includes population density, lack of space for children, and the urgent need for it.
- Gaziantep University held a lecture for high school students on YÖS exam.
- The local council paved some of the city's roads with interlock stone.

#### Akhtrein local council

- The internal clinics department in Akhtrein was launched with the support of the Trust Fund for the Reconstruction of Syria, the implementation of the Aleppo Free Health Directorate and the operation of the SRD for this section.
- The local council of Akhtrein, in cooperation with Kills state, has repaired and paved Arshav-Dabiq Al-Sharqi road.
- The local council announced a call for quotations for purchasing an agricultural tractor and a drinking water tank with a pump and a requested to secure a number of documents for the applicants.
- The local council, in cooperation with Ahl Houran Association, worked to vaccinate sheep in Al-Barwazah town for breeders benefiting from the feed project.
- The Euphrates Association conducted a medical survey in Qabthan camp in cooperation with the local council, where 157 cases were examined.



**Suran local council:** The local council signed a memorandum of understanding with the Local Development and Support Office for Small Projects to establish a bazaar with an area of 1000 m<sup>2</sup> in the city, to be completed within a period of three months from the date of signing.

- Some members of the local council conducted a field visit of the six municipalities of Suran
   City Council to monitor the progress of work in them and find out the most important needs
   to serve the residents of the region.
- The studies office for project affairs in the local council conducted a training course for the financial offices of the six municipalities of the council on the basics of financial documents and the documentation mechanism.
- The local council, in cooperation with Kilis state, installed an ATM in the city.
- The civil register department in Souran City called on the residents of the city, especially
  the displaced, to review the department to confirm their data and extract ID cards for its importance in reviewing all public and official departments.
- The local council carried out regular maintenance of the Southern Road in the city for freight cars.
- ACTED, in cooperation with the local council, rehabilitated the sidewalks in the city.

**Ar-Ra'ee local council:** The local council started maintaining and repairing the grain silos in the city, work began with the restoration of holes and maintenance of electricity and the placing of insulation materials around the silos and lighting devices were distributed, in addition to checking other equipment such as motors and sensors for the insulation mechanism.

- The local council asked the people to take care and caution against using energy illegally to avoid exposure to human and material losses.
- The maintenance teams of the Electricity and Power Company Ak\_energy, in cooperation
  with the maintenance team of the Electricity Services Office in the council, installed meters
  for distribution panels in the city.
- The local sports office has invited male and female teachers to participate in the chess tournament where prizes will be awarded to the winners.
- Under the chairmanship of the Director of the Education Office in the City, the regular meeting of school principals was held in the Directorate. The meeting discussed several issues of interest to the educational process and ways to enhance them, as well as guidance reports to evaluate the educational process during the second semester.

#### Jarablus local council

- · The Local Council signed with the International Humanitarian Relief Organization (IHR) an agreement and a memorandum of understanding to implement the project of installing a solar powered water pumping station, extending water pipes to irrigate an area of 600 dunums of agricultural land, and distributing agricultural inputs to summer crops using vouchers, in addition to monthly indicative visits in order to follow up the implementation and provide the necessary technical information and training in the methods of food processing for a number of women theoretically and practically, distributing baskets appropriate to the needs of that manufacture, and distributing feed for livestock for 2,000 sheep and 100 cows for a period of four months.
- The health office in the council provided the crossing between the Euphrates Shield area and the areas of SDF and the regime with a medical staff to ensure the safety of those coming from the mentioned areas of Corona in order not to spread this epidemic in the liberated areas.
- Electrical equipment provided by the credit fund of the Syrian interim government arrived for the restoration and supply of

the electricity network in Jarablus.

- Ak Energy Electric Company has toured the city in order to start implementing the project to provide the city and the countryside with electricity.
- The Directorate of Endowments in Jarablus held a recruitment competition to hire imams, preachers, and Qur'an teachers in Jarablus countryside.
- The local council implemented a project to replace and divert the sewage network path in Al-Furn Street in Jarablus city.
- The Council's Technical Services Office swept and cleaned the city's streets from the dust pools caused by the rain, and announced that these actions will continue extensively to cover all streets in the various neighborhoods of the city, in addition to repairing emollients, repairing the sewage network in the city and camps, and completing the construction of sidewalks. Maintenance of the water network.
- The technical services office of the local council repaired the main roads in Jarablus countryside.



#### Afrin local council

- The local council of Afrin announced the suspension of school hours within the city's schools and its villages, as of Sunday, March 15, 2020, until Thursday, March 26, 2020.
- The Health Office of the Council, in cooperation with Hatay State Health Directorate, held a symposium to raise awareness of coronavirus and ways to prevent it for doctors in public and private hospitals and the directors of medical organizations operating in the Afrin, where it was held at Afrin National Hospital.
- The heads of the local councils of Olive Branch area and the executing company to deliver the electrical current signed an agreement to distribute electricity on the internal network as a second stage after completing the stage of supplying the main network from Hatay to the electrical station, provided that the work begins immediately during the second month and ends during July.
- The Chamber of Agriculture in Afrin held a meeting with the Directorate of Agriculture in Hatay, in the presence of the directors of agricultural offices in the local councils of Afrin and a number of beekeepers, with the aim of providing appropriate support to them, identifying problems and obstacles facing their work and finding appropriate solutions to

them.

- The Social Service Center in the local council continues, in coordination with IHH, to provide services for the injured, as artificial limbs have been installed for new cases, after taking the appropriate measurements and training them to acquire the necessary skill to deal with the prosthesis.
- The Faculty of Education at Gaziantep University announced the opening of a second center for YÖS exam registration for the year 2020 in the building of the Directorate of Education and the General Education Center in Afrin.
- The administration of the School of Industry held a ceremony for 25 students and 3 teachers to memorize the Holy Qur'an, under the auspices of the Directorate of Education in the local council.
- The agricultural office of the local council, with the support of Ahl Horan Association, completed the distribution of concentrated feed material for livestock keepers in Afrin who have small holdings. The vaccine process to vaccinate livestock against interoxemia was also started in the framework of livestock support.

#### **Atareb Area**

#### Atareb local council

- The local council issued a statement requesting "Yoder" organization to reactivate the medical point that was present in the city and that was providing services to more than ten thousand families due to the urgent need for it because of the lack of a medical point.
- The local council issued a statement calling for ending the work of the Syrian Red Crescent in the liberated areas due to the excesses it had undertaken and its role in assisting the regime's in the recent military campaign in the area.
- The local council in the city reactivated the work of Manhal Water in the extension unit to provide safe drinking water for the people of the city.
- The local council of the city opened the blocked roads as a result of the bombing of the city by the regime and Russian forces.



### Jebel Saman Area

#### Daret Azza local council

- The local council issued a statement refusing to deal with the Syrian Red Crescent and demanding that it stop its work in the liberated areas due to its departure from the scope of humanitarian work and helping the regime with its recent military campaign in the region.
- The local council continued to provide hygiene work in the city, as service staff cleaned the streets on a daily basis.

#### Abin Samaan local council

- The service office of the local council resumed its activities in the town after a period of delay due to the security conditions in the area.
- The local council signed a memorandum of understanding with SRD organization for the partially damaged homes repair project. The agreement included the availability of certain conditions for each home and owner, where the vulnerability criteria must be met for the indigenous people and the displaced persons, as the home owner must agree to housing them for a period of at least six months after the restoration. The local council issued a statement calling for ending the work with the Syrian Red Crescent for its role in the military operation and assisting the regime in its war against civilians.

# Local councils and organizations in Idleb province updates

#### City center area

### Idleb city local council

Violet Organization, in cooperation with Idleb City Council, announced the establishment of vocational training courses in food and confectionery and pastry production (for women) and solar energy maintenance (for young people).

#### Bennsh local council

- The Local Council requested from sheep breeders to review of the Agricultural Office in order to benefit from the sheep poisoning vaccine provided by IYD team as of 3/14/2020.
- The local council worked to repair the damage to the sewage line at Ghassan Shuaib School.
- The Local Council repaired public roads.
- The local council issued a statement refusing to deal with the Syrian Red Crescent and demanding that it stop its work in the liberated areas due to its departure from the scope of humanitarian work and support of the regime in its recent military campaign.
- Qabas organization conducted a free compensatory education course for primary school students from first grade to sixth grade in Othman bin Affan School.

#### Hazano local council

- The local council signed a memorandum of understanding with Shafak organization, in order to repair the houses.
- The agricultural office of the local council, in cooperation with Cham Humanitarian Foundation, announced the registration for the agricultural grant within the series of wheat cultivation support for 2020.
- Darna Organization announced the opening of a "youth club" that includes many social, training and psychological activities that are offered free of charge to young men and women.



#### Harim local council

- The local council issued a statement refusing to deal with the Syrian Red Crescent and demanding that it stop its work in the liberated areas due to its departure from the scope of humanitarian work and help the regime with its recent military campaign in the region.
- The local council, in cooperation with the civil defense, dug a main sewer on the main street of the city.
- The local council issued a circular calling on the people to adhere to the deadlines for throwing garbage, putting them in bags and throwing them inside the containers and barrels distributed in order to avoid the spread of diseases and epidemics.

#### Sarmada local council

- The local council issued a statement refusing to deal with the Syrian Red Crescent and demanding that it stop its work in the liberated areas due to its departure from the scope of humanitarian work and help the regime with its recent military campaign in the region.
- Sham Children Hospital announced the opening of routine vaccination sessions on Sunday and Monday every week for all children from one day to five years old.
- The local council issued a circular in which the families demanded to put garbage in nylon bags and take it out to the places designated for them at night before the cleaning team passes and a commitment to pay the cleaning fee to continue working.



#### Azmarin local council

- The local council announced that the price of bread-pack will be approved at 250 SP and that
  the bread will be purchased exclusively from the authorized persons in the town and will not be
  sold from the bakery to the people.
- The technical and service office of the council repaired the sub-water line in Alhara neighborhood after a complaint was received about the leak.
- The local council issued a statement refusing to deal with the Syrian Red Crescent and demanding the suspension of its work in the area due to its role in assisting the regime with the recent military campaign in Idleb.
- The local council published the names of the children who left behind the vaccine and asked their families to take them to Azmarin Medical Center to give them the necessary vaccinations.
- The Civil Defense has established an office in Azmarin and announced that work will be done
  on traffic accidents, ambulances and emergency cases in the town and its environs over a period
  of 24 hours.
- During the previous displacement crisis, the local council continued to communicate with organizations and provide them numbers and names of families displaced to the town in order to obtain support for them.



#### Kafr Takharim local council

- The local council issued a decision to suspend working hours in public and private schools as of 15/3/2020 in order to ensure the safety of students and educational staff from the Coronavirus.
- Hurras Network has announced its desire to hold community-based youth development training to develop the capacity of young people to be active in society, and has asked young men and women to register their names.
- The local council issued a statement refusing to deal with the Syrian Red Crescent and demanding that it stop its work in the liberated areas due to its departure from the scope of humanitarian work and help the regime with its recent military campaign in the region.
- The local council announced the registration for vocational training courses as part of a learning and initiation project conducted by Violet in cooperation with the local council. The courses include the food industry, the manufacture of sweets and pastries for females, and beekeeping for males, while encouraging women with special needs.
- The local council in the city took a joint initiative with Hurras network, civil defense and other community organizations to help the displaced, including paving the streets of several camps in the city, lighting them with solar energy, and distributing food baskets.

#### Dana local council

- The local council, with the support of Bina Organization, started pumping water to the city's districts starting on Sunday 23/2/2019, after the organization implemented a water project in the city, which included expanding the network with installments of different Diameters.
- With the aim of working to deliver water to all parts of the city, the local council launched an initiative to facilitate its access and reduce costs, as it was agreed with a group of tankers to deliver water to areas that do not reach water at a low cost, only on Friday.
- The local council continued school curriculum printing in the city due to the shortage of school-books.
- The local council worked on cleaning the sewage in Deir Hassan Street area after completing the cleaning of the sewage in Alkahraba' Street area.
- Mercy Without Limits has announced that registration for accelerated education has been opened for children between the ages of 8-18 who have been out of school for more than two years in order to allow them to complete their educational levels.



### Jisr-Ash-Shugur local council

- Kherbet EljozHealth Care Center was opened in Baraka Hospital, and includes a pediatric clinic, a gynecological clinic, an internal clinic and a general one.
- The local council, in cooperation with the Social Coast Forum, distributed cash and three firewood bags to the displaced people from Ma`rat An-Numan, Saraqib and Jabal al-Zawiya.
- The local council, in cooperation with Ataa Charity, distributed clothes and blankets to those displaced from Ma`rat An-Numan, Saraqib and Jabal al-Zawiya.



## News of councils and organizations in Tell-Abiad and Ras Al Ain.

#### Tell-Abjad area

- The local council issued a decleration to close schools in the region, starting on Sunday 3/15/2020, in order to ensure the safety of students and teachers from the spread of Coronavirus.
- The local council announced its desire to hire a number of mukhtars in Tell-Abiad and its countryside (Saluk and Ain Issa) and their countryside, and requested those who find themselves competent to review the local council as of Thursday 12/03/2020.
- The office of Agriculture and Livestock of the local council in the Tell-Abiad region, in cooperation with the Directorate of Agriculture in Sanliurfa, launched a campaign to vaccinate livestock in the region, and about 3,500 sheep were vaccinated.
- The local council asked the people not to use electricity except for the necessary cases, to turn off the devices and electric lamps during the day and not to use agricultural generators so that the council could serve as many houses as possible and announced the imposition of financial fines on everyone operating the generators for irrigation for the first time and in case of repetition a fine will be imposed and cut The electric current.

- The health office announced that all vaccines are available for children from one day to five years of age at the vaccine center.
- The Director of Endowments of the local council and the Turkish Endowments Committee conducted interviews for more than 250 applicants for the positions of Qur'an teacher, preacher and imam of the mosque in the Ali bin Abi Talib mosque in Tell-Abiad.
- The Education Office of the Local Council announced a free Turkish language course.
- The water office of the local council fixed the breakdown near Al-Alam roundabout in the city.



#### Ras Al Ain

- The local council of Ras Al-Ain decided to close schools across the region from Sunday 2020.03 in order to ensure the safety of students and teachers from infectious Coronavirus.
- The Directorate of Family and Social Services started conducting a social survey in the countryside of Ras Al-Ain, within the program of the Directorate documenting people with special needs and widows and identifying their needs.
- The Directorate of Hygiene continued to maintain the old roads in the neighborhoods of Ras Al-Ain city to facilitate its initial traffic.
- The WASH Directorate repaired the sewage line in the eastern neighborhood after its sudden landing.
- The cleanliness directorate of the local council broke the platforms built by PYD in order to expand roads and facilitate traffic in the city's streets.
- The Directorate of Hygiene continues to collect garbage from residential neighborhoods to preserve public health.
- IHH has opened "Abu Bakr Al Siddiq Center for Teaching Qur'an" in Ras Al-Ain in the presence of the organization's official in southeastern Turkey.
- · The Sports and Youth Directorate at the

- local council announced that it has received requests from sports teams, both rural and city, to launch a football league.
- The Education Directorate of the Local Council carried out an entertainment program for students of Al-Afaf School, which included an entertainment movie for children.
- The Hygiene Directorate, in cooperation with the Services Directorate, restored the secondary roads in the city.
- The water directorate has repaired the Alsijin neighborhood water line to provide water in the eastern neighborhood.
- The Education Directorate of the Local Council announced the opening of a special kindergarten for children in Al-Corniche Street.





# Associations operating in northern Syria

### Free Bar Association (Aleppo Branch)

- The free Bar Council met in Aleppo on Thursday 12 March at Adliya headquarters in Azaz city, and the branch board presented a working paper related to the judicial work in judiciary and law, and discussed ways to develop this work in these areas, and mechanisms for deepening joint cooperation with the judiciary in a way that serves justice and Achieves stability.
- The Free Bar Association Council in Aleppo held an extraordinary session at the branch board headquarters in Azaz and emphasized the necessity of activating the text of Article (78) of the law regulating the legal profession in force in the courts of liberated areas, which is the article related to the immunity of the lawyer and the inadmissibility of inspection while practicing his work as a lawyer, and the necessity to conduct the official correspondence required to implement this text effectively, the Council also collectively reviewed the mechanisms that must be followed by law to assist all free Syrian lawyers who were displaced from their homes due to the recent attacks carried out by the regime and Russia.
- The Council of the Free Bar Association branch in Aleppo established in cooperation with the organization "Bridges of International Justice" a round table in the council headquarters in Azaz, entitled (Corrective Measures for Delinquent Juveniles) where the meeting discussed the legal crimes committed by the Ba'ath party regime since it assumed power in Syria right Minors and the deliberate negligence of the rights of delinquent juveniles, the workshop ended with the development of outputs, mechanisms and methods for protecting this particular category of Syrian society.



# The Association of Free Syrian Engineers (Aleppo Branch)

- With the efforts of the emergency committee in Aleppo branch and with personal support from some engineers and with the assistance of Balad Organization, a temporary shelter center was opened in Azaz for engineers and their families, where ten families were accommodated in the first stage and the committee seeks to secure the necessary support to equip the basement to accommodate about a dozen other families.
- The Association branch in Aleppo has formed an emergency committee to assist engineers and their families who have been displaced, and to collect and secure in-kind and financial assistance and provide them.
- The Free Syrian Engineers Association Aleppo branch attended a workshop "the voice of the local community in the constitution" held by the Stabilization Committee in the presence of the joint head of the Syrian Constitutional Committee Hadi al-Bahra and members of the National Coalition for the Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces in which they talked about the recent situation in Idlib and its impact On the constitutional process, and on the most important political tracks in Syria and UN Resolution 2254, leading to the formation of the Constitutional Committee and how to involve unions through steps that have been agreed upon and will be implemented later.



### **Local Development Organization**

### Women's Voice project

local development organization "LDO", in cooperation with the Women and Child Rehabilitation Center in Kafr Takharim, carried out the following works, training and workshops:

- ☐ Opening of a case management and psychological support office for women and children.
- ☐ Establishing a Diwan titled "New Arrivals and Ways to Reduce Their Pain" and the other titled "Organizations Operating in Kafr Takharim and the Mechanism for Working Coordination".
- ☐ Holding several training courses with the following addresses: First aid course Cyber security course in cooperation with "Salamtak" team Human resources course Physical therapy principles course Data entry course Advocacy course English language course for beginners TOT training course.
- Organizing two recreational activities for the children in Al-amir Al-Saghir Kindergarten (for orphans) entitled "Together to stop their suffering", and the second in the public Kindergarten (for orphans).
- On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Women and Child Rehabilitation Center in Kafr Takharim, in cooperation with the Local Development Organization (LDO), celebrated International Women's Day entitled (I see your voice's echo).





### Future of Local Administration and Governance in Syria

LDO organization continued capacity-building courses for staff and volunteers through follow-up training on mechanisms for partnerships and grants, and the fourth workshop was held to assess success experiences in governance for local councils in neighboring countries. The topic of the workshop was assessing how to benefit from the Turkish experience. Documentary videos on the local councils 'work experiences in the liberated areas were also published.

In cooperation with LACU and the Ministry of Local Administration and Services of the Interm Governance, the organization also participated in several workshops on developing regulations and regulations for local councils.

The CEO of the Local Development Organization (LDO) participated in a workshop on "developing the map for decentralization in Syria". From 2nd to 4th March 2020, at Imran Center for Studies in Istanbul.

# Information about local administration in Syria

Types of Oversight Systems on local councils

### 1. Current Budget:

It is part of the state's general budget, allocating its funds to cover salaries, wages, production requirements, transfer expenditures, and payment of debts and obligations.

#### 2. Investment Budget:

It is part of the state's general budget allocating its funds for the implementation of investment projects (building schools - hospitals - health centers - social care centers - sports facilities - cultural centers

#### 3. Independent Budget:

It is the budget that is applied in the local domain, revenue and expenditure and is considered a budget for the implementation of services and infrastructure and is prepared by the local council and approves and conducts adjustments and transfers related to it by the council so that service projects are chosen according to priority and according to the goals of the council and the responsibility for approving projects and following up their implementation by the elected and who they represent all the locals.



# Women worked in public affairs



#### Mrs. Nada Al-Farra

Born in Hama 1965 and studied in Hama schools, then Damascus. Then studied and graduated from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Department of English Language / University of Damascus.

After graduation and marriage, she moved to live in France and there she started volunteering and helping others as she was teaching Arabic language for children and women. She founded with a group of Arab and French Muslim women a civil society organization concerned with Muslim women's affairs in France called "Afifa" and published a magazine with the same name. Then, after 1992 Bosnian War, she went through the first experience in the field of relief by collecting medicines and clothes and sending them to the affected people. The experience of living in France contributed to its acquisition of many skills and knowledge. In addition to learning the French language, the experience was rich in knowledge about other peoples and about the acceptance of the other who is different in its culture and customs.

Then she moved to Saudi Arabia in 1995 and worked in teaching, and this noble profession was a reason for embedding her mission in life through caring for man and not only performing an obligation. And she did not stop during this period of volunteer work, as she had initiatives with a group of women through the activities of children, adolescents, and women. This continued to the Syrian Revolution in 2011, which led to the great coup in her life.

She started with a group of women doing bazaars and charity parties to collect donations and send them to help the Syrians in facing the suppression and terror of the regime in Syria. Then she moved to the stage of organizing women's work and focusing on specialization and established with a group of activists women "the Syrian Women Association in Saudi Arabia" in 2012, which carried out many activities and events to introduce society to the great role that Syrian women played in the revolution and provide support to refugees and displaced people. Then she moved to Turkey in 2017 and became fully involved in civil society organizations. She worked in the Syrian Women's Association SWA and is still a member of its board of directors.

She participated in the founding of the Syrian Humanitarian Women Network in 2017 and contributed to her joining the SNL, which is currently the chair of the Syrian Humanitarian Women Network.

She participated twice in the Civil Society Support Room in Geneva 2018 and 2020 and contributed with the rest of the participants to developing a clear structure and good governance of the room.

She also participated in many conferences in Turkey and abroad that deal with the empowerment of women, their leadership role and their access to decision-making positions.

Mrs. Nada always strives to fulfill her dream of seeing Syrian women in leadership positions as befits her and enhances her participation in decision-making in her country to build Syria again.



# Meeting of the Issue



The Local Development Organization held a meeting with Mr. Hassan Al-Muhammad, general director of the General Organization for Grain, and the following dialogue took place

Mr. Ma'an, welcome. It would be nice if we got to know more about you. What is your profession and the beginning of your work after the revolution?

Hassan Al-Muhammad from Ar-Raqqa, Tell-Abiad district an agricultural engineer graduated from Aleppo University in 1998.

I worked for the General Organization for Grain Trade and Processing, at Ar-Raqqa branch, from 1998 until 2012

When liberating Tell-Abiad area, I worked with a group of revolutionaries to form the first local council in Tell-Abiad and I was responsible for the Agriculture and Grains Office in it.

I worked with the Syrian Interim Government at the Ministry of Finance and Economy, then the Provisional Government created the General Grains Organization and was appointed as its director.

### What the General Organization for Grain was established and what is the aim?

It was established Resolution No. 16 of 15/5/2014 and it is a public institution that has financial and administrative independence of an economic and service nature through the reactivation of the grain centers in all their facilities from silos, warehouses, buildings, mills, public bakeries and other equipment.

#### The aim of its establishment was:

- Re-activating public institutions and companies working in wheat and its derivatives such as flour and bread in the liberated areas, returning workers to their jobs and benefiting from their experiences this field.
- Encouraging producers to continue growing wheat by purchasing wheat from them at reasonable prices.
- 3. Re-activating the mills and installing new ones to secure flour for public and private bakeries in

# What are the most important activities that the organization has carried out since its inception until today?

The works carried out by the Foundation since its foundation until today:

- 1. Purchasing local wheat from farmers from 2014 until 2019 and the quantity was 125,605 tons of hard and soft wheat.
- 2. Receiving wheat imported from the International Fund for Reconstruction of Syria within 4 years, amounting to 58,700 tons.
- 3. Producing a quantity of 125,000 tons of flour in our mills and distributing them to private and public bakeries at a fixed price of 45%.
- 4. Receiving 5,510,000 sackcloth bags and distributing it to farmers for packing wheat in Aleppo Idleb Daraa.
- 5. Receiving a quantity of 35,000 tons of Turkish flour from the Turkish delegation in cooperation with the Turkish Red Crescent and distributing it to public and private ovens in the liberated areas in Aleppo, Hama, Lattakia and Idleb during the 2016 and 2017.
- 6. Receiving 12 fixed and mobile mills from the Trust Fund and GIZ in Aleppo Idleb Daraa and three fixed mills are operating now in Bazaa Azaz Ain Al Beida and two mobile ones in both Al Ghandoura and Qabasin.





- 7. Receiving wheat sheets  $24 \times 16$  m  $24 \times 16$  m and nylon sheets  $48 \times 9$  m for a quantity of 700 stacks.
- 8. Receiving laboratories and warehouse equipment (extinguishing devices computers flour bags bread bags mills replacement parts Internet industrial security clothing).
- 9. Receiving (motorcycles forklifts grain conveyor belts) in Aleppo branch.

What is the relationship of the institution with the Syrian interim government and local councils, and what are the most important challenges?

The General Grain Corporation belongs to the Interim Government and the Ministry of Finance and Economy and works in full coordination with the local councils in terms of supervision or distribution of bread and the distribution of flour to ovens managed by local councils

As for the most important difficulties that we face are the weakness and lack of funding to buy local wheat especially in the areas of Tell Abiad and Ras Al-Ain, where the production of these areas of wheat reaches 300 thousand tons, and these require large amounts of money. The government and the institution are unable to secure them.

Thank you, Mr. Hassan, for giving us this time, and we wish you all the best of luck.

### **Statistics**

Below are statistics on the numbers of displaced people and the human and material losses since the beginning of the military operation in November 2019 until the ceasefire on the sixth of March 2020.

The number of displaced during this period of individuals reached 1,041,233, while the number of families was 185,672, including 261,443 women and 562,126 children.



**IDPs** 

The number of casualties during the period from the beginning of the military operation in November 2019 until the ceasefire on the sixth of March 2020 was 381 men, 91 women, 212 children, 17 humanitarian workers.



Victims

The number of damaged Facilities and infrastructure during the military campaign:

20 shelters, 88 educational facilities, 32 health facilities, 8 ambulances, 9 civil defense centers, 14 bakeries, 31 places of worship, 23 other facilities.



Facilities and infrastructure





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