

ACTION FOR HUMANITY STATEMENT ON THE BORDER SITUATION IN NORTHWEST SYRIA

The continuation of UN-led cross-border assistance through the Bab al Hawa crossing, as per the Syria-UN agreement, has been confirmed.

Action For Humanity is deeply concerned about the potential consequences of withdrawing the reassurance and security that the Security Council's authorisation offered. This will almost certainly impact the operational efficiency of humanitarian agencies, particularly Syrian NGOs.

As the agreement approaches its February 2024 expiry, coinciding with the winter peak, apprehensions grow about effectively addressing escalated humanitarian needs. Extending the agreement for only six months presents challenges in terms of staffing, supplies, and service delivery. While two additional crossings have been introduced, primarily for earthquake response, their inclusion offers limited reassurance. It is crucial for the UN to engage all stakeholders to ensure an unbiased and responsive humanitarian approach in northwest Syria.

We strongly endorse a 12-month Security Council authorisation to enable long-term and flexible funding to support growing humanitarian needs. The Security Council's responsibility to safeguard Syrians' access to vital assistance remains of utmost importance.

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