



DEMARC

DIASPORA
EMERGENCY ACTION
& COORDINATION

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PRESS RELEASE

DEMARC receives grant for enhancing Syrian diaspora-led earthquake response in Northwest Syria

Copenhagen - The Diaspora Emergency Action & Coordination initiative (DEMARC) has been awarded an activation fund by the H2H Network to support Syrian-led operational response. As part of this effort, DEMARC will deploy a Liaison Officer in Gaziantep to access, collect, and manage data for more coordinated humanitarian assistance.

The activation fund, which has been granted until August 2023, will be implemented in partnership with the Syrian NGO Alliance (SNA). The SNA is a coalition of 22 local Syrian NGOs and diaspora organizations that currently deliver most of the aid in Northwest Syria. The DEMARC Liaison Officer will be based in the SNA office in Gaziantep, Türkiye, and support SNA operations through enhancing data collection and information management of the Syrian-led humanitarian response. The focus will be on hard-to-reach areas, the impact of earthquakes on N/LNGOs staff, and cross-border responses.

The aim is to support the Syrian-led earthquake response and strengthen SNA's coordination and existing structures. Both Syrian diaspora and local humanitarian responders, as well as relevant clusters, donors and stakeholders will benefit from enhanced data and information sharing mechanisms. The aim is to support more evidence-based programming, avoid duplications in response activities, and facilitate new collaborations across actors. This, in turn, will enhance the overall response for the populations of concern.

"We are grateful to the H2H Network for supporting this vital project, which will enhance the effectiveness of the humanitarian response in Syria," said Béatrice Mauconduit, DEMARC Coordinator. "Syrian civil society has been at the forefront responding to this natural disaster. We look forward to working with the SNA and local Syrian NGOs to support their capacity and efforts in responding to the earthquake and its aftermath."

The main activities of the project will include establishing a data and information system about the Syrian-led humanitarian response to the earthquake, including regular situation reports and a comprehensive real-time review. This is to document and enhance the visibility of the locally led response. Focus will be placed on engaging with Syrian civil society - both local and diaspora organizations - as well as key regional, national, and international Syrian coordination fora to identify gaps and synergies for collaboration with institutional actors.

The earthquake in Syria and Türkiye on February 6th has had devastating effects. According to UNOCHA, alone in Northwest Syria, more than 8.8 million people are affected, over 103,000 internally displaced, and more than 10,600+ buildings fully or partially damaged. While the humanitarian response in Türkiye is led by the Turkish government, the situation in Syria is more intricate. In Northwest Syria, local Syrian and diaspora organizations have been at the forefront of the humanitarian response, providing medical care and relief in hard-to-reach areas and across borders in Syrian provinces.



About DEMAC - Diaspora Emergency Action & Coordination:

DEMAC is a global initiative that works for a deeper understanding of diasporas as humanitarian actors and strive for better coordination between diaspora organizations and the humanitarian system. Further, DEMAC seeks to increase engagement and visibility for diaspora organizations in the humanitarian system. DEMAC contributes to a deeper understanding of diasporas as humanitarian actors and thus adds to transforming the humanitarian ecosystem.

About SNA - Syrian NGO Alliance:

The SNA is an alliance of 22 Syrian civil society and diaspora organisations primarily focused on humanitarian affairs. Established in 2014, the alliance aims to promote joint humanitarian response in Syria, as well as cross-border efforts. It also coordinates advocacy efforts related to humanitarian issues. The SNA is based in Gaziantep, Türkiye.

About H2H Network:

DEMAC is part of the H2H Network. The H2H Network is driving change across the humanitarian system, getting more to people in need, by coordinating and convening humanitarian-to-humanitarian support and services. The H2H Fund is a financing mechanism that disburses targeted funds to meet specific needs and resourcing the network's membership in support of the operational needs in the wider system.

For more information on DEMAC and the Syrian diaspora response, please visit www.demac.org.

Further information:

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[□ DEMAC.org](http://www.demac.org)
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