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SOUTH TURKEY
FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS
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VOICES FROM THE FIELD

With some 60 active implementing partners, the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster (FSLC) South Turkey Hub coordinates support for IDPs and the most vulnerable people in Northwest Syria. These operations are made possible through the Syria-Turkey cross-border programme under UN Resolution 2533, enabling NGOs to reach 3.3 million people in need.

STORY 2

HANA

Due to escalating conflict, 1 million people were forced to flee their homes in Northwest Syria between December 2019 and March 2020. The vast majority are women and children in need of humanitarian assistance.

This is the story of Hana and her 3 children, who are all now living in rural Aleppo, after being displaced multiple times.

To listen to Nader's story that was published last week, [click here](#).

Hana lives with her three children in a small town in the northern countryside of Aleppo, in Northwest Syria, far from their home, family and community in Homs. Her husband died in prison eight years ago while Hana spent four years in; since then Hana with her children have been displaced multiple times because of the war in Syria.



“After my husband died, when I was in Homs, I was severely psychologically distressed. We were displaced several times and it was very difficult for us. I have no support now: my husband was everything in my life and when I lost him, I lost everything,” Hana says.

Hearing about Hana's story, the local community stepped in to provide support. Thanks to help from her neighbours, Hana has been able to rent a small house and get some basic necessities.

Hana receives USD 55 as monthly Cash-for-Food assistance, she is a beneficiary of the project implemented by CARE together with its Syrian partner organization IYD (Uluslararası İnsani Yardımlaşma Derneği).



“When I came here, I did not know anyone. I was alone until I managed to get my children to join me. I had nothing but the clothes I was wearing.” – Hana, pictured here with two of her children.

“My life changed after receiving the assistance; I do not have to ask anyone to help secure food for my children anymore. I can buy basic food items for my family, such as rice, sugar, oil, ghee, bread and vegetables. This helped to relieve a great burden. Our only source of subsistence is this aid. Without it, I cannot buy food, pay the rent, or meet other basic

needs."



Hana is supported through an Emergency and Regular Food Assistance programme in Idlib and Aleppo Governorates. The programme is aimed at improving food security for the most vulnerable people, promoted by [Care International](#) and implemented by [IYD](#), both FSL Cluster partners on cross-border programmes in Northwest Syria.

There are currently over 24,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Northwest Syria. Hana is afraid because she cannot protect her children. "I heard about the coronavirus and that it has spread in Syria and Turkey. I became afraid of sending my children to school and am very careful about their hygiene and washing their hands. I am afraid of letting them play outside. When I go to receive cash assistance, I leave my children at home".



Hana says, "At the distribution point, staff are committed to preventive measures, such as wearing a mask and sterilizing their hands. I try to take the necessary precautions to keep my children safe from illness. After my husband died, I became more concerned for my children than anything. I do not fear for my life or my safety. All I care about is the safety of my children – they are my life".

Hana hopes that one day she will take her children back to their hometown in Homs:

“With my children around, I feel there is still hope for the future. I forget all my troubles and fears when I see their faces. I look forward to returning to my hometown and taking my children back, once the war is over. I hope that will happen one day. I believe that the future will be better.”

[Click here](#) to read our latest monthly report, "Insights on Northwest Syria" and learn more about the FSL Cluster South Turkey hub activities and our partners' work.



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