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SYRIA CROSS-BORDER HLG (NWS)
FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS
CLUSTER

VOICES FROM THE FIELD

With some 70 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 2585 (2021), enabling NGOs to reach 3.4 million people in need.

STORY 7

SAMIRA

Due to ongoing conflict and drought the livestock assets of Syrians are eroding, further increasing the risk of food insecurity. The decrease in the number of animals, increased cost of fodder, and lack of access to veterinary services are the main challenges that are facing the livestock breeders.

This is the story of Samira and her 4 children, who were displaced from southern Idlib, depending on their livestock for income that they were able to bring along.

Samira has lost her husband three years ago from a rare disease and now living in Armanaz sub-district with her children, one of her little girls needing an eye surgery. As the head of household, the displacement caused great economic hardship for Samira and the high price of fodder for her livestock continues to be a major challenge. Especially in the winter season, Samira can't access to natural pastures, which means more need for fodder.



Samira works on the sewing machine she was able to buy through her savings after the fodder assistance she has received. Now, sewing brings additional income to Samira and her family to sustain themselves.

Samira received fodder kits through Global Communities' INSPIRE (*Investing in Nutrition in Syria, Promoting Infrastructure and Resources in the Economy*) project that provided fodder kits to more than 1,000 families in rural areas in Idlib governorate, and distributed food baskets to 67.5K households. She used her savings to cover expenses for basic needs for her children

instead of purchasing livestock fodder.



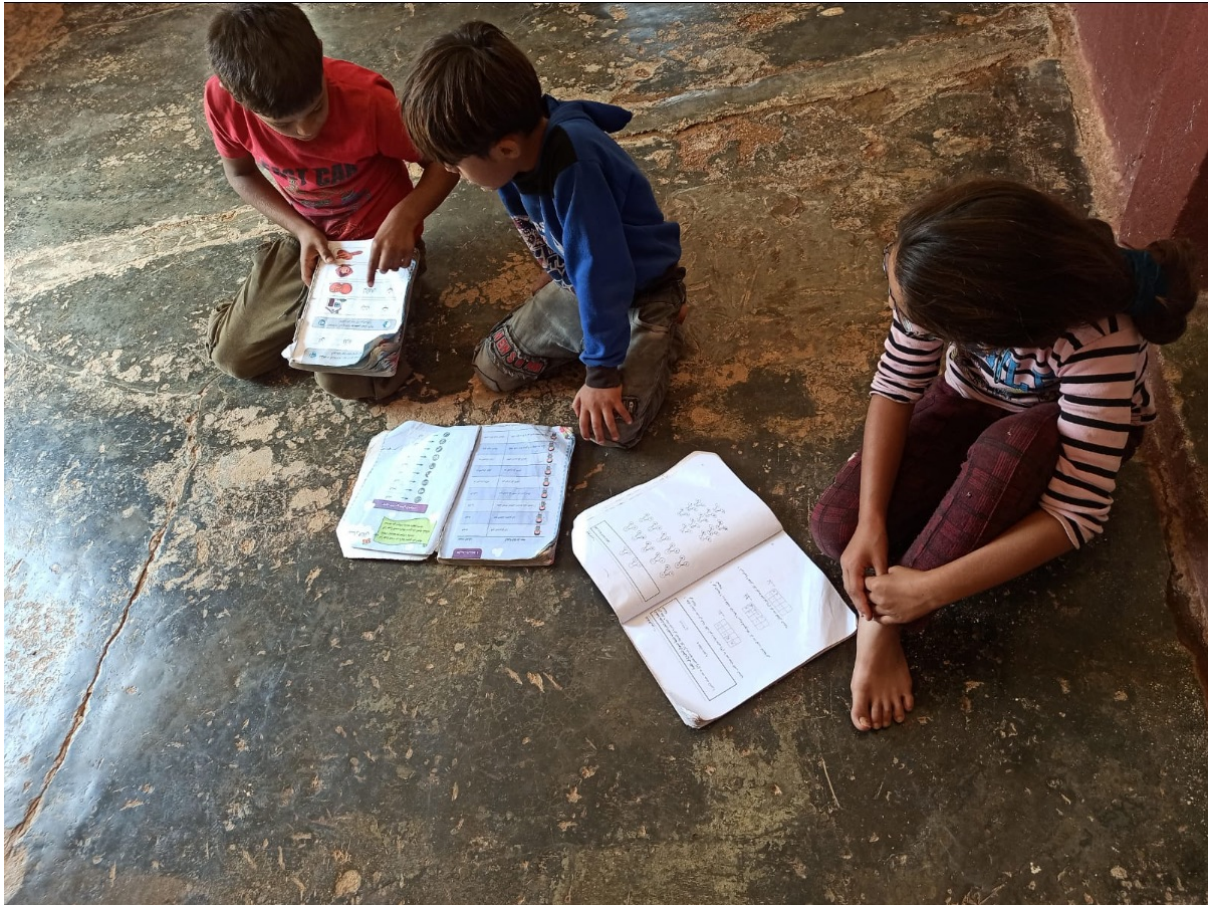
Since receiving the fodder assistance, Samira has noticed an increase in the milk production of her sheep, which enables her to make homemade dairy products to feed her children, freeing up more finances as she no longer needs to buy milk from the local market.

High number of IDPs movements with their sheep-flocks into northwest Syria and the loss of access to seasonal pastures due to security constraints on the ground resulted in a very high local concentration of livestock and degradation of pastures, particularly in Idlib governorate.



Samira is supported through INSPIRE project in Idlib Governorate. The project is aimed at improving food security for the most vulnerable people and supporting livestock breeders, implemented by [Global Communities](#), FSL Cluster partner on Cross-Border programmes in Northwest Syria.

Industrial feed mills in northwest Syria face high costs of production and lack of access to inputs due to disrupted supply chains. Active feed mills in northern Syria operate far below capacity and struggle to produce at competitive and affordable prices. Commercial animal feed is only available in limited quantity, often of uncertain quality and is beyond the purchasing power of most livestock producers.



3 of Samira's 4 kids studying together.

The negative coping strategy of selling productive animals in order to buy feed and sustain the remaining flock has become common practice, especially among IDPs in northern Syria. With the support from the FSL Cluster partners' programmes many like Samira can continue to keep their livestock assets, benefit from food processing, and have a share in their budget for education and health expenses.



Samira says, “I wish to live a decent life with my children, completing their education, and looking to perform a cross-eye surgery for my daughter”.

[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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