Global instability intensifies humanitarian needs in long-running crises

In a brief report, the international agency noted that access to fundamental assistance had been severely hampered by the protracted conflict in northwest Syria, with humanitarians and aid groups struggling to provide aid to affected populations.

REACH, the humanitarian agency, produced a recent analysis that sheds light on humanitarian conditions in northwest Syria, highlighting the ongoing crisis and the challenges faced by aid groups.

The report noted that despite the renewal of the UN Security Council resolution allowing cross-border humanitarian aid from Turkey into northwest Syria, the resolution was ultimately extended for an additional six months in July. Although the renewal averted an immediate humanitarian catastrophe, concerns remain among response actors regarding long-term planning and the ability to deliver sustained, predictable humanitarian assistance.

The report outlined the challenges faced by humanitarian agencies in providing aid to populations affected by the conflict, with access to affected areas limited and the provision of assistance hindered by the ongoing conflict.

The report also highlighted the impact of the global climate crisis on the region, with drought continuing to be a key driver of new displacement, as people moved in search of food and water. Drought continued to be a concern, with the country likely experiencing high levels of food insecurity. The humanitarian community now await the release of the latest analysis, due in early September. However, there is already clear evidence to suggest that the situation is deteriorating further.

The report concluded by calling for sustained and predictable humanitarian assistance to support affected populations, warning that the situation could potentially escalate into a famine if action is not taken immediately.

Humanitarian conditions in protracted crises like Somalia and Syria are being exacerbated by the climate crisis, rising food insecurity, and soaring inflation. The Ukraine crisis, for the better part of a year, has further compounded needs.

For the May-September period, a survey of 25 grain storage facilities nationwide was conducted. Although some 13 grain storage facilities were in working order, severe damage to the grain storage facilities was recorded across 6.4 million refugees. Other types of destruction included 13 thermal power plants across Ukraine, with the most significant damage in Donetska, Svitlodarsk in Donetska oblast, Vodiane in Dnipropetrovska, Pryvillia in Luhanksa, and Valky in Kharkivska – according to the latest round of infrastructure analysis, this time focused on Luhanksa, Dnipropetrovska, Poltavska, Chernihivska, and Kharkivska Oblasts.

The report noted that Humanitarian needs were most severe in assessed settlements closest to conflict areas. Extreme water insecurity due to prolonged drought conditions and severe water stress were recorded across the northwest. Access to services were hampered by severe infrastructure damage, which continued to affect livelihoods. Grapes were also impacted by the ongoing conflict, with violence and forced displacement impacting access to harvests.

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Humanitarian assistance is becoming more critical, as the global climate crisis is driving extreme food insecurity, with the situation likely to worsen in the coming months. The report called for urgent action to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe in the region.