

# Report of Social Cohesion

## Assessment

### Markadeh District





It is a non-governmental, non-profit organization founded in 2017 and exercises out its activities in Northern and Eastern Syria. FDO seeks to play effective, influential and meaningful roles that contribute to consolidating the values and practices of democracy, respecting and preserving diversity, promoting social cohesion, supporting efforts to achieve just and sustainable peace, and providing impactful and sustainable civic spaces, and promoting the effective and meaningful participation of youth and women in the local communities in which they operate

**About Enmaa  
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## Evaluation Sample:

### Choosing the sample of evaluation:

Enmaa Al-Fourat Organization (FDO) have been keen to set appropriate standards based on the analysis of the local context in the Markadeh district in order to ensure the involvement of all members of the local community in the process of evaluating social cohesion in the Markadeh district. Accordingly, a set of basic criteria has been developed for selecting the social cohesion evaluation sample as follows:

- Ensuring that women in the local community have a participation rate of no less than 50% of the total sample size in the evaluation.
- Ensuring that displaced people in the local community receive a participation rate in the evaluation of 30% of the total sample size.
- Ensuring that returnees in the local community receive a participation rate in the evaluation of 5% of the total sample size.
- Ensuring fair tribal representation in the evaluation process, according to proportions that reflect the influence, size, and number of clan members, while being careful not to exclude or marginalize any of the clans in Markadeh district.
- Ensuring fair regional representation (on the basis of villages) and accordingly, five main villages were selected to be included in the process of evaluating social cohesion in Markadeh district, which are as follows:
  - **Center of Markadeh district:** it has been chosen because it includes the local administrations responsible for providing services in the district, and because it is the main village for the distribution of *Al-Mashahdeh* clan, which is the largest clan in the district, and because it includes a large number of the displaced people, in addition to the fact that it includes the main commercial markets in the district.
  - **Harir Hatem village:** it has been chosen because it is one of the main villages inhabited by the *Albu Chamel* clan in the region, and because it includes a large number of displaced people.
  - **Kishkish Jabour village:** it has been chosen because it is one of the main villages inhabited by *Al-Jabour* clan in the district, in addition to the fact that all its members are severely affected by the war, and because it lives in very poor economic conditions.
  - **Janat Village:** it has been chosen because it is one of the main villages inhabited by the *Al-Maamera* clan in the district, and because it includes large numbers of displaced people.
  - **Dashisha village:** it has been chosen because it has a distinctive tribal diversity, as it is one of the few villages inhabited by a diverse mixture of clans, which will give us an important opportunity to understand the reality of social cohesion.
- Ensuring diversity in social status and work status among members of the evaluation sample, which will give a greater opportunity to ensure diversity and not exclude or marginalize any societal groups located in Markadeh district.

Accordingly, Enmaa Al-Furat (FDO) conducted 153 questionnaires, 55 individual interviews, and 10 focused group discussions to assess social cohesion in Markadeh district, with a participation rate for women of 50.9%, a participation rate of displaced people of 30.1%, and a participation rate of returnees of 5.2%.

### **Executive summary:**

#### **First: The psychological state:**

28.7% of the evaluation participants felt positive feelings at the time the evaluation process took place, and these feelings ranged between hope, security, peace, and satisfaction, compared to 71.3% of the evaluation participants feeling negative feelings at the time the evaluation process took place. These feelings range from fear of the future to anxiety and despair.

The participants' feelings in the evaluation of fear about the future, anxiety, and despair are due to several reasons, the most important of which are extreme poverty, the difficulty of providing the family's basic requirements, and the poor economic and financial situation, in addition to instability, lack of job opportunities, lack of resources and income, high prices, and lack of clarity about the future. In addition to the loss of their homes by the residents of **Kishkish Jabour** village.

The participants' feelings in the evaluation of satisfaction, security, peace, and hope are due to several reasons, the most important of which are the hope that the reality of life will improve, having children and a loving family, feeling comfortable in the area, having a job, financial stability, and the ability to meet the basic needs of the family.

#### **Second: The reality of economic life and job opportunities:**

The sample trend indicates that in the evaluation participants strongly disagree that people in their community have access to good, sufficient and accessible employment opportunities for all. (1.6), and the sample trend indicates that participants in the evaluation strongly disagree that the workplace provides them with good working hours and appropriate wages. (1.8), and the sample trend indicates that in the evaluation participants strongly disagree that the wage they receive is sufficient to meet their families' basic needs. (1.5), and the sample trend indicates that the participants in the evaluation do not agree that women in their local community have access to a safe and suitable work environment. (2.5).

#### **Third: Interest in discussing topics related to the social and economic situation:**

The trend of the sample indicates that participants in the evaluation are interested in discussing topics related to the economic and social situation in their local community. (3.7), as the percentage of women who are not interested in discussing topics related to the economic and social situation was (19.2%) of the number of female participants, while the percentage of displaced people who were not interested in discussing topics related to the economic and social situation was (12.5%) of the number of participants of the displaced, the sample trend also indicates that participants in the evaluation

answered neutrally that their local community has common long-term goals and aspirations regarding the economic and social situation. (3.1)

The motivations of the participants in the evaluation who are interested in discussing topics related to the economic and social situation are to learn about the economic and social reality, participate in community issues and spread awareness, participate in improving the reality of the region, demand improvement of the economic and social reality, and bring benefit to the region, in addition to meeting the needs of the villagers, communicating the reality of the region to the actors, enhancing security, providing resources and sources of income, securing the basic needs of community members, in addition to strengthening trust and relations between community members, conveying the voice of community members to humanitarian organizations, and improving services in the region.

The evaluation results also indicated that 13% of the evaluation participants answered “not interested” and “not very interested” in discussing topics related to the economic and social situation in their local community. The reasons for the evaluation participants’ lack of interest in discussing topics related to the economic and social situation is due to the large number of discussions without reaching results, the lack of information about the economic and social situation, the preoccupation with the living situation and securing the family’s requirements, in addition to the lack of response from the actors, the preoccupation of women with home and raising children, and the lack of parties interested in improving the living situation in the region.

The results of the focused group discussion in Markadeh district indicated that the topics, that the local community considers a priority for discussion, are the problems associated with the provision and distribution of drinking water, digging wells and the availability of water tanks, the lack of sufficient quantities in bread and its poor quality, the problems associated with the agricultural sector, the lack of job opportunities, and the weakness of basic services, the lack of hospitals, medical clinics, and pharmacies, in addition to extreme poverty, the bad economic situation, the limited quantities and distribution of fuel, corruption, the lack of fodder for livestock and its high prices, early marriage, and the lack of schools in the local community.

-The proposals of local community members to improve the economic situation include digging wells and providing drinking water, providing job opportunities, supporting agricultural projects, supporting the livestock sector, supporting the health sector, providing schools and supporting the education sector, providing greenhouse projects, and providing vocational training courses for women, in addition to support small projects, support solar energy projects, rehabilitate water processing plants, provide bread and increase control over bakeries, in addition to providing domestic gas, supporting literacy projects, providing women’s education, and providing nursing courses.

-The proposals of local community members to improve the social reality include providing job opportunities to alleviate psychological pressure, supporting the education sector and preventing school dropouts, providing, encouraging and supporting cooperative projects among members of the local community, spreading awareness, in addition to opening a café for men, providing humanitarian aid, and

establishing bakeries to reduce the level of problems and conflicts in the local community, supporting and enhancing the roles of youth, providing spaces for dialogue, and supporting agricultural projects to reduce youth migration.

-The proposals of local community members to improve the role of local community members in developing the economic and social situation in the local community are to spread awareness among members of the local community, improve the economic situation, provide job opportunities, and provide financial support, in addition to empowering and building the capabilities of young people, supporting their small projects, and promoting the role and status of women, supporting livestock, providing literacy courses for women, in addition to providing awareness sessions for adolescents, providing training courses for the medical sector, and providing electricity to encourage small projects that operate using electricity.

#### **Fourth: Rates of trust in the local community:**

The trend of the sample indicates that the participants in the evaluation agree that they feel comfortable and stable in the neighborhood in which they live. (3.7), and this is represented by good, friendly relations based on respect, safety, stability, trust, expression of being one clan and one region, consensus of opinion, cooperation, love and peace, in addition to the lack of conflicts and participation in renovating homes and solving problems, while the participants explained/ those whose answers were directed towards the lack of a general feeling of trust and security among the members of the neighborhood in which they live (21.5%) said that this is due to the existence of secondary disputes among the members of the neighborhood, lack of trust, the spread of racism and discrimination against displaced people, lack of safety and the spread of thefts, in addition to personal interests spread over public interest and lack of trust with individuals outside the neighborhood in which they live.

The sample trend also indicates that participants in the evaluation agree that people from different tribal and regional backgrounds in the local community trust each other. (3.6), and this is represented by a feeling of trust and security, and relationships built on mutual respect, appreciation and mutual benefit between different clans, and the general feeling of safety and trust is embodied during interaction between individuals from different tribal and regional backgrounds in the local community in participation in joys and sorrows, partnership in commercial markets, agricultural work, participation in resolving conflicts and problems, marriage between members of different clans, visits and family relations, in addition to participating in public events, helping the poor and sick, cooperating in renovating homes, friendships between members of different clans, and providing the needs of displaced people in the local community.

The trend of the sample indicates that the participants in the evaluation agree that there is trust between the host community and the displaced people in the local community. (3.9), which is represented in good treatment based on respect and equality, providing housing, furniture and food by the host community to the displaced in the local community, helping the displaced in plowing and planting the land, welcoming the displaced by the host community and not interfering in their affairs. In addition to cooperation in work, financial assistance, and participation in joys, sorrows, and social events, while the percentage of displaced people who do not agree to the existence of

trust between the host community and the displaced people reached (6.2%) of the number of displaced participants, as well the sample trend indicates that in the evaluation participants agree that there is trust between the host community and the returnees in the local community. (3.7).

-The proposals of local community members to enhance trust, interaction, and relationships between members of the host community and displaced people in the local community include non-discrimination, promoting participation in joys and sorrows, providing aid to displaced people, exchanging visits, and participating in conflict resolution, in addition to equitable distribution of resources and services, and working collective activities to enhance interaction and reduce bullying phenomena among children towards the displaced, in addition to enhancing the feeling of safety, holding banquets for the displaced, providing job opportunities for the displaced and spreading awareness in the local community.

#### **Fifth: Interaction and cooperation in the local community:**

The sample trend indicates that participants in the evaluation agree that they feel comfortable and satisfied when interacting with others from different tribal and regional backgrounds in the local community. (3.9)

The sample trend also indicates that participants in the evaluation agree that people from different tribal and regional backgrounds interact and cooperate with each other on social and economic issues. (3.6), and this is represented by good and positive relations, good interaction between members of society, cooperation between families and mutual visits, in addition to partnership in commercial markets, participation in joys and sorrows, cooperation in agricultural work, participation in solving problems, in addition to helping the poor and the sick, and mutual respect, equality, and marriage between members of different clans.

The trend of the sample indicates that in the evaluation participants agree that there is a high degree of interaction and cooperation between the host community and the displaced. (3.9), which is represented in good treatment based on respect and equality, providing housing, furniture and food by the host community to the displaced one in the local community, helping the displaced in plowing the land, welcoming the displaced by the host community and not interfering in their affairs, and cooperation in work, financial assistance, and participation in joys, sorrows, and social events, while the answers of the participants whose answers are directed at the lack of interaction between the host community and the displaced people due to the reasons that some members of the host community bargain over the displaced people's need for homes, isolation of the displaced people from the host community, lack of interaction and mingling with displaced people, racism towards the displaced people and fear of dealing with them, while the percentage of displaced people who do not agree that there is a high degree of interaction and cooperation between host community and the displaced people (6.2%) of the displaced participants.

The sample trend also indicates that in the evaluation participants agree that there is a high degree of interaction and cooperation between the host community and the returnees. (3.6).

#### **Sixth: Conflicts, problems and incidents in the local community:**

99.8% of the participants in the evaluation believe that there are recent problems, incidents, or conflicts in the local community that have an impact on trust, relationships, and interaction among community members, compared to 0.2% who do not believe that there are recent problems, incidents, or conflicts in the local community. It has an impact on trust, relationships, and interaction among community members.

The problems and incidents included disputes over agricultural land, disputes over the distribution of drinking water, disputes over the distribution of bread, disputes over jobs, disputes over registration for domestic gas stations, in addition to disputes resulting from problems between children, problems due to high prices, disputes over heating materials, problems in commercial markets, problems due to not selling to displaced people on credit, problems due to political orientations and different affiliations, and problems due to the distribution of humanitarian aid.

These problems, accidents, and conflicts result from a group of direct and indirect causes that include greed, hatred and hate, lack of awareness and ignorance of the laws, and the absence of deterrent laws, in addition to extreme poverty, lack of livelihoods, high prices, inability to provide basic needs, few resources and the community members' need for them and for the high cost and prices and lack of control, in addition to lack of understanding, discrimination, attack on neighbors, seizure of agricultural land, and the pursuit of individual benefit.

These problems, incidents, and conflicts in which directly affect a group of parties that include tribal notables and sheikhs, and local administrations, in addition to the family, neighbors, women, and bakery owners. These problems, incidents, and conflicts also in which indirectly affect a group of parties that include representatives of local authorities and other tribal notables in addition to the village notables, local people, neighbors, and bakeries' owners, and the bad economic situation and extreme poverty.

67.2% of participants in the evaluation believe that there have been recent conflicts that have been effectively resolved through local community mechanisms and efforts, compared to 32.8% of participants who believe that there are no recent conflicts that have been effectively resolved through local community mechanisms and efforts.

The conflicts that were resolved through local mechanisms included problems between families, problems due to the lack of equitable distribution of humanitarian aid, problems with drinking water, in addition to disputes over agricultural land, problems due to sheep grazing on agricultural lands, problems related to marriage, in addition to disputes over the distribution of bread and houses construction, and the distribution of diesel. These disputes have been resolved through mediation and dialogue by tribal notables and sheikhs and by local administrations in the local community.



-The results of the evaluation indicate, in Markadeh district, that members of the local community resolve conflicts, problems, and incidents facing the local community through understanding, persuasion, and compromise, the intervention of tribal elders, customs and traditions, seeking assistance from official institutions, negotiation, financial compensation for those affected, in addition to the concession of one of the victim parties, distribute resources fairly, use force and impose opinion sometimes.

-The results of the evaluation also indicate, in Markadeh district, that the challenges facing members of the local community and limiting their ability to resolve conflicts and problems are represented by fanaticism or tribal affiliation, the monopolization of opinion by notables, a lack of appreciation for the opinion of notables, related to old conflicts, customs and traditions, and ignorance, in addition to malice and hatred, resolving conflicts at the expense of the weak, weak personality, failure to achieve justice, evasion of conflict resolution, discrimination and bias.

-The results of the evaluation indicate in Markadeh district that the proposals of local community members to enhance their ability to resolve conflicts, problems and incidents are represented in raising awareness in schools, choose trustworthy people to resolve conflicts, encourage young people and involve them in resolving conflicts, and listen to different parties and accept their opinions. In addition to spreading awareness in the local community, promoting dialogue as a mechanism for solving problems, raising awareness about the importance of resolving conflicts peacefully, in addition to forming mediation and conflict resolution committees, accepting different opinions and enhancing social cohesion.

### **Seventh: Fair distribution of resources and services:**

The sample trend indicates that in the evaluation participants disagree that resources and services are distributed fairly in the community. (2.6). The results of individual interviews to evaluate social cohesion in Markadeh district showed that 49% of the evaluation participants believe that resources and services are distributed fairly in the local community, and 36.5% of the evaluation participants believe that that resources and services are not distributed fairly in the local community, while 14.5% of participants in the evaluation believe that resources and services are distributed fairly to some degree in the local community.

The sample trend also indicates that in the evaluation participants answered neutrally that international and national organizations often set transparent and public criteria for selecting beneficiaries. (2.7), while the results of individual interviews to evaluate social cohesion in Markadeh district showed that 29% of participants in the evaluation agree that international and national organizations that provide basic and economic services and set transparent and announced criteria for selecting beneficiaries, and 69% of participants in the evaluation do not agree that international and national organizations that provide basic and economic services and establish transparent and public criteria for selecting beneficiaries, while 2% of participants in the evaluation do not have an answer.

Participants in the evaluation believe that, the failure of international and national organizations that provide basic and economic services, to establish transparent and announced criteria for selecting beneficiaries is represented by the lack of transparent criteria from organizations working in the local community, and the lack of announcement of criteria for selecting beneficiaries by working organizations in the local community, in addition to the lack of clarity in the mechanisms for participation in projects' activities, limiting coordination with certain members of the local community who direct projects and aids to specific areas, corruption in project registration procedures, and discrimination in the procedures for selecting beneficiaries.

100% of the participants in the evaluation do not believe that economic development projects contribute to the exclusion and marginalization of a tribal or regional group within the local community, and they believe that the best practices to be followed by economic projects to achieve equality and fairness between the different tribes and regions in the local community are represented by providing services, setting clear standards, adapting standards to the needs of the region's residents, announcing standards, monitoring and following up, achieving equality between different regions and clans, analyzing community needs, not discriminating during the distribution of aids or providing services, evaluating project activities after its completion, and having clear work policies. In addition to the community's trust in the organization's employees, support for agricultural projects, support for development projects, establishing trustworthy committee of local residents to monitor the work, consultation with community members, coordination with tribal notables, and equality of opportunities.

They see that the practices of exclusion and marginalization are represented by administrative corruption and marginalization, discrimination based on region, and discrimination based on clan.

The trend of the sample indicates that the participants in the evaluation answered neutrally about whether the displaced people get fair and equal opportunities to obtain social and economic services. (3.4), and they see that the best practices to be followed by economic projects to achieve equality and justice between the host community and the displaced ones are to set clear standards that are compatible with the needs of the displaced, provide support for small projects, provide job opportunities, oversight, and effective communication with the beneficiaries, equality and non-discrimination, meeting needs, commitment to ensuring the participation of displaced people in projects, granting them identification papers that facilitate their access to services, oversight from local administrations, having representatives of the displaced people, and choosing a community committee to monitor projects. Whereas the percentage of displaced people who do not agree that displaced people have fair and equal opportunities to obtain social and economic services, reached (25%) of the displaced participants.

They see that the practices of exclusion and marginalization include not giving the displaced priority, administrative corruption, giving priority to the host community, discrimination, racism, their inability to register and access services, not involving them

because they are not residents of the region, and some refuse to recognize the rights of the displaced.

The sample trend also indicates that the participants in the evaluation (host community and displaced people) answered neutrally that returnees have fair and equal opportunities to obtain social and economic services. (3.4).

The sample trend indicates that in the evaluation participants strongly agree that the availability of social and economic services and their equal distribution leads to lower levels of conflicts in the neighborhood in which they live. (4.4), they support the contribution of equitable distribution of social and economic services in reducing the levels of problems, accidents, and conflicts among members of the local community, by creating an atmosphere of satisfaction, acceptance, and harmony among members of the local community, achieving the basic requirements of community members, improving the living situation of families, and mitigating the effects of psychological problems resulting from the inability to provide daily needs and achieve equality and non-discrimination among members of the local community.

-The proposals of local community members to achieve equality among members of the host community in obtaining resources and services and participating in economic projects are to form a trustworthy committee from the local community to monitor registration and distribution processes, fair distribution and non-discrimination, provide sufficient resources, form complaints office, in addition to forming monitoring and supply committees, enhancing transparency, separating local administrations from distribution processes, enforcing the law, and involving the local community in following up on projects.

-The proposals of local community members to achieve equality between members of the host community and the displaced in obtaining resources and services and participating in economic projects are in equality and non-discrimination, distributing resources fairly, choosing a community committee to monitor fair distribution, in addition to giving priority to the poor and people with disabilities, and giving priority to the displaced in obtaining aids, providing adequate resources and services, in addition to not distributing aid through local administrations, and giving priority to women who do not have breadwinners.

-Local community members' proposals to enhance the transparency of non-governmental and non-profit organizations during the implementation of economic projects in the local community include implementing introductory sessions about the organizations and the roles they play, distributing brochures about the organizations' activities, dealing with the beneficiaries directly and not seeking help from local administrations, in addition to work on assessing the needs of the region, coordinating with tribal elders, providing fair registration standards, and announcing projects transparently, in addition to enhancing local community participation in implementing projects, enhancing local community confidence in organizations, and forming community committees.

### **Eighth: The role, status and reality of women:**

83.6% of the participants in the evaluation agree that the local community values the role of women and views them as equal partners in developing society, compared to 16.3% of the participants in the evaluation who do not agree that the local community values the role of women and views them as equal partners in community development, while the percentage of women who do not agree that the local community values the role of women and views them as equal partners in community development was (17.8%) of the women participating in the evaluation.

Participants in the evaluation believe that appreciating the role of women in the local community and viewing them as equal partners in community development is represented by women working in public jobs in local administrations, working in the agricultural, education and health sectors, and working in sewing, handicrafts and the food industry. In addition to being an effective and essential element in the local community, participating in decisions that concern the local community, participating in making decisions related to the family, supporting the community to educate women and allowing them to work, owning their own businesses, and women's affiliation to political parties, while some participants in the evaluation believe that the lack of appreciating the role of women in the local community and viewing them as equal partners in the development of society results from the fact that some members of the local community do not allow women to work, get a job, or open their own projects, in addition to the fact that tribal society does not allow women's interference in making decisions that concern the region; limiting the role of women to domestic work and raising children, and customs and traditions restricting the role of women in the local community. Participants in the evaluation also see that the economic potential of women is represented in working on agricultural lands, working in livestock raising, working in the field of education, and sewing, working in small projects, working in public jobs, working at home, the food industry, working in manual professions, nursing, clothes trading, and working in hairdressing.

The trend of the sample indicates that the participants in the evaluation agree that women have equal access to social and economic services. (3.5), while the percentage of women who do not agree that women enjoy equal access to social and economic services was (48.7%) of the women participating in the evaluation, and the results of individual interviews to evaluate social cohesion in Markadeh district showed that 70.9% of the participants in the evaluation, they do not believe that economic development projects contribute to exclusion, marginalization, and discrimination against women, compared to 29.1% of the participants in the evaluation who believe that economic development projects contribute to exclusion, marginalization, and discrimination against women in the local community, as the participants see in the evaluation, the best practices adopted by economic development projects to achieve justice and equality between men and women in the local community are represented by giving women acceptable percentages of job opportunities, providing appropriate job opportunities for women, providing small projects for women, providing vocational training opportunities for women, and equality between men and women. In addition

to providing job opportunities that do not conflict with customs and traditions, while some participants in the evaluation believe that exclusion, marginalization, and discrimination against women is embodied in giving priority at work to men based on customs and traditions, preventing women from being partners in economic projects, and restricting women's role in business at home and raising children, preventing women from working outside the home, not including women in economic projects provided by humanitarian organizations.

The results of individual interviews to evaluate social cohesion in Markadeh district showed that 61.8% of the participants believe that women in the local community enjoy a suitable work environment and fair and equal wages with men. The participants in the evaluation believe that women in the local community enjoy a safe work environment. Having fair and equal wages with men are represented by the equal wages that women receive in administrative jobs in which women work, such as working in schools, hospitals, the private sector, daily work, and small professions. While 38.2% of the participants believe that women in the local community do not enjoy an appropriate work environment and fair and equal wages with men, as women face difficulties in obtaining job opportunities, in obtaining equal wages with men, low wages that are not sufficient to provide basic needs, and the lack of appropriate job opportunities for women. While the percentage of women who do not believe that women in the local community, enjoy a suitable work environment and fair and equal wages with men reached (52.5%) of the women participating in the evaluation.

-The proposals of local community members to enhance the role and status of women in the local community include providing vocational training for women, highlighting the roles of women, reducing customs and traditions that limit the role of women, enhancing women's community participation, in addition to supporting small projects for women, and launching awareness campaigns that contribute in supporting women, providing literacy courses, in addition to ensuring the provision of education for girls, providing midwifery and nursing courses to provide job opportunities for women, and listening to women's opinions and taking them into account.

-The proposals of local community members to enhance women's participation in projects implemented by non-governmental and non-profit organizations in the local community include providing vocational training programs for women, providing job opportunities for women compatible with their psychological and physical capabilities, providing education for girls, and paying attention to the education of girls who have dropped out of education. In addition to support women's projects and give them priority to participate in economic projects, grant women certificates of experience and competence after completing training programs, and provide financial assistance to women who do not have a breadwinner; in addition to educating the local community about the status and role of women, achieving equality between men and women, and involving women in community dialogue spaces and providing protection centers for women.

-The proposals of local community members to improve the situation of women in the local community are represented by providing vocational training programs, supporting small economic projects for women, working to eradicate women's illiteracy, and

providing protection centers for women that contribute to reducing the phenomenon of early marriage; in addition to encouraging women to participate in the public matter and limit customs and traditions that restrict their role, provide nursing courses, and spread awareness in the local community.

### **Challenges faced in the social cohesion assessment process:**

Challenges that have faced the process of assessing social cohesion in Markadeh district included:

- The data collection process was halted in the field on 5/10/2023 and on 10/10/2023 by a decision from the organization due to the unstable security conditions in Al-Hasakeh and its countryside. This decision was taken in order to protect the work team in the field and ensure their security and safety. The project team also worked those two days online to review the collected data and provide some comments and recommendations to the data collection team in the field to improve the quality of the data collection process in the field.



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