

Syrian Civil Society Organizations Platform

1. Why be a member of the platform?

Through the Syrian Civil Society Organizations Platform, UNOCHA Turkey supports Syrian CSOs to:

- engage in international coordination mechanisms (including clusters);
- participate in inter-agency exercises (such as needs assessments, response plans etc...);
- participate in advocacy activities led by the humanitarian community at the Turkey hub;
- network with INGOs, UN agencies, donors, and other international organizations/bodies;
- receive information on funding opportunities, call for proposals, training opportunities, meetings with decision makers etc...; and
- benefit from capacity development opportunities.

2. Eligibility conditions

a. Membership criteria

The platform members are a/individual organizations and b/coordination bodies.

All members (individual organizations and coordination bodies) of the Syrian CSO Platform are Syrian Civil Society Organizations¹ (with a focus on humanitarian NGOs) that implement activities in Syria. These organizations are by definition non-governmental, non- political and non-military.

In addition, to be classified as a coordination body, all the following criteria must be filled:

- Existence of an organizational structure (General Assembly, Board of Directors/ Steering Committee and Executive Office/ Secretariat) formalized through ToRs
- At least one of the coordinating functions (see application form) is performed by the coordination body
- The Board of Directors/ Steering Committee should be composed of Syrian CSOs that are all non-governmental, non- political and non-military and at least two third of them should be members of the Syrian CSO Platform
- All the coordination body organizations members should be non-governmental, non- political and non-military and at least half of them should be members of the Syrian CSO Platform
- All together the member organizations of the coordination body should implement activities in at least 5 governorates and/or in at least 5 sectors

¹ Definitions :

Civil society: “Refers to the wide array of non-governmental and not-for-profit organizations that have a presence in public life, expressing the interests and values of their members or others, based on ethical, cultural, political, scientific, religious or philanthropic considerations. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) therefore refer to a wide of array of organizations: community groups, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), labor unions, indigenous groups, charitable organizations, faith-based organizations, professional associations, and foundations” (*World Bank*).

Syrian Civil Society Organization (CSO): a Syrian CSO is an organization established inside or outside Syria for the exclusive purpose of undertaking activities in Syria and/or supporting Syrian communities within the MENA region or abroad; and whose Board of Directors is composed of at least 50% Syrian nationals and the founder is a Syrian national. Place of CSO registration is not a factor in this definition (*UNOCHA Turkey*).

b. Commitments by Members

All Syrian CSO Platform members (individual organizations and coordination bodies) are requested to demonstrate, in all relevant situations, a commitment to:

2. Humanitarian principles as prescribed in the [Joint Operating Principles](#) and the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief](#).
3. Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse as guided by the [Statement](#) of [Commitment on Eliminating Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by UN and Non-UN Personnel](#).
4. Quality and accountability in humanitarian action, including use of the Sphere Humanitarian Charter, the [Humanitarian Standards Partnerships](#) (HSP) and the [Core Humanitarian Standards](#) (CHS).
5. [Minimum Age Convention, 1973 \(No. 138\)](#), a Convention concerning the minimum age for admission to employment. This Convention is enforced since June 1976, and Syria ratified it in September 2001, specifying that the minimum age is 15

[N.B.: Should OCHA become aware of a possible breach of any one of these Commitments, OCHA reserves the right to remove the offending organization from the Syrian CSO Platform.]