

Open letter calling for the prioritization of the rehabilitation of Alouk water station in North-East Syria

World Water Day, 22 March 2025

The 10 March, 2025 political agreement reached between the Syrian Democratic Forces and President Ahmed Al-Sharaa marks a pivotal moment in Syria's transition and offers a renewed opportunity for stability, reconstruction, and inclusive governance. To ensure this historic agreement is fully implemented, we would therefore like to draw your attention to the ongoing challenge of water access in the Hasakeh Governorate and the urgent need to rehabilitate the Alouk Water Station.

The Alouk Water Station is a lifeline for over 800,000 people in Hasakeh and its surrounding areas. Yet it has been completely inoperable for over a year. The weaponization of water has led to severe humanitarian consequences—exacerbating displacement, public health crises, and regional instability. The newly reached political agreement promises a nationwide ceasefire and reintegration of northeastern civil and military institutions under the Syrian state. Now is thus the moment to ensure the safe access of engineers to Alouk, its urgent repair and sustainable operation. We urge all parties to leverage its influence and commitments to:

1. Prioritize the repair and sustainable functioning of the Alouk Water Station.
2. Secure independent oversight and sustainable technical solutions to maintain continuous operation of Alouk, reducing reliance on emergency measures such as water trucking.
3. Engage with all stakeholders, including civil society organizations, to ensure that water access is not used as a weapon, reconstruction efforts are inclusive, transparent, and responsive to the needs of affected communities.

Reliable water access is critical to Syria's recovery and must be a cornerstone of stabilization and reconstruction efforts. This will prevent further displacement and facilitate the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees.

Access to water and the rehabilitation of Alouk infrastructure play vital role in ensuring Syria's long-term stability, economic recovery, and the well-being of its people.

Sincerely,

The **Water for Hasakeh**; a coalition that unites organizations committed to securing sustainable water access in North-East Syria. Keziyen Kesk, a key member of the NES NGO Forum, focuses on WASH initiatives and community empowerment. Un Ponte Per (UPP) brings extensive humanitarian experience, particularly in water access through its work with the Kurdish Red Crescent. Independent Diplomat supports marginalized communities in advocating for their needs in high-level political discussions. Solidarity Economy Association (SEA) promotes democratic and community-driven resource management.