

SYRIA: FLASH UPDATE ON RECENT EVENTS

13 April 2017

This update provides a summary of recent displacement, along with developments from the **UNHCR co-led Sector/Clusters of Protection, Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) and Shelter/Non Food Items (SNFI)**.

KEY DISPLACEMENT STATISTICS (AS OF 21 MARCH 2017)¹

- **727,189** displacements recorded by the CCCM Cluster since 1 February 2016 from affected areas of northern and southern Syria:
 - **711,935** displacements from affected areas of northern Syria, including Aleppo (488,309), Hama (97,062), Idleb (79,340), Ar-Raqqa (26,872), Homs (9,165), Al-Hassakeh (5,293), Deir-Ez-Zor (4,580), Lattakia (1,314) governorates, northern Syria. This includes over **84,000** new displacements recorded in March 2017 alone, with the majority (74,600) from Aleppo Governorate.
 - **15,254** displacements from affected areas of Damascus, Rural Damascus, Sweida and Dar'a, south-western Syria. There has been no significant increase in March.

CONTEXTUAL DEVELOPMENTS

- In a [statement](#) (7 April), the UN Secretary-General said he was “abhorred by the chemical weapons attack in Khan Shaykhun, Syria, and the death and injury of many innocent civilians.” Following reports of the US airstrikes against the Shayrat airbase, the Secretary-General said he was mindful of the risk of escalation, and appealed for restraint to avoid any acts that could deepen the suffering of the Syrian people.
- According to [media reports](#), yesterday (12 April) Syrian Government forces and armed opposition groups began implementing a deal to evacuate the four towns of Foah and Kefraya (Idleb Governorate) and Madaya and Zabadani (Rural Damascus) by carrying out a prisoner exchange. This is reportedly the first stage of an agreement that should lead to thousands of people leaving the four besieged towns.
- On 11 April, the UN [expressed](#) concern for the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation for the 400,000 people trapped in Eastern Ghouta (Rural Damascus), where there have been reports of heavy aerial bombardment and shelling which has resulted in civilian deaths and injuries. The last UN humanitarian delivery to any of the besieged areas of Eastern Ghouta was nearly six months ago (October 2016), while other areas have not been accessed since June 2016.
- This week, the UN [said](#) that it is also deeply concerned for the safety and protection of over 30,000 civilians following reports of military operations in the city of Atabaqa in Ar-Raqqa Governorate. Civilians remain inside the city where they face deteriorating humanitarian, health, living and security conditions, and the city has had no water and no electricity for more than 20 days. Fighting and insecurity around the city is reportedly preventing people from leaving the city.

OPERATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- Cluster partners are contributing to the ongoing second revision of the Whole of Syria Ar-Raqqa preparedness plan. Based on new scenarios it is estimated that up to 470,000 people in Ar-Raqqa Governorate may be affected by military activities, of which 330,000-370,000 people will potentially be displaced and around 100,000 will remain by choice or by force within Ar-Raqqa city.
- On 8 April, an inter-agency convoy reached Yalda, Babila and Beit Sahem (Rural Damascus) with multi-sectoral assistance for 35,000 people, as approved under the April-May plan. The last inter-agency convoy to the area was on 5 May 2015.

¹ Some displacement statistics mentioned in other sections of this report may not be reflected in the “Key Displacement Statistics” as they are in the process of being triangulated by established population tracking mechanisms.

- Despite shelling, airstrikes and clashes in some locations in southern Syria, eastern Dar'a Governorate reportedly remains largely accessible. The Ramtha border crossing with Jordan has remained open to inter-agency convoys since 8 March 2017, although the presence of extremist armed groups in the south-west of Dar'a Governorate continues to hinder access in this area.
- The Protection, CCCM and SNFI Clusters in the Turkey Hub are reviewing projects submitted to the Humanitarian Fund's first standard allocation for 2017.

UNHCR CO-LED SECTOR/CLUSTER UPDATES

Protection

- Some members of the Protection Cluster in the Turkey Hub responded to the alleged chemical attack on Khan Shaykhun, primarily focusing on child protection. Follow-ups are being made regarding reunification of separated children. The Protection Cluster is also in the process of finalising a monitoring report on the evacuations from Al-Waer (Homs) into Idlib Governorate. The monitoring was undertaken by partners in various locations in order to assess the process of evacuation, reasons for opting to leave Al-Waer, and their current situation in Idlib.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

- The CCCM Cluster continues to track displacement from Ar-Raqqa. The total number of people displaced since 1 March has reached 25,582 individuals (4,312 households) out of which 23,402 individuals (3,945 households) are displaced inside Ar-Raqqa Governorate, 1,268 individuals (213 households) in Aleppo Governorate, 582 individuals (101 households) in Deir-Ez-Zor Governorate and 330 individuals (53 households) in Idlib Governorate.
- The CCCM Cluster disseminated its [monthly update](#) on displacement and intention in north-eastern Syria. Since late February 2017, the escalation of conflict in eastern Aleppo has resulted in widespread displacement both within and outside of the Governorate. Three main displacement patterns have been observed since 25 February: (1) IDPs from Al Bab and Tadaf sub-districts most commonly travelled north to Menbij and Jarablus; a total of 32,000 IDPs arriving in Menbij by 5 March. (2) IDPs from Al-Khafsa, Dayr Hafir and Rasm Haram El-Imam sub-districts commonly travelled north to Menbij, as well as to northern Al-Khafsa and Abu Qalqal sub-districts; approximately 20,000 IDPs travelling to Menbij and 11,000 IDPs displaced to northern Al-Khafsa. (3) In early-mid March, following increased movement restrictions in the areas controlled by extremist groups, and limitations on entry into Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)-controlled Menbij, 53,000 IDPs from Al-Khafsa and Maskana travelled into northern Ar-Raqqa Governorate.
- CCCM Cluster members delivered 26 tents to 18 hospitals and medical field units following reported attacks in Jisr al-Shughour (Idlib Governorate).

Shelter/Non-Food Items (SNFI)

- The Shelter Sector inside Syria is preparing to launch a rapid structural assessment of nine neighbourhoods in Aleppo, through all active partners in collaboration with the Governorate's Directorate and the Aleppo Syndicate of Engineers, in order to categorize the level of damage to all housing buildings, to then map the needs and feasibility of house rehabilitation interventions.
- Following the worsening of the security situation in the southern countryside of Idlib Governorate and the increase in airstrikes, SNFI Cluster members in the Turkey Hub had to suspend operations in the area.
- In southern Syria, the SNFI sector continues to coordinate the shelter and NFI response to all areas affected by the escalation of hostilities in Dar'a al Balad, as well as to those displaced by fighting in south-western Dar'a, and others who have moved southwards from the east of Izra' district. Overall, the number of newly displaced IDPs being reported has decreased since the escalation in fighting in late February and March 2017.