

SYRIA: FLASH UPDATE ON RECENT EVENTS

17 August 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 8 AUGUST 2017)¹

- **968,318** displacements recorded by the CCCM Cluster **in the last 12 months** from affected areas of northern and southern Syria:
 - **928,082** displacements from affected areas of northern Syria, including Aleppo (361,549), Ar-Raqqa (271,436), Hama (167,135), Idleb (59,114), Homs (34,646), Deir-Ez-Zor (16,301), Al-Hassakeh (16,360), Lattakia (1,541) governorates, northern Syria. This includes around **58,890** new displacements recorded in July 2017 alone, **9,652** new displacements so far in August 2017, with the majority from Ar-Raqqa Governorate.
 - **40,236** displacements from affected areas of Damascus, Rural Damascus, Sweida and Dar'a, south-western Syria. This includes around **630** new displacements recorded in July 2017.

CONTEXTUAL DEVELOPMENTS

- The situation in Ar-Raqqa city remains dire. Partners report that sustained military operations have resulted in severe shortages of foodstuffs and medicines, affecting up to 25,000 civilians still residing in the city. Access to safe water remains an urgent need, as the supply and availability of water continued to be a major gap in different locations in Ar-Raqqa Governorate, particularly Ar-Raqqa city.
- The humanitarian community is assisting IDPs from Ar-Raqqa and host communities in around 50 informal sites or camps, and the United Nations reported that partners are reaching over 263,000 people with some form of assistance.
- Following an agreement [reportedly](#) reached between two parties last week, around 3,000 Syrian refugees and 300-400 fighters with their families have started to be evacuated from Arsal (Lebanon) to Syria.
- Partners reported an overall deterioration of the security environment inside Syria close to the southern Syrian border with Jordan (the berm) in recent weeks. UN agencies expressed deep concern about the security and protection of an estimated 50,000 people at the berm, mainly women and children.

UNHCR CO-LED SECTOR/CLUSTER UPDATES

Protection

- With the objective of informing the ongoing response to arrivals from Arsal (Lebanon), in the period from 7 to 11 August four members of the Protection Cluster in the Turkey Hub conducted rapid protection monitoring by interviewing over 200 individuals to better understand protection patterns and trends. A detailed report is being finalised.
- The Protection Working Group (PWG) in the Jordan Hub met on 14 August, focusing on the issue of mental health and psychosocial support in southern Syria. The PWG was also briefed with an update on the context

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.

in Dar'a and Quneitra governorates, where recent administrative developments may come to have a significant impact on humanitarian work: on 10 August, the Provincial Councils of Dar'a and Quneitra formed a High Administrative Authority, tasked with administering the two governorates; there has been mounting pressure from both these Provincial Councils recently for INGOs and local NGOs to be registered with the Councils.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

- As of 14 August, and following verification and revision of reports, the CCCM Cluster has tracked a total of 4,905 individuals from Aarsal (Lebanon) arriving in 33 different locations across Idlib, Aleppo and Hama governorates in Syria. The reception centres in Mezanaz (Aleppo Governorate) and Maaret Elekhwan (Idlib Governorate), recently funded through the Turkey Humanitarian Fund, acted as the main arrival points for these displacements. IDPs were provided with life-saving assistance including accommodation, clothing, NFI kits, as well as water, sanitation and health services. A total of 1,500 individuals were received temporarily in these centres, the majority of which now moved to other locations in Idlib and Aleppo governorates. The CCCM Cluster continues to ensure the tracking of these displacements and the response on the ground.
- The CCCM Cluster continued to share updates with member agencies on displacements in northern Syria. The total number of displacements from Ar-Raqqa Governorate since 1 April has reached 233,701 individuals, out of which 188,046 individuals were displaced inside Ar-Raqqa Governorate itself, while 30,180 individuals were displaced to Aleppo, 10,523 to Idlib, 4,775 to Deir-Ez-Zor and 77 to Hama.
- In Idlib Governorate, a total of 144,323 displacements have been recorded since 1 April, including 54,729 displacements from Hama Governorate, 26,551 from within Idlib, 14,787 from Damascus, 13,953 from Aleppo, 10,177 from Homs, 10,623 from Ar-Raqqa, 5,933 from Rural Damascus, 3,380 from Lebanon (Aarsal displacements), 2,673 from Deir-Ez-Zor and 17 from Dar'a.

Shelter/Non-Food Items (SNFI)

- The SNFI Cluster in the Turkey Hub started prioritising winter planning by looking at snow coverage, average temperature and severity scale per sub-district. A gap analysis aims to ensure that partners target identified priority areas. For NFI interventions, the primary number of people in need is based on data provided by the CCCM Cluster on the number of displacements since April 2017, since the last winter response ended (an estimated 325,000 people). These people will receive a standard winter response (containing two out of the following interventions: winter NFI kit, winter clothes or fuel). The remaining people targeted with NFI interventions (1.7 million IDPs and members of the host community) will receive a reduced winter response (containing one of the interventions from the standard winter response). For shelter interventions, the number of people in need is based on REACH assessment data (an estimated 74,000 people). The total number of people targeted by partners does not cover all the expected NFI related needs, and there is an estimated funding gap of USD 55 million.
- The results of the Mid-Year Review exercise show that 436,000 people have been reached by the SNFI Cluster in the Turkey Hub out of two million targeted (22% coverage). Shelter activities have reached 98,000 people out of the 229,000 targeted (43% coverage).

