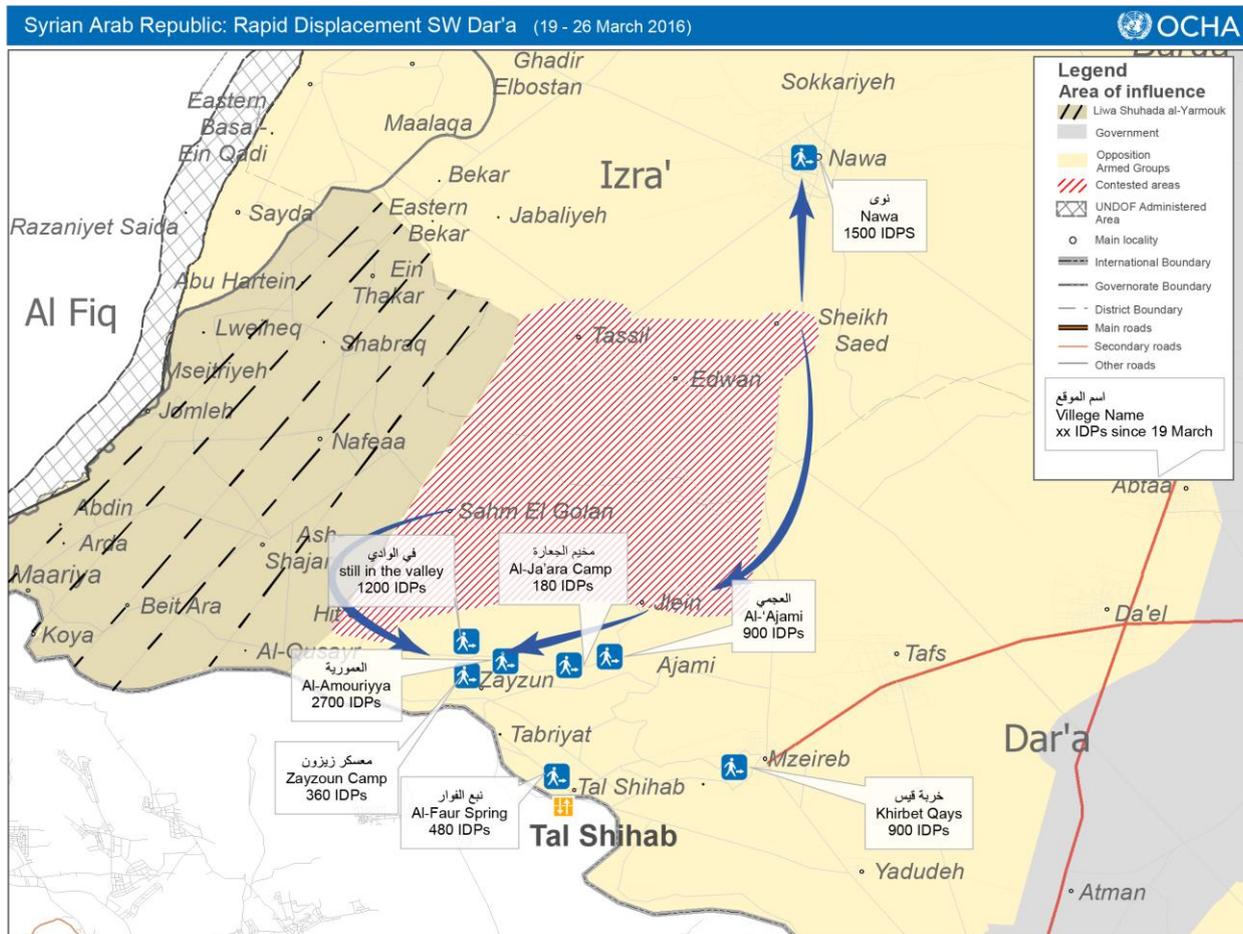


## Summary

- More than 8,200 IDPs have been displaced in the Yarmouk Valley area of SW Dar'a as a result of ongoing clashes.
- Most of the IDPs have moved on foot, preventing them from taking anything but a few basic provisions. A substantial portion of IDPs are sleeping exposed or with minimal shelter, having overwhelmed local hosting capacity. Thus ready food and Shelter / NFI are top priority needs.
- Access to 80% of Western Dar'a from Jordan has been hindered due to military expansionism of Liwa Shuhadaa al-Yarmouk and al-Muthanna since 22 March. Since 25 March some traffic to/from NW Dar'a has been rerouted to an alternative route passing through Western (opposition-controlled) areas via Da'el. However the alternative route too involves risk.



## Situation Overview

A national 'cessation of hostilities' has been in effect since 27 February. Since its implementation, there has been a substantial drop in hostilities between pro-government and armed opposition forces in southern Syria. Unlike many other areas of the country, no aerial attacks have been reported since its commencement, allowing many Eastern Dar'a IDPs displaced in February to return home.

By contrast, clashes between opposition armed groups on the one hand and Liwa Shuhadaa al-Yarmouk, rural groupings of al-Muthanna, and the Amir Faisal group on the other, have ignited. This followed a lull in hostilities of months. In particular, since 22 March, hostilities have emerged where Shuhadaa al-Yarmouk and al-Muthanna have attempted to clear a zone of unique control around their strongholds in SW Dar'a (al-Shajara Sub-District, Shiekh Sa'ed) and to expand. The expansionist military activities of Shuhadaa al-Yarmouk and al-Muthanna have included storming and/or taking the towns of Tseel, Sehm al-Jolan, Hit and the route to Sheikh Sa'ed, among other locations.

In order to reopen access routes, armed opposition groups launched a major counter offensive 24 March, declaring Tseel and Jlein, an open military zone, encouraging civilians to leave the areas in advance for their own safety. Armed opposition groups have taken back 90% of Sheikh Sa'ed, as well as contesting influence over Tseel and 'Edoin since. The opposition offensive has thus removed some of the access obstacles to reaching NW Dar'a and Qunaitra in an efficient manner, without being able to fully secure and reopen the regular access routes.

## Humanitarian Access

### To NW Dar'a and Qunaitra



There are three routes to access the NW Area of opposition controlled Dar'a and Qunaitra from the Jordanian border. After al-Muthanna bombed out of a portion of the regular access route Northwards, Ramtha-Mzeirib-Shiekh Sa'ed-Nawa, on 22 March, all three were considered compromised simultaneously. Regular access route to areas North of Shiekh Sa'ed and NW West of al-'Ashari from Jordan -- some 80% of the 'Western Area' -- were obstructed. Since 25 March traffic North has rerouted to a one-lane alternative route, the Da'el-Nawa agricultural road. Small trucks and civilians largely can pass, albeit at their own risk, large trucks are perceived as facing greater likelihood of targeting by parties to the conflict.

### To the SW Area between Ramtha and Zayzoun (along border with Jordan):



For civilian IDPs fleeing from Jlein, Hit and Sehm al-Jolan the regular vehicular access roads have been blocked by Shuhadaa al-Yarmouk and rural al-Muthanna. This led IDPs to take the more difficult dirt path through the Yarmouk Valley -- on foot (*see photograph*). The foot path lead to safer neighboring opposition controlled areas immediately SE.



For even large trucks of humanitarian assistance originating in Jordan, access to areas of SW Dar'a proximate to Ramtha remains unimpeded. Areas with the highest numbers of IDP from recent conflict in the far SW between Zayzoun and Tel Shihab remain fully accessible. They include: IDPs still in the valley, al-Amouriyya, Khirbet Qays, Zayzoun Camp, al-Ja'ara Camp, al-Ajami, Faur Spring Camp, and Tel Shihab among others.

## Displacement

More than 8,200 IDPs have been displaced in less than a week as a result of ongoing clashes around Wadi Yarmouk. The intensity of the current conflict has been much greater than previous periods of opposition-Shuhadaa al-Yarmouk fighting in the south. This explains the higher numbers of IDPs than in previous periods of opposition-Shuhadaa al-Yarmouk fighting in the south.

FROM	TO	(individual IDPs)
جلين Jlein	نبع الفوار Al-Faur Spring (by Tel Shihab)	480
مساكن جلين Msakin Jlein	معسكر زيزون Zayzoun Camp	360
حيط Hit	مخيم الجعارة Al-Ja'ara Camp (btw. Zayzoun & al-'Ajami)	180
سحم الجولان Sehm al-Jolan	العجمي Al-'Ajami	900
	العمورية Al-Amouriyya	2700
	خربة قيس Khirbet Qays	900
	في الوادي Still in the Valley	1200
شيخ سعد Sheikh Sa'ed	نوى Nawa	1500
<b>Total:</b>		<b>&gt; 8,220</b>

Moreover the *cordon sanitaire* tactic used by Shuhada al-Yarmouk/al-Muthanna has meant that regular paved roads were not open to IDPs during most of the displacement to date. Therefore many were forced to flee on foot carrying next to nothing with them, over dirt footpaths of Wadi Yarmouk southwards to reach safety. Curfews imposed on civilians prevented many IDPs from leaving Tseel altogether. IDPs leaving Sheikh Sa'ed towards Nawa, by contrast, were able to use vehicular roads, once the opposition stormed the town and opened an access route to exit the town North.



(IDPs fleeing via Yarmouk Valley footpath, 24 March 2016)

## Humanitarian Needs



IDPs have generally fled using two narrow valley paths, to flee on foot. This has also prevented them from taking anything with them, unlike some other displacements where at least a portion of IDPs have taken some blankets, mattresses or clothing.



**Shelter / NFI:** Many IDP families are sleeping in exposed areas of farmland around the towns without even blankets. Shelter and sleeping related NFI are a key priority.



**Food (particularly ready-to-eat meals):** Food (particularly ready-to-eat meals) are likewise high priority given the exposed nature of the displacement and few items taken with them.

*Identification of other sectoral needs is ongoing.*

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