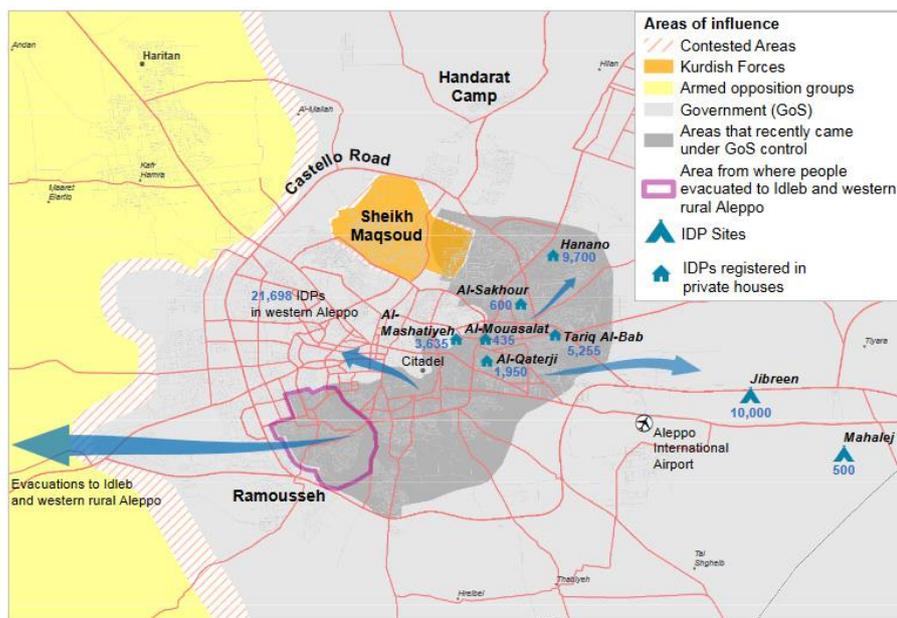




This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 21 to 23 December 2016.

Highlights

- Evacuations escorted by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and the International Committee of the Red Cross from besieged neighbourhoods in eastern Aleppo came to an end on 22 December.
- An inter-agency UN team were present at the Ramoussah Bridge to observe the evacuation process since it began on 15 December.
- Overall, the ICRC estimates that more than 35,000 people have been evacuated from the besieged neighbourhoods in eastern Aleppo. 734 patients were medically evacuated.
- As of 23 December, at least 53,773 have been displaced from eastern Aleppo to Government controlled areas.
- UN and partners are accessing most areas of eastern Aleppo that have recently been retaken by the Government to assess the situation of civilians and respond to their needs. Access to all areas of Aleppo is required.



Situation Overview

Evacuations escorted by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) from besieged neighbourhoods in eastern Aleppo came to an end on 22 December. Since the evacuation began on 15 December, UN staff were present at the Ramouseh Government checkpoint in Aleppo until the last four buses departed at 8:25pm on 22 December.

An estimated 35,000 people were evacuated according to ICRC, including some 15,000 people since the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2328 which entailed immediate, unhindered access for observation of monitoring civilian evacuations from Aleppo. Overall, 308 buses, 61 ambulances and 1,231 private vehicles were used in the evacuation. Among the evacuees were 734 patients who were medically evacuated by ambulances to Turkey, Idlib and rural western Aleppo according to the World Health Organization. Seven of the medical evacuees died, 95 are critically ill and 663 remain hospitalized. Only 64 have been discharged.

As part of the eastern Aleppo agreement, 1,312 people were evacuated from the besieged villages of Foah and Kefrayeh as of 23 December. People evacuated from Foah and Kefrayeh were initially moved to IDP reception centers in Aleppo city, while some stayed in Aleppo, others moved on to sites prepared by the Government in Tartous, Homs and Latakia. The United Nations teams in Homs and Tartous have been providing humanitarian support throughout.

Protection concerns were reported in the last few weeks for IDPs moving to western Aleppo. Credible reports were received that armed groups inside the besieged enclave tried to prevent civilians from fleeing on multiple occasions. Detention is a real and enduring risk which can persist over months for those lacking adequate documents. In this regard, there were some credible reports of detention in IDP sites. Multiple reports were also received of males being detained upon crossing to Government held areas, but this however could not be independently verified.

Other protection concerns include the omnipresence of munitions and UXOs in public places and residential dwellings, placing inhabitants, especially children, at risk. Looting has been widely observed within eastern Aleppo by civilians and non-civilians alike, and was identified as one of the primary concerns of local residents and returnees. Additional protection risks faced by the displaced relate to the lack of civil documentation, family separations, widespread traumatization and high prevalence of persons with special needs.

Following the conclusion of the evacuation, the highest priority is to access areas recently retaken by the Government, and continue to respond to people in need throughout the city. The UN and its partners are accessing most of the areas of the city to assess the situation of civilians and respond to their needs. The UN's current focus in Aleppo city is to assist and protect the most vulnerable throughout the city, which includes scaling up the response where needed.

As of 23 December, at least 53,773 have been registered as displaced from eastern Aleppo to Government controlled areas since 24 November as follows:

- **Western Aleppo:** 21,698 IDPs in western Aleppo
- **Areas in eastern Aleppo retaken by the Government:** 4,070 IDPs in private houses in Al-Mashatiyeh and Al-Mouasalat, 1,950 IDPs in Al-Qaterji, 600 IDPs in Al-Qaterji, 9,700 IDPs in Hanano and 5,255 ID in Tariq Al-bab
- **IDP sites:** 10,000 IDPs in Jibreen industrial and 1,300 IDPs in Mahalej.

In parallel, as of December 21, the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) cluster reported 26,070 people arriving from eastern Aleppo to 99 different locations in non-State armed group-controlled Idleb and rural western Aleppo. Most of the arrivals are in urban areas and hosted by friends, relatives and families. Some 12% of the new arrivals reportedly moved to informal IDP camps in the northern countryside of Idleb and Aleppo governorates.

There are currently 105 UN staff members in Aleppo carrying out humanitarian response throughout the city wherever we have access. As part of the ongoing surge support to Aleppo, the UN requested approval from the Government for up to 100 additional surge staff to strengthen monitoring and response in Aleppo. These staff will be ready to deploy as soon as approval is received and as early as Wednesday 28 December.

Humanitarian Response



Shelter and NFIs

Needs:

- Some 1,300 people remain at Mahalej exposed to the weather conditions. The hangars are leaking due to heavy rains, resulting in some rooms being drenched and plastic sheeting falling off. The tents have been removed at the governorate's request.
- The Jibreen Grain Warehouse temporary shelter has received 1,300 - 2,000 evacuees from Foah and Kafraya who have been provided with heaters, blankets and sheets. People stay for 24-28 hours before being transferred to Homs and Lattakia.
- Jibreen zone 1 and 2 is currently hosts some 10,000 people in 900 units where 2-3 families share a unit, leading to family separation in order to allow for women only units.

- To date, 21,698 IDPs have been registered in western Aleppo and are staying in overcrowded Jibreen or with host families.
- The Government has allowed the population to stay in some of the neighbourhoods the recently came under Government control. To date 21,575 IDPs are registered and live in damaged houses consisting of 9,700 in Masaken Hanano and nearby areas, and 11,875 in Al-Mashatiyeh, Tariq Al-Bab, Al- Mouasalat, Al-Qatrji and Al-Sakhour. These neighbourhoods lack basic services and shelter support. Aid is only delivered to one area, which is far for some vulnerable families to access.

Response:

- In Mahalej, UNHCR and ICRC have completed 14 and 6 halls, respectively, accommodating IDPs in 404 partitions. UNHCR is working on two more halls; and repairing the roof, doors, and upper windows of a hangar, in addition to installing heaters for 400 units.
- Jibreen zones 1 & 2: Following the completion of 76 units, 20 units have been assigned to families and the rest will be used to shelter families from Mahalej. DRC started rehabilitating the remaining 166 units on 20 December. Some units will be used as temporary schools or child recreational areas. The roof at the site is in good condition and only longitudinal walls are needed and shelter kits could be transferred from Mahalej, pending the Governorate's approval.
- Western Aleppo: The UNHCR owner-oriented project is ongoing with 85 apartments completed and 25 ongoing. DRC has started the rehabilitation of 4 buildings in Al Shekh Taha, targeting 880 IDPs. Al Talouf will start the rehabilitation of another unfinished building in the Jeanette Almohandisn area, targeting 520 IDPs. The MoLA approved the rehabilitation of the Muhandesin mall, which would shelter some 1,500 IDPs. ICRC will upgrade the Rahmeh mosque which currently shelters 300 IDPs.
- From 1 to 21 December, IOM reached 22,031 beneficiaries with 516 baby diapers, 1221 elderly diapers, 750 house cleaning kits, 2700 hygiene kits, 1463 jerry cans ,2015 mattresses , 1271 plastic mats, and 1843 winter clothing kits in the following locations: Al-Mohafaza , Ashrafiyeh, Ash-Shahba'a, Hanano, Jibreen, New Aleppo Nile Street ,Qarleq, and Sha'aar.
- As of 23 December, UNHCR assisted 46,351 IDPs (9,240 families) in western Aleppo and near Rural Aleppo. From 12 to 21st December, UNICEF distributed winter kits to 11,000 children and 6,000 blankets were distributed to families.
- To date, cross border partners delivered non-food items to 17,456 people, including winter clothes, winter kits and heating fuel. An additional 3,100 NFI kits will be released from contingency stock on 22 December.

Gaps & Constraints:

- While the evacuation of eastern Aleppo came to an end, there is still no clear number of how many people remain in these neighbourhoods. The Governorate plans to screen people remaining in east Aleppo and the old city is also unclear and may be brought to Mahalej for security screening.
- Most NGOs and SARC dramatically reduced their presence at IDP sites to follow the evacuations. The Mahalej committee has not been established by the Governorate, therefore the site lacks organisation and maintenance. A solution to shelter people in a dignified manner is urgent, and imperative if new IDPs will be brought to the site for security clearance.

- As the hangars need heavy rehabilitation, only tents could avoid “rooms” being damaged by rain or snow. This has to be discussed with the Governorate, as well as other solutions such as moving the IDPs to a better shelter.
- An inter-sector plan and methodology on how to rehabilitate neighbourhoods that recently came under Government control is needed, followed by a phased approach with priority/urgent interventions in line with a sustainable and resilience perspective. There is an urgent need for a mapping of all neighborhoods, to enable partners to conduct needs assessment, deliver NFIs and monitor distribution.
- Due to the unseasonably low temperatures, blankets, clothes as well as heaters and fuel for heating are urgently required.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster (CCCM)

Response:

- As of December 21, the CCCM Cluster reported 26,070 individual arrivals from eastern Aleppo in 99 different locations. Most of the arrivals are in urban areas and hosted by friends, relatives and families. 12% of the new arrivals reportedly moved to informal IDP camps in the northern countryside of Idleb and Aleppo governorates, under NSAG control.
- IDPs who moved to informal IDP sites and the collective center in Maraat al Ekhwan town are receiving the same sustained multi-sectoral assistance provided to all of the camp residents.

Gaps and Constraints:

- Access to the collective center in Maraat al Ekhwan was hampered by the temporary blocking of the roads due to the snowfall on 21 December. The local Civil Defense assisted in clearing the roads into and the areas within the Maraat al Ekhwan collective centre.
- The snowfall affected several IDP sites including the damage of 50 tents in Atmah camp. CCCM members are coordinating to cover these additional weather-related needs.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

Approximately 500,000 people across Aleppo do not have regular access to water due to a 60% decrease in water production from the Sulaimen Alhalabi pumping station and partial damage of transmission pipes between Sulaiman Alhalabi and Tishreen stations.

Response:

- With continuous support from UNICEF, approximately 1.15 million people in Aleppo have intermittent access to water supply and is continuing to support access to water and sanitation at IDP shelters. PU and SARC continued water trucking for Ashrafie and Zeid neighborhood benefiting over 20,000 people, and is working to double capacity in the coming 3 months. With Oxfam support, installation of 10 prefab latrines is ongoing. The distribution of 25,000 hygiene kits is ongoing.
- UNDP and UNHABITAT continued their support for solid waste collection and disposal in Aleppo and to removing heavy debris in 1070, Khaldie, Menian and Suleiman Alhhalabi pumping station to facilitate IDPs to go back to their homes.

Gaps & Constraints:

- WASH partners need to further upgrade, maintain and sustain existing and new WASH facilities/services (particularly sanitation facilities and their regular maintenance along with hygiene promotion as well as water/sewerage network repair) in Mahalej, Hanano and other IDP locations across Aleppo.



Needs:

- **Protection observations from the evacuations**
Given the limitations imposed on the observation teams of the now completed evacuations, protection assessments could not be performed.
- **Arrivals from Kafraya and Foua (*Jibreen Grain Store*)**
It has been reported that evacuees from the towns of Foah and Kafraya have been transferred from the *Jibreen Grain Store* site in Aleppo primarily to Homs Governorate. Protection partners are permitted to visit the transit site but are now permitted to directly engage with the evacuees.
- **Protection observations in at Mahalej**
Protection conditions at *Mahalej* have improved as a result of decongestion and allowed for a better delivery of protection services by UNHCR partners on issues on prevention from exploitation, child protection risks, psychosocial support and assistance to people with special needs. Harsh winter conditions, however, have driven site residents to burn NFIs in order to combat the cold; despite protection partners alarming them to fire hazards, in addition to risks of exploitation associated with extreme hardship.

Response:

- During the reporting period, cold weather and snowfall affected program implementation of all partners.
- With a view to providing follow-up and assistance and services, five UNHCR protection partners were authorized to follow-up people relocating from *Mahalej* to western neighborhoods of Aleppo. UNHCR partners continued to deliver services in accessible areas, notably on legal counseling and assistance, awareness raising, needs identification, psychosocial support, and continued to provide material assistance to vulnerable cases to mitigate risks.
- Child protection program activities continued, reaching 600 children in Child Friendly Spaces daily. To date, UNICEF partners have reached 9,818 children with psychosocial support activities and provided risk education to over 2,000 children and adults.
- Partners continue to monitor the situation of 258 unaccompanied and separated children that have been identified and registered. 94% of them are separated children accompanied by relatives. A total of 17 children have been provided with emergency residential care facility.
- Two UNFPA staff have been deployed to Aleppo to strengthen the response on reproductive health and gender-based violence. In the reporting period, UNFPA partners continued to provide gender-based violence services in Women and Girls Safe Space (WGSS), clinics, as well as to mobile clinics and teams.
- Gender-based violence awareness raising sessions and vocational training were provided to 147 women in the WGSS, 90 women from the IDPs and 57 from the host community in Al Razi neighborhood, bringing the total to 903, 513 and 390 women respectively. Three gender-based violence cases in Alrazi were referred

to specialized services, totaling 26 gender-based violence cases since 25 November. Psychosocial support was provided to 72 people in Jibreen, Martini, Al Zahra and AL Ezaa through mobile teams, bringing the total to 403 beneficiaries.

- Cross border partners are coordinating temporary off settlement/off camp transit points for IDPs at Sarmada, Atareb and Big Orem/Kfar Naha, where protection services (including psychosocial support) and basic assistance is provided, as people move on to locations of their choice. Services include: provision of basic assistance and new arrival kits (food, blankets, NFI); psychological first aid; protection monitoring; family tracing and reunification; provision of dignity kits; referrals to specialized services; nutrition screening; health services/mobile clinics; and information on camps and other support.
- Cross border partners screened 4,581 children at welcome centers and identified 14 separated children for follow up. A total of 42 children living in an orphanage were successfully evacuated from eastern Aleppo city to the AFKAK center in Kafr Nobol and will be documented to determine their status and facilitate family tracing. Four child protection partners have received 5,400 winter kits from UNICEF to provide warm clothing for children that are tracked and screened through the welcome centers and communities.



Food Security

Response:

- Between 15 and 22 December, Food Security and Livelihood cross border partners distributed 8,661 Ready-to-Eat Rations to IDPs in different communities and 14,979 cooked meals to IDPs in the Atareb and Big Orm reception sites.
- A cross border partner provided 500 hot meals per day to IDPs arriving in the town of Atareb; while another partner provided 4,485 cooked meals through a mobile kitchen that operates in the area between the Al-Rashideen zero point and Atareb town.
- WFP prepositioned about 17,000 Ready-to-Eat Rations in Syria for the Aleppo and Madaya IDP response.



Health

Needs:

- A total of 734 patients were medically evacuated from eastern Aleppo according to WHO. Medical/health cases anticipated to require health care include:
 - Neglected conflict related injuries
 - Chronic diseases (diabetes, CVD, cancer, hypertension) requiring treatment or referral to specialized care
 - Winter-related diseases and other communicable diseases
 - Acute malnutrition in children and women
 - Immunization and reproductive health services
 - Mental health illnesses
- Vulnerable groups requiring special attention and health care services include: children under five, pregnant and lactating women, elderly and patients with mental illnesses.
- Winter conditions, overcrowding in shelters, poor hygiene, non-treated “neglected” conflict related injuries and trauma lead to the overall worsening of health status of newly displaced people.

734

patients medically evacuated from eastern Aleppo

- Other urgent issues to address include the hygiene situation, shelter related problems, the need for more health referrals for people inside new collective shelters and the ones returning to their original places of residence in east Aleppo. Restarting health services throughout eastern Aleppo city is imperative once and when access is granted.

Response:

Health sector partners in Aleppo are being supported with surge teams to coordinate with partners, conduct rapid health assessments in collective shelters, and to monitor the ongoing evacuation process from east Aleppo working closely with health cluster colleagues in Gaziantep, in addition to coordinating negotiating access and safe passage of the injured and sick patients, in addition to monitoring the evacuation process, together with other UN agencies.

#	Actor	Action/ Service provided	Supported by	Locations of collective shelters				
				Mahalj	Jibreen	Hanano	Seeds warehouses	
	DoH	3 mobile clinics	DoH (mobile clinic donated by WHO)	1	1	1		
		1 static health point	DoH	1				
		Vaccination teams	DoH (WHO and UNICEF)	1	1	1		
		Referral services	DoH (5 WHO donated ambulances)	24/7	24/7	24/7	24/7	
	Al Ihsan	1 mobile clinic 1 mobile team	WHO, UNICEF	<i>Mobile team rotates according to fixed schedule. Every day pediatric, maternal, internal medicine and RH services are provided, yet not all actors are present every day.</i>				2 for the urgent need of today
	SARC	1 mobile team ambulatory services	UNICEF, UNFPA, SDC					
	PRCS	1 mobile team	UNICEF					
	Ta'alouf	1 mobile team	UNICEF					
	SFPA	3 mobile teams	UNFPA					
	SOS	Screening and referrals						

- 734 patients have been medically evacuated from East Aleppo City to 8 hospitals in rural Western Aleppo and Idlib governorate, and 95 of these have been transferred to Turkey (one of whom has since died).
- 2,254 consultations have been held. The main illnesses included: Acute Respiratory Infections; Acute Diarrheal Diseases; Diabetes; and Hypertension.
- While medical evacuations have completed from eastern Aleppo, sick and wounded people continue to arrive to hospitals in Aleppo and Idlib transported by friends and family in private vehicles.

Gaps & Constraints:

- **Provide emergency health** response to IDP sites and including residents of eastern Aleppo which been retaken by the Government who are subjected to the cold season, overcrowding in shelters, poor hygiene, non-treated “neglected” conflict related injuries and trauma leads to the overall worsening of health status of newly displaced people.



Nutrition

Needs:

- Some internally displaced families from Foah and Kafraya have arrived in the Jibreen area of Aleppo. Some 62 children screened for acute malnutrition were found have signs of chronic malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies. Women also exhibited signs of micronutrient deficiencies due to lack of access to nutritious foods.

Response:

- SARC in coordination with UNICEF reached 750 children and women with a blanket distribution of High energy biscuits during evacuation. Preventive and therapeutic nutrition support was provided to over 28,758 children under five years of age and pregnant lactating mothers in the IDP camps including new beneficiaries receiving nutrient supplements, micronutrients and screening for malnutrition. Of 8,839 children and 2,269 mothers screened, 486 children under five and 155 women are under treatment for acute malnutrition.
- Mobile nutrition teams supported by UNICEF were deployed in areas within eastern Aleppo to provide lifesaving nutrition services. Three mobile teams in Almahalij and Jibreen industrial areas are providing IDPs with nutrition supplements such as High Energy Biscuits and Plumpy Doz.
- Regular nutrition services including preventive and treatment support are provided in both Hanano and old city areas.
- As part of the response to the Foah and Kafraya displacement, a camp has been prepared in Hassyia which is expected to receive 4000 people. SARC and partners will support the nutrition screening, prevention and treatment.
- Stock for nearly 165,000 people for two months is available in UNICEF and partners warehouses in Aleppo.
- Cross border partners mobilized rapid response teams to accelerate the nutrition response through 11 mobile clinic and community health workers. 1,237 children were screened for malnutrition, of which 69 were moderately malnourished and 5 were severely malnourished.
- No severely malnourished children with complications was detected. A total of 252 children under 6 months were assessed for breastfeeding and mothers received counselling on breastfeeding. In addition 1,013 pregnant and lactating women received counselling on infant and young child feeding. 44 Children under 5 years received multiple micronutrient supplementation.


Education
Needs:

- An estimated 23,000 displaced school-aged children (3-17 years) are in need of education in Jibreen, Sheikh Maqsoud and within eastern Aleppo. Most of them have been out of school for 2-3 years due to protracted conflict.
- Lack of protective learning spaces, loss and destruction of learning materials, and of legal documents including education certificates have been identified as critical education needs.

23,000

IDP children are in need of education assistance

Response:

- UNICEF has delivered basic education materials to Directorate of Education in Aleppo, including school bags for 14,000 children, 584 schools in cartons for 23,360 children for three months, 295 recreational kits for 26,550 children in Aleppo to be further distributed to the targeted IDPs children of eastern Aleppo.

- Approximately 450 children have been enrolled, in three primary schools opened by the Department of Education (DoE) in eastern side of Aleppo (Hanano, Bayyada, Mayyasar); 365 of which have been provided with school bags.
- The DoE with UNICEF support has trained 90 teachers on the Curriculum B programme and active learning to equip them with necessary knowledge and skills to deliver education and provide timely support for out-of-school children and youth in eastern Aleppo.
- The DoE and NGOs have provided education support to approximately 1,100 children and youth through essential teaching learning materials, Early Childhood Education (ECE), and alternative education.
- 370 children have been registered by SSSD and Fouadi NGOs in Self-learning programme in Jibreen and As-safira.
- 400 children will benefit from repaired classrooms in 1070 school undertaken by DoE with UNICEF support.
- 5,000 children will be targeted with school enrolment campaign in 6 locations in eastern side of Aleppo.

Gaps and Constraints:

- Displacement sites particularly in the Jibreen area do not have sufficient capacity to provide education services due to the influx of IDP children. The instability of children and families' situations hinder an immediate response for education as the family's priority remain accessing life-saving needs.
- Getting children back to school will be a challenge, as they provide livelihood support to their families. Most children have reportedly dropped out of school for an average of 3-5 years.



Early Recovery

Needs:

- Need to find alternative sources for power and heating in Jebreen and Mahalej due to harsh winter conditions,
- Debris collection and removal are prominent needs, as well as rodent and pest control.

Response:

- A total of 3000 m³ of debris were removed from two pumping stations, main squares, collective shelters and roundabouts.
- 108 IDPs workers joined UNDP productive workshops and ongoing basic infrastructure rehabilitation projects.
- 450 m³ of solid waste were removed from collective shelters (Jibreen, Mahalej) and Hanano..
- Emergency maintenance connected 13 buildings to the main water network in eastern Aleppo neighborhoods.

Gaps & Constraints: Immediate assessment of infrastructure rehabilitation is required, as well as support to the livelihoods of affected people by providing them job opportunities and distributing toolkits to skilled workers, to contribute to rebuilding the damaged areas and facilitate quick and safe return of inhabitants.

Background on the crisis

Syria is one of the most complex and dynamic humanitarian crises in the world today. Since March 2011, over a quarter of a million Syrians have been killed and over one million have been injured. Half of all Syrians have been forced to leave the country, and 6.5 million are internally displaced, making Syria the largest displacement crisis globally.

In 2016, an estimated 13.5 million people, including 6 million children, are in need of humanitarian assistance. Of these 3.9 million people are in hard-to-reach areas, including close to 975,000 people in 16 besieged areas.

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