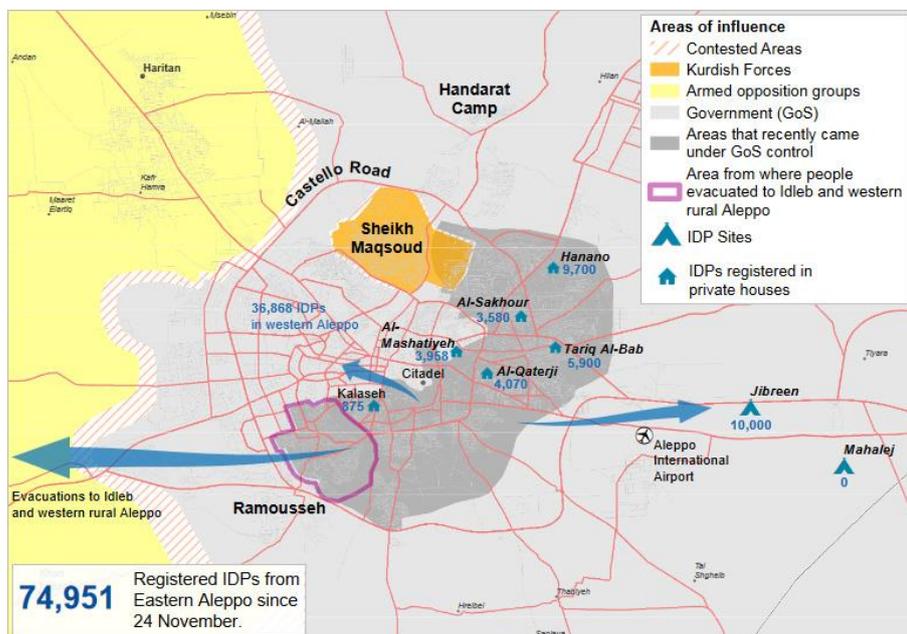




This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 24 to 27 December 2016. The next report will be issued on 5 January 2017.

Highlights

- Over 110,000 people have been registered as displaced from formerly besieged neighbourhoods of eastern Aleppo, including 74,941 displaced to areas in and around Aleppo city, and 36,086 people to Idleb and rural western Aleppo.
- Since December, there have been reports of children dying in the Mahalej shelter due to the severe cold weather and inadequate shelter conditions.
- The Mahelej transitional shelter was shut down between 24 and 25 December and all IDPs were evacuated due to the lack of protection from winter conditions.
- In Aleppo city, the UN and partners have accessed most of the areas of the city to assess the situation of civilians and respond to their needs as during the last week, formerly besieged neighbourhoods of eastern Aleppo became accessible.
- The UN is also supporting the Governorate with plans to rehabilitate areas in eastern Aleppo, in addition to responding to the needs of returnees.



Situation Overview

Over 111,000 people have been displaced from formerly besieged neighbourhoods of eastern Aleppo since 24 November. This includes 74,951 people displaced to Government-controlled areas in and around Aleppo city, and over 36,086 people in non-State armed group-controlled Idleb and rural western Aleppo. People have started returning to their homes where conditions allow. The most urgent needs in all locations are shelter, warm clothing for adults and children, heaters and fuel due to the wintery conditions, as well as protection assistance. Since December there have been reports of children dying due to the severe cold weather and inadequate shelter conditions including four infants dying at the Mahalej Transit Centre.

The Mahelej transitional shelter was shut down between 24 and 25 December. The shelter was completely evacuated under the supervision of the Governorate. While most people staying at the site returned to their houses in eastern Aleppo neighbourhoods or moved in with their relatives in western Aleppo neighbourhoods, the remaining 750 internally displaced people were moved to the Jibreen industrial. Most of the people moved to Jibreen are vulnerable, among them women, separated children, elderly, single households, disabled and sick people. While the conditions are better in Jibreen, more still needs to be done to raise standards at the site.

In Aleppo city, the UN and partners have accessed most of the areas of the city to assess the situation of civilians and respond to their needs. During the last week, formerly besieged neighbourhoods of eastern Aleppo became accessible. The UN and partners assessed the needs of returnees and are providing them with assistance including shelter support, food, NFIs, health, nutrition and providing safe water and sanitation.

The UN is also supporting the Governorate with plans to support returnees in eastern Aleppo and strengthen the municipality and partners responding to the displaced in Jibreen and throughout Aleppo city. Response plans are being expanded to include interventions to support returnees with short, medium and long term interventions following sector specific assessments of the situation in each area. An inter-sector plan and methodology on how to rehabilitate neighbourhoods that recently came under Government control is a priority.

An agreement with the Relief office in Aleppo governorate was reached to facilitate sectoral work with Government technical departments to share information and undertake assessments through field visits. Based on the findings of the assessments, sectors will coordinate with Government departments to prepare a shared response plan that highlights distinct roles and responsibilities.

The UN is aware of the reports of mass graves in eastern Aleppo, but have not been able to confirm their presence. We continue to call for full access to all areas of Aleppo, to assess the situation there and provide assistance to all in need.

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 the Jibreen Grain Warehouse which is now empty, as all evacuees from Foah and Kefrayeh have been transferred to Homs and Latakia where the UN teams in these locations are providing humanitarian support throughout.

According to the CCCM cluster, as of 26 December, 36,086 people arrived from formerly besieged neighbourhoods of eastern Aleppo to 128 unique locations in Idleb and Western Rural Aleppo. A total of 4,801 individuals moved to informal IDP camps in Aleppo and Idleb. One new camp in Sarmada was reportedly established to host 110 households/550 people.

An additional 27 households/135 people arrived at the Atmeh section in northern Idleb. All families have received food baskets and 50 families are currently hosted in an empty building near the camps waiting for additional tents to be set up. Tents have been released and awaiting administrative procedures to be delivered from Turkey into Syria through Bab Al Hawa. As of 27 December, 80 households/564 people are hosted at Maarat Al Ekhwan reception centre.

Humanitarian Response



Shelter and NFIs

Needs:

- Jibreen zone 1 and 2 are still hosting 10,000 IDPs as per SARC NFI distribution, but a more precise assessment will be carried out. The 750 IDPs from Mahalej are sheltered together with the families from the previous wave of displacement. They are all accommodated in zone 2 in 12 hangars, with an average of 3 families per unit. One hangar in zone 2 is still empty, with 52 units just completed. In zone 1, 16 units from the same project are still empty.
- The Jibreen Grain Warehouse is now empty, as all evacuees from Foah and Kefraya have been transferred to Homs and Latakia.
- Many IDPs have gone to western Aleppo and are now staying in overcrowded collective shelters or with host families; to date 36,868 have been registered.

- In formerly besieged neighbourhoods of eastern Aleppo, 28,083 IDPs have been registered and live in damaged houses in the recently retaken eastern Aleppo neighbourhoods with the majority in Masaken Hanano (9,700) and Tariq Al-Bab (5,900). Most of the houses are damaged and some completely destroyed and lack basic services requiring inter-sectoral planning to address the needs of returnees.
- A response plan with the relevant department and line ministries is needed to rehabilitate the neighbourhood with a sustainable and long-term perspective, focusing, as first step, on emergency and quick interventions to enable families to return to their homes.
- Winterisation of shelter is needed in Jibreen and all sub-standard shelters, damaged or partially damaged houses in formerly besieged neighbourhoods of eastern Aleppo.
- Collective shelters: New arrivals to Jibreen have not yet been supported with NFIs. Rain water is coming through ceilings and rodents are a problem. NGO partners are present, but coordination is needed.
- Masaken Hanano: According to SARC more than 2,500 families are registered. Assessment visits to the area showed an urgent need for water and electricity as well as NFIs as most of the returnees found their houses empty.
- UNHCR through its partners assessed the primary needs of the returnees which include the need for: cleaning the place from debris, water (both safe for drinking and for daily use), electricity, safe shelter, NFIs, health and food.
- UNICEF determined that some 8,940 children are in need of winter clothes, and 2,372 need blankets as reported by their partners.

Response:

- In Mahalej, UNHCR and ICRC are removing the partitions. UNHCR are storing them to be reused in Jibreen or for light interventions in Masaken Hanano.
- Jibreen zones 1 & 2: Of the 76 completed units, 52 are still empty in zone 2 and 16 in zone 1. UNHCR has asked the Head of the Relief Committee to urgently move newly arrived families in these units, in order to ease congestion in the overcrowded units.
- DRC has completed 10% of the remaining 166 units in zone 1 and plans to finish in 6-7 weeks. The sector has identified 24 remaining units that are at present planned for schools or for child recreational areas, as potential area to temporarily host families from Mahalej. Each unit could host 8 families.
- Western Aleppo: DRC has completed 5% of the rehabilitation of 4 buildings in Al Shekh Taha, targeting some 880 IDPs. The approval to rehabilitate the collective shelter at Muhandesin mall has been granted by Ministry of Local Administration, and would accommodate 1,500 IDPs.
- Masaken Hanano and other neighbourhood: Housing, land and property (HLP) issues still must be addressed with the Governorate, as many IDPs are occupying houses that do not belong to them. SARC is providing light materials in order to close windows and doors. The Governor is requesting an inter-sectoral and inter-agency working session in order to: 1) identify the emergency interventions needed to enable people to return; 2) produce a sustainable response plan for the inclusive rehabilitation of the regained neighbourhoods. The first session should take place in the coming two weeks, and the second one at the end of January.
- From 1-25 December, IOM reached 27,031 beneficiaries by distributed NFIs in the following locations: Al-Mohafaza, Ashrafiyeh, Ash-Shahba'a, Hanano, Jibreen, Karm Al-Qaterji, New Aleppo, Nile Street, Qarleq, and Sha'ar Al-Mohafaza, Ashrafiyeh, Ash-Shahba'a, Hanano, Jibreen, New Aleppo Nile Street, Qarleq, and Sha'ar.
- Since 26 December, UNHCR has provided 60,990 IDPs (12,453 families) from formerly besieged neighbourhoods of eastern Aleppo with NFIs such as mattresses, high thermal blanket, kitchen sets, and hygiene kits.
- 5,940 children were reached with assistance during the reporting period in areas in formerly besieged neighbourhoods of eastern Aleppo where IDPs are returning to their houses, and in collective shelters in Jibreen.

Gaps & Constraints:

- A detailed assessment in Jibreen to identify the current shelter needs as well as the population movement trends in the coming two month is urgently needed. If temporary shelters are to be added, sanitation facilities should to be provided by WASH partners.
- It is urgent to define clear areas to be prepared in order for partner to intervene and provide shelter support. Discussion with the authorities and strategic planning is needed, as well as the cleaning of sites (rubble and remnants of explosive), structural assessment of the buildings, categorisation of damage (green, yellow and red) and related security measures. Furthermore, HLP issues need to resolved before shelter partners can intervene in rehabilitating damaged houses.
- There is an urgent need for a mapping of all neighborhoods, to enable partners to conduct needs assessment, deliver NFIs, monitor distribution and avoid duplication.
- The situation in Jibreen industrial halls is critical, especially in those newly inhabited by the newcomers from Mahalej. All basic facilities such as toilets, bathrooms, heating system and cooking tools are not in a good condition. The water supply in not sufficient and the sewage system is not functional. Keeping people warm is a critical issues and heating system needs to be provided.
- Report of UXOs and other explosive materials in the eastern neighborhoods of Aleppo city limits movements in these neighborhoods.
- A total of 16 cross border partners are currently providing NFIs and shelter assistance to IDPs, including approximately 3,000 stoves and fuel are required to meet current needs.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene****Needs:**

- Approximately 500,000 people in across Aleppo continue to be deprived of regular access to water due to a 60% decrease in water production from the Sulaiman Alhalabi pumping station and because the damaged parts of the transmission main between Sulaiman Alhalabi and Tishreen stations have yet to be repaired.

Response:

- With ongoing 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. Over 24,000 families benefited with hygiene kits and the remaining 16,000 hygiene kits being distributed through five NGOs partners.
- PU with SARC collaboration continued benefitting over 20,000 people. They delivered 500 tanks with 500m3 capacity to the SARC warehouse for installation purpose and delivery/installation of 15 prefabs with 90 latrines along with over 10,000 Jerry cans is in progress.
- Oxfam has delivered over 1,500 hygiene kits and distribution of 2,000 more is ongoing;
- Over 22,850 IDP families (114,250 people) benefited from the distribution of hygiene kits with support from DRC (18,890 families) and IOM (3,950). The installation over 20 caravans (each consist of 3 toilet and 3 bathing facilities) is in progress to meet sanitation gap in IDP shelters.
- Cross border partners increased water trucking to cover 18 informal settlements and two communities reaching a total of 3,347 eastern Aleppo IDPs. IDPs who took shelter in communities are still receiving water via a piped network in the majority of the locations. The rehabilitation of old Seijar water station is ongoing.
- 4,125 IDPs received hygiene kits, aqua tabs and jerry can in Atareb and Deir Hassan. Two organizations will provide diesel, chlorine and infrastructure rehabilitation at informal settlements. Partners have coordinated a comprehensive response for the next 3 month period.

Gaps & Constraints:

- WASH partners will need to increase partnerships to further upgrade, maintain and sustain existing and new WASH facilities/services in newly regained areas and IDP locations across Aleppo on a priority basis in close consultation with line departments and humanitarian partners.



Needs

- UNHCR and other humanitarian actors worked with the Government to transfer 750 IDPs at the Mahalej shelter to Jibreen on the 24th and the 25th of December 2016 due to the harsh weather conditions and lack of heating.
- Among the IDPs, there are a significant number of medical cases, single women heads of household and persons with disabilities. While there are many NGOs working on the site, lack of operational coordination hampers these efforts. It has been observed that different partners provide their own services and at present there is little synergy among them. It is estimated that some 10% of the people staying at Jibreen, have lost their personal documentation.
- As discussions are underway to improve the conditions in transit sites, the authorities expressed their intention to return families to their areas of origin. UNHCR emphasized the need for creating conducive conditions for the IDP population in Jibreen until sustainable alternatives are identified.

Response

- UNHCR partners continued to deliver services to people in need, notably on legal counseling and assistance, awareness raising, needs identification, Image result for psychosocial support, and continued to provide material assistance to vulnerable cases to mitigate risks.
- UNICEF and partners launched a risk education campaign on 24 December targeting areas in east Aleppo that have been retaken by the Government, expecting to reach over 50,000 individuals in two weeks. UNICEF mobilized 288 facilitators to provide risk education in 21 neighborhoods in the eastern part of the city, reaching 6,332 children and 3,288 adults, bringing the total reach to 22,035 persons since late November 2016.
- Despite of challenging cold weather, 3,150 children (1,372 new) and 1,512 adults (1,476 new) including new arrivals were provided with psychosocial support, and recreational activities. To date, a total of 10,823 children have been reached by UNICEF partners with psychosocial and recreational activities.
- UNICEF has been working with partners to raise awareness among newly displaced populations focusing on protection and care of children during emergencies. From 25-26 December, UNICEF engaged with 500 children (361 new) and 502 adults (206 new) including new arrivals with child protection awareness activities, bringing the total to around 17,000 people.
- Two unaccompanied and separated children were identified in Alfardos during the reporting period, bringing the total number of unaccompanied and separated children to 260; 94% of them are separated children accompanied by relatives. A total of 17 children have been provided with emergency residential care facility, while efforts to trace and reunite them with their families is ongoing. In total, 28 case managers including three staff from DoSA were trained to support identification, referral and care of unaccompanied and separated children.

- A UNFPA partner provided gender-based violence awareness raising sessions and vocational training to 180 women in the Women and Girls Safe Space (103 IDPs and 77 from the host community in Al Razi, totaling 1,083) and it also provided psychosocial support and case management and referral for 5 gender-based violence cases, totaling 35 cases. The total number of beneficiaries of Psychological First Aid (PFA) to date is 3,982.



Food Security

Needs:

Comparing the current caseload with the available stocks (including ongoing activities), there are no immediate gaps in Aleppo city and surrounding areas: WFP has 19,600 Ready to Eat Food rations, 17,000 Food rations and 308 MT of wheat flour already prepositioned as emergency stock. Other humanitarian have also indicated that they will be able to urgently dispatch food to Aleppo if required. Cross border partners report that while needs for food continue to be high, no major gaps have been identified at this date and the situation continues to be monitored closely.

Response:

- Food Security cluster partners including WFP have delivered a total amount of 8.607 ready to eat rations from 23 to 26 December in different areas of Aleppo and Idlib governorates responding to IDPs movements.
- Beneficiaries are mainly coming from Aleppo city but there are also a few IDPs fleeing from the Damascus countryside and arriving in the same village in Idlib Governorates. One partner is distributing 500 cooked meals daily to IDPs in Atareb since 20th December.
- Four communal kitchens continue to provide hot meals for 20,700 IDPs in collective shelters of Jibreen, the Old City and the Hanano neighborhood on the basis of two meals for each person daily. A total of 4,243 Ready to Eat Rations were provided to returnees in eastern Aleppo, and to IDPs from eastern Aleppo who sought refuge in western Aleppo. A total of 169,576 bread bundles were distributed from 28 November to 28 December in the following areas: Jibreen, Al Mahalej Hanano, Sheikh Maqsood, East/West Aleppo, Mshateyah, Tareeq Al Bab, Al Bayyadah, Furqan, Shahba'a, Miridian, Mogambo, Ibn Khaldoon Hospital and Serian.



Health

Needs

- The Medical/Health cases anticipated to require health care include: neglected conflict related injuries, chronic diseases 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 and mental health illnesses.
- Vulnerable groups requiring special attention and health care services include: children under five, pregnant and lactating women, the elderly and patients with mental illnesses.
- Winter conditions, overcrowding in shelters, poor hygiene, non-treated and neglected conflict related injuries and trauma contribute to the overall worsening of the health status of newly displaced people.
- 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

- Supporting 7 mobile clinics and 12 mobile team to provide medical service, including mental health care, to IDPs in collective shelters, including Jibreen, and Hanano.
- 1,315 cases of critical ill and wounded from east Aleppo were referred to 5 public hospitals and 5 patients with severe mental health problems were referred to Ibn Khaldoun mental hospital.
- Jibreen collective shelter is covered by Department of Health, SFPA, Al-Ihsan, Al-Taalof, PRCS and EMERCOM field hospital.
- 26 doctors cover IDP sites, providing a total of 15,000 services per the last month.
- Dispatches of emergency health supplies were completed to field mobile hospital in Jibreen, Aleppo University Hospital, Al Razi Hospital.
- Cross border partners: 26 mobile clinics have provided a total of 8,084 consultations at more than 80 locations. To date, 811 people have been admitted to 16 hospitals in rural western Aleppo and Idlib governorate, which were supported with essential medicines and supplies. More than 156 ambulances were mobilized to Al Soura collection point for patient transportation.

Gaps & Constraints

- All functioning public health centers in Aleppo city have reported a high increase of patients applying for health care consisting mainly of residents from eastern Aleppo.
- Cross border partners require additional funds to support the rehabilitation of hospitals and the purchase of equipment, their operations and running costs. Equipment required: 2 generator, compressor, blood bank equipment and operation room.



Nutrition

Needs:

- Of the 11,918 (9,493 children and 2,425 women) screened for malnutrition, 116 (0.9%) children were found severely malnourished while 382 (3.2%) were moderately malnourished and 156 women were suffering from acute malnutrition.

11,918
Children and women
screened for
malnutrition

Response:

- Preventive and therapeutic nutrition support was provided to over 31,295 children under five and pregnant lactating mothers among the population of displaced people from the formerly besieged eastern Aleppo.
- Mobile nutrition teams supported by UNICEF were deployed to areas within eastern Aleppo city to provide lifesaving nutrition services. The teams are working in shifts to cover all accessible areas and are supporting families who have returned. In addition, two mobile teams in the Jibreen industrial site-zone 1 and zone 2 are serving eastern parts of Aleppo providing nutrition supplements such as high energy biscuits and Plumpy Doz.
- Nutrition supplies for nearly 165,000 patients for two months are prepositioned in UNICEF and partners warehouses in Aleppo.
- According to partners in Turkey, 3,668 children 6-59 months were screened for malnutrition. No cases of severe malnutrition with complications were detected. Acutely malnourished children were provided with PlumpyNut. Children were randomly selected and screened for malnutrition due to the ongoing movement of IDPs. A total of 658 children under 6 months were assessed for breastfeeding and breastmilk substitute; 2,242 mothers received counselling on infant and young child feeding; 369 received awareness raising sessions on health; and 1,429 people attend session on nutrition good practices; 1,229 pregnant and lactating women received iron folate or multiple micronutrient supplements for Anemia prevention; and

689 children under 5 years received multiple micronutrient powder. Partners prepositioned nutrition supplies to cover over 35,000 people including 5,000 children under 5 years and over 2,000 pregnant and lactating women.

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.
- The number of school aged children, who left eastern Aleppo to opposition areas, is not currently clear. Partners developed a plan based on working assumptions, but the number will be adjusted as needed. The main target group is out of school children and that children will require psychosocial support and will have been out of school, or unable to sufficiently focus on learning, for a long period of time; and that other IDP and resident children may be in a similar situation. These children will need to catch-up before they are enrolled in school. As the education needs in targeted areas are not fully met, to promote a do-no-harm approach, the response will increase the overall education capacity in the targeted areas. For planning purposes the response aims to meet 150% of the estimated Aleppo outflow so that the response can better accommodate other out of school children, and plans to cover the needs of 18,000 students and 600 teachers/facilitators.

23,000

IDP children are in need of education assistance

Response:

- With UNICEF support, education materials has been sent to Manbej in rural Aleppo benefiting approximately 100,000 children. The materials include regular curriculum textbooks for 47,647 children, curriculum B textbooks for 20,000 children, stationary for 30,000 children and furniture for 3,000 children.
- An education sector coordination meeting was held in Aleppo on 26 December with representatives of UN agencies, NNGOs, DoE (Department of Education), and SARC to streamline the response efforts, mobilize resources and enhance the coordination.
- UNICEF is following up closely with Aleppo DoE with regards of further distributing the following education supplies delivered last week: school bags for 14,000 children, 584 schools in cartons for 23,360 children for three months, 295 recreational kits for 26,550 children to target internally displaced children.
- UNICEF is monitoring the progress of the approximately 800 children enrolled, in five primary schools opened by DoE in eastern side of Aleppo (Hanano, Bayyada, Mayyasar).
- Cumulatively Aleppo DoE, UNICEF and NGOs provided education support to approximately 1,100 children and youth through essential teaching learning materials, Early Childhood Education, and alternative education and trained 90 teachers on Curriculum B and active learning.
- UNICEF is following up with SSSD and Fouadi on the progress of the 390 children registered in self-learning programmes in Jibreen and As-safira.
- UNICEF with Aleppo DoE are in process of repairing classrooms in 1070 schools to benefit 400 children.
- In total, 13 education cross border partners are preparing the education cluster response.

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.

- Cross border partners require additional funds to provide the following prioritized supplies and services: psychosocial support; self-learning program; catch-up classes, accelerated learning, remedial classes; teacher training; teaching and learning supplies and stationary; textbooks; and temporary learning spaces (with adequate furniture/fixtures, WASH facilities and three months of heating).



Early Recovery

Needs:

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

Response:

- During the reporting period, 44 m³ of solid waste was removed from the Seif Aldaualeh neighborhood's main and sub roads and 45 m³ of debris removed from the Suleiman Alhalabi pumping station.
- A total of 3045 m³ of debris were removed from two pumping stations, main squares, collective shelters and roundabouts.
- 115 IDPs workers joined UNDP productive workshops and ongoing basic infrastructure rehabilitation projects.

Gaps & Constraints:

- A technical assessment of infrastructure conditions is required, along with support for livelihoods opportunities in affected areas. Assisting inhabitants of eastern Aleppo to reinstate systems is vital to the safe and stable 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 their homes, 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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