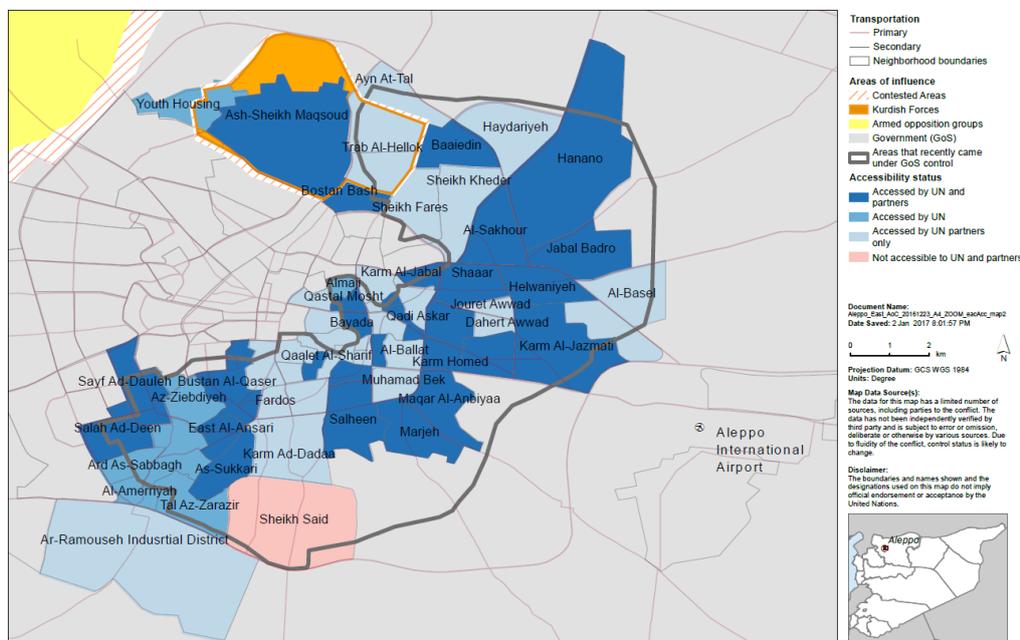




This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 4 January to 12 January 2017.

Highlights

- Of the more than 111,000 people who formerly resided in east Aleppo remain in Aleppo city, 56,054 remained or re-registered in east Aleppo. 50,830 are registered as sheltering in west Aleppo, and 5,077 remain in the Jibreen collective shelter.
- As the vast majority of IDPs reside in at least partially damaged houses in east Aleppo, systematic structural assessments urgently need to be carried out before any shelter intervention can take place.
- Additionally, modalities need to be identified to support the host families of IDPs residing with relatives and acquaintances in west Aleppo
- The United Nations and their humanitarian partners continue to have access to all but one non-civilian neighborhood in former east Aleppo.



Situational Overview

As the security situation in Aleppo city remained comparatively calm during the reporting period, more and more displaced families returned to their homes in east Aleppo. To date, a total of 56,054 individuals have been officially registered in east Aleppo neighbourhoods. Most residents are scattered across various neighbourhoods with Hanano boosting the largest number of returnees to date (12,575). Additionally, Tariq Al-Bab, Al-Kalaseh and Bustan Al-Qaser witnessed their highest levels of returns this week. Most of the returnees now live in at least partially damaged houses, and all areas require a proper, systematic structural assessment to be carried out before any shelter intervention can take place.

To further facilitate safe returns, the ongoing efforts to remove UXOs and debris need to continue. In parallel, the UN and its humanitarian partners are continuing their risk education efforts to inform civilians about the danger of unexploded remnants of war and practical steps residents can take to protect themselves.

In west Aleppo, some 50,830 IDPs from east Aleppo remain displaced, with the majority of them staying with relatives and acquaintances. Modalities have to be identified to support these host families who are not only sharing their physical space, but sometimes also take on additional financial burdens. Structural assessments were carried out in some west Aleppo neighbourhoods, such as Al-Midan, Al-Faed, Al-Zahraa, and were identified by the Governorate as priority areas for rehabilitation.

The collective shelters in Jibreen zone 1 and 2 currently host 5,077 IDPs. According to the latest assessment by a NGO partner, only 9 per cent of those accommodated in Jibreen are planning to return to their homes. Out of those interviewed, 80 per cent reported that their houses had been fully or partially damaged, only 5 per cent had undamaged homes to return to, and 15 per cent of those interviewed had no information as to the state of their houses.

Field visits to neighborhoods in the Old City of Aleppo have identified new protection concerns, including women and girls married to men who have since abandoned them or were evacuated from Aleppo. Additionally, looting is frequently cited as one of the main concerns by residents of east Aleppo, on par with access to water and electricity.

Throughout the reporting period, service provision for more than 36,000 people who were evacuated into the West Aleppo countryside and into Idleb continued.

Humanitarian Response in Aleppo city



Shelter and NFIs

Needs

- The collective shelters Jibreen zone 1 and 2 are to date hosting 5'077 IDPs. Some rehabilitated units (52 in zone 2 and 16 in zone 1) are still empty as they have not been opened to the IDPs.
- A winterisation shelter intervention is needed in all sub-standard shelters, damaged or partially damaged houses in both east Aleppo and west Aleppo.
- Many areas recently became accessible for needs assessments, such as Masaken Hanano, Meshateeh, Tareek Bab, Shaar, and Qaterji. Assessment visits to the aforementioned areas showed an urgent need for water and electricity as well as NFIs as most of the returnees families found their houses were looted prior to their return.

Response

- In the now closed Mahalej transit shelter, UNHCR is removing all previously installed partitions, to be reused elsewhere.
- In Jibreen zones 1, the Danish Refugee Council rehabilitated 44 units and plans to finish the remaining works in the beginning of February. The Head of Relief has asked to stop the rehabilitation intervention as no more IDPS are expected. Discussion is ongoing.
- In Jibreen zones 1 and 2, UNHCR's shelter winterisation intervention is ongoing. To date, 600 stoves and 280 expansion foams have been distributed in both zones; 275 upper windows have been closed and all damaged units were fixed. Furthermore, thick curtains with plastic bars, thick carpets and heavy duty plastic sheets have been ordered and are to be distributed in all units in the coming days.
- In west Aleppo, DRC has completed 30 per cent of the rehabilitation of 176 rooms in four buildings in Al Shekh Taha, targeting some 880 IDPs. If all goes to plan, the works will be completed by mid-February.
- From 5 – 9 January, IOM reached 5,248 beneficiaries by distributing the following NFIs: 308 baby diapers, 33 elderly diapers, 1,001 hygiene kits, 225 jerry cans, 1,127 mattresses, and 250 underwear kits in the following locations: Bustan Al-Qaser, Hanano, Kallaseh, Karm Al-Qaterji, Qarleq, and Sha'ar.
- In cooperation with Ta'alouf and UNICEF, UNHCR continues to provide heaters and firewood to the IDPs sheltered in Jibreen industrial halls. A total of 700 wood stoves have been delivered which will cover all families accommodated in the area.
- UNHCR continues to distribute NFIs to the vulnerable families of east Aleppo. As of 11 January, UNHCR had assisted 103,264 IDPs in different locations with mattresses, high thermal blankets, diapers, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, jerry cans, plastic sheets, sleeping mats, winter clothing kits, solar lamps, sleeping bags, thermal underwear kits, rubber boots and carpets.

- Emergency stocks are continuously replenished to be able to respond to an influx of up to 45,000 persons (9,000 families).
- Namaa NGO, in partnership with UNHCR, distributed 1,000 winter covers to IDPs of east Aleppo sheltered in Jibreen. These items originated from a production unit related to the livelihood program.

Gaps and constraints

- Discussions with Governor concerning their future plans of Jibreen urgently need to be discussed to determine if ongoing rehabilitation work should continue or be stopped.
- Structural assessment of damaged buildings is essential. Buildings should be categorized according to their level of damage (green, yellow and red) and related security measures should be established. Furthermore, housing, law and property (HLP) issues need to be resolved before shelter partners can intervene in rehabilitating damaged houses. A list of beneficiaries should be shared with partners, together with the list of buildings assessed as “green”, in order to enable an emergency shelter intervention.
- There is also an urgent need for a new relief map of the area to enable NGOs to do needs assessments, deliver NFIs and monitor distributions in said neighbourhoods.



Protection

General context

- In a meeting with the Office of the Governor of Aleppo and relevant line departments, humanitarian partners were informed of the needs and prioritized responses for east Aleppo, as identified by the GoS. The need for support to re-establish state services, including civil registries, was emphasized, as well as the rehabilitation and the need for the expansion of care facilities for vulnerable population groups. Protection partners were also encouraged to extend programming into east Aleppo, focusing on expanding protection programming, building on mobile services. Protection partners are currently coordinating follow-up meetings with the respective line departments (Civil Affairs, DoSA, DoLA, DoE) to agree on the specific interventions and areas of support in east Aleppo.

Protection observations

- Field visits to neighborhoods in the Old City of Aleppo have identified new protection cases, cases of women and girls married to men who have since abandoned them or were evacuated from Aleppo.
- Looting is frequently cited as one of the main concerns by persons in eastern Aleppo, on par with access to water and electricity.

Protection responses

- In terms of legal assistance, a UNHCR protection partner is establishing permanent legal services focusing on civil documentation in Hanano (east Aleppo), and two UNHCR protection partners, in coordination with the relevant authorities, have commenced the distribution of personal ID documents at the Jibreen shelter.
- UNHCR’s child protection partners have received permission from the Department of Education to conduct open days at re-opened schools in east Aleppo to encourage the re-enrollment of children and inclusion in education and child protection activities.
- During the reporting period, UNICEF and partners have reached 4,638 children and 1,456 adults through risk education campaign in 20 neighbourhoods that recently became accessible in east Aleppo. Moreover, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education and Religious affairs with the support from UNICEF reached over 15,000 individuals in IDP sites and schools (Kasem Ameen, Kurtuba, Taliaa, Ahmad Hasan Zayat, Aishaa Dabagh, Abee Tamam, Moualem Arabee, Bishara Khwri, Commercial institute, Blaas, Abteen, Azaan, Hedideen, Harbeal, and Alshafqa). Since the last week of November, UNICEF partners have reached 51,599 individuals with risk education.

- Nearly 4,000 children continue to benefit from psycho-social and recreational activities provided by UNICEF partners through child-friendly spaces and mobile teams. To date, 14,637 children and over 2,000 adults have been reached by UNICEF partners with PSS and recreational activities. In addition, UNICEF partners conducted awareness activities on child rights and the protection of children during emergencies, reaching over 17,000 individuals.
- A total of 17 new unaccompanied and separated children were identified and supported by UNICEF partners, bringing the total number of registered unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) to 304. 17 of them have been provided with emergency residential care. Two Child Protection Units have been established under the leadership of DoSAL to formalize the care arrangement for UASC with DoSAL approval. Over 50 per cent of cases have been assessed and care plans are being developed.
- A total of 72 social workers have been trained on case management practices defined jointly by UNICEF and MoSAL.
- UNFPA's partner provided (spell out GBV) GBV awareness raising sessions and vocational training to 378 women in the Women and Girls Safe Space in Al Razi neighbourhood (205 women from the IDPs and 173 from the host community, totaling to date to 1,707). UNFPA partners provided general PSS and case management and referral for nine GBV cases in Alrazi WGSS (spell out WGSS) , totaling 44 beneficiaries to date. General PSS was provided for 184 beneficiaries in Jibreen, Al Midan, new Aleppo, Ashrafia, Martini, As Srian, Al Neel Street 13, Sef Al Dawla and in Al Eza'a through a partner's mobile teams, totaling 631 beneficiaries to date. SARC, through the mobile clinic, reached 737 beneficiaries with Psychological First Aid (PFA) activities in Jibreen, Hanano, Ash Shahba, Afreen, Hamadaneyeh, As Srian and As Safira, totaling 4,719 beneficiaries.

Gaps and constraints

- In order to establish fixed protection services in east Aleppo, several factors will need to be taken into account, such as damaged infrastructure, availability of utilities, progress in clearing UXOs and the needed authorizations from the relevant authorities.
- Sporadic mortar attacks on the GoS-controlled western outskirts of the city have affected access to some Community Centers and planned field activities, during the reporting period.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs

- Five critical pumping stations (Al- Khafseh, Ayn AlBayda, Bab AlNayrab, Suleiman Al Halabi and Tishreen) are designed to deliver water to all people living in entire Aleppo city. However, approximately 500,000 people in western Aleppo are still deprived with regular access to water supply due a reduction in efficiency in water production from Sulaiman Alhalabi pumping station by 40 per cent because of some damages of main water networks. Due to unreliable of supply of power from the central grid system, all these stations are operating with back-up power generators with high cost of fuel consumption.
- The Water Board in Aleppo is carrying out full assessment of needs for upgrading and maintaining drinking water networks and systems in eastern Aleppo. Regular meetings with sector members are expected to address some of the WASH issues and generate resource commitment from humanitarian partners.

Response

- UNICEF continued to supply fuel for operating all water pumping stations and over 200 deep wells with back-up power (generators) supply which has contributed with access to water supply for over 700,000 people (400,000 people from water networks and 300, 000 people from water trucking) in Aleppo city. In addition, it has been helping to maintain installed water storage tanks in IDP shelters (Jibreen, Hanano, Alsakhour,

Almarjeh and Alhamdanya) and planning to install additional capacities after a rapid assessment to cover vulnerable eastern neighborhoods of Aleppo, plus regular repairing water network in several locations (Hanano, Salhin, Kadi Askar) . Furthermore, over 19,100 IDP families (95,500 people) benefitted from family hygiene kits provided by UNICEF and remaining 11,000 kits are under distribution by local NGOs in different locations on a priority basis on actual needs on the ground.

- (spell out PU) PU with SARC collaboration continued water trucking in Ashrafie neighborhoods with 250 m³/day capacity and benefitting over 20,000 people with a possibility to reach over 40,000 in 3 months period. It has already delivered 500 tanks with 500 liters capacity to SARC warehouse for installation purpose at HH level and delivery/installation of 15 prefabs with 90 latrines.
- With Oxfam support, the installation of 10 prefab latrine is ongoing (with 40 set committed) along with delivery of 1000 water tanks of various capacities to increase storage capacity of water in targeted areas where high influx of IDPs is anticipated. It has already delivered over 1,692 hygiene kits and distribution of remaining 1,800 is ongoing while it remain committed to deliver over 10,200 hygiene kits to meet the immediate gap.

Gaps and constraints

- WASH partners will have to intensify their partnership process and operationalize their commitment on the ground. This will quickly contribute to the upgrading, maintaining and sustaining of 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 IDP concentrated areas across Aleppo in close consultation and agreement with governor office, line departments and humanitarian partners. In this process, WASH partners will have to offer for medium and longer term support to the government plan which is under development phase.



Health

Response:

- The response of all 15 health sector partners (MoH, MoHE, UN agencies and NGOs) is being coordinated to jointly address gaps and avoid overlap. To this end, two coordination meetings were conducted during last week.
- A total of six local NGOs received shipments of medicines and medical items, which can provide up to 80,439 treatments.
- A total of seven mobile clinics and twelve mobile teams are providing medical services, including mental health care, to IDPs in collective shelters and Hanano neighborhood.
- Some 57 patients received medical in-kind assistance, including kinetic tools and other items.
- A total of 85 patients from east Aleppo were referred to the NGO hospital for medical assistance, including emergency management surgical operations, hospital admissions, ICU, radiology and lab tests.
- In collaboration with local NGOs and SARC, reproductive and health services are provided through one mobile clinics and four mobile teams to the affected population. Reproductive health services are provided to IDPs in ten different locations in Aleppo, and to date 2,709 females and 1,134 males benefitted from related services.

Gaps and Constraints:

- While the emergency response has been activated to provide essential health services in collective shelters and newly accessible districts in the city, the health sector is assessing seven primary health center facilities which can cover the area of east Aleppo in a fair geographical distribution.



Nutrition

Situation:

- More than 15,802 children and pregnant or lactating women were screened for malnutrition. Out of them, 130 children were found to be severely malnourished, while 411 children as well as 250 mothers were diagnosed as moderately malnourished.

Response:

- Preventive and therapeutic nutrition support was provided to over 39,947 children under five and pregnant lactating mothers received nutrient supplements, micronutrients, and were screened for malnutrition.
- Mobile nutrition teams supported by UNICEF were deployed in areas within east Aleppo city to provide life-saving nutrition services. The mobile teams are equipped with all the necessary nutrition supplies for women and children, including supplies for prevention and therapeutic treatment. In addition, two mobile teams in the Jibreen industrial shelter provide nutrition supplements, such as High Energy Biscuits and Plumpy Doz.
- Two trainings (Community Management of Acute Malnutrition and Infant Young Child Feeding) were conducted for 60 volunteers to prepare them for their work in east Aleppo. The volunteers have since picked up their assignments.
- Regular nutrition services, including prevention and treatment support, are provided in both Hanano, Alshaar, Alferdous and old city areas.
- The nutrition sub-sector in Aleppo is regularly replenishing the stocks levels of partners. Currently, nutrition supplies of different items, sufficient to support nearly 165,000 people for two months, are available at the UNICEF warehouses and in warehouses of humanitarian partners in Aleppo.



Education

Needs:

- An estimated 24,500 displaced school-aged children (3-17 years), most of whom have been out of school for two to three years, are in need of education support in Jibreen, Sheikh Maqsoud and east Aleppo. The number of school-aged children who left east Aleppo to NSAG-controlled areas remains unclear.
- The lack of protective learning spaces and the loss and destruction of learning materials, and of legal documents, including education certificates, have been identified as critical education needs.

Response:

- With UNICEF support, DoE, SSSD and EIEA and other local NGOs have launched the back-to-learning campaign, targeting 15,000 children in eastern neighborhoods of Aleppo city. Door-to-door visits are being conducted, while other C4D and media activities will be running throughout January and February.
- UNICEF is monitoring the progress of the approximately 4,000 children enrolled in five primary schools opened by DoE in Hanano, Bayyada and Mayyasar, Old city, Sakhor, Hulluk. UNICEF is also following up with Namaa, SSSD and Fouadi on the progress of the 900 children registered in self-learning programmes in Jibreen and As-safira.
- Preparations are ongoing for the installment of 28 prefabricated classrooms in Jibreen and the industrial City, as well as the rehabilitation of 20 schools in east Aleppo.
- MoE/DoE, with the support of UNICEF and the Education Sector, are planning to conduct an education needs assessment from 14 to 18 January in east and west Aleppo.
- Cumulatively, Aleppo DoE, UNICEF and NGOs provided education support to approximately 4,000 children and youth through essential teaching learning materials, Early Childhood Education, and alternative education forms and the training of 120 teachers in Curriculum B.

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. Economic insecurity situation hinders an immediate response for education as the family's priority remains accessing life-saving needs first before thinking about education.
- Getting children back to school will be a great challenge, as many of them provide livelihood support to their families.
- Cross-border partners require additional funds to provide the following prioritized supplies and services: psychosocial support, self-learning programmes, catch-up classes, accelerated learning programmes, 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:**

- One of the most pressing needs is responding to the difficult living conditions IDPs are enduring while residing in the shelters. Cold weather and a lack of heating sources, as well as debris accumulation and lack of collection services negatively affect the living conditions and require an immediate and comprehensive intervention.

Response:

- Some 50 workers collected 275 m³ of debris from the areas of Khan Alwazir main road and Al Oumaui mosque square in east Aleppo, in order to facilitate access to the main roads. A total of 3,425 m³ of debris were removed from the pumping station, main squares, collective shelters and roundabouts.
- Some 40 workers collected and removed 175 tons of solid waste from Hanano, Jibreen and Jibreen-Almalkieh highway to facilitate access for residents to these areas. Since the response kick-off, some 825 tons have already been removed.
- Some 30 workers carried out maintenance works of 140m of the water network in east Aleppo (Sha'ar, Seif Aldawleh, Zbdieh, Sakhour...)
- Some 115 IDPs workers have joined UNDP's productive workshops and ongoing basic infrastructure rehabilitation projects. Thus, the income is being generated from the provided job opportunities that will contribute to meet the basic needs of the workers' families.

Gaps and Constraints:

- A thorough assessment is required to develop well designed interventions which shall support the return of IDPs to their homes. Basic services delivery, infrastructure rehabilitation and support to disrupted livelihoods are the main pillars that future interventions should take into consideration.

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 6.3 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.

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