



This report is produced by the OCHA Syria Crisis offices with the contribution of all sectors in the hubs and at Whole of Syria level. It covers the period from 1-15 August 2017. The next report will be issued on or around 7 September.

Highlights

- Intensified air strikes, ground shelling and heavy fighting, along with SDF advances into Ar-Raqqa city, have raised serious protection concerns for civilians remaining in Raqqa city, directly in the line of fire.
- Between 18,000 and 25,000 civilians are estimated to remain trapped in Ar-Raqqa city facing increasingly deteriorating humanitarian conditions. Civilian infrastructure, such as hospitals and bakeries, continue to be hit by airstrikes of the international coalition. Civilians trapped in Ar Raqqa city risk being killed by ISIL snipers or mines if they try to flee, or being used as human shields if they remain.
- Clashes escalated between the Government of Syria (GoS) forces and ISIL militants in Deir-ez-Zor city and its surrounding neighborhoods.
- Following a polio outbreak in Syria, UNICEF, the World Health Organization and local partners vaccinated some 355,000 children under 5 years old in Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa governorates.
- Since April 2017, 12,715 people have been displaced from Deir-Ez-Zor to Aleppo, within Deir-ez-Zor, Idleb and Ar-Raqqa.

9,843

people displaced from 1 – 15 August, 33,063 since 1 July 2017

**166,518**

people reached with food assistance from 1 – 15 August

**355,000**

children under 5 vaccinated against polio in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor Governorates

**5,746**

NFI Kits distributed benefiting more than 28,700 people across various IDP sites



Situation Overview

Ar-Raqqa Governorate

Since the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) initiated the offensive in Ar-Raqqa city against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) on 6 June 2017, SDF forces have reportedly captured over 60 per cent of the city. Throughout the reporting period, the SDF continued to slowly advance towards the centre of Ar-Raqqa city from the south, east, and west. ISIL is reportedly seeking to concentrate civilians inside the the city centre and allegedly preventing civilians from fleeing. Civilians are reportedly residing in only five of 24 neighborhoods.

The humanitarian situation in the city continues to be dire. Food shortages continue to be reported. According to the July 2017 WFP Monthly Market Price Watch Bulletin, the price of bread in Ar-Raqqa city has increased by more than 100 percent in the last month. On 12 August, the Al-Fardous bakery was reportedly destroyed by an airstrike. Currently, the “23 February bakery” is the only bakery remaining in the city, reportedly producing limited amounts of bread. Vegetables, fruits and meat are allegedly no longer available within the city markets, and many shops have reportedly been looted.

Furthermore, electricity supply remains erratic, there is limited access to clean water, and medicine supplies are running critically low. Very few doctors remain in the city, with unconfirmed reports of the death of three doctors in the second week of August. Informal care points still exist, but they are not always staffed by fully trained medical professionals and have only the most basic medical supplies available. ISIL is reportedly monopolizing water wells and boreholes, forcing civilians to resort to drinking water from unsafe sources. ISIL has reportedly distributed some aqua tabs, however, civilians remain exposed to the risk of contracting water-borne diseases, for which treatments are no longer available inside Ar-Raqqa city.

On 17 August, REACH published the fourth rapid assessment to monitor the humanitarian situation in Ar-Raqqa city. Key findings include:

- Civilians have continued to leave Ar-Raqqa city, though departure rates have reduced.
- The presence of mines and ERWs is a major concern.
- The situation across the five remaining populated neighborhoods of the city continues to deteriorate. Residents face constant threats to their safety including airstrikes, indirect fire, improvised explosives, mines, and sniper fire. The lack of fresh food and potable water pose significant threats to the safety and well-being of those remaining in Ar-Raqqa city.

On 1 August, airstrikes on the Al-Bosraya neighborhood in Ar-Raqqa city reportedly killed at least nine civilians and injured many others. On 3 August, Coalition airstrikes reportedly destroyed the National Hospital of Raqqa city. The attack reportedly resulted in the death of six nurses and the injury of one doctor, while the hospital sustained major infrastructural damage. On 7 August, local media reported that over 22 IDPs were killed and many others injured (mainly women and children) in airstrikes on Ar-Raqqa city, while many others are still suspected to be trapped under rubble. As military operations in Ar-Raqqa city continue, clashes, shelling, and airstrikes are likely to continue, causing further civilian casualties and outward IDP movement.

Reports continue to be received of people attempting to flee Ar-Raqqa city, despite ISIL reportedly planting landmines along the escape routes in the southern part of the city. Between 3–8 August, an estimated 3,000 people fled from ISIL-controlled areas in Ar-Raqqa city towards SDF-controlled areas south the city. Most IDPs crossed the Euphrates river, exposing themselves to sniper fire, and paying high fees (up to SYP 100,000) to use unsafe transportation modes to reach the southern banks of the river.

On 9 August, a group of more than 350 civilians managed to flee the ISIL-controlled Al-Amin and Al-Tasheeh neighborhoods to the SDF-controlled Al-Furat neighborhood of Ar-Raqqa city. Twelve people, including women and children, died in the incident, while another 10 died in a mine explosion that went off after they reached the southern side of the river. While the surviving IDPs eventually reached Al-Kassrat, and the ten injured individuals were transferred to Al-Tabqa military hospital, this incident shows the perils civilians face when attempting to flee Ar-Raqqa city.

In the southern countryside of Ar-Raqqa Governorate, clashes in Sabka and Maadan sub-districts resulted in increased displacement movement. On 3 August, local sources reported that around 5,000 families were displaced from Maadan and Sabka towns, following Government of Syria (GoS) forces advances in the area. Alleged reports of misconduct by GoS forces, such as looting, rape, confiscation of property and valuables emerged, following the GoS forces takeover of this area.

Reports of forced conscription, particularly of child recruitment, continue to be a protection concern. Initial reports indicate ongoing campaigns of forced conscription in areas under SDF control, including cases of recruitment of boys and girls. Meanwhile, ISIL continues to carry out campaigns forcibly recruiting young men in areas under their control.

Deir-ez-Zor Governorate

During the reporting period, clashes escalated between the GoS forces and ISIL in Deir-ez-Zor city and surrounding neighborhoods. The GoS continues to advance towards Deir-ez-Zor Governorate from the south.

On 3 August, ISIL reportedly distributed fliers in ISIL-held areas in Deir-ez-Zor city and its countryside calling for a general mobilisation of men between 20 – 30 years of age, and throughout the reporting period, reportedly continued to forcibly conscript males, including minors, into their ranks in areas under its control. On 12 August, ISIL reportedly abducted at least 30 youth from Muhasan area to an unknown destination. On 16 August, ISIL reportedly arrested some 30 men in Al-Buleil and Toob in rural Deir-ez-Zor for forced enlistment. The same day, ISIL reportedly handed over the bodies of 25 child soldiers from Al-Mayadin and Abou Kamal cities to their parents, a mere ten days after the children had been forcefully conscripted by ISIL.

At the same time, over the reporting period there were increased attempts of young men to dodge the general mobilization called by ISIL by fleeing or being smuggled out of ISIL-controlled areas. On 5 August, local sources reported that around 300 men between the age of 20 – 30 years, escaped ISIL-held areas towards areas under SDF control. Between 14-16 August, around 70 males (aged between 18-30) were reportedly smuggled for a fee of SYP 300,000 per person from Al-Mayadin and Abou Kamal cities in eastern rural Deir-ez-Zor to SDF-controlled areas.

Airstrikes by GoS and allied forces, as well as the Coalition, continue to result in increasing numbers of civilian casualties. On 1 August, local media reported that airstrikes struck residential areas in Al-Kamsheh, Al-Showeit, Al-

Doweir and Al-Ashara (eastern countryside of the governorate), resulting in 60 civilian casualties and many more injuries. On 5 August, airstrikes on the Al-Keshkiya town in eastern rural Bou Kamal city reportedly hit a house reportedly used by ISIL as a military training camp for child soldiers, killing and injuring many of them. On 8 August, an airstrike impacted a maternity and pediatric hospital in Al Mayadin Sub-district in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate. The attack resulted in the death of four civilians and the wounding of 30 others, as well as partial damage to the facility and to one ambulance. On 12 August, airstrikes reportedly destroyed the Fayez Mansour School in Abu Kamal city (Deir-ez-Zor countryside), damaging it completely. Also on 16 August, airstrikes on the Masrab area in the western countryside of Deir Ez-Zor reportedly killed eight civilians and injured eleven others. On 16 August, airstrikes on Masrab area in the western countryside of Deir-ez-Zor resulted in the death of civilians and eleven injuries.

According to the July 2017 WFP Monthly Market Price Watch Bulletin, in rural Deir Ez-Zor, the poor market functionality and low food supplies resulted in a 3 per cent increase in the total cost of a standard food basket. On 9 August, local media sources reported a significant decrease in the prices of livestock and property in the eastern countryside of Deir-ez-Zor governorate. Reportedly, the prices of houses dropped by 30 per cent and the prices of livestock dropped by 60 per cent.

In the besieged parts of Deir-ez-Zor city, the humanitarian situation for the estimated 93,500 people remains extremely difficult. The average retail prices in the market are 19 per cent higher for rice and 150 per cent for bulgur compared to same commodities in Damascus.

As of 15 August, WFP has completed 299 high altitude airdrops since April 2016, dispatching approximately 5,839 mt of mixed food commodities and other life-saving supplies on behalf of other humanitarian actors.



Displacement trends

The total number of displaced people from Ar-Raqqa tracked by the CCCM cluster since 1 June has reached 63,899 individuals; many of them displaced multiple times. To date, the total number of IDPs tracked since the onset of the Ar-Raqqa offensive in November 2016 is 271,620, including 33,063 since 1 July 2017.

Confrontations between the GoS and allied forces and ISIL over the reporting period, displaced some 5,000 people from Maadan, Al-Tabani, Shiha and Buwaitiyah in western rural Raqqa to an area near Madaan on the southern side of the Euphrates river. Most IDPs are currently waiting to catch a boat ride that can bring them to the northern banks of the Euphrates, from where they hope to reach villages in the Al-Kassra area or other SDF-controlled areas. Some IDPs spent as many as five days waiting for transportation in the open areas by the river banks where they lack proper shelter and do not have access to health care facilities.

On 16 August, about 100 families (an estimated 500 people) were reportedly displaced from Ar-Raqqa city and its countryside to the eastern countryside of Deir-ez-Zor Governorate (Al-Mayadin and Abou Kamal) where they are being hosted by the local community. Many IDPs have reportedly brought their assets and cattle with them, and were reluctant to head towards SDF-controlled areas out of fear of lengthy hold-ups in IDP camps due to screening procedures.

Ongoing clashes across northeast Syria continue to displace large parts of the population, and IDPs from Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor and Maskana (south of Manbij in Aleppo governorate) are being accommodated in a number of other camps in Ar-Raqqa and Al-Hassakeh governorates. The situation remains fluid and the estimated number of IDPs fluctuates from day to day. The humanitarian community continues to raise protection concerns and to advocate for the departure of IDPs to safe areas in close proximity to their homes with the respective local authorities.

Main IDP Sites:

Areesheh (Bahra) transit camp

The estimated population of the camp is approximately 9,000 persons. The situation remains highly fluid with more than 50 families are estimated to be arriving to the camp each day. Most families arrive to the camp after walking long distances and suffer from severe dehydration due to extreme heat.

Conditions in the camp remain challenging. The location of the camp is polluted and poses serious health threats for the IDPs leading to advocacy towards camp authorities to consider relocating it elsewhere. An expert assessment of health risks is planned in the coming period. A recent assessment of the camp recommended improved camp management and coordination, an increased number of latrines, as well as regular waste management and garbage collection. UNICEF is trucking up to 200,000 liters of water sufficient for 10,000 persons each day and limited amounts of bottled drinking water are distributed. The availability of bread at the site is reportedly insufficient to meet needs, however, IDPs report limited diversity of food supplies there. No waste

collection or waste management system is currently in place, posing high health hazards. Primary health care services are provided through two mobile teams, including medical consultation, treatment and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services. Procedures to release medical referrals out of the camp however remain challenging.

There are currently 940 tents in the camp. Each tent accommodates 11 people on average. An expansion of the camp is underway, with an additional 200 tents planned. The installation of 100 emergency latrines, 48 emergency showers and increased water storage capacity has begun. Approximately 90 per cent of NFI needs in the camp have been met through the distribution of 1,350 tents, 2,850 mattresses, 3,040 blankets, 665 kitchen sets, 1,260 jerry cans, 656 plastic sheets, 2,240 sleeping mats, 1,000 solar lamps, and 1,792 rechargeable fans. In addition, approximately 3,000 summer clothes kits for children have been distributed.

On 20 August, UNHCR confirmed that Areesha transit camp will not receive any IDPs for a period of one week to 10 days while improvements are made to the camp infrastructure. Interventions will be scaled up for the expected caseload of 40,000 - 50,000 IDPs over the coming month. During this period, IDPs will be relocated to the Mabrouka camp. Protection concerns related to the confiscation of IDPs' identification and restrictions to their movement have been reported. Advocacy efforts for IDPs freedom of movement continue.

Al Twehne transit camp

Approximately 2,000 to 3,000 IDPs from rural Homs and Hama are seeking shelter at the Al Twehne transit camp. A recent assessment conducted revealed an urgent need for health services to treat reported cases of diarrhea, pertussis, and small pox, among other ailments, the lack of latrines and basic sanitation and the need for activities/support for children. The nearest health facility is located approximately 15 km from the camp. Food baskets are being distributed by local partners and some INGOs. Residents are reportedly unable to leave the site and there is a high risk of scorpion and snake bites. IDPs are collecting water from the Euphrates River, as well as obtaining water through trucking by local authorities. Although water is reportedly available in sufficient quantities, difficulties for residents to transport water from the river were reported and water allegedly is not clean. There is reportedly an urgent need for functioning latrines or bathing facilities. Reports indicate an urgent need for approximately 150 additional tents, as well as blankets, kitchen sets, and mattresses.

Al Karama transit camp

During the reporting period, the situation on the ground remained very fluid and IDP numbers changed on a daily basis. On 9 August, a rapid needs assessment was conducted at a time where the camp settlements were housing some 21,000 IDPs. On 11 August, approximately 740 families, originally from Karama city, were released from the camp. On 12 August, 550 families were allowed to leave, and on 14 August, more than half of the remaining camp settlements' population was released after completing the security screening process - further reducing the total camp population down to about 7,200 people. On 17 August, only approximately 59 families were remaining in the camp settlements. Since the camp population has decreased, humanitarian assistance has also been scaled down. The camp continues to lack latrines and shower units. Furthermore, the medical point lacks sufficient staff and medication. IDPs also lack mattresses, blankets and other NFIs.

Al Hole camp

The estimated population of Al Hole camp is approximately 20,000 people (19,000 Iraqi refugees and 880 IDPs). Approximately 1,000 IDPs arrived to the camp over the reporting period. An estimated 90 per cent of IDPs in the camp originate from Deir-ez-Zor Governorate. Approvals to expand the camp are still pending, but likely to be approved shortly. A minimum of 90 emergency latrines are reportedly needed. UNICEF will soon start constructing 148 emergency latrines and 51 emergency showers. Communal kitchens are also needed. Of the 19,000 Iraqi refugees, approximately 10,000 have registered with the camp administration to return, while others indicated unwillingness to do so due to insecurity or lack of homes to return to.

Ain Issa camp

The estimated population of the Ain Issa camp is reportedly 8,030, although current capacity is 7,200. Expansion work for up to 4,500 IDPs will commence as early as next week pending approvals by authorities. Daily distribution of bread, as well as regular food distributions are ongoing, and food is also available in basic markets. There is a need for soap, as well as basic shelter and NFI items. Gaps in the quality of health services provided in the camp are also reported.



Access

From 1 - 16 August, UN agencies managed to transport humanitarian supplies via 26 trucks (UNHCR 1, UNICEF 2, WFP 14, WHO 3 and UNFPA 6) by road from Damascus, Lattakia, Homs and Aleppo to Qamishli. The Logistics Cluster will continue providing free-to-user land transport to Qamishli for humanitarian supplies during the month of September.

While access from GoS-controlled areas has significantly improved, life-saving assistance related to trauma care remains restricted. The Al-Yaroubieh crossing from Iraq is not used yet for cross-border assistance from Iraq. Cross-border assistance from Turkey also remains restricted.

Humanitarian Response



Protection

Key Developments and Needs

With the SDF offensive expanding in Ar-Raqqa city and new fronts opening in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate, the protection situation for civilians is alarming. Despite continued advocacy by protection actors on multiple levels, airstrikes in several locations of Ar-Raqqa city- including attacks on two schools- have been documented by the UN and reportedly resulted in numerous civilian deaths. Ground shelling and heavy fighting are additional threats to the safety of civilians left in Ar-Raqqa city, while possibilities to verify information about the situation on the ground are limited. The necessity for parties to the conflict to take all feasible measures to avoid the loss of civilian lives remains critical.

Due to intensified hostilities in the eastern part of Raqqa Governorate (Madaan and Sabkha), as well as and in and around Deir-Ez-Zor, additional patterns of displacements were created:

- Towards existing sites of Ein Issa (60-100 new daily arrivals, approx. 30% women and 50% children and a high number of female-headed households) and Mabrouka (both now possibly hosting already 40% displaced population from Deir-ez-Zor);
- Informal settlements of Karama, where there is a limited humanitarian presence;
- Increasingly towards the northern areas of Hassakeh Governorate and the Iraqi border, controlled by SDF and Kurdish Self-Administration (KSA), esp. Rejm Slebi (approx. 250-300 daily arrivals of individuals early August);
- A sustained influx of IDPs has also reached Areesha/ Bahra site. Approximately, 500 daily arrivals in early August (Hassakeh Governorate), putting a strain on an already limited humanitarian intervention.

In addition, registered waves of preventive and reactive movements from western Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor were allegedly motivated by recruitment policies recently enacted by ISIL, affecting youth, men and their families. Risks faced by IDPs have been highlighted by protection actors on repeated occasions and range from risk of getting caught in the cross-fire, punitive measures implemented by ISIL to prevent people from fleeing, explosive hazards and contamination of exit routes, as well as the reported existence of smuggling schemes depriving families of their assets to recruitment by SDF.

Restrictions placed on freedom of movement, as a result of screening and sponsorship procedures implemented by local authorities in SDF-controlled areas, remain a major concern constantly highlighted by the protection sector and requires advocacy at the highest level. Groups of IDPs attempting to reach Hassakeh, possibly on their way to the north and the west of the country, were stranded in Rejm Slebi (close to the Iraqi border) on average five days before their transfer to Al Hole. While the situation is reportedly improving in Ein Issa site, with more fluid movements of population registered, the situation is described as particularly dire in the newly established Areesha/Bahra site (Hassakeh governorate), which hosts increasing numbers of IDPs from Deir-ez-Zor.

While the Self-Administration proposed a series of basic procedural guidelines for IDPs to exit Areesha/Bahra, those remain restrictive and unfulfilled, including for medical evacuations. Persistent obstacles and restrictions imposed on medical evacuations (e.g. patients are often escorted by law enforcement actors) have reportedly led to serious consequences, such as cases of family separation or worsening of medical conditions. It is reported that eleven deaths have occurred on the site and can be partially imputable to delayed medical evacuations. Several cases currently require urgent medical attention. Confiscation of IDPs documentation in Areesha/Bahra increases

risks of loss, mishandling and often compel IDPs to either wait for their documentation to be returned before they leave the site or to exit without it.

Delays created during the implementation of these procedures has put a strain on humanitarian conditions in existing sites where capacities are reaching their limit (e.g. Al Hole) or where the response and available services are already limited. In Areesha/Bahra site, living conditions have deteriorated while the current response still struggles to meet the needs. Consultations with women and girls in this site highlight the lack of properly separated WASH facilities, poor safety devices and insufficient lighting of the facilities, triggering insecurity and fear of harassment, with few cases already reported. Cases of harassment of male IDPs by local security forces have also been alleged. This situation emphasizes the necessity of sensitizing camp administration and local actors working on the sites about basic gender/age mainstreaming concepts and GBV preventive measures. Cases of unaccompanied and separated children is reportedly on the rise, while reunification is not always possible due to an absence of a coordinated mechanism.

In light of these different factors and previous updates, psychosocial support and first aid, as well as more specialized mental health, are priorities to be addressed for women, children, and older persons. The overall treatment of IDPs, which falls short of basic international standards and guarantees, could be considered as a potential new driver of conflict.

Response

Protection actors both from North East Syria (NES), Qamishly (also with surge support from Damascus for the latter) have constantly reinforced their presence in affected areas. National partners of the major UN Protection agencies (UNHCR, UNICEF and UNFPA), have now a steady presence in Ein Issa and Mabrouka sites, via mobile teams reaching daily the sites from nearby static locations in Ein Essa and Ras-El-Ein, or through missions conducted by protection staff from Qamishly. The regular child protection program currently includes 26 CFS and 15 mobile teams established in Hassakeh Governorate allowing for the continued provision of structured PSS, case management/referral to specialized services/follow up services to UASC, and Mine Risk Education Awareness to around 27,000 children, adolescents and caregivers. In addition, the regular operations have enabled 400 volunteers to receive capacity building sessions on risk education and PSS. Child protection response capacity of NES NGOs partners is building up (child protection case management, PSS and parenting intervention) and is planned to cover Ein Issa Cotton Center, Ein Issa villages, Suluk and Al Hole camp in September. Two NGO partners are currently taking steps to set-up a CPIMS+ (Child Protection Information Management System) for North-East Syria.

Protection actors have conducted rapid protection assessments, especially in Taqba, Mansoura, Rejim Sleby and Al Bahra camp over the reporting period. UNHCR and its local partners have conducted a rapid identification of needs, consultations/focused group discussions with various population groups on different topics (e.g. school dropout, early marriage, services on the sites). Taking advantage of their presence, protection staff continued to identify vulnerable cases in need for referral and support to advocate for facilitated exit procedures. Periodical recreational activities to support the well-being of children, psychosocial support sessions, and other sensitization session on gender-sensitive topics have been routinely carried out in these sites.

UNICEF and partners have established 20 fixed child protection centres and five mobile teams in Al Hole-Mabrouka-Ein Issa, and also within host communities in Tal Abyad- Suluk- Ain Issa and Aljurniyah districts. Over 15,000 children, adolescents and caregivers have been reached by different CP services, including the provision of recreational activities and structured PSS, case management; referrals to specialized services; followup of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and mine risk education (RE) awareness sessions, and initiating CP units. The capacity building on RE and PSS to around 65 volunteers from north of Raqqa has been successfully concluded. The need for additional material has also been highlighted, and UNICEF has responded through the provision of 20 tents, 50 RE kit, 3000 RE magazines, 50 tarpaulin sheets, 50 recreational kits, 20 ECD kit, 10 music kits and 10 art kits.

Increased attention was devoted to the situation in Areesha/Bahra sites, although mainly through mobile activities from Qamishly or nearby services in Hassakeh. Interventions have focused on sorting out confiscated personal documentation of IDPs (including individual IDs, family booklets, driver's licenses, and marriage registrations) that are at risk of being damaged, or lost, including through the provision of items to store and preserve them. However, ensuring legal safety and facilitating freedom of movement of IDPs is a responsibility that lies with local authorities. UNFPA is planning to conduct sensitization sessions on mainstreaming GBV for humanitarian partners active in the area, while UNHCR intends to sensitize the local administration on the IDP Guiding Principles. UNICEF plans to increase its response by extending to Karama- Tabqa- Twehina- Mansoura, and Der Ez-zor IDP's in Areesha camp and Shadade Sub-district.

Finally, the protection sector at different levels continues to advocate for streamlined screening procedures, allowing for the fast-tracking of vulnerable cases, and to plead for the lifting of unjustified restrictions on freedom of movement resulting from the implementation of a “sponsorship system”.

Gaps

Protection needs, especially in the context of intensified hostilities and increased displacements, currently outstrip capacities of protection actors responding in the North-East. Local actors are insufficient in number and the ability of some partners to intervene in SDF-controlled areas is uncertain. The Self-Administration has recently closed UNICEF-supported child protection centers operated by a local NGO in Hassakeh city, Amuda, Derbasiyeh, Al Hole and Tal Brak sub-districts, on the grounds that the NGO wasn't registered with them.

As the theater of operations expands towards Ar-Raqqa city and Deir-ez-Zor, the security of the civilian population and of humanitarian actors will require attention, especially in heavily contaminated areas.



Food Security and Agriculture

Response

As of 17 August, the Food Security Sector, through WFP and four cross-border NGOs, has been able to respond to the conflict-affected people fleeing the Ar-Raqqa offensive in various parts of Ar-Raqqa Governorate and neighboring Al-Hassakeh and Aleppo governorates. Due to intense clashes that reportedly took place between ISIL and SDF forces around Abu Khashab and Karama villages, no dispatches could take place as of 17 August, and distributions are on hold until the security situation improves. Around 166,518 beneficiaries were reached from 1 August to 17 August.

In Ar-Raqqa Governorate (Ar-Raqqa, Tell Abyad and Ath-Thawrah Districts), 29,887 ready-to-eat-rations (RTERs), dry food rations and food baskets covering food needs ranging from five or ten days to a month for a household (HH) of five or six reaching 155,908 beneficiaries, were distributed. This included WFP (20,800 dry food rations for a month, 178 RTERs for five days) and three cross-border NGOs (1,000 food rations for a month, 5,509 food rations for ten days and two metric tons (MTs) of flour).

In Aleppo Governorate (Menbij District and Sub-district): 245 dry food rations and unconditional cash grants covering food needs between ten days and a month for a HH of six reaching 1,470 beneficiaries, were distributed. This was conducted by two cross-border NGOs.

In Al-Hassakeh Governorate (Ras al-Ayn and Al-Hasakeh districts): 1,788 RTERs and food baskets covering food needs from five to 14 days to a month for a HH of five or six reaching 9,140 beneficiaries, were distributed. This includes WFP (245 food rations for a month), and three cross-border NGOs (1,543 RTERs lasting between five days and 14 days).

August Plan

Contiguous to IDPs movements, the food security sector through its partners, will try to cover most of the gaps, based on their stocks and access capacities, and as per the August Plan, and micro-plans for Areesh and Twehina.

As per the August Plan recently updated with new partners stocks, the sector will cover food needs across the area from five days to a month for a HH of five or six with a total of 91,195 food-related assistance modalities (RTERs, FB, GFRs, vouchers, cash grants) to a total of 484,456 beneficiaries. As such, the sector will still be able to cover food needs for around 317,938 beneficiaries until the end of the month.



Health

Key Developments

Three (3) new cases of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) were reported for Epi week 32 from three new districts: 1 case from Deir-ez-Zor District, Deir-ez-Zor Governorate; 1 from Boukamal District, Deir-ez-Zor Governorate; and 1 from Tadmour District, Homs Governorate. Five districts in three governorates are now infected. As of 15 August, the total number of cVDPV2 cases is 33. All confirmed cases to date have had onset of paralysis before 11 July 2017. Raqqa Governorate commenced its first immunization round on 12 August, as part of the polio outbreak response. Administrative data reports a total of 103,720 children 0-59 months were

vaccinated with mOPV2 vaccine out of a target population of 120,000 (86%). Independent post campaign monitoring is scheduled in Tell Abiad, Ar Raqqa and Ath-Thawrah districts from 19-21 August. Preparations for the second campaign in Deir-ez-Zor are ongoing. This campaign scheduled to start on 21 August.

11 Early Warning Alert and Response System (EWARS) sentinel sites for northern Raqqa report (between Epi week 18 and 26) reported: - acute diarrhea 1,539 cases, bloody diarrhea 86 cases, acute jaundice syndrome 90 cases, influenza like syndrome 61, suspected measles 124 cases, suspected meningitis 44 cases, severe acute respiratory infections (SARI) 42 cases, typhoid 39 cases, pertussis 93 cases leishmaniasis 162 cases brucellosis 62 cases scabies 98 cases, chicken-pox 26 cases. In Al-Hassakeh Governorate, there 49 EWARS sentinel sites, with 30 reporting on a regular basis. In Deir-ez-Zor, 42 out of 49 EWARS sites report on a regular basis. More information on EWARS is available at: <http://www.emro.who.int/syr/ewars-workshops/ewars-bulletins-2017.html>

On 8 August, a maternity and pediatric hospital (Aisha) in Al Mayadin Sub-district, Deir-ez-Zor, was reportedly impacted by airstrikes. The attack resulted in partial damages to the facility building, as well as damaging one ambulance. The hospital was functioning as an alternative to the earlier destroyed national hospital and covered services for the city of Abu Kamal, as well as surrounding villages. Reportedly nine people and 15 people were injured as a result of this attack. Initial reports indicate eight patients had been injured; the facility went out of service temporarily. Focal points on the ground report intensified airstrikes on Bukamal city in Deir-ez-Zoir with reported casualties among the local civilian population and heavy shelling on Maadan, Swedan, Tabni, Albuwaytia and El Tarif.

Response

In Ar-Raqqa Governorate, reporting partners of the NES Health Working Group (HWG) are supporting the direct provision of primary healthcare through three primary healthcare clinics (PHC) and one mobile clinic. This is supplemented by logistical support, provision of drugs and medical supplies, rehabilitation of health facility infrastructures and capacity strengthening for health staff through training and supervision¹. Currently there is reported provision of PHC, as well as vaccination teams, in IDP camps. There are plans for two additional mobile clinics and provision of basic mental health care services, as mental health and psychosocial support (MH PSS) is identified as a significant gap in the area.

On trauma care, NES HWG partners report the operationalisation of two trauma stabilization points (TSPs) close to the frontlines, with two more TSPs planned. Daily coordination for ambulance services between NES HWG partners involved in trauma care is ongoing and partners are supporting trauma surgical capacity and emergency services at three referral hospitals in NES.

NES HWG partners report the following support for health facilities in the NES-Raqqa theatre of operations:

- Operations of reproductive health unit in the Tabqa countryside and delivery room with surgical capacity in Tabqa City Hospital;
 - One partner is developing plans for support of a trauma unit in Tabqa Hospital but pro re nata (PRN) this could be changed to Raqqa Hospital;
 - Support emergency services at the Hassakeh National Hospital;
 - Tal Abyad Hospital closest to Raqqa is being rehabilitated; currently with the provision of a trauma surgical team at Tal Abyad Hospital and support of trauma circuit;
 - Operational support for Kobane Hospital;
 - Coordination of ambulance transport between Tal Abyad and Kobane Hospitals. Red cases are referred to Tal Abyad Hospital; and
 - Support for establishment of comprehensive emergency obstetric and new born care (CeMONC) services in Tabqa.
- Two of four public hospitals of Ar-Raqqa Governorate are inaccessible for Ar Raqqa city residents. Despite all existing security challenges health sector focal points put efforts to conduct field rapid assessments of 73 public health centers are identified as in need of support.
 - Regarding selected referral pathways and facilities for trauma patients, the preferential evacuation routes include (i) Tal Abiad in the north, (ii) Hassakeh, Ras El Ein and Qamishli in the east, (iii) Ain Arab (Kobani) in the west. Tabqa (Thawrah) in the west is also in a key location because of its proximity to the frontline (a high number of civilians are fleeing to Tabqa).

¹ As per 4Ws reports, during the last consolidated reporting period (June), Partners provided 26,149 outpatient consultations in NES, out of which 6192 were delivered in Raqqa. Cumulatively for NES, during January-June 2017, a total of 163,795 outpatient consultations were provided by reporting partners, out of which 21,382 in Raqqa Governorate.

The Health Sector has expanded its response operations, especially since July. To date, 25 mobile teams are now working in north-east Syria, in addition two WHO-supported community centres and 12 fixed health clinics.

WHO is supporting nine mobile teams operated by four NGO partners. These NGOs provide outreach primary health care services in camps for internally displaced persons in Ein Issa, Karame, Tal Abyad, Menbej, Almelabiyah, Alkhamaiel, Alkaramah, Qana, Alaresha, Alhamadaniyah, Alhajjeyah, Algharab, Alatalah, Al-47, Alghazel, Taban, Alkana, Hadaja, Rashidiah, east and west Alhenna, Sarab, new Aktan camp, Al Jarnyieh, Ein Al Arab, Tal Tamer, Tal Brak, Al Hole, Tabqa/AthThawrah, At-Tawahina, Al Bahra and Shadadeh.

In addition to WHO, UNFPA supports 12 mobile teams and eight static clinics operated by six NGO partners. UNFPA supports the work of daily visits of nine mobile teams with focus on RH and GBV services (12,480 people per month) reaching Areesha/Bahra, Ein Issa, Karama, Shadadah, Mabrouka, Suluk, Tal Abyad, Al Jumiyeh areas.

WHO has also delivered medicines, supplies and equipment to partners and health facilities in northeast Syria as follows since the beginning of the Raqqa offensive:

- Medicines and supplies to Mabrouka, Al-Karama and Ein Issa camps in Ar-Raqqa (in coordination with UNHCR);
- Locally procured medicines to health partners supporting IDPs and host communities in Al-Hassakeh, including Al-Ber in Al-Hassakeh city and Qamishli, and Armenian charity;
- Medicines and supplies to fixed clinics in Al Hol Camp (three shipments in February, May and June 2017);
- Ultrasound device to Al-Hol camp (in coordination with UNHCR);
- Medicines and equipment (including two ventilators and an ultrasound device) to public health care facilities in Al-Hassakeh;
- Medicines and equipment (including three ventilators and an ultrasound device) to Al-Qamishli National Hospital;
- Chronic disease medicines, antibiotics, burn treatments and psychotropic medicines pre-positioned in Ar-Raqqa and Aleppo.
- Lately four trucks of health supplies (29 tons) have been dispatched.

In addition, on 14 August WHO Syria received government approval to deploy an additional convoy (including health kits and medical equipment) to Qamishli through Aleppo. Final preparations for the convoy are underway. WHO plans to deliver two more shipments to NES in the next two weeks.

Planned Response:

WHO is scaling up its response operations at all levels of health care to meet the urgent needs of both civilians remaining in Ar-Raqqa city, as well as displaced populations at all locations. WHO plans to implement the following activities to both scale up trauma care and referral services for severely wounded patients and ensure that IDPs and vulnerable host communities have access to basic and life-saving health care:

- Define modalities for transferring patients from trauma stabilization points to secondary and tertiary level health care facilities for more advanced treatment;
- Establish a field hospital in Tabqa;
- Procure medicines, supplies and equipment to strengthen overall capacity of hospitals to treat severely wounded patients as well as patients with chronic diseases and other illnesses;
- Strengthen primary health care services through supporting fixed clinics as well as mobile teams in camps for internally displaced persons;
- Negotiate and use secure land routes to bring supplies into the area, and safe routes to bring patients out (for medical treatment in Aleppo or Damascus);
- Deploy a health coordinator and trauma specialist to Ar-Raqqa Governorate to manage and coordinate the overall response.

WHO focal points continue field assessment activities on the ground in Ar Raqqa with the latest visit to Tal Abyad city and Ein Issa: Tal Abyad Hospital, Slouk Center Az-Zarzouri, Ain Issa, Hishe Al-Qantari, Ertiwaziyet Aj-Jad'a; Al Tabqa city, Almahmoudli village and Serrin. A comprehensive 4Ws is also being developed.



Nutrition

Key Developments

UNICEF teams with nutrition partners conducted MUAC screenings for children under five years old in the Areasha, Taqba and Al Hole camps. Of the 415 children screened, 19 (4.6%) were identified with acute malnutrition and treated. 11 children presented with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and eight children presented moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).

Response

UNICEF and WFP-supported partners continued to assist IDPs by providing life-saving nutrition services to 18,091 children and women in IDP camps such as Ein Issa, Journayeh, Al-Mansoura, Al-Thawra/ Tabqa in Ar-Raqqa and Mabrouka, Alhol, Suluk and Tell Abiad in Hassakeh.

The nutrition support provided to the IDPs consists of the provision of lipid-based nutrient supplement (LNS - Plumpy doz) and High Energy Biscuits to prevent acute malnutrition, supplementation of multiple micronutrients to prevent micronutrient deficiency as well as the identification and treatment of acute malnutrition.

The sector, through the sub-national focal point in Qamishli led by UNICEF, made several visits in the first half of August to Mabrouka, Areesha, Al Hole and Ein Issa camps to assess ongoing nutrition activities while also identifying gaps in nutrition response.

In addition to the ongoing emergency nutrition activities at these four camps, the Qamishli sub-sector has put together a plan to carry out regular nutritional screening for new arrivals at the camp reception with management of malnutrition cases, provision of nutrient supplements among children under five and pregnant and lactating women, and follow-up on promotion and counselling of optimal breastfeeding and control of unsolicited distribution of infant formula.

The Qamishli sub-sector is in the process of planning a response to cover the needs of people returning to Karama village.

Key Gaps and Challenge

Access to Raqqa city and the Karama IDP camp remains a challenge for partners to deliver and maintain regular and comprehensive nutrition services including prevention of under-nutrition and micronutrient deficiencies, promotion of optimal feeding practices as well as identification and treatment of acute malnutrition.

At the moment, it is not feasible to set up a CMAM centre in Taqba. Nutrition support is provided through mobile teams and general food distribution partners while monitoring the situation in order to provide CMAM services when possible.



Shelter NFI

Response

Ain Issa camp

During the reporting period, an estimated 6,000 hygiene kits (HKs) and 169 NFI kits were distributed in Ain Issa camp.

Mabrouka camp

Over the reporting period, UNHCR work site preparation was completed in Mabrouka camp. Construction of a learning centre for children began. Furthermore, an estimated 1,000 stoves and 611 core relief items (CRIs) were distributed.

Areesha camp

During the reporting period, UNHCR distributed CRIs for 2,000 individuals, tents for 150 individuals, and 196 HKs.

Karama

In early August, UNHCR conducted a shelter needs assessment.

Tabqa

During the reporting period, UNICEF distributed 1,902 summer clothes kits to children.

Twayhina

During the reporting period, UNHCR distributed CRIs for 1,100 individuals and tents for 500 individuals. Furthermore, 317 HKs, 497 NFI kits and 77 tents were also distributed.

Other

- 5,000 NFI Kits were distributed in Areesha Villages
- 498 summer clothing kits were distributed to children in Al-Mansoura
- 200 emergency tents were distributed in Mazare'e Tishrine
- 100 tents and 20 NFI kits were distributed in Mazara'et Al Rashid
- 65 emergency tents were distributed in Hazimeh
- 47 emergency tents and 60 NFI kits were distributed in Rajem Al Byad
- 34 tents, and 78 shelter kits were distributed in Abarrah
- 69 shelter kits were distributed in Al kaltah



WASH

Response

The WASH sector with flexible support from UNICEF ensures minimum immediate lifesaving WASH assistance to the IDPs in the temporary shelters and informal camps:

Mabrouka camp

Water trucking of 25,000 liters per day, as well as the construction of 100 concrete toilets and 100 concrete showers, remains ongoing. Monthly hygiene supplies distribution is also ongoing. The installation of 25 water tanks with 1m³ capacity and 25 water tanks with 2m³ capacity is almost complete. Furthermore, the installation of 25 garbage bins has been completed and IDPs are using them for disposing solid wastes. The construction of sewage system network continues and is approximately 70 per cent complete.

Ain Issa camp

Potable water supply, camp cleaning and desludging services are provided on a daily basis by NES INGO partners. Installation of 100 concrete toilets and 100 concrete showers is ongoing and is expected to complete by 5 September. Ongoing installation of 25 water tanks with 1m³ capacity and 25 water tanks with 2m³ capacity is nearly 90 per cent complete. Furthermore, the installation of 25 public garbage bins has been completed and the bins are being used by the IDPs in the camp. The construction of the sewage system network continues and is estimated to be 46 per cent complete. Works on the water supply network extension including, one new borehole, distribution network, and additional 25 x 5m³ water tanks, is ongoing in the extended plot not covered by the existing water supply network. Distribution of monthly hygiene supplies continued, including 1,700 family hygiene kits (FHKs) distributed in August (UNICEF). An INGO partner also provided hygiene promotion sessions.

Karama site

UNICEF is the only WASH actor working in Karama. The distribution of 300,000 liters per day of drinking water is being carried out through emergency water trucking. The installation of 25 water tanks with 5m³ capacity to meet minimum storage provision for regular access of water supply was completed. Monthly hygiene supplies distribution is ongoing and 1,500 FHKs have been distributed in August.

Areesha (Bahra) camp

As the number of IDPs increased in this camp, the water trucking has been increased to 200,000 liters per day since 15 August. The installation of 100 emergency latrines and 48 emergency showers is progressing well and currently stands at 70 per cent. It is expected to complete by 21 August. An additional 80 emergency latrines have been provided by NES INGO. Monthly hygiene supplies distribution ongoing and so far 682 FHKs distributed in August.

Al-Hole camp

Water trucking is ongoing, with an estimated 350,000 liters of water per day is being trucked into in Al Hole camp and an additional 25,000 liters per day trucked to the Rajm Slebi (RS) border point for approximately 800 refugees and 700 IDPs. The installation of 264 concrete toilets and 264 concrete showers is progressing with 55 per cent completed. Furthermore, the installation of 66 water tanks with 1m³ capacity and 66 water tanks with 2m³ capacity stands at 95 per cent progress and is expected to be completed soon. The continued construction of the sewage networks is progressing with 70 per cent completed at present. The installation of 100 emergency toilets and 48 emergency showers has been completed. The distribution of monthly hygiene supplies is ongoing and thus far 5,359 FHKs and 4,792 baby diapers were distributed in August.

Tabqa

An estimated 70,000 people are currently living in Tabqa. Thus far, 1,475 FHKs were distributed in Tabqa city in August. UNICEF and NES INGOs provided liquid chlorine for the main water treatment station in Tabqa. Rehabilitation of Tabqa water station will commence soon in collaboration with Water Authority and Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR). Continued support to city cleaning and waste removal was provided by NES INGOs, including provision of hygiene promotion sessions.

Other locations

- Water trucking in Al Twehenah Camp (Jurneyyeh sub-district), Al Ghara Camp in Menbij district and Al Kalta collective centers in Ar-Raqqa District, with chlorination and water quality monitoring, continued.
- Water trucking activities have been also ongoing in Al Abarah and in Al Msherfa villages, between Ain Issa and Ar-Raqqa along the eastern road (Qahlta, Al Barah, Mushefe, Hlo Al Abd and Al Rahayat) and Knez Kasha, Knez Kanm, Sheikh Hasan, Ber Saran, Hweget Eran, Skero Shmale, Kharba Beda Shmale, Abd Algoma, Fatsa Alshkrak, Kherbet Alrez and Kormaza villages.
- Desludging of septic tanks in Al Ghara continued.

Gaps and Challenges

UNICEF on behalf of WASH sector continues to advocate for relocation of Areesha camp due to unfavorable conditions.

Regular operation and maintenance of installed WASH facilities are being challenged due to lack of clear accountability of camp coordination and camp management mechanism in all IDPs temporary shelters.



Education

Response

As a part of back to learning (BTL) campaign, UNICEF and the Al Birr wa Al Ihsan NGO, have started the second phase of education support to school age IDP/returnee children through the provision of school bags and stationery. During the reporting period, a total of 5,123 school-age IDP/returnee children (2,618 boys and 2,505 girls) have benefited from this support in Mansura and Al-Thawrah sub-districts, Ein Issa camp, and Mabrouka camp.

UNICEF and Directorate of Education (DoE) Ar-Raqqa are planning to rehabilitate 10 schools in Tell Abiad sub-district to provide safe and protective learning environment for school aged children from both IDP and host communities. Preparation are in progress in cooperation with DoE Al-Hasakeh which has easier access to northern Ar-Raqqa.



Logistics

Response

The Logistics Cluster will continue to facilitate, through WFP, the provision of land transport to Qamishli for humanitarian supplies. The service is provided to UN partners on a no-cost-to-user basis, (access, security and funding permitting). Between 10 and 17 August, one truck carrying UN non-food assistance (WASH supplies) has successfully reached Qamishli.

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