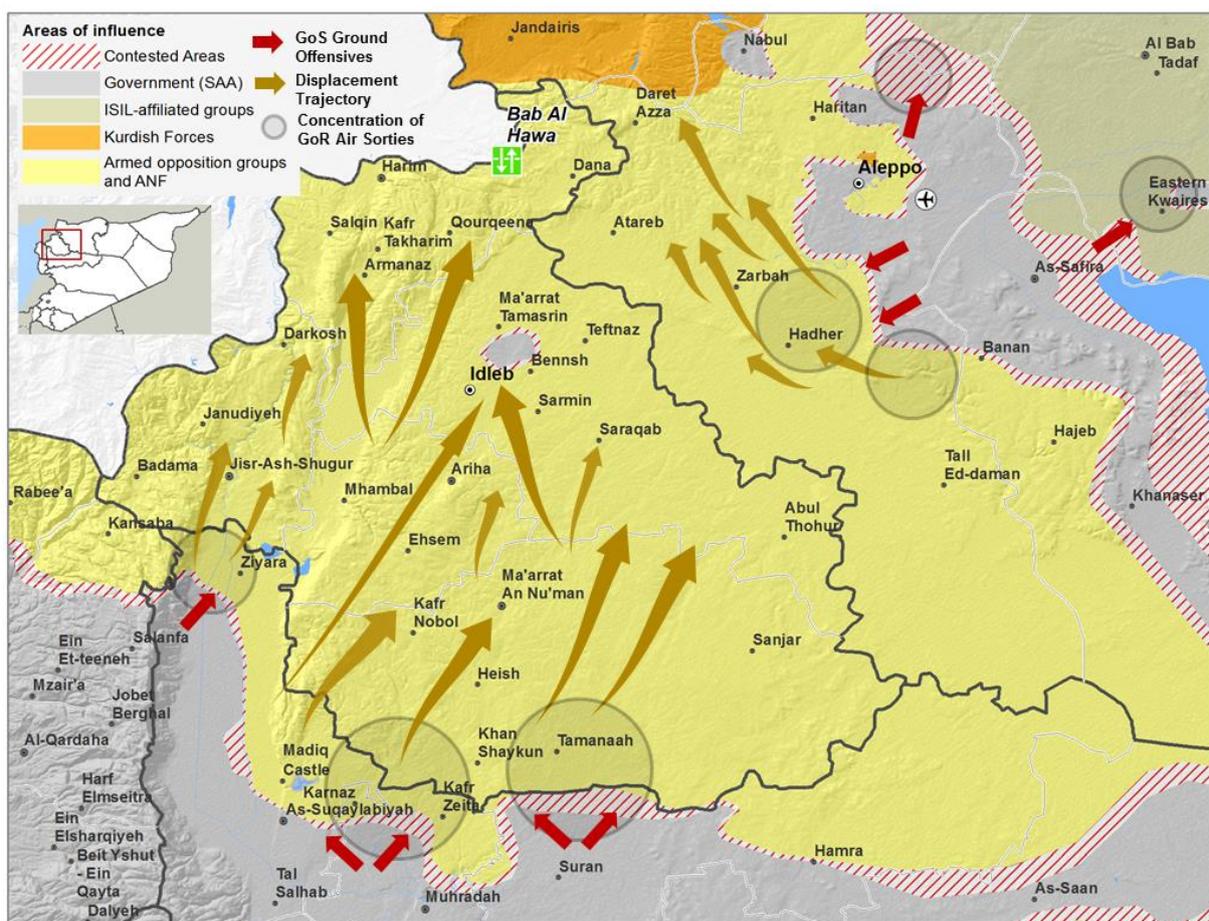




This report is produced by OCHA Turkey in collaboration with cluster coordinators and humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 23 to 30 October 2015.

Highlights

- According to the Camp Management and Camp Coordination (CCCM) cluster at least 123,842 people have been displaced in Aleppo, Hama and Idlib governorates between 05 October and 30 October 2015.
- The road from Hama to Aleppo remains cut since 23 October, putting at risk an estimated 700,000 people living in government-controlled areas of the city.
- Aerial attacks on medical facilities and staff continued as the hospitals in Maarat al-Nu'man (Idlib) and in Kafr Zeita (Idlib) were reportedly hit during last week.
- Humanitarian partners have scaled up to meet assessed needs but gaps remain particularly in provision of NFI and shelter kits, and provision of health, WASH and education services in IDP camps due to a combination of insufficient funding, procurement timelines and access challenges.
- A total of 400,000 beneficiaries will be targeted with assistance in five clusters (Health, Camp Coordination and Camp Management, Food Security and Livelihoods, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, and Non-Food Items and Shelter) through the US\$10 million Humanitarian Pooled Fund Emergency Allocation.
- The map below demonstrates active frontlines and major IDP flight routes in Aleppo, Idlib and Hama:



Situation Overview

Free Syrian Army affiliated opposition groups staged a number of counter offensives over the last week in response to the ongoing Government of Syria (GoS) offensive in the southern countryside of Aleppo. As a result of further escalation in violence and intensified air strikes around the southern perimeter of Aleppo city, 5,790 people (approximately 1,126 households) have been displaced over the past week mostly from areas of GoS advances including Jabel Azzan town and villages in the Tel el-Damaan area. According to the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) cluster, this brings the total number of IDPs displaced since mid-October in Aleppo governorate to 50,358. According to humanitarian organizations operational in Southern Aleppo, most IDPs are living with host families and in temporary and makeshift settlements in the countryside.

Meanwhile, GoS forces have fortified areas around newly seized villages in northern Hama and are reportedly preparing to launch a new offensive from Atshan towards southern Idleb. Heavy GoS shelling and rocket attacks have been reported around the al-Nusra Front stronghold of Khan Shaykhoun and GoS and allies' airstrikes have been constant over the past week. Likewise, local sources report fighting has escalated in Hamra sub-district in northern rural of Hama governorate and Madiq Castle sub-district in northern western rural Hama between GoS forces and allies and non-state opposition armed groups. Due to protracted violence and increased air attacks in the Jabel al-Zawiyeh, Hamra and Madiq Castle areas, the recent wave of displacement that has been witnessed over the last month has steadily increased to almost 73,484 people as verified by the CCCM cluster, while a number of local humanitarian organizations report higher figures. Most IDPs have fled to Kafr Nabool, Heish, Maarat al-Nu'man, and surrounding towns with some IDPs already experiencing multiple displacement. Most IDP camps have reached full capacity and cannot accommodate new arrivals. Finding adequate shelter for IDPs has become a priority for agencies as temperatures in Syria begin to drop. Most families have had to share tents due to a lack of shelter supplies, while others are living in communal areas such as schools, mosques and unfinished buildings.

Idleb and Hama

Aerial bombardment combined with ground offensives over the month of October resulted in large-scale displacement throughout both governorates. The CCCM cluster has recently reported that at least 80,569 people were displaced in Idleb and Hama from 10 to 31 October. However, local humanitarian organizations working in these areas indicate that this number could be well over 100,000 people. According to health organizations operational in Idleb, airstrikes hit two medical facilities in Maarat al-Nu'man (Idleb) on 24 October and in Kafr Zeita (Idleb) on 26 October bringing the total number of attacked health facilities in Idleb and Hama in October 2015 to four. The aerial attack on the Kafr Zeita medical facility caused significant damage rendering it out of service. Likewise, medical staff were killed and wounded while equipment and drug supplies were also degraded. Aerial attacks near the Maarat al-Nu'man health facility caused some minor damage and the hospital remains functional.

The majority of IDPs have settled in locations away from intense fighting and concentrated air attacks, but still in close proximity to their original towns and villages. Most IDPs live with host families or in the open air around Kafr Nabodeh in Hama, Kafr Nabool, and Heish towns in Idleb. According to local partners, some families have also moved from northern rural Hama to Hama City. If fighting does not cease, many will be forced to seek shelter in other areas experiencing secondary displacement. Most IDP camps in Idleb have reached their full capacity and can no longer accommodate new arrivals. New camps are being established according to SPHERE guidelines and the "do no harm" principles.

Aleppo

Due to intense fighting around southern Aleppo countryside, most prominently in al-Wadiheh, Khan Touman and Abdin, according to the CCCM cluster, at least 50,358 people have fled al-Hader, Tel ed-Daman and Jebel Saman sub districts towards towns and villages in the western countryside of Aleppo from 15 to 30 October. Local sources report that people are vacating villages and towns due to the ongoing fighting. Most IDPs have fled to Atareb, Qanater, and Tel Ed-Daman towns in the western countryside, with the majority of families fleeing to Zerbeh town and villages located in the sub-district.

While the main access route from Hama to Aleppo Western City remains cut since 23 October, as of 29 October, ISIL militants managed to exert control over a stretch of at least 15km along the highway from Hama to western Aleppo City. This in effect severed the last remaining flight route for some 700,000 people living in GoS-controlled western Aleppo. This highway is a vital supply route for the GoS as it links up with Hama, Homs and Damascus governorates and is primarily used to transport commercial supplies and humanitarian aid.

During the reporting period, health partners reported one confirmed aerial attack against health facilities in Aleppo. This brings the number of confirmed aerial attacks against health facilities in Aleppo to four in October 2015. While there have been other reported attacks against health facilities, these are yet to be independently verified. According to an NGO active in mine action, cluster munitions are being used against civilians in Aleppo (as well as Hama and Idleb) and many civilians have been injured. Humanitarian partners are working to collect more information on such cases and to verify these attacks.

Humanitarian Response

Over 1,000 tents have been distributed since 23 October and at least 4,442 tents will be mobilized within the next two weeks. Food Security and Livelihood partners have scaled up their activities distributing cooked meals and ready to eat food distributions in three governorates. Likewise, 15,126 food baskets were distributed in Aleppo governorate with another 4,630 food baskets distributed in Aleppo City. Mobile health clinics have provided medical assistance to patients and wounded in Aleppo and ambulances continue to transport injured civilians to health facilities nearby. As attacks against health facilities and personnel continue, partners increasingly rely on mobile clinics and ambulances, which need refurbishment and communications systems to function effectively. Partners distributed 2,600 blankets distributed to families in the villages of southern Aleppo countryside during the reporting period. 5,000 NFI kits were procured and will be distributed in Idleb and Hama in the next two weeks. Humanitarian organizations are also stockpiling NFI and shelter kits along with heating materials in preparation for winter. Emergency WASH services were provided to 35,000 new IDPs in the last two weeks and partners are scaling up their services in all areas to meet the needs. Syrian Arab Red Crescent has also provided IDPs with drinking water in southern Aleppo. However, humanitarian access along with lack of sufficient hygiene kits are two major constraints. Overall, humanitarian organizations have scaled up their response activities to meet the needs in Aleppo, Idleb and Hama but needs, gaps and constraints remain across sectors due to a combination of insufficient funding, procurement taking a long time and access challenges.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

Needs:

- Existing camps and settlements lack sufficient space and only a handful of these establishments can expand.
- Water, sanitation and hygiene items lack in IDP camps and settlements serving new arrivals.

Response:

- Cluster members secured 4,442 tents for the response covering majority of the immediate need. Of these to date, 597 tents have been distributed while 1,085 tents will be distributed next week. 2,260 tents are now in the pipeline and will be available for distribution within the next two weeks.
- Cluster members are prioritizing expanding existing camps rather than establishing new camps or setting up temporary shelters in un-safe locations.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Many IDPs remain close to their hometowns hoping to return should fighting cease. Due to their proximity to conflict areas, accessing IDPs in these locations remains a primary challenge for CCCM members.
- WASH, Health and Education services are lacking in camps and settlements.
- Lack of graveled land stands out as a major constraint particularly in areas where camps can be established.



Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL)

Needs:

- Cooked meals (where possible through mobile kitchens) and RTE rations are highly needed as first response and especially for those IDPs subjected to multi-displacement. Support to bakeries is required.

Response:

- The FSL cluster developed a response plan and partners are responding to the IDPs influx with scaling up their response/stocks where possible with appropriate response modalities. Ready to eat rations (RTE) are recommended together with cooked meals. The use of mobile kitchens is suggested as a more effective, time

saving and safe modality while responding to the urgent needs of those people temporary living in open areas (under trees or improvised shelters), destroyed/unfinished buildings or collective centers.

- Between 23-29 October, a combined 15,126 food baskets were distributed in Aleppo governorate with another 4,630 food baskets distributed in Aleppo City. In addition, 237 individuals are receiving cooked meals in Daret Azza on a daily basis.
- In Idlib governorate, IDPs were supported with 600 cash grants, 5,238 food baskets. 16,004 individuals have received cooked meals in Dana and Maarat Tamsrin on a daily basis during the reporting period.
- Vouchers for 5,000 to 7,000 new arrival households are available Azaz and Tall Rifaat districts of Aleppo.
- Six FSL members have reported a combined 13,679 available food baskets in Aleppo governorate and 18,832 food baskets and in Aleppo city.
- There are another 2,015 food baskets available in Idlib governorate.
- FSL partners identified functioning common kitchens to be supported with food items.
- Three FSL partners, primarily Syrian NGOs, have reported a combined capacity to distribute four tons of bread per day and a fourth has the capacity to deliver 20 tons of flour.

Gaps & Constraints:

- FSL members, particularly Syrian NGOs, report having capacity to stockpile and access to IDPs but limited access to stocks and funds to mobilize resources to this end.



Health

Needs:

- Ambulances remain a top-need to transport severely wounded patients to medical facilities. Referral systems need to be strengthened through refurbishing new and existing ambulances and communications equipment.
- Mobile clinics need medical kits and equipment.

Response:

- Health partners continue to respond to the increasing needs by running mobile clinics and providing emergency trauma care.
- Humanitarian Pooled Fund emergency funding will be used to strengthen referral systems including refurbishing new and existing ambulances and provide support to mobile clinics.
- 38 diarrheal disease kits will be prepositioned in high risk districts. Each kit is sufficient to treat 100 severe cases and 400 moderate cholera cases.

Gaps & Constraints:

- A major constraint for health cluster members is the attacks against health facilities and health workers that inhibit partners' ability to respond to needs.



Education

Needs:

- Large influx of IDPs to schools currently supported by partners that do not have the ability to intake the students easily.
- Materials are needed to support the large number of new students and the establishment of temporary learning spaces is necessary to support the displaced students.

Response:

- Partners are supporting their schools to track and intake IDP students into ongoing school programmes.
- Partners are looking into the possibility of expanding supply distribution to meet more student needs, to establishing more temporary learning spaces, and to developing stronger mobile education programmes that will support a stronger education response in future displacements.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Lack of a strong contingency plan in place to allow partners to quickly respond to displaced population.
- Lack of prepositioned supplies that can be easily dispensed to recently displaced populations.
- Lack of safety and security in schools and overcrowded educational space where educational activities are possible to some extent.



Nutrition

Needs:

- Major needs include breast milk substitute, nutrition bars and multiple micronutrient (MMN) powder.

Response:

- One cluster member is planning to mobilize 20 health and nutrition clinics in northern Aleppo to screen and provide treatment of acute malnutrition and BMS to children who are not breastfed.
- Other partners are continuing their normal activities and waiting for the delivery of supplies including measurement tools, systematic medication, micronutrient supplements as well as plumpy'nut for the treatment of acute malnutrition
- Three Syrian NGOs are planning to distribute nutrition bars and BMS in line with the technical guidelines for BMS distributions.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Access to IDPs need remain a constraint due to ongoing fighting and security concerns.
- Partners do not have sufficient supplies to scale up activities.



Protection

Needs:

- Due to ongoing fighting and airstrikes, provision of physical security and safety remain top needs particularly for vulnerable groups including children, women and girls. Other major needs are psychosocial support and psychological first aid.

Response:

- Two cluster members will implement an emergency risk education project for civilians displaced in Ariha, Harim, Al Mar'a and Jisr al-Shaoghour in Idlib governorate and Jebel Saman in Aleppo governorate. 75 teachers and community focal points trained on the provision of Risk Education sessions at community level. One cluster member will provide training of trainers and technical support to other partner's teams in the area of intervention. The intervention will include both immediate risk education response to IDPs via mobile teams in order to mitigate the threat posed by explosive weapons and in particular clusters bombs while integrating also a capacity building component with the training of educational staff and community leaders on risk education.
- Cluster members conducted psychosocial activities for children through mobile teams targeting 952 children in camps in Idlib and Aleppo.
- Psychosocial First Aid mobile teams provided psychosocial first aid for 633 displaced families in Atmeh, 290 families in Karamah and 30 families in Qah.
- Cluster members introduced gender-based violence services available to the community to new arrival IDPs in Atmeh.
- Partners plan to scale up activities after conducting multi-sectorial rapid assessments in Jarjanaz, Mert Hermeh, Kafer Sejneh, Tarmala, Naker, and Sheik Mostafa.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Gaps remain in information collection as the fighting continues in different forms.
- Service provision related gaps are reported in IDP camps across Idlib and Aleppo. In particular, latrines and hygiene kits for women and girls lack in most camps creating protection concerns.



NFI/Shelter

Needs:

- Tents, blankets, mattresses and NFI kits are urgently needed
- Contingency stocks of NFI and shelter items are limited

Response:

- 2600 blankets were distributed to families in the villages of southern Aleppo countryside with each family receiving two blankets.
- One cluster member will distribute 5000 NFI kits through its national partners in Idleb and Hama.
- As part of the Humanitarian Pooled Fund emergency allocation, one cluster member will distribute shelter kits for approximately 18,632 individuals in Jebel Saman in Aleppo governorate, As-Suqaylabiya in Hama governorate, Al Mara and Harim in Idleb governorate.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Given insufficient stocks and the high number of IDPs as winter approaches, additional NFI kits and shelter support will be needed with quantities to be determined following more in depths needs assessments.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Needs:

- According to rapid assessment results, the main needs are clean water, storage containers, and hygiene items such as soap, sanitary napkins and diapers.
- Emergency toilets and latrines are needed in a number of areas.

Response:

- Emergency WASH services were provided to 35,000 new IDPs in the last two weeks. Many IDPs are staying with host families, so provisions were prioritized for the most vulnerable.
- WASH partners are present in 17 of the reported sub-districts with new IDPs and are expanding services to accommodate the new arrivals. Specifically, water trucking and hygiene items are being provided to collective centers in Atareb, Tall Ed-dama, and Zarbah.
- Water and sanitation services have expanded at the informal camps in Dana. Water trucking is being conducted in Khan Shaykun, Heish, Kafr Nobol, and Ma'arrat Numan.
- One WASH partner will deliver hygiene kits and water to 13,500 new IDPs in Ma'ar Shurin, Tarmala, and Jisr Al Shogur in the upcoming week.
- New interventions will occur on a weekly basis as WASH partners systematically complete rapid assessments. In addition, Humanitarian Pooled Fund emergency funding will bring additional water trucking, emergency sanitation and hygiene kits for 50,000 IDPs in Aleppo, Idleb and Hama in coming weeks.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Humanitarian access remains a major constraint preventing partners from reaching people in need in some areas.
- Hygiene kits are in short supply.

General Coordination

Humanitarian partners working on Syria coordinate their activities through a well-established cluster/sector system in Turkey, Syria and Jordan. Under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator in Syria and the Regional Coordinator for Syria, partners work as part of the Whole of Syria approach with cluster coordinators present in each hub. Bodies such as the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group facilitate coordination for the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the country. The coordination system is built on a partnership approach with UN and INGO co-leadership of clusters and increasing coordination roles taken on by Syrian NGOs. With regards to the recent displacement, the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group in Turkey held a meeting on 27 October to assess the IDP influx, current response and scale up plans, and remaining gaps and constraints. Clusters held meetings with their members and have identified response and scale up plans. OCHA Turkey and OCHA Syria are sharing and triangulating information. As fighting, shelling and air raids continue, obtaining reliable and timeline information remains a significant challenge and response efforts are obstructed. Partners working in Aleppo, Idleb and Hama are requested to report through their respective clusters and share information on needs assessments and response.¹

¹ Partners are invited to use the Rapid Assessment Tool developed by the intercluster coordination group: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/stima/document/rapid-assessment-tool-questionnaires-enar>

Humanitarian Pooled Fund Emergency Allocation

On 26 October, the Deputy Regional Humanitarian Coordinator (DRHC) for the cross-border humanitarian response from Turkey into Syria launched a Humanitarian Pooled Fund Emergency Reserve Allocation to respond to the ongoing IDP crisis in Aleppo, Idlib and Hama. The Humanitarian Pooled Fund (HPF) worked with cluster leads to identify at least 15 Syrian NGOs, four INGOs and two UN agencies to scale up WASH, CCCM, FSL, Health and Shelter/NFI assistance through a \$10 million HPF Emergency Reserve Allocation. In accordance with Humanitarian Pooled Fund's priority of supporting the capacity building of Syrian national NGOs, Syrian partners will receive \$8.3 million out of the \$10 million allocation. Approximately 410,000 beneficiaries will receive urgently needed humanitarian assistance under this emergency allocation. Below is a brief description of how clusters will use HPF funding to address humanitarian needs on the ground;

- The Health cluster will strengthen referral systems, support mobile clinics, establish communications systems for ambulances, and provide medical supplies and equipment to health facilities.
- The WASH cluster will establish and maintain water systems mitigating risks against waterborne diseases.
- The FSL cluster will provide emergency food rations including ready to eat meals.
- The NFI/Shelter cluster will mobilize HPF funding for the provision of emergency shelter and NFI kits.
- The CCCM cluster will procure 4,000 tents and distribute them to IDPs in need.

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