

SYRIA: FLASH UPDATE ON RECENT EVENTS

19 December 2016

This update provides a summary of recent displacement, along with developments from the **UNHCR co-led Sector/Clusters of Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), Shelter/Non Food Items (SNFI) and Protection.**

KEY DISPLACEMENT STATISTICS

- **464,767** people displaced in affected areas of Aleppo (271,691), Hama (91,645), Idleb (76,005), Ar-Raqqa (15,394), Homs (7,346), Deir Ez-Zor (1,413), Lattakia (1,273) governorates, northern Syria, due to fighting since 1 February 2016 (figures as of 30 November). This represents an overall increase of 30,475 people since 22 November, with the large majority of newly displaced from Aleppo Governorate and a smaller increase from Ar-Raqqa Governorate. This does not include the latest displacement from eastern to western Aleppo city.
- **7,966** people displaced in affected areas of Rural Damascus, south-western Syria, due to fighting since August 2016 (figures as of 22 November).
- **69,582** people displaced in affected areas of Al-Hasakeh Governorate, north-eastern Syria, due to fighting since September 2016 (figures as of 12 December).

Aleppo city

- From 16-19 December, over 10,300 people have been evacuated from eastern Aleppo to opposition-held areas of rural Aleppo Governorate and Idleb Governorate, according to information triangulated by the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster. In addition, since 28 November to 15 December, nearly 40,000 people have been displaced from opposition-controlled eastern Aleppo to government-controlled areas.
- The UN does not have an estimate of how many people still remain in the besieged area of eastern Aleppo city, but believes it is in the tens of thousands.

CONTEXTUAL DEVELOPMENTS

- Today (19 December), the United Nations Security Council unanimously passed resolution 2328 requesting for UN officials and others to be able to monitor evacuations from eastern Aleppo and the safety of civilians who remain in Aleppo city. The resolution "demands all parties to provide these monitors with safe, immediate and unimpeded access."
- An operation to bring thousands of people out of the last opposition-held area of eastern Aleppo city is again underway after being suspended on 16 December. Movements are ongoing and the number may continue to rise. Evacuees were transported by bus to a checkpoint on the western outskirts of the city, where an NGO is offering transportation to opposition-held areas of Idleb and rural Aleppo governorates. Many evacuees move on independently using private vehicles once they are out of eastern Aleppo and their destinations are therefore more difficult to track.
- UN agencies and NGOs based out of Gaziantep, Turkey, have prepositioned supplies in Idleb Governorate and are ready to provide assistance to those in need who were evacuated from eastern Aleppo city.
- Alongside the evacuation from Aleppo city, a reciprocal evacuation from Foah and Kefraya (two towns in Idleb Governorate under siege by armed opposition groups) is underway. On 19 December, there are reportedly 700 people on the move from Foah and Kefraya.

UNHCR CO-LED SECTOR/CLUSTER UPDATES

Protection

- Protection partners in the Gaziantep hub have established three transit sites in consultation with the inter-cluster group for those arriving from eastern Aleppo city, known as 'welcome centers'. These locations provide basic emergency assistance and protection services such as psychosocial support and psychological first aid for those moving to other locations.
- The Protection Cluster partners at the welcome centers in northern Idleb and Aleppo governorates are undertaking light protection monitoring activities which will be expanded in the coming days to some off-camp and host community locations.
- In Aleppo city, mobile teams including child protection, legal, gender-based violence, psychosocial support and livelihoods personnel continue daily visits and protection services to the Jibreen and Mahalej IDP shelters. So far, over 1,700 persons have been reached with services and assistance covering legal, child protection, gender-based violence and psychosocial support activities.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

- Partners in the UNHCR-led Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster are now tracking the movement of IDPs evacuated from Aleppo city to determine their locations and needs.
- Of the total estimated 10,300 people evacuated from Aleppo city, the CCCM Cluster has verified the location of 7,000 IDPs and is still working on verifying the rest. More buses were arriving at the time of writing this report and the numbers are increasing.

Shelter/Non-Food Items (SNFI)

- A total of 19 organizations in the Gaziantep hub are taking part in the SNFI Cluster response to provide assistance to evacuees from eastern Aleppo city in both Idleb and rural Aleppo governorates. Partners in the SNFI Cluster in Gaziantep have around 180,000 NFIs (including winter items) available in stock, and an additional 66,990 NFIs, 6,000 tents, and 1,000 shelter kits are in the pipeline. Identified NFI needs include especially mattresses and blankets. Emergency items – including thermal blankets, sleeping mats, winter clothes and other essentials – have already been shipped from Turkey to northern Syria for distribution by partners to those evacuated from eastern Aleppo.
- In government-controlled areas of Aleppo city, thousands of displaced persons at shelters in Jibreen and Mahalej continue to have substantial humanitarian needs. Efforts are ongoing to move people out of the Mahalej transitional shelter, where around 2,000 people are temporarily being sheltered in 280 units rehabilitated by partners. Conditions there are challenging, and shelter space is still largely inadequate to meet people's needs especially given the cold winter weather.
- Substantial efforts are also underway by SNFI Cluster members to rehabilitate shelter spaces in Jibreen, which is currently hosting approximately 8,000 people and is at overcapacity. Ninety per cent of the 76 units in Jibreen zones 1 and 2 have been rehabilitated by partners so far.
- Partners in Aleppo city are working around the clock to ensure the provision of NFIs assistance. As of 15 December, UNHCR and partners have delivered emergency relief items to nearly 40,000 people in Aleppo city – mostly at the Jibreen and Mahalej shelter sites.

Syrian Arab Republic (Northern Governorates): Arrivals from East Aleppo as of Dec 19, 2016 (16:30)



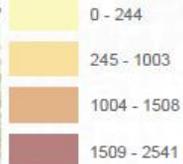
East Aleppo 10,332*



* Based on observed number of buses arrived between December 16th and 19th, 2016 (16:30).

Legend

Heatmap: Total individuals by sub-district of destination

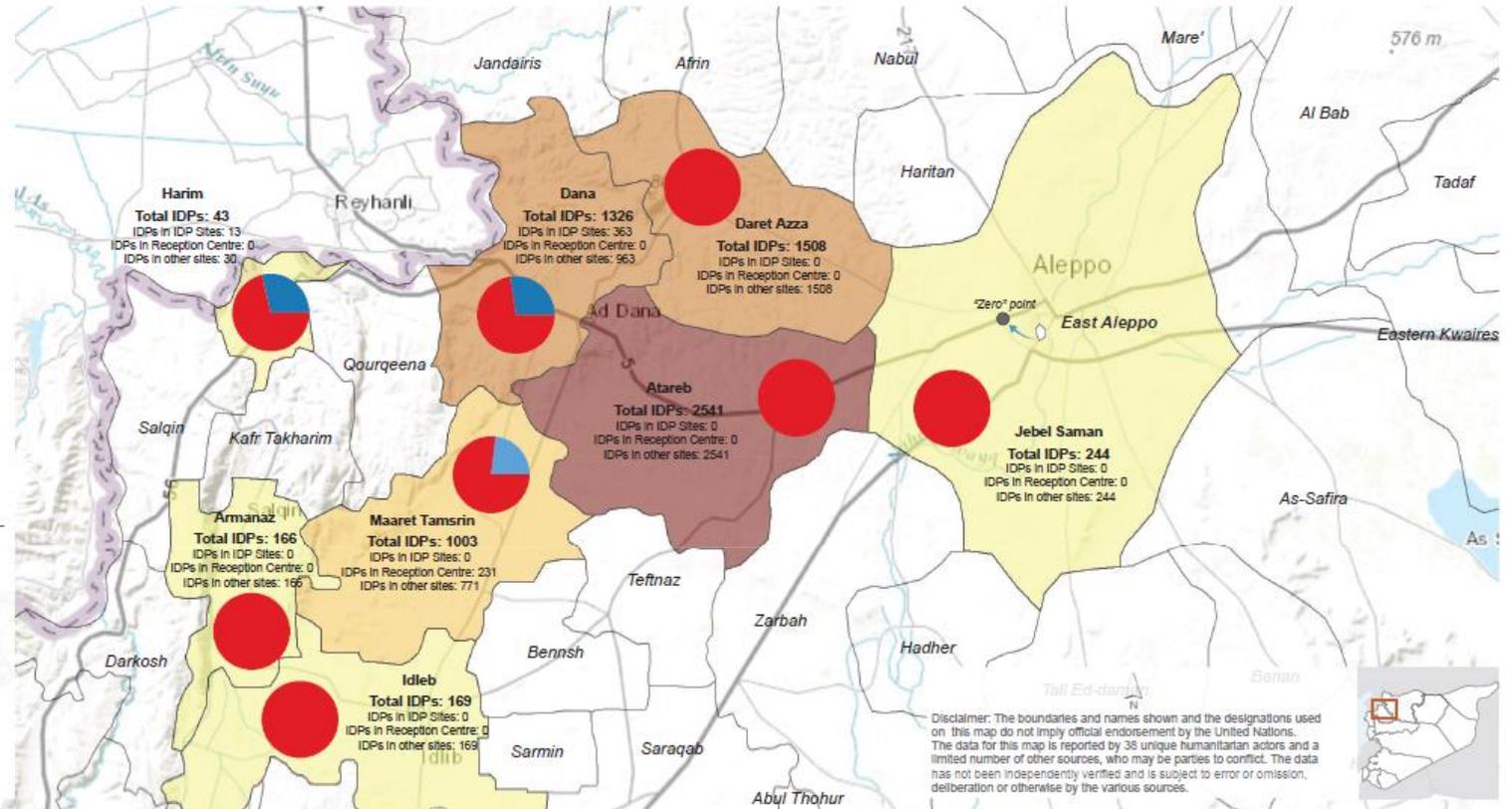


Pie chart: Distribution of IDPs by type of site



Total verified arrivals: 7,000.
Total under verification: 3,322.

This map illustrates the displacement of populations from East Aleppo city between December 16th and 19th, 2016. The heatmap highlights the number of new displacements from Aleppo by sub-district. The pie charts display the distribution of IDPs from Aleppo in each sub-district by type of site. This data was provided by CCCM Cluster member organizations. This data is for humanitarian use only.



Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement by the United Nations. The data for this map is reported by 38 unique humanitarian actors and a limited number of other sources, who may be parties to conflict. The data has not been independently verified and is subject to error or omission, deliberation or otherwise by the various sources.

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