

SYRIA: FLASH UPDATE ON RECENT EVENTS

9 February 2017

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

- **551,314** people displaced from affected areas of northern and southern Syria:
 - **540,211** people displaced from affected areas of northern Syria, including Aleppo (339,205), Hama (93,635), Idleb (76,460), Ar-Raqqa (19,487), Homs (7,894), Deir-Ez-Zor (2,222), Lattakia (1,308) governorates, northern Syria, due to fighting since 1 February 2016 (figures as of 25 January). This is an increase of 18,272 since the previous week, primarily in Aleppo Governorate.
 - **11,103** people displaced from affected areas of Rural Damascus, south-western Syria, due to fighting since August 2016 (figures as of 25 January). This is an increase of 1,175 since the previous week.
- **6.3 million** people are internally displaced in Syria since the beginning of the crisis.

CONTEXTUAL DEVELOPMENTS

- The United Nations [said](#) it remains deeply concerned for civilians affected by military operations in and around Al-Bab (Aleppo Governorate). The UN estimates that around 30,000 civilians have fled Al-Bab city and surroundings since late December 2016, heading mainly towards other districts in Aleppo Governorate.
- UN agencies and partners are providing assistance to those displaced, including through setting up reception and transit centres and providing basic assistance. It is estimated that up to 10,000 civilians remain in Al-Bab city, facing increasingly difficult conditions, including movement restrictions.
- Fighting around Al-Bab in Aleppo Governorate has caused an estimated 1.8 million people in Aleppo city and rural eastern Aleppo to be cut off from their main water source since 14 January.
- All of the areas formerly held by armed opposition groups in eastern Aleppo city are now accessible to humanitarian partners, however reports of unexploded ordnance and remnants of war in the area continue to hinder access.
- On 5 February, a UN, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) inter-agency convoy delivered food, nutrition, health and other emergency items to 84,000 people in need in hard-to-reach Talbiseh (rural Homs Governorate). This was the first inter-agency cross-line convoy in February and only the second to proceed in 2017.

UNHCR CO-LED SECTOR/CLUSTER UPDATES

Protection

- Protection partners continue to provide regular protection services to IDPs in Aleppo city. Partners operating in community centres and through outreach volunteers have organised awareness-raising activities on protection themes and services reaching almost 4,000 individuals. Protection partners have also reached 842 women with gender-based violence awareness-raising sessions and vocational training. Legal aid partners provided 1,400 consultations on civil documentation, as well as other legal issues.

- The Protection Cluster in northern Syria conducted an assessment of the impact of the ceasefire negotiated in Astana on civilians in Aleppo, Idleb, and Rural Damascus governorates from 20 to 24 January. A total of 218 key informant interviews were conducted by seven partners. In areas that did not experience airstrikes or shelling, key informants expressed relief at the sense of safety and indicated that life was able to return to their communities. Access to markets, schools, and workplaces improved. On the other hand, in areas which experienced airstrikes or shelling, key informants expressed fear which affected their freedom of movement, and by extension, their access to health services, schools, and workplaces. They hoped for improvement of their living conditions and the assurance of basic daily needs, as well as support needed to face the winter cold weather.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

- Between 31 January and 2 February, the CCCM Cluster in northern Syria has maintained daily tracking of 2,100 new IDPs from the town of Wadi Barada (Rural Damascus) to Idleb Governorate. The data has been shared with other clusters and member agencies to better inform and orient programmes on the ground, as well as to ensure an appropriate response.
- As part of the response planning for Ar-Raqqa and Al-Bab (Aleppo Governorate), CCCM Cluster members are ready in case of need to establish three additional reception centres in Jarablus and A'zaz (both in Aleppo Governorate) and in Idleb. Cluster members are also assessing opportunities to establish at least one centre in Menbij (Aleppo Governorate).
- CCCM Cluster members completed the gravelling of Roubar IDP site in Afrin (Aleppo Governorate) and have replaced 350 old tents with new ones. Clothing distributions are also ongoing.
- In the Jarablus IDP site (Aleppo Governorate), CCCM Cluster members have delivered 200 tents to families settling in the old informal settlements. Efforts to insulate 6,000 tents in Idleb are also ongoing.

Shelter/Non-Food Items (SNFI)

- In Aleppo city, partners have assisted a total of 127,178 people (27,060 families) with NFIs including winter clothing kits. In the past week, over 3,600 individuals were assisted with NFIs in Aleppo city. This week, two NFI distribution monitoring visits were conducted in the Masaken Hanano and Mushatieha neighborhoods.
- Shelter partners have also started a structural assessment in the Masaken Hanano neighbourhood in Aleppo city. So far, 70 per cent of the assessment has been completed and the exercise is expected to finish this week.
- As part of the response planning for Ar-Raqqa, the SNFI Cluster in northern Syria has updated and shared its contingency plan map with Cluster members for planning and coordination.