

SYRIA: FLASH UPDATE ON RECENT EVENTS

20 December 2017

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

KEY DISPLACEMENT STATISTICS (AS OF 12 DECEMBER 2017)¹

- **1,221,863** displacements recorded by the CCCM Cluster **in the last 12 months** from affected areas of northern and southern Syria:
 - **1,191,079** displacements from affected areas of northern Syria, including Ar-Raqqa (320,019), Aleppo (265,291), Deir-Ez-Zor (241,329), Hama (212,672), Idlib (99,879), Homs (36,581), Al-Hassakeh (13,727), Lattakia (1,581) governorates, northern Syria. This includes around 93,200 displacements recorded in November 2017, and around 11,500 new displacements recorded so far in December 2017, the majority from Hama Governorate.
 - **30,784** displacements from affected areas of Damascus, Rural Damascus, Sweida and Dar'a, south-western Syria.

CONTEXTUAL DEVELOPMENTS

- Yesterday (19 December), the Security Council [renewed the authorization](#) for cross-border and cross-line humanitarian access to Syria for a further 12 months, until 10 January 2019. Adopting resolution 2393 (2017) by a vote of 12 in favour and with three abstentions (Bolivia, China, Russian Federation), the Council extended the authorization – first established by resolution 2165 (2014) – for humanitarian agencies to use four border crossings: two with Turkey, one with Jordan, and one with Iraq.
- Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock [briefed](#) the Security Council on the humanitarian situation in Syria. He stressed that the situation for 400,000 Syrians besieged in eastern Ghouta (near Damascus) remains unbearable, with intensive air and ground-based strikes reported nearly daily since mid-November. About 500 people are waiting to be evacuated for life-saving medical care.
- The situation for civilians in Ar-Raqqa city and surrounding areas continues to be concerning, with reports of explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices resulting in civilian casualties daily.
- IDPs from Ar-Raqqa and Deir-Ez-Zor governorates continue to be accommodated in a number of camps in north-east Syria. However, the average daily arrival for Areesheh, Mabrouka and Ain Issa camps decreased significantly during the past weeks.

UNHCR CO-LED SECTOR/CLUSTER UPDATES

Protection

- The Population Monitoring Initiative (PMI) for southern Syria released its December [report](#) and [dataset](#). It identifies low volumes of IDP return movements across 26 villages in Dar'a and Quneitra governorates during the reporting period. The total IDP return figures decreased slightly this month from 5,911 in October

¹ Some displacement statistics mentioned in other sections of this report may not be reflected in the "Key Displacement Statistics" as they are in the process of being triangulated by established population tracking mechanisms.

to 4,690 in November as returns to Dar'a al Balad further slowed down with the onset of winter. Additionally, small scale internal displacement totaling 1,107 individuals was recorded across ten villages representing a slowing from the past reporting month. The same report also provides analysis of a survey of returnee IDP households, highlighting that one in five returnee households is unable to return to their original home, and from among those who were able to return to their homes, 72 per cent found that their house had sustained some level of damage in their absence. IDP returns reported widespread economic difficulties, and livelihoods are the top concern stated by surveyed households. Additional top concerns were security, health, and access to justice.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

- This month, an online training was held on the new "IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative (ISMI) 2.0" tools for data collection. The aim of ISMI 2.0 is to create a single data collection structure by merging the existing ISMI data collection with the CCCM Member IDP tracking system.
- Since 1 October, the CCCM Cluster tracked a large influx of IDPs from northern Hama Governorate into southern Idlib Governorate. These displacements were caused by a rise in military clashes, particularly in As-Saan, Hamra and Oqeirbat sub-districts of Hama Governorate. The main destination for displaced families is Sanjar, followed by Ma'arrat An Nu'man and Saraqab sub-districts. Cluster member agencies are providing assistance to households arriving in these locations. The CCCM Cluster continues to follow the situation closely and will share updates with member agencies once more information becomes available.
- The CCCM Cluster continues to share updates with member agencies on displacements in northern Syria, and particularly from Ar-Raqqa and Deir-Ez-Zor governorates. The number of displacements from Deir-Ez-Zor Governorate in the last five months has reached 229,692 individuals, out of which 80,028 individuals displaced to Aleppo Governorate, 49,879 within Deir-Ez-Zor, 39,636 to Ar-Raqqa, 26,743 to Idlib and 33,224 to Al-Hassakeh.
- From Ar-Raqqa Governorate, the CCCM Cluster recorded a total of around 330,900 since November 2016, the beginning of military operations to retake Ar-Raqqa city. Of these, 92,501 displacements have been recorded in the last five months, including 53,543 displacements within Ar-Raqqa Governorate, 24,239 to Aleppo, 12,023 to Idlib, 2,451 to Deir-Ez-Zor and the rest to Al-Hassakeh.

Shelter/Non-Food Items (SNFI)

- From January-October 2017, the [Whole of Syria SNFI sector](#) reached 1.68 million beneficiaries with core and essential NFIs, and 674,300 beneficiaries with shelter assistance, including seasonal and supplementary shelter assistance, provision of emergency shelter, repair and rehabilitation of housing, and provision of Housing, Land and Property (HLP) information, advice or counseling.