SYRIA: FLASH UPDATE ON RECENT EVENTS
11 January 2018

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 2 JANUARY 2018)¹

- **1,288,957** displacements recorded by the CCCM Cluster in the last 12 months from affected areas of northern and southern Syria:
  - **1,258,170** displacements from affected areas of northern Syria, including Ar-Raqq (320,027), Aleppo (267,355), Hama (242,949), Deir-Ez-Zor (242,007), Idlib (133,925), Homs (36,588), Al-Hassakeh (13,738), Lattakia (1,581) governorates, northern Syria. This includes around 75,000 new displacements recorded in December 2017, primarily from Hama and Idlib governorates.
  - **30,787** displacements from affected areas of Damascus, Rural Damascus, Sweida and Dar’a, south-western Syria.

CONTEXTUAL DEVELOPMENTS

- The UN continues to receive concerning reports of ongoing fighting and airstrikes affecting the civilian population in north-west Syria. Communities and IDP sites, already hosting thousands of IDPs, are struggling to absorb new arrivals. The UN estimates that 55 per cent of communities in Idlib governorate are overburdened, with IDPs comprising a substantial portion of the population in many communities. The fighting has also forced some humanitarian organizations to suspend operations in parts of southern Idlib.

- The UN reported that while fighting and clashes in the besieged area of eastern Ghouta (near Damascus) have increased substantially since November, there has been a further escalation in airstrikes and ground-based strikes since 31 December. Reports indicate a rise in airstrikes across a number of towns in the besieged enclave, including Harasta, Arbeen, Modira, Mersaba, Hamourya, and Duma.

- As of 19 December, the UN estimates that there are 2.9 million people in need in hard-to-reach locations, including 417,566 people in besieged locations. The number of people in besieged areas has decreased from 419,920 at the end of September 2017, as the suburb of Qaboun in Damascus has been deemed to no longer meet the besiegement criteria. The largest besieged area remains eastern Ghouta (Damascus), where nearly 400,000 people are besieged by Syrian government forces.

UNHCR CO-LED SECTOR/CLUSTER UPDATES

**Protection**

- In December, nine Protection Monitoring Task Force members (Turkey Hub) conducted 741 key informant interviews in 119 communities, covering 42 sub-districts, 18 districts, and seven governorates. In addition, capacity building efforts continue: on 27 December, the Protection Training Officer conducted a protection mainstreaming training session for 42 humanitarian actors.

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.
From January to November 2017, the Whole of Syria Protection Sector conducted 6.5 million interventions in 1,841 communities in 233 out of 272 sub-districts in Syria through one or more of its prevention/risk mitigation, response or capacity building activities. These protection interventions included awareness raising, risk education, individual and group psychosocial support, protection monitoring, case management, referrals to other services, material/cash assistance, and capacity building of humanitarian partners and frontline responders. Many of the interventions are done through community centres, schools, child friendly/women safe spaces or using outreach volunteers.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

- In recent months, the CCCM Cluster tracked a large influx of IDPs from northern Hama and southern Idlib governorate due to renewed fighting in the area. A total of 99,569 displacements were tracked between 1 December and 9 January (see attached map). The main destinations of those displaced is Ma’arrat An Nu’man and Saraqab sub-districts, as well as Dana sub-district in northern Idlib governorate. Cluster member agencies are providing assistance to people arriving in these locations. The CCCM Cluster continues to follow the situation closely and will share new updates with member agencies once more information becomes available.

- The CCCM Cluster reception centres in northern Idlib are ready to host new arrivals from affected areas in northern Hama and southern Idlib. Currently, 1,876 IDPs are resident in these centres, which have an overall capacity of 3,500 individuals. A new collective centre and two IDP sites were also set up with a capacity for almost 200 families. These sites are in need of several items, including cooked meals and ready-to-eat rations, hygiene kits, non-food items and adequate latrines. A new IDP site for up to 2,000 IDPs (400 households) is currently being established with the support of the CCCM Cluster. Tents have already been dispatched and WASH containers are being installed.

Shelter/Non-Food Items (SNFI)

- On 9 January, one partner in the SNFI Cluster (Turkey Hub) trans-shipped 2,000 NFI kits for 10,000 individuals following a request of the SNFI Cluster. The items are expected to be distributed to fill the gaps in the response. The SNFI Cluster in the Turkey Hub also met this week to plan interventions in response to the latest displacement in Idlib governorate. The situation was reported as being extremely fluid and challenging, with many IDPs still on the move, making it difficult for partners to provide assistance. Shelter and winter NFI assistance were determined to be the biggest needs. Ten Cluster members are planning to target around 115,000 individuals with NFI and shelter assistance within the next two to three months.

- Partners in the Shelter Sector (Syria Hub) continue to provide assistance in Aleppo city. So far, more than 5,200 buildings in nine priority neighbourhoods of Aleppo city have been technically assessed by the Engineering Syndicate in coordination with Shelter Sector partners. Out of these, around 75 per cent were certified as structurally safe and can be targeted with shelter rehabilitation. The remaining 25 per cent of the buildings were deemed to be either structurally unsafe, or require detailed assessment. Additional buildings remain to be assessed. Once the assessment is completed, the results will be shared with partners for planning shelter interventions in 2018.

- From January to November 2017, the Whole of Syria SNFI Sector reached 1.8 million beneficiaries with NFIs and 736,300 beneficiaries with shelter assistance, including the provision of seasonal and supplementary shelter assistance; provision and rehabilitation of emergency shelter; repair and rehabilitation of housing; and provision of Housing, Land and Property (HLP)-related information, advice or counselling, among others.
Syrian Arab Republic (Northern Governorates): Displacements to Idleb governorate as of January 9, 2018

99,569*
Reported displacements
(December, 2017 - January 9, 2018)
* Overall displacements tracked by the CCCM Cluster towards Idleb governorate. Of some may represent secondary displacement.

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Northern Hama / Southern Idlib
- Total IDPs: 123,957
- IDPs in sites: 21,000

The security situation in northern Hama and southern Idlib governorates has led to a large number of displacements, tracked by the CCCM Cluster from these areas since December.

In recent weeks, more than 40 IDP sites, housing more than 30,000 residents, have been heavily affected as families flee from the frontlines. The main destinations are either IDP sites further north within Hama governorate.

Idleb area*
- Total population: 2,884,630
- IDPs in sites: 273,358

* Covering areas currently controlled by Armed Opposition Groups in Idleb, west Aleppo and northern Hama governorates.

Legend
Displacements by sub-district
(% of annual tracker)
- 0 % - 2.5%
- 2.5% - 5%
- 5% - 10%
- More than 10%

Arrows shown in the map do not reflect actual routes but only the places of departure and destination.

This data was provided by CCCM Cluster member organizations and was validated through triangulation and verification by the CCCM Cluster.

This data is for humanitarian use only. Draft.

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