

# SYRIA: FLASH UPDATE ON RECENT EVENTS

5 April 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 4 APRIL 2018)<sup>1</sup>

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- **1,537,496** displacements recorded by the CCCM Cluster **in the last 12 months** from affected areas of northern and southern Syria:
  - **1,469,209** displacements from affected areas of northern Syria, including Idleb (386,900), Ar-Raqqa (295,823), Hama (279,222), Deir-Ez-Zor (253,035), Aleppo (161,860), Homs (34,756), Al-Hassakeh (13,470), Latakia (1,540) governorates, northern Syria. This also includes around 42,600 displacements under verification. Around 8,000 displacements were recorded in March 2018, primarily from Hama, Aleppo and Idleb governorates.
  - **68,287** displacements from affected areas of Damascus, Rural Damascus, Sweida and Dar'a, south-western Syria, to northern Syria. This includes some 48,800 cross-line displacements from eastern Ghouta to northern Syria between 13 March and 2 April.

## CONTEXTUAL DEVELOPMENTS

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- Since 9 March, over 130,000 IDPs have left the besieged areas of eastern Ghouta. This includes around 80,000 individuals who left through established corridors to the IDP sites in Rural Damascus, as well as some 50,000 individuals who left through evacuation agreements to Idleb and Aleppo governorates in north-west Syria. Over 39,000 people have already left the IDP sites in Rural Damascus through a sponsorship system, however, many sites remain over capacity.
- There are an estimated 137,000 individuals displaced from Afrin. The majority, around 90,000 individuals, are currently located in Tall Refaat and ten other villages, while 20,000 individuals are in Nubol, 10,000 in Zahraa and 15,000 in Kafr Naseh and Fafin. Freedom of movement of IDPs continues to be the principal concern in all locations. Between 50,000 and 70,000 individuals are believed to remain inside Afrin city.
- On 1 April, a UN inter-agency team conducted the first assessment mission to Ar-Raqqa since the city was taken from extremist groups. Despite a high level of unexploded ordnance contamination, an estimated 100,000 people have reportedly returned to Ar-Raqqa city.

## UNHCR CO-LED SECTOR/CLUSTER UPDATES

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### Protection

#### **Response to displacement from eastern Ghouta:**

- **Syria Hub:** Protection teams are on the ground in the collective shelters in Rural Damascus on a daily basis to identify protection needs, facilitate communication with the families, organize referrals, and to inform evidence-based advocacy. Protection partners continue to offer technical support to assist designated institutions in setting up a system of rapid registration. Legal aid support on civil status documentation is

<sup>1</sup> 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.

being provided to IDPs by lawyers from a national specialized partner. More than 28,000 individual counseling and facilitation interventions have so far been provided to individuals arriving to and departing from the sites. Since the beginning of the crisis, an emergency gender-based violence (GBV) response has been implemented, with national partners conducting more than 62,000 interventions so far mostly via mobile teams in several sites, as well as in newly accessible communities within eastern Ghouta. Despite decongestion in some sites, protection risks stemming from overcrowding, lack of privacy and family separation remain prevalent. There is an ongoing need to expedite the exit of IDPs from the sites to ease congestion and to allow IDPs to resort to alternative housing arrangements, including with family members.

- **Turkey Hub:** The Protection Cluster, Child Protection, GBV and Mine Action Sub-Clusters members have scaled-up their emergency service provision to recently displaced communities from eastern Ghouta arriving to Idleb and Aleppo governorates. Twelve cluster members provided over 27,000 protection interventions to IDPs and affected host community members, reaching 31 communities within 12 sub-districts in Idleb and Aleppo governorates. Partners responded to IDPs in both the reception sites as well as in host communities, reaching 8,622 individuals (1,604 girls, 2,224 boys, 2,865 women, and 1,929 men). Civilians arriving to north-west Syria were observed to be exhausted and expressing extreme psychosocial distress and trauma. The Cluster plans to initiate a rapid protection monitoring to better understand present needs and risks as well as protection threats experienced prior to and during their flight. Meanwhile, the Protection Cluster remains concerned about the status of civilians remaining in eastern Ghouta given the condition of those arriving into north-west Syria.

#### **Response to displacement from Afrin:**

- **Syria Hub:** UN-supported protection teams are on the ground for the identification of protection needs, referrals and to inform evidence based advocacy. General protection services, child protection services and gender-based violence protection services are being set up, largely with mobile teams. These mobile teams are providing psycho-social support, mine risk education, GBV-related services and case management, child protection services and general awareness raising activities.

#### **Other key activities:**

- **Turkey Hub:** In line with the Cluster's emergency response package, the main services provided by protection actors between 27 March and 3 April include psychological first aid for 395 girls, 1,194 boys, 1,280 women and 969 men; psychosocial support for 938 girls, 866 boys and 19 women; dignity kits distribution for 481 women; and risk education for 121 girls, 128 boys, 67 women, and 71 men.

### **Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)**

#### **Response to displacement from eastern Ghouta:**

- **Turkey Hub:** From 13 March to 2 April, the CCCM Cluster tracked the arrival of 48,836 IDPs from eastern Ghouta towards Idleb, west Aleppo and northern Hama governorates (see attached map). Of these, around 6,500 IDPs were received in CCCM reception centres in Maaret Elekhwan (Idleb Governorate) and Mezanaz (Aleppo Governorate). The two CCCM reception centres are fully occupied and working at more than 100 per cent capacity. The Cluster, in collaboration with member agencies and the Shelter/NFI Cluster, continued to respond to arrivals from eastern Ghouta and is preparing for additional arrivals expected in the coming days. Based on a collaboration between CCCM and SNFI Clusters, the available shelter space (in and out of camps) in north-west Syria was mapped with inputs from both clusters' member agencies. The online shelter availability dashboard can be accessed [here](#).

#### **Other key activities:**

- **Turkey Hub:** The [IDP Sites Integrated Monitoring Matrix \(ISIMM\) for February 2018](#) was finalized and shared with Cluster members on 29 March. As of February, there were an estimated 427,023 IDPs in sites across northern Syria. Of these, the CCCM Cluster coordinated multi-sectorial life-saving assistance for 363,514 IDPs residing in 336 IDP sites. In February, 42 new camps are added into the CCCM database and 36 of these camps are located in Idleb Governorate while the rest are in Aleppo Governorate. The Cluster assessed that the following needs of IDPs in sites were covered in February: water, waste removal and sanitation (77%), NFIs (67%), shelter (63%), and food (50%).

## **Shelter/Non-Food Items (SNFI)**

### **Response to displacement from eastern Ghouta:**

- **Syria Hub:** Despite the scaling up of the humanitarian response, the situation in the eight collective shelters hosting IDPs from eastern Ghouta in Rural Damascus remains difficult. The overall capacity of all collective IDP sites is 25,800 individuals, whereas currently 44,300 IDPs are living in eight sites. More than 1,000 shelter kits have been used to construct emergency shelters and to install partitions, doors and windows. Light rehabilitation of IDP sites was also carried out and four sheds have been constructed in Herjalleh. One rubble hall was installed in the Adra School shelter. In addition, partners have so far distributed over 450,000 NFIs to IDPs in the collective shelters.
- **Turkey Hub:** The SNFI Cluster shared five rapid needs assessments conducted in 13 sub-districts in northern Syria (Ariha, Afrin, Atareb, Dana, Idleb, Kafr Nobol, Kafr Takharim, Ma'arrat an Nu'man, Madiq Castle, Saraqab, Sarmin, Sharan and Ziyara) with the aim of informing the Cluster members' response. Partners continue to respond to the displacement from eastern Ghouta, and have assessed that shelter space for over 7,000 individuals is available across Idleb and Aleppo governorates. Additional space for around 6,000 individuals will become available once the remaining gaps are addressed and the sites are deemed adequate. Furthermore, on 29 March, 80 families previously accommodated in a mosque were moved to 50 houses equipped with NFIs in Idleb city. Meanwhile, the CCCM and SNFI Clusters continue to advocate and actively look for alternative shelter solutions outside of IDP sites.

### **Response to displacement from Afrin:**

- **Syria Hub:** On 25 March, an inter-agency convoy delivered multi-sectoral assistance including NFIs for 50,000 people in need in Tall Refaat. Inter-agency teams accompanied the convoy to conduct a rapid needs assessment, which will inform the UN response going forward. In addition to the inter-agency convoy, over 123,000 NFIs have been delivered to Tall Refaat, Nabul and Zahraa. These NFIs include plastic sheets, blankets, mattresses, sleeping bags and mats, kitchen sets and solar lamps among other items. In addition, some 6,000 people have been assisted with shelter kits.
- **Turkey Hub:** One organization sent a total of 4,000 emergency NFI kits in the past two weeks to assist 20,000 people in Afrin district. After the deconfliction of routes, distributions started on 29 March in rural Afrin. From 29 March to 3 April, 800 NFI kits were distributed to assist 4,180 people in Afrin district.

# Syrian Arab Republic (Northern Governorates): Cross-line displacements from eastern Ghouta as of 2 April, 2018

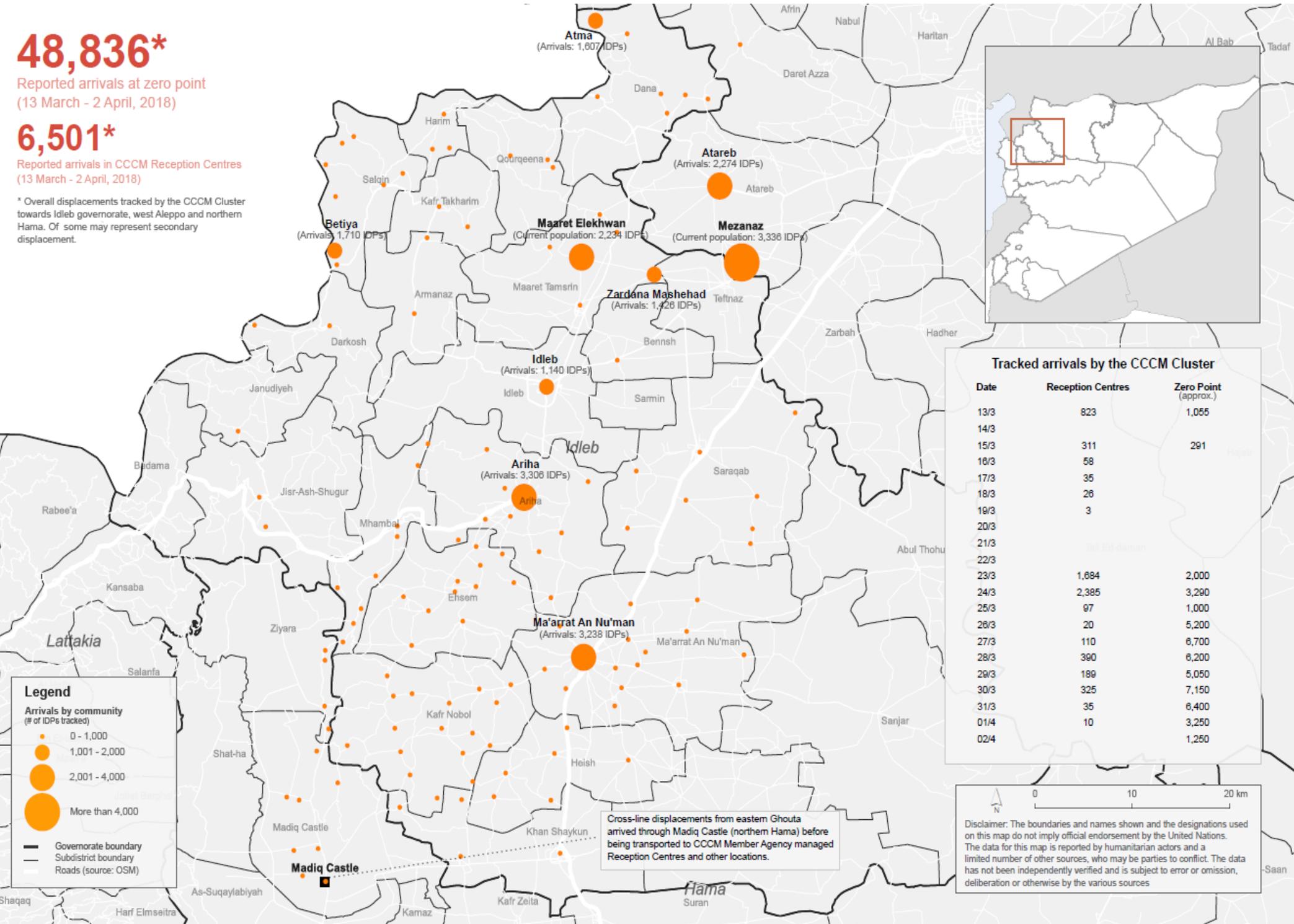
## 48,836\*

Reported arrivals at zero point  
(13 March - 2 April, 2018)

## 6,501\*

Reported arrivals in CCCM Reception Centres  
(13 March - 2 April, 2018)

\* Overall displacements tracked by the CCCM Cluster towards Idleb governorate, west Aleppo and northern Hama. Of some may represent secondary displacement.



Tracked arrivals by the CCCM Cluster

Date	Reception Centres	Zero Point (approx.)
13/3	823	1,055
14/3		
15/3	311	291
16/3	58	
17/3	35	
18/3	26	
19/3	3	
20/3		
21/3		
22/3		
23/3	1,684	2,000
24/3	2,385	3,290
25/3	97	1,000
26/3	20	5,200
27/3	110	6,700
28/3	380	6,200
29/3	189	5,050
30/3	325	7,150
31/3	35	6,400
01/4	10	3,250
02/4		1,250

**Legend**

Arrivals by community  
(# of IDPs tracked)

- 0 - 1,000
- 1,001 - 2,000
- 2,001 - 4,000
- More than 4,000

- Governorate boundary
- Subdistrict boundary
- Roads (source: OSM)

Cross-line displacements from eastern Ghouta arrived through Madiq Castle (northern Hama) before being transported to CCCM Member Agency managed Reception Centres and other locations.

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 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